

The Sandy Post

Vol. 77 No. 43

SANDY, OREGON, THURSDAY, October 29, 1987

(USPS 481-180)

Single Copy 25¢



Seberiano Urzua works pulling steel stakes at J. Frank Schmidt Nursery. The stakes help sugar maple trees grow straight. Urzua has applied for residency in the United States.

Hundreds of immigrants apply

by SCOTT NEWTON
Staff writer

The Sandy office where Fran Lanagan and Ingrid Lobet work can be a busy place.

Within a period of two hours Monday, they fielded questions from half a dozen migrant workers seeking permanent residency in the United States and answered probably twice that many telephone calls.

Lanagan and Lobet, who work out of offices in Sandy and Gresham, have done the background checks on 460 migrant workers since May.

They provide assistance to farm workers from Gresham, Troutdale, Sandy, Boring and Estacada. The workers often need help getting through the paper maze that accompanies the residency program, which was set up by the federal Immigration and Naturalization Service.

The Immigration Control and Reform Act, passed by Congress in 1986, authorizes the INS to monitor the residency program.

The INS issues a work authorization card when it grants temporary residency. The agency then has six months to approve or deny permanent residency.

Two migrant workers in the Sandy office said — through Lobet, who interpreted — that it is difficult for a migrant worker to get a job now unless he has a work authorization card.

Gaining residency is not an easy or inexpensive process, but

Lanagan, Hispanic program coordinator for Catholic Family Services, said she believes there is a good chance the INS will approve 100 percent of their residency applications.

Under one of the two processes open to them — and probably the easiest to comply with — migrant workers must prove they worked 90 days in the United States between May 1985 and May 1986.

In addition, they must provide a birth certificate or other proof of identification, and cannot be wanted for any criminal offense.

Some of the workers brought birth certificates with them from Mexico when they came to the United States to work this spring, Lanagan said. Others must send to Mexico for the documentation.

Proving they worked 90 days in the United States can be a challenge. Lobet said some workers may have picked grapes in California, strawberries in Oregon, onions in Idaho and apples in Washington.

She said it was not unusual for migrant workers in the Sandy office to have worked in all four states in one year. If farmers will verify employment, the requirement is satisfied.

Lobet said they have not had a problem verifying employment in the Sandy and Gresham area because farmers here keep fairly good records.

They have had to verify records from farmers as far away as Texas, Arizona and, for one worker, even New Jersey.

Lanagan said that to her knowledge, none of the migrant workers who have applied for residency locally have a criminal record. Therefore she sees no reason why the INS should deny residency for the people who have applied.

Migrant workers get an introduction to U.S. bureaucracy when applying for residency. The INS asks where migrants have lived and worked since May 1983, though the 90 days of work from May 1985 to May 1986 are the key to residency.

The application process is not without expense, either. There is a \$30 fee to receive help from the local Hispanic program.

Migrant workers often pay from \$7.50 to \$15 for photographs, \$5 to be fingerprinted, and \$50 to \$90 for medical examinations.

Once the local office has completed the most important form, the I-765, it is turned over to the INS, which charges a \$185 fee to process the paper work.

Catholic Family Service's Hispanic program offers help under the umbrella of the Immigration Counseling Service, which is one of the "qualified, designated entities" called for in the federal legislation.

The office in Sandy is open from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, 38726 Pioneer Blvd.

The most important advantage to gaining residency, one migrant worker said, is the right to cross the border freely. Currently workers

may pay "coyotes" \$500 to \$800 to get them into the United States, he said.

Lobet said that with permanent residency, workers would accrue Social Security benefits, could pursue legal rights, could look for better places to live and would not live in fear of raids by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Permanent residency would not grant migrants citizenship rights, such as the right to vote or run for office. Those who are granted permanent residency have the option of applying for citizenship.

Of the 460 people who have applied for residency through the local program, 180 have received six-month work authorization cards. Another 60 are awaiting a hearing with the INS. The rest are waiting for verification of employment or need to fulfill other requirements.

Workers who are granted temporary residency, and thus receive the work authorization cards, must wait six months for the INS to complete its background check. Among the things the INS looks for is whether an applicant has a criminal record, Lobet said.

Lobet, who is an immigration specialist for the Hispanic program, said Lanagan was anxious to get back to her other responsibilities.

Those responsibilities, which have taken a back seat to the application process, include food and clothing distribution, interpreting services, driver's license classes and labor camp visits.

Council renews debate on signs

The use of A-frame signs again will be discussed by the Sandy City Council at its meeting Monday evening.

The City Council, following a lengthy review process, passed a new sign ordinance in the spring. But at least one business owner is unhappy with it.

Following testimony by that business owner last month, City Councilor Dick Harrison told the city manager he wanted to discuss the sign ordinance at the Nov. 2 meeting. Harrison threatened to ban the use of all A-frame signs.

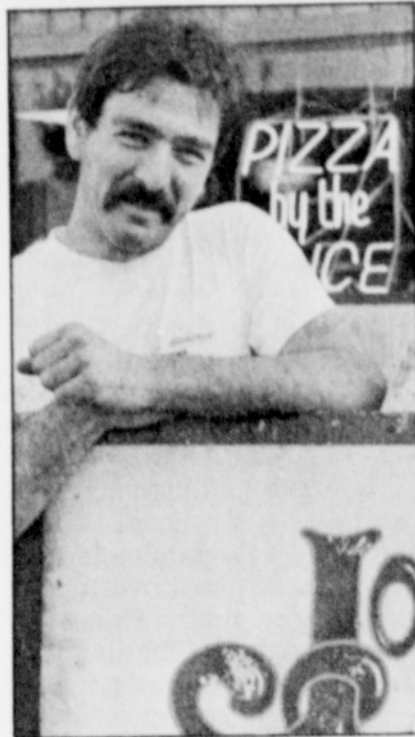
Currently, businesses may use A-frame signs to advertise specials. They may not use the signs solely for identification purposes.

But Ken Reinke, code enforcement officer for the city, claimed that is what Joe Langella, owner of Jo-Jo's New York Style Pizza, was using his A-frame sign for. After five visits to Langella's restaurant in an attempt to work with him, Reinke and a Sandy police officer confiscated the A-frame sign.

Langella does not dispute that Reinke gave him an opportunity to meet the intent of the sign ordinance, but claims Reinke dealt with him in a "negative manner."

At the meeting Monday, Langella said he will present a petition to the City Council asking that business owners be allowed to continue to use the A-frame signs in the manner currently allowed in the ordinance. He said the petition will also ask the city to "work positively" with Sandy businesses.

Meanwhile, Langella and the City



Joe Langella

Council have struck a truce of sorts. Langella received a variance, allowed for in the ordinance, to use his A-frame sign for business identification.

Langella removed his other signs, including a 3-by-8-foot sign on the side of his building and his name on a free-standing sign on Proctor Boulevard, in order to use the A-frame.

Langella can set the A-frame sign closer to the highway, an action that he claims increases business.

Child in serious condition after suffering burns in fire

John David Kissee, 6, was in serious condition at Emanuel Hospital on Tuesday following a fire Sunday at an apartment building at 39275 Hood St.

Ron Smith, battalion chief for the Sandy Fire District, said fire officials are not sure how the fire started, except that Kissee was playing with matches and gasoline.

The fire was in a parking area and

had been put out by residents by the time firefighters arrived on the scene.

Kissee, the son of Ted Kissee, was taken by Life Flight helicopter to Emanuel Hospital in Portland.

Smith said Kissee suffered second degree burns over 22 percent of his body. The burns were primarily on his thighs and lower legs.

Man placed on probation; told to undergo evaluation

Michael D. Miller, 21, of 38200 Nettie Connett Drive was placed on probation and ordered to undergo a mental health evaluation and follow through with any recommended treatment, according to Michele DesBrisay, deputy district attorney for Clackamas County.

A jury found Miller guilty Oct. 2 in Clackamas County Circuit Court for

second-degree arson and second-degree burglary in connection with a fire at a barn at Sandy High School.

Miller was the person who reported the fire, according to Jim Gallagher, fire marshal for the Sandy Fire District.

The Jan. 12 fire caused \$6,000 in damage to the barn.

Costume collection forms basis for business

by JAN COOLEY
Staff writer

The racks and racks of clothes in the basement of Ruth Burg's Sandy home all have stories behind them.

And every year, another chapter is added to their history.

They aren't everyday clothes. The colorful pleats in a Turkish dancer's dress once swirled under the lights at a Las Vegas stage show and eventually wound up at a garage sale. A dance hall girl's elegant dress of champagne-colored lace over satin lining is either an original or a very good copy of an inaugural ball gown once worn by a former Oregon governor's wife. Burg found it in a Goodwill store in Washington.

A black wool tuxedo, complete with tails, belonged to Burg's father, who cut a dashing figure at the turn of the century as a rancher and cattle broker.

These days, the tuxedo is part of a Dracula costume. All the clothes in Burg's basement are costumes, right down to the wigs and jewelry that go with them.

The stories go on and on. An original felt "poodle skirt," a style popular in the 1950s, cost Burg 25 cents at a garage sale. "I thought I'd died and gone to heaven," Burg

quips, saying how, these days, it would cost many, many times that much just to buy the felt for a copy.

The costumes go on and on, too. For 21 years, Burg's collection has grown. It now is so large that "If I make a new one, I have to take one out (to make room)," she says, chuckling.

Most of the costumes are for adults, although she has one rack loaded with children's outfits.

Each year, Burg rents out dozens of her costumes, all complete with accessories — jewelry, gloves, capes, swords, hats and head-dresses. A cave man suit even has a wooden club that goes with it. The costumes rent for \$20 to \$30 each. When they are returned, Burg has them cleaned and mended before replacing them on the racks, ready for the next costumed event. Her biggest season, naturally, is Halloween.

Burg operates her "Masquerade Mart" out of her home off Southeast Kelso Road. The business evolved after her mother died and Burg inherited trunks full of old clothes that had belonged to her mother and grandmother.

Most of those treasures, including a handstitched wedding dress from the 1850s and a 1910 lace-front party dress Burg's

mother once wore, are stored and not rented. But they were the inspiration for Masquerade Mart.

Already something of a costume buff — Burg had made pioneer costumes for her family of six during Oregon's centennial celebration in 1959 — she at first loaned out the antique clothing to the drama department at Sandy Union High School. Her stock increased as friends gave her no-longer-wanted costumes, and Burg often loaned them to friends for Halloween. But she got tired of storing them, she says.

"So I thought, shoot, I'll start charging a dollar every time they're using them."

News of her collection spread, and customers started coming from as far away as Tigard, Beaverton and Vancouver, Wash.

These days she has to charge more, partly because of the cost of cleaning and repairs, partly because of the cost of the costumes themselves.

The business does not earn a lot of profit, Burg says. "But I make enough to buy more fabric and make some more (costumes)."

Although she won't rent out her mother's and grandmother's clothes ("It's hard getting gals small enough to wear them — oh,

my they were tiny then," she notes), she does use several of her father's suits for men's costumes.

Among the favorites are the gangster costumes, which begin with her father's pinstriped suits. Burg has the opposite problem fitting those. Fellows are slimmer now, with smaller waists and narrower hips, Burg says. She advises her customers to wear suspenders and they'll do just fine.

Men also like the Dracula, Frankenstein and werewolf costumes. The most expensive rentals are the animal costumes — among them Sesame Street's Big Bird and a gorilla.

"I bought those," she explains. "Those cost up in the hundreds of dollars."

But many are homemade, hand-me-downs from friends or garage sale and thrift store finds.

The styles most in demand vary from year to year, Burg says. For a while, western wear in the Dale Evans, rhinestone cowboy vein were snapped up first. Some years the sheikh and harem girls have been the top choice. This year, the run seems to be on Roaring '20s styles.

But latecomers still have plenty

Turn to COSTUMES, Page 4.



Staff photo by Steve Gibbons

Turkish dancer costume in Ruth Burg's collection once belonged to a Las Vegas showgirl.