

JOE GARCIA REPORTS

Joe Garcia, who attended the Hillsboro citizen's meeting on September 1, has written his account of that meeting.

The growers at the Hillsboro meeting met not to discuss the real issues of migratory farm labor: the social, economic and religious issues. They met to discuss the trouble caused by VIVA and its newspaper La Espuela. The growers feared the Espuela articles would make it hard to contract farm workers next year.

Many growers did not like the work that VIVA and VML are doing in settling migrant workers. Less than fifteen families have been settled out of the migrant stream this year in Washington County. When I asked the growers how the loss of those fifteen families had affected the farm labor force, there was no answer.

The growers did not discuss issues desperately important to the migrant worker such as poor wages, unfair contracting practices and deplorable camp conditions. I feel that VIVA and VML should be in agreement that as long as poor camp and working conditions remain as they are, workers should not be encouraged to do farm labor.

It is my impression that many growers look upon migratory workers in very cold terms. The worker

Joe García, quien participó en la reunión de ciudadanos de Hillsboro el día primero de septiembre, el escribió su reporte de esa reunión.

Los agricultores en la reunión de

is a tool. This tool is only useful when it is in good condition, works hard and is submissive. Once this tool has been used, it is discarded. Then VML can pick up what's left and try to help this used tool believe he is a human being with dignity.

Migratory labor perpetuates disease, ignorance, and poverty. These social diseases can be overcome when the community, especially the grower, looks upon the migrant laborer as a human being. Migrant families are human families with all the needs, fears and hopes of any human family. Is there a difference, in human needs between a migrant family and a grower's family? No, they both need acceptance and opportunity in the community.

Cannot the grower come to see the migratory laborer as a whole human being? The grower plants a crop. He knows, then, it must be harvested. A whole human being will be brought to harvest this crop. It is the grower's responsibility at the beginning of his season to make proper provision for his human brothers who will harvest the crop. Machines are made of metal, not flesh and blood. Machines will come in time. Until they do, let us discuss, when we meet, the human being who works in the fields. His life is in our hands.

Hillsboro se reunieron no para discutir los temas verdaderos los trabajadores migratorios del campo: los temas sociales, económicos y religiosos. Se reunieron para tratar las molestias causadas por VIVA y su diario La Espuela. Los agricultores temían que los artículos de La Espuela les haría difícil contratar trabajadores del campo el próximo año.

Muchos agricultores no gustan del trabajo que VIVA y VML están haciendo en establecer a trabajadores migrantes. Menos de quince familias han sido establecidas del total de la corriente migratoria este año en el Condado de Washington. Cuando les pregunté a los agricultores en que forma la pérdida de esas quince familias había afectado las fuerzas del trabajo del campo, no hubo respuesta.

Los agricultores no trataron los temas de vital importancia para el trabajador migrante, tales como los pobres jornales, prácticas de contratación injustas y las condiciones deplorables del campo. Yo pienso que VIVA y el VML deben de convenir que mientras existan pésimas condiciones del campo y de trabajo como lo son, los trabajadores no deben ser alentados para hacer trabajo de campo.

Es mi impresión que muchos de los agricultores miran al problema de los trabajadores migratorios en términos muy fríos. El trabajador es una herramienta. Esta herra-

mienta es útil cuando está en buenas condiciones, trabaja duro y es sumisa. Una vez que la herramienta ha sido usada, se la descarta. Entonces el VML puede recoger lo que queda de ella y tratar de ayudar a esta herramienta a que crea que es un ser humano con dignidad.

La labor migratoria perpetúa enfermedad, ignorancia, y pobreza. Estas enfermedades sociales pueden ser combatidas cuando la comunidad, especialmente los agricultores, consideran al trabajador migrante como un ser humano. Las familias migrantes son familias humanas con todas las necesidades, temores y esperanzas de cualquier familia humana. ¿Hay alguna diferencia en las necesidades humanas entre una familia migrante y una familia de agricultores? No, ambas necesitan aceptación y oportunidad dentro de una comunidad.

¿No puede el trabajador verse en el trabajador migrante como a un ser humano en conjunto. El agricultor planta una cosecha, sabe, entonces, que debe ser cosechada. Un ser humano interesado está traído para levantar la cosecha. Es la responsabilidad del agricultor al comienzo de su cosecha de proveer en forma adecuada para que sus hermanos humanos puedan levantar la cosecha. Las máquinas son hechas de metal, no de carne y sangre. Las máquinas vendrán con el tiempo. Hasta que vengán, tratemos cuando nos reunamos al ser humano que trabaja en el campo. Su vida está en nuestras manos.

VISTA heads pilot project at Boring



by Ella Rigney, VISTA

Boring is the site of a rural community development project. It is a little community of 800 persons. It does not have a mayor, nor is it an incorporated town. This makes it possible for a VISTA to take considerable initiative. Such a VISTA is Richard Meyer of the Sandy Opportunity Center. Richard has gone into this little town and found several persons needing help. Recently he has found homes for two migrant families. Through the courtesy of

Mr. Arno Ritter of Boring, chief of the fire department, additional necessary aid was given.

All summer these two families have been harvesting our crops. At the end of the season they realized the importance of staying in a community for the sake of their children. Of course, it is difficult to find a home and permanent work. This is where people who care in a community can do so much. Because people cared, Richard Meyer was able to find homes and jobs for them. Even the Park Rose Church in Portland gave considerable help as did the Migrant Ministry and Seventh Day Adventist Church, with furniture, clothing and food.

Through such effort, Richard has managed to get real community participation. An active community can do much to help more families find the opportunities that will make it possible to become self-supporting.

There is such a good feeling of community fellowship in this little rural community of Boring that it is possible that other nearby communities will follow its example.

ANNOUNCEMENT: AN EVENT FOR TEEN AGERS

All Spanish teenagers interested in going on a trip to the Portland Zoo contact Aurelia Marquez, Maggie Garcia, or Pedro Gomez before Tuesday, September 20. Everyone

will meet Sunday, September 19 at St. Luke's Convent at 12:30 p.m. Bring a sack lunch and \$2.00. Call 981-9820 if you can bring a car.

TRAINING PROGRAM AT MT. ANGEL

by Bob and Juanita Watts

VISTA volunteers and program aides from all Valley Migrant League areas attended a training session at Mt. Angel Retreat House on September 13, 14 and 15. The purpose of the session was to train VISTAs to teach English as a second language and Spanish speaking program aides to teach Spanish as a second language to the staff.

Directors of the program were Robert Kiekel, Spanish instructor at Linfield College and language laboratory director at Oregon State University, and Lane Williams, language teaching consultant for VML.

DAYTONA. . . Spanish shows on Sunday only. At 2:30 p.m.

DAYTONA. . . Las películas mexicanas pasaran solamente por los domingos. A las 2:30 p.m.

por Bob y Juanita Watts

Voluntarios y ayudantes del programa de VISTA de todas las áreas de Valley Migrant League comparecieron a una sesión de entrenamiento en el Mt. Angel Retreat House los días 12, 13 y 14 de septiembre. El propósito de esta sesión fue con el fin de entrenar a VISTAS para enseñar inglés como un segundo idioma y a los ayudantes del programa de habla española para enseñar español como un segundo idioma al personal.

Directores del programa fueron Roberto Kiekel, instructor de español en Linfield College y director del laboratorio de idioma en Oregon State University, y Lane Williams, consultor de enseñanza de idioma para el VML.