

OPPORTUNITY NEWS

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VML SCHEDULE AT DAYTON CENTER

Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m., general activity.

Mon., Wed., Fri., 7 p.m.-9 p.m., study hour for high school and grade school children. Supervision provided by the center.

Tues. and Thur., 7-9, Basic Education and Spoken English classes.

Sat., 10 a.m.-10 p.m., general activity.

Sun., closed.

CAN THE POOR LEAD THE POOR?

This question cries for an answer: Can the poor lead the poor?

No modern miracle could be more wonderful than this: that the people in poverty lead themselves out of it.

Never before in history has such a large, bold anti-poverty program been undertaken. To succeed, it surely needs the best leadership the nation can provide. Can a part of such leadership come from the people who are suffering poverty?

For many people, poverty is like an illness. Thirty-four million people in this nation are waiting for some sort of miracle to relieve them of their affliction.

We want that miracle to happen. We applaud every gain. We challenge those whose poverty has not

defeated their spirits to come forth with effective cures for this illness.

The OEO—the Office of Economic Opportunity, with its headquarters in Washington and with programs all over the country — is, figuratively speaking, the "doctor." This "doctor" wants every individual patient to be concerned about his own economic illness. And beyond this — what? Shall the patients prescribe their own medicine? Perform their own operations?

Surely the poor cannot be asked to contribute the whole remedy. What, then, can they do? They can describe their personal situation, and join in a concern for others. They can "cry" from their pains. But they must trust the skilled "doctor" of economic ills to prescribe the

cures.

We believe that it is possible for leaders to rise from the ranks of poverty if they possess not only spirit and will, but also creative insights and the energy to drive ahead with constructive programs. Their leadership, motivated by their comprehension of human suffering, is a precious thing indeed. It should be utilized to the full.

We cannot close this editorial without adding a special word of praise for several persons who have written helpful letters to this newspaper, to discuss questions of common concern. Obviously these letter-writers know migrant life and are sensitive to its problems. Through their letters, they are providing a share of leadership.

— Don Wilcox

Too many debts -- what can we do?

By Ken Killary

PART 1

(EDITOR'S NOTE: We believe the following article, written by Ken Killary, supervisor of the Sandy Opportunity Center, contains some valuable observations, not only for farm laborers and their families, but for all families. The second part of the article will appear next week.)

Owing too much money has become the number one family financial problem of our times.

A heavy load of debts eats away our income. We pay too much for high finance charges and credit fees.

Quarreling over money matters at home can become damaging to

family life.

Unfortunately, many families spend so much that they have to take out new loans to pay old ones. Sometimes a husband and a wife do not actually know the costs of their loans.

Do families have no control over their own use of money?

Sometimes the reasons that families get into debt are realistic, practical reasons. There are unexpected medical bills. There is the cost of shifting from a summer job to a winter job. Sometimes the rent is increased. Often, large families try to exist on an income that would not be adequate even for a family of half the size.

Problemas familiares de dinero

reditor altos y cargos de crédito.

Pleitos en casa sobre el dinero puede ser perjudicial para la vida familiar.

Desafortunadamente, muchas familias gastan tanto que tienen que pedir dinero prestado para viejas deudas. Algunas veces el esposo o la esposa no saben actualmente el costo de sus prestamos.

¿Las familias no tienen control sobre el uso de su propio dinero? Algunas veces las razones por que las familias se endrogan son realísticas y prácticas. Hay cuentas imprevistas del doctor. Hay el costo del cambio trabajo de verano a uno de invierno. Algunas ocasiones la renta es aumentada. Muchas veces una familia grande trata de vivir

con un salario que no es adecuado ni aún para una familia de la mitad de su tamaño.

Aún así, muchas familias en cuenta que la entrada de dinero es adecuada si aprenden a manejar su dinero mejor. Los problemas más comunes son (1) renta, (2) comida, (3) luz, gas y agua, (4) ropa, (5) medico, (6) y pagos a deudas viejas.

Pero algunas veces hay problemas emocionales escondidas que los llevan a endrogarse. Algunas veces el esposo y la esposa no pueden planear juntos el uso de su dinero sin enojarse o haciendo compras sin necesidad para complacerse mutuamente.

(Continuará la próxima semana.)

A bit of heaven for a little girl

By Christie Corbett

(The following paragraph is quoted from Christie Corbett's Day Care-Summer School report to the program director, Sam Granato.)

One little girl's glimpse of heaven is remembered: One of a group that went on a field trip to the zoo one cool day, she had not sweater or jacket over the thin little dress

that clung to her skin. A staff member went to a Portland shop and bought a bright red, velvety-finish, warm jacket and put it on the little girl. It was the intention to use it for other coatless children later on. But, the shining joy, the momentary disbelief, the radiance that spread over the child's face as she lovingly stroked its softness or

held it against her face or asked others to touch it because "it felt so soft and good," changed the intentions completely. The little girl went home the owner of the most beautiful coat in the world — her own. Over and over, she asks everyone, "Is it really mine?"

It is such things that provide a consultant's life with "vermillion, indigo, jade and gold."