

# Half-Million Oregonians Live Below Poverty Line

**Editor's Note:** This is the first of five articles which will focus on what and where poverty is in Oregon and who is working to alleviate it. The second part of the series in Wednesday's Emerald will focus on poverty-stricken Indians in Oregon.

By **LINDA MEIERJURGEN** and **LAURIE PADILLA**

Of the Emerald

Five hundred twenty-six thousand Oregonians live in poverty. They have a family income of less than \$3,000 a year, which is the Office of Economic Opportunity's break-off point between poverty and average living standards.

What is poverty? Kenneth Viegas, University professor in sociology and a former worker in Lane County's war on poverty, thinks it is these 526,000 Oregonians who are unable to survive in present society.

"When speaking of poverty, we should talk in terms of economic adequacy and resources to provide for the existence of the family and/or individual," Viegas said.

Viegas sees the problem as basically whether an individual could live under present societal conditions on \$3,000 a year. "Essentially, everyone ought to be provided with enough money with which to live," he said.

Eugene Mayor Edwin Cone thinks these are "insufficient funds to meet the needs for a reasonable level of living."

According to the Lane Human Resources commission

(LHR) 6,132 people in the Eugene area are unable to meet the needs for a "reasonable" level of existence.

How do these people live?

Poverty is people living in rat-infested, run down, antique remnants of houses, eating less food than they need to subsist and learning less than they need to be alive, according to LHR.

Income is the standard way of determining those who are poverty stricken. The total number of low income families in the Eugene area has increased 37 per cent since 1960, according to LHR.

These people fall into three main groups: the aged, aid to dependent children families (ADC) and the unemployed.

Part of the problem in defining poverty, to Elwin Grout of LHR, is that no statistics are available except those taken in the 1960 census.

Lane Human Resources now has a project going to collect these statistics, but the operation "is hard," Grout said.

Another problem in defining poverty is the difference in people's needs. "The \$3,000 may not be enough for some people cut sufficient for others," Viegas thinks. The purchasing power of \$3,000 keeps changing also, he

said. The following are Lane County's statistics on poverty:

• In 1965 there were an estimated 14,764 residents who were 65 years of age or over. Of these, 3,025 were low-income families.

• At present there are 8,875 individuals in poverty due to the low incomes of the elderly heads of households.

• LHR says they assume all ADC families can be considered low income families. In December 1966 there were a total of 817 ADC families.

• In 1966 there were approximately 8,400 low income families in Lane County.

On the basis of these statistics LHR concluded in 1966 that there was a total population of 201,000 in Lane County, and of these 29,292 lived in poverty.

This means 14.6 per cent of the people in Lane county lived in poverty in 1966.

"There is no reason to believe these figures haven't increased in two years," Grout said.

# McCall Plans Meeting With Poor Marchers

**SALEM (AP)—Oregon Gov. Tom McCall confirmed today that he will meet with poverty marchers when they come to the capitol Saturday morning.**

"We want to be responsive. I believe they are genuinely concerned people," the governor said.

McCall, just back from a meeting of Western governors in Honolulu, said a nephew, Sandy McCall of Gearhart, a University student, is among those planning the march.

He described his nephew as an altruistic youth, deeply concerned with the plight of others.

The governor said he hoped to talk to the march organizers Thursday about their aims, and then to be on the Capitol steps

Saturday to give his response to their demands.

He said arrangements have been made for the marchers, who are converging from Eugene, Hillsboro and Portland, to stay Friday night on the fairgrounds and to use the state fair cafeteria to prepare their food. They also will have use of an auditorium at the fair grounds.

# Search Committee Requests Nominations

Students wishing to nominate persons for the presidency of the University may do so by submitting the names of prospective candidates to Ken Metzler, executive secretary of the Presidential Search Committee.

Nominations should be in writing, preferably supplemented with supporting biographical data, and should be sent to Metzler, 211 Susan Campbell Hall.

Names thus submitted will be presented to the committee at its next regular meeting, according to Metzler.

# Traffic Accident

Eugene police reported an accident on the corner of 13th and Agate on campus involving two cars Monday night.

# Salem March Jells

By **JIM SPOO**  
Of the Emerald

Twenty-five hundred to 4,000 Oregonians will assemble at Salem during the Poor Peoples' March on Salem Friday and Saturday, Roy Bennett, march co-ordinator, said at a week-end news conference.

Bennett, a University divinity major, listed two major purposes of the march in which people will march from Eugene and Portland. First, Bennett said, the march will make Oregonians aware of poverty in Oregon. He said 25 per cent of Oregonians make \$3600 or less a year.

Secondly, Bennett said, the march will be the beginning of efforts to give the poor in Oregon a new pride in place of dependence on others.

The other march co-ordinators, Nick Garcia, liberal arts major, Alfred Williamson, business administration major, and Dick Jones, ASUO President, were at the Friday news conference in the EMU.

Jones noted his reason for the march. He said, "The opportunity to participate has not been made a part of education. I will do everything I can for participation." He said support of the march is in line with his support of the ASUO's Operation Citizenship and minority adviser.

The march leaders said they want the legislature in its 1969 session to address itself to the lack of jobs, education and housing that face the poor. A petition of grievances will be gathered from the poor and handed to Gov. Tom McCall after the Salem assemblage.

# Dinner Honors Retired Faculty

An invitational dinner tonight will honor four retiring University faculty members representing more than 130 years of service.

Special citations will be presented by University President Arthur S. Flemming.

Paul Washke, professor of physical education; Joel Berreman, professor of sociology; Andrew Vincent, professor of art; and Lois Baker, professor of library administration and law librarian will be the honored guests at the dinner.

Washke, who has been at the University for 39 years, "has reached 75,000 students with programs emphasizing good sportsmanship, wholesome recreation . . . through the physical service and intramural athletics," the citation reads.

The citation for Vincent, whose work has been widely exhibited throughout the Northwest, reads, "Through his painting and through a multitude of grateful students, the work of Andrew Vincent has happily permeated our region and our time."

Berreman is cited as "a vigorous advocate of social justice. For more than 30 years, Lois Baker has devoted her energies and wisdom to the furtherance of legal education" at the University, says the citation for Mrs. Baker.

# "The world's toughest car."

**Lyle Engel, Executive Editor, American Rodding Magazine**

**Peugeot cruises off with first place in the East African Safari Rally**

Ninety percent of the cars that started this year's rally didn't make it. Peugeot came through first, just like last year, and the year before.

It's very simple. Peugeot is built like a jungle animal: lean, rugged, and graceful. No chromium frills. No excess weight. No needless horsepower.

Yet, underneath all that toughness is a lifetime friend.



**PEUGEOT**

Win a 1968 PEUGEOT

See Your Mayfair Store

**S-L Motors, Inc.**  
9th & Main St.  
Springfield

Open Evenings till 10 p.m.

# HUNGRY?

PIZZA\* SOUND GOOD?

PHONE 344-2453

for

**FREE DELIVERY**

ON CAMPUS

\* Also other delicious Italian dishes

MINORS ALWAYS WELCOME

**Tino's Spaghetti House and Pizza Parlor**

1491 Willamette Open 5 p.m. to 1 a.m. Closed Mondays



Intelligence ...

Without Diligence is Nothing

Contemplation is one thing. But there comes a time for pragmatic action. With marriage on your mind, one first step is a ring. Don't let a lack of cash deter you. As we have said before, Weisfield's gives credit to students of promise.

See our big selection of bridal sets.



200.00



**weisfield's**  
JEWELERS

881 Willamette  
342-1741