

'Round the State

Center for Migrants Praised by Official

SALEM (AP)—The Oregon Agriculture Department Thursday praised the migrant community center pioneered by citizens in the Western Oregon town of Independence.

James F. Short, state agriculture director and chairman of the governor's committee on migratory labor, said Independence "has set an outstanding example for Oregon of community friendliness and good relations with seasonal working visitors without whose presence many of our crops would not come to full harvest."

A minister in Independence conceived the idea of a migrant community center last year.

Merchants, church and lay leaders, and the citizenry in general contributed money, equipment and time to establish the center in a rented building on Main Street.

The Oregon College of Education student body at Monmouth gave \$75 toward a stereo record player for the center, which is stocked with books, games, furniture, a writing table and supplies, floor lamps, a television set, magazines, pictures, potted plants, a ping pong table, card tables, and other items.

There is also a children's corner, with toys.

The center is open on week-ends and on rainy weekday afternoons when harvesting is curtailed.

The center will operate again this summer, opening in June. A second floor of the center has been turned into a dance hall.

Workman Killed

ROSEBURG (AP)—Sherman Swanson, 65, Roseburg, was killed by electric shock Thursday as he worked on a road construction job west of Roseburg. Swanson, an employee of the county road department, apparently grabbed a fallen power line which had been struck by a power shovel.

Swanson, a truck driver with the department since 1955, was working on an extension permit from the county court. He turned 65 in September of 1961. All county employees of that age must retire or receive such a permit.

7,795 Violations

SALEM (AP)—State police arrested 7,795 persons in February for violating motor vehicle laws, and 9,830 others got warnings.

There were 1,918 arrests for violations of the basic speed law. No speeding warnings were given. Seventy-four arrests were made on charges of driving

Conductor To Accept Portland Job

CORPUS CHRISTI, Tex. (AP)—Jacques Singer was formally released Thursday from his five-year contract with the Corpus Christi Symphony Society.

Edward H. Harte, president of the Symphony Society, said the release was without any conditions and that "it is improbable that Singer will be free to return here next year to help us through our season."

As soon as the release was granted, Singer notified the Portland, Ore., Symphony he was free to accept its offer of a three-year contract as musical director.

Wednesday the Corpus Christi Symphony informally released Singer to Portland with the understanding that he could return for the first two concerts of the Corpus Christi season and perhaps conduct two other concerts here.

The Portland Symphony said it wanted Singer's service exclusively.

To enable Singer to go to Portland without any strings attached, the local symphony gave him a complete release from his contract Thursday.

Singer has been here eight years. His salary under his present contract is \$13,500 a year. Singer said the increase offered at Portland was "significant."

The plow is said to have originated in the eastern Mediterranean region before 3000 B.C., according to the Encyclopedia Britannica.

Plans Suggested to Curtail Divorce Rate

SALEM (AP)—A traveling domestic relations court patterned after Oregon's Tax Court or multi-county marriage conciliation services were suggested for Oregon Thursday.

These were among ways proposed to help stem the rising tide of divorce at a hearing of the divorce subcommittee of the Legislative Interim Committee on Social Problems.

Sen. Carl Francis, R-Dayton, chairman, said that the populous counties such as Multnomah, Clackamas, Lane and Marion could support a domestic relations court.

In sparsely populated counties, he said, the problem is different because the counties separately cannot provide the needed court. He said a traveling court might be the answer.

Four circuit judges appeared before the committee. They were judges Ralph Holman, Oregon City; Donald Long, Portland; Charles S. Woodrich, Roseburg; and Joseph B. Felton, Salem.

France to Repay U.S. \$58 Million

PARIS (AP)—France is going to repay the United States \$58 million overdue on its long-term debt, Finance Minister Valery Giscard d'Estaing said Thursday.

The payments were due in 1958 and 1959 but were delayed because of France's unfavorable foreign exchange balance at that time. After the payment France will still owe the United States \$1.6 billion.

Holman had to leave early, but the other judges suggested that a multi-county conciliation service would help.

The three also agreed that in granting a divorce it would be well to change the law to sever immediately joint property rights.

The actual marriage would be continued another six months before the divorce would become final, they suggested.

Agreement on this was based upon the fact that this would force divorced persons to wait at least six months to marry again. If they remarried ahead of that it would be bigamy.

Holman said the problem of divorce involved all social problems because it presented a generation of children coming from unstable families.

He said talking about divorce was like talking about the horse after it has been stolen, he said society stands a better chance of meeting the problem on the marriage end rather than the divorce end.

Holman urged uniform marriage laws among states as one

answer. He said if laws are too stiff in one state that the couple can motor into the next state and qualify there.

Under the present divorce laws, particularly the mental cruelty provision, nearly anyone can get a divorce because nearly every married couple tried on each others toes at some time, he said.

He suggested that separation be permitted but not easy divorce. If you allow a divorce, he said, then remarriage is permitted.

Holman questioned whether from the standpoint of economics alone a man should be permitted a remarriage if he can't support the family that resulted from his first marriage. He said these first families often end up on state welfare rolls.

Earlier the subcommittee said the much publicized discarding of husbands and wives as if they were unwanted hats by film personalities is thwarting attempts to deal with the rising tide of divorce.

The subcommittee adopted unanimously a resolution expressing disapproval of the

multiple divorces and marriages among much publicized film personalities.

The resolution said the image created by these public figures is that divorce is a matter of convenience without regard to fault and that society condones or even approves of it.

This attitude of complacency on the part of the film industry, the resolution said, thwarts meaningful efforts to stem the tide of divorce.

The resolution deplored the absence of action by the industry on the subject and the willingness of news media to report it.

"We feel that the thinking public should make known to the motion picture industry an attitude of disapproval of multiple divorce and marriage among its publicized members ...," it said.

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