

WHEN THE MACHINES CAME

By Churchill Howard Warren

Mr. Warren, a former migrant, has written many poems regarding his life as a migrant and is becoming well known as a writer.

The young couple watched in amazement as the red machine went up and down the long cotton rows at the far side of the field.

Even at that distance they could hear a faint rumble and roar.

The young woman spoke first. "How many men does it take to run the machine, Frank?"

The man thought awhile, then answered, "I don't know, Ruth. Not many, I guess."

The woman went back inside the house. The man walked over to the old Dodge car that was parked underneath an elm tree, and began to carefully examine the motor.

The woman came back to the front porch, and the man said, "It might make the trip."

"You mean to the coast?" the woman asked. The man nodded.

They looked across the field again. The red machine was still going back and forth. Each round

it made brought it closer to them. Before she turned to go back inside the little house the woman asked, "What if we can't find work on the coast, what will happen to us then?" The man went back to the old car without answering.

The red machine was gone.

The fields were bare except for stalks and leaves.

It was just after daylight when the old Dodge pulled onto the East-West highway. The young woman turned, and looked back toward the little house, and the patch of ground they had hoped to own some day.

Then she turned and looked at the man. He was looking steadily ahead.

They were far down the road when the man said, "I hope the tires will last."

The woman patted his knee.

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La pareja joven observaba con sorpresa como la máquina roja se paseaba por las filas de algodón al lado distante del campo.

La mujer hablaba primero, "¿Cuántos hombres se necesita para operar la máquina, Frank?"

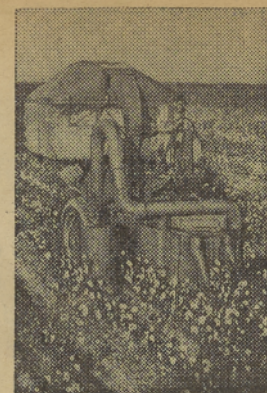
El hombre pensaba un rato, luego contestaba, "No sé, Ruth. No muchos, creo."

La mujer regresaba a la casa. El hombre se acercaba al viejo Dodge estacionado bajo del olmo, y empezaba a examinar cuidadosamente al motor.

La mujer venía al porche, y el hombre le decía, "Es posible que haría el viaje."

"¿Quiere decir a la costa?" la mujer preguntaba. El hombre inclinó la cabeza.

Observaban el campo otra vez. La máquina roja todavía se paseaba.



Cada vez llegaba más cerca a ellos. Antes de entrar en la casa otra vez la mujer preguntó, "¿Si no hay trabajo en la costa, que haríamos?" El hombre regresó al coche sin contestar.

La máquina roja ha desaparecido.

Las hojas han desaparecidas.

Los campos estaban desnudos.

Era poco después del amanecer cuando el viejo Dodge entraba en la carretera. La mujer miraba otra vez a la casita, y el pedazo de tierra que han esperado a tener algún día.

Luego miraba al hombre. El miraba derecho sin vacilar.

Paseaban una distancia larga cuando dijo el hombre, "Espero que duren las llantas."

La mujer tomaba su mano. (Todos derechos propios del autor.)

NEWS BRIEFS

THEME AT AUMSVILLE PARTY IS 'LIVE AND HELP LIVE'

It was a bright Christmas "Open House" at the Aumsville Opportunity Center last week. One hundred and forty persons attended.

Henry Woods, supervisor, introduced the Mayor of Aumsville, Ferd Moreno. To say "live and let live" is not enough, Mayor Moreno told the group. We must change it to "live and help live."

The window art and attractive Christmas lettering were the work of a talented migrant worker, Robert Eveleth, who is now living in the area.

Several VISTA Volunteers were present and some of them were saying goodbye to friends because their year's work for VML has come to an end.

Bright decorations, a beautiful tree, Christmas music, homemade cookies, soft carpets, gay people—it was no wonder that a child was overheard saying, "I don't want to go home."

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Rodriguez of Stayton announce the arrival of a special Christmas present, a baby girl Jesusa, born December 17. Weight 8½ pounds.

In Dayton, Salem, and other areas, various clubs and church groups have "adopted" migrant families to watch over during the holiday season or through the winter months. Ruben Contreras, supervisor of Dayton, said that persons who wish to join in the adopting movement are welcome to inquire through the opportunity centers.

HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION AND OFFICIALS OF SALEM MEET WITH NEGRO FAMILIES

Negro families gathered at the Salem VML Opportunity Center last week to visit informally with city officials and to discuss problems related to living in this Oregon community.

Mayor Miller, officials from the county sheriff's office, and the city school superintendent Charles Schmidt answered various questions. Several members of the Hu-

man Relations Commission were present to inquire about problems that have arisen. The chief topics of interest for the Negro families were housing, employment and education. In classes at school, Negro students do not want to be left out of class discussions or school movies that deal with racial problems.

Members of the Human Relations Commission urged that Negroes should take advantage of the many cultural, educational and recreational opportunities which Salem offers.

Rev. Haines, chairman, spoke of the difficulties of avoiding discrimination in housing. Katherine Wilson asked whether signs might not be posted to announce that Salem has a Human Relations Commission—as well as various other civic and commercial clubs.

Persons with complaints or questions at any time should inform Peter Harvey, in the city manager's office.

The city of Salem wants to handle

its problems wisely and to profit by mistakes that have been made in other parts of the country.

RIOS WILL COORDINATE CLUBS

Ventura Rios has been appointed coordinator between VML staff and the leaders of Spanish-American organizations who are planning a joint meeting aimed at the union of efforts among the various Spanish-American organizations. The first meeting will be held in Salem on January 8, 1967. At this time Ventura will see that the officers in attendance are advised of VOCAL's desire for a joint meeting on January 14.

RIOS ES COORDINADOR DE CLUBES

El Sr. Ventura Rios ha recibido su nombramiento coordinar los deberes de clubes latinoamericanos, el personal de VML con el plan para más cooperación de los esfuerzos. La primera junta — en el centro de oportunidad de Salem, 8 de enero de 1967. Sr. Rios anunciará el deseo de VOCAL para una junta en 14 de enero.