

OPPORTUNITY NEWS

Vol. 2, No. 15

Friday, April 15, 1966

This newspaper
is a publication
of the

VALLEY MIGRANT LEAGUE
P. O. Box 128
Woodburn, Oregon

Valley Migrant League phone 981-3171
Newspaper phone 981-9711

Will P. Pape,
Executive Director
Gary Lansing,
Assistant Director

* * *

Don Willcox, Editor

Rick Simon,
Assistant Editor

Priscilla Carrasco, Editorial
Assistant and Circulation Manager

Samuel Hernandez
Translation Assistant

Judi Jarvill
Secretary

* * *

OPPORTUNITY NEWS is published weekly for free distribution to seasonal farm workers of this area, and to persons interested in the activities of the VALLEY MIGRANT LEAGUE.

"We must open the doors of opportunity. But we must also equip our people to walk through those doors."

Lyndon B. Johnson
President
United States

"Surely, it is not beyond our resources nor our ingenuity to include in our war against poverty these always 'excluded' Americans (the migrants)."

Sargent Shriver
Director
Office of Economic Opportunity

The VALLEY MIGRANT LEAGUE, sponsor of this newspaper, is a part of the President's War on Poverty and is funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity, Washington, D. C.

WE WORK FOR COMMON GOALS

This week a VML staff member, commenting on a news story in one of the daily papers, said, "I depend upon the cooperation of the Oregon State Employment Office every day."

Today our assistant editor brought in a help-wanted item from the State Employment Office, to be printed in our newspaper.

This newspaper, observing the zeal which VML staff members work, has been impressed by the growing friendship of many existing social agencies, schools and community institutions.

We are working for common goals of social and economic betterment. The **Opportunity News**, a child of the Valley Migrant League, urges all staff members to look to existing agencies for the cooperation which can grow out of intelligent communication and understanding.

This week we are pleased to print the story of Juan Ruiz, supervisor of the Woodburn Opportunity Center, being invited by the public schools to talk with Mexican-American students.

DAYTON FARM WORKERS FIND NEW JOBS

Nine ex-farm workers from the Dayton area have new work at the Pacific Tanning Factory in Sherwood. Ruben Contreras, Dayton VML supervisor, who helped these men find their new jobs, said, "The first thirty days is a trial period. Each man will receive a base salary of \$1.50 an hour. If the worker shows ability his salary will be raised." Work at the tanning factory lasts the year around.

These ex-farm workers will receive benefits which have not been available to them before: medical insurance, state accident insurance and unemployment insurance.

"I am sure that each man will try to do his best work at the tanning factory," said Ruben Contreras, "so that when the Dayton Opportunity Center sends other ex-farm workers to be hired, they will be well received."

SUBSCRIPTION CHECKS

Several persons have sent checks for subscriptions, as a result of the announcement which we printed recently. We wish to thank you for those contributions to our postage fund. Within a few days you will receive a postcard receipt for the money you have sent.

To repeat our announcement:

This newspaper is circulated free of charge to seasonal farm workers and to persons associated with the work of the Valley Migrant League. In addition, we are now sending the paper to many persons who are students of Spanish or who have other reasons for wishing to receive copies. We are now "inviting" these persons to contribute \$1.00 or more per year for their subscriptions to the **Opportunity News** to help us meet the extra cost of printing and postage. Thank you.

—The Editors.

RAMIREZ WRITES OF GUIDELINES By F. A. Ramirez

Here are some excerpts from an article which F. A. Ramirez of Forest Grove sent to the **Opportunity News**. The article is entitled, "Guidelines for a Great League."

I believe the best league is one that helps the people who belong to it to develop their abilities. A man bogged by insecurity and discouragement is not going to do his best.

I want to see a league where a guy knows he has friends and where a guy begins to think that nothing is impossible . . . In many of what I consider 'fun leagues' some individuals are there to see what they can get without giving . . . or just to pass the time of day.

A person needs a group of friends who reflect his worth as an individual. . . . He needs about him people who give him something to shoot for. A person in mediocre company may be happy, but he will do mediocre things.

If we work to develop our league, we will grow strong and be a credit to this league, to ourselves and to our country.

OUR PARENTS PICK BEANS FOR OUR EDUCATION



(Continued from page 1)

the teacher to talk about your problems. Then you parents will know that the school wants to help you."

Juan went with Mrs. Ruth Norris to several of the students' homes. The teacher spoke in English then Juan translated:

"The school is concerned about your children. Let's work together to see that your child does well in school. If you have problems with the language and cannot talk with the teachers when you visit the school, the Valley Migrant League will help with an interpreter."

Because of Juan's effective work with the Spanish American students and parents, he was asked by Keith Llewellyn, principal of Washington School, to speak to some students at his school. Mr. Llewellyn said, "We have high hopes that Juan and his ability to speak clearly to both students and parents will bring better understanding between the school and the Spanish American community."

Miss Phyllis Johnson, coordinator of special education in the Woodburn school system, said, "We are very pleased with Juan Ruiz and the help he has given us. Because of his background he knew what the problems were and how we could start solving them. The barriers of poor communication caused most of our difficulties. Juan is helping us take down these barriers so our students have a better opportunity to succeed."

Independence C. A. C. Meeting

Photos and Spanish Translation on page 3

Several very important groups of people in the areas of Polk and Marion counties got together last week to discuss poverty. The occasion was a meeting of the Community Action Council of Polk and Marion counties.

Generally the meetings are held in Salem, but the one last Thursday was held at the Independence Opportunity Center. The C.A.C. members were guests of the Spanish American Organization of Independence.

The purpose of the meeting was to find out the needs and problems of the poor people in the two county area. There were representatives present from West Stayton, Salem, and Independence.

Among the most serious needs of the poor, it was suggested, were the following:

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profesores para discutir sus lemas. Entonces sus padres se cuenta que la escuela ayudar."

Juan visitó a varias casas estudiantes con la Sra. Ruth. La profesora habló en inglés y tradujo. "La escuela está parada sobre su hijos. Trabajamos juntos para estar seguros que hijos hace bien en la escuela. Ud. tiene problemas con el idioma y no puede hablar con los profesores cuando visita la escuela, el Valley Migrant League le ayudará con un intérprete."

Como resultado de el éxito tuvo Juan con los estudiantes latinos y sus padres, el director de Washington School, Keith Llewellyn, le invitó a hablar con estudiantes en su escuela. Llewellyn dijo, "Esperamos que Juan y su habilidad a hablar con los estudiantes mejorará el entendimiento entre la escuela y la comunidad latina."

La Srta. Phyllis Johnson, coordinadora de educación especial en Woodburn dijo, "Nos alegramos de la ayuda que nos ha prestado Juan por causa de sus experiencias en solucionar los problemas y como se causó la mayoría de las dificultades. Juan está ayudando a los estudiantes para que tengan mejores oportunidades de éxito."

* Decent housing for both permanent and migrant people in poverty.

* Better employment opportunities, as well as job training programs.

* Legal aid for those who are unable to pay for it.

Chris Bernard, supervisor of the Independence area, said at the meeting, "It was rewarding that the members of the league have taken a sincere interest in finding out the needs of the people in this area. We are confident that this program will prove very successful."

The Women's Auxiliary of the Spanish American Organization of Independence Community Program) served refreshments at the meeting.