

OUR BROTHER'S KEEPER COUNTY WELFARE PROGRAMS WORK WITH STATE AND FEDERAL

Installment II

While on a statistical basis the work done by county welfare is a matter of dry figures, to those charged with the program each case reveals something vital and human. In truth, as servants of the people, social workers on a broad scale administer the public conscience. They translate into action the role of us all as our brothers' keeper.

In its welfare programs, the county works with the state and federal agencies. Sometimes they handle administration level work by investigations and qualification studies. Sometimes the county is required to supplement the programs set up by the state or the federal governments.

All assistance given in Washington county—or any county in the state for that matter—first requires the basis of need. There are four main programs to take care of people who can establish their need of either assistance or service.

Kenneth Peterson, Washington county public welfare administrator, states that the county is not administering a pension system, for instance, in its old age assistance program, financed by a Federal formula up to 50%. More than a clear cut matter of applying for assistance at the age of 65 years and being guaranteed payment is involved. Regardless of the contributions made through social security deductions from wages earned, an applicant must be able to show existence of need according to statutory law and interpretations.

In addition to old age assistance, the welfare program includes aid to dependent children, blind assistance and general assistance. The Federal contribution to dependent children is 32% and to the blind, 52%, based on a percentage formula which works on a national level, in proportion to welfare funds provided by the various states.

In the general assistance program, however, there is no Federal participation, being carried only by state and county funds. Relief under this program is granted "on the basis of need, taking into account the income, resources and maintenance available to the individuals from whatever source derived and his necessary expenditures and the conditions existing in each case, and in accordance with the rules and regulations of the state public welfare commission."

According to Miss Loa Howard, state administrator of the state public welfare commissions, with offices in the Spaulding building, Portland, the department "feels the problem of medical needs should be first solved—for the aged, children, the blind and those of no resources who have not otherwise been cared for, before the Federal government tries to solve this problem for everyone."

In Washington county alone, an estimated 10.7 percent of the money expended for public assistance is spent in medical care. The county hospital is located between Reedville and Hillsboro, in the former old folk's home. Here county cases are treated, by funds from state and county.

Federal old age assistance money permits those over 65 years of age to seek other than county accommodations and treatment. Rest home care is provided by establishments which are certified by the county welfare commission. Review is made of all nursing home cases, periodically, relating to the provisions of such care and the fixing of payment rate.

As a result county hospital cases are those who are outside the old age assistance funds provided through Federal social security payments. Most of the county hospital bed cases are older citizens, but not exclusively so. Maternity care in cases of transients, un-

PER CENT OF THE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE DOLLAR SPENT FOR MEDICAL CARE
IN 35 OREGON COUNTIES

PER CENT OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE EXPENDED FOR MEDICAL CARE

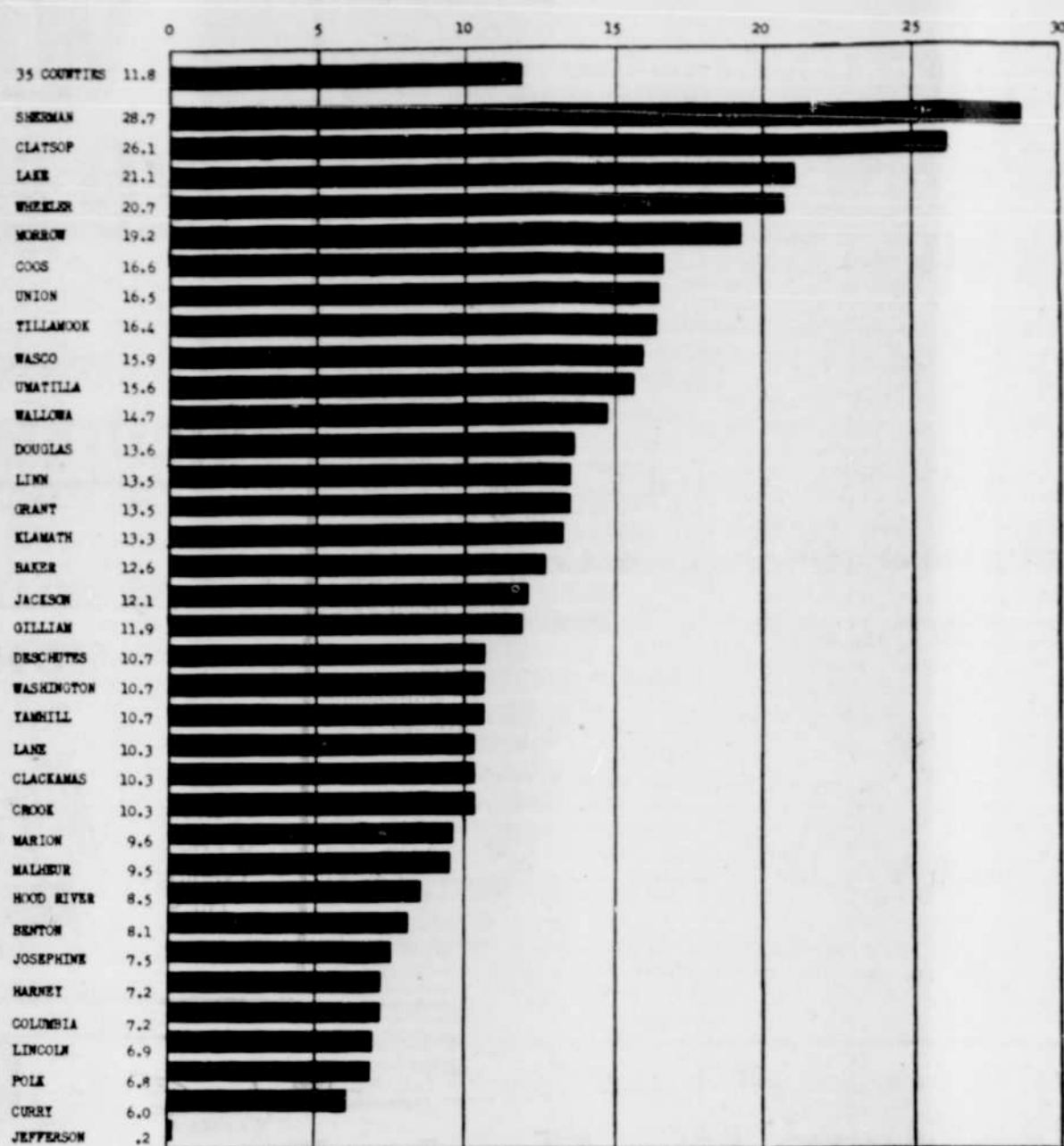


CHART 11. MEDICAL CARE SURVEY
STATE PUBLIC WELFARE COMMISSION
DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND STATISTICS

employed or indigent persons and other emergency needs are cared for.

The Washington county welfare office is, in effect, a branch of the social security board, agreeing to certain basic standards and policy. It administers the Federal program and monies as well as the major state and county program of direct relief.

During the war, county administrator Peterson explained, the welfare office acted as a social, mental and medical records clearinghouse in an attempt to sift out potential misfits. Now, in conjunction with the peace-time draft, the office makes a study on the financial impact of family or dependents which armed forces induction might occasion. This is to show the advisability or not of delaying induction.

In another field, the county is called upon to administer the vehicle accident fund of the state industrial accident department. Financed with monies which had been taken from driver license payments, the vehicle accident fund provides for relief to anyone killed or injured by a vehicle anywhere in the state.

The county office must review reasons for accepting such cases for application to the fund. Since benefits are again determined by the basis of need, records are developed at to financial status and any previous or current welfare experience.

In the case of people entering state institutions, such as the tuberculosis sanitarium, deaf or blind schools or boys' and girls' state schools, the county office acts as liaison between the family and the institution. Likewise, it cares for wards of the county or circuit courts under child welfare services.

A part of the community, itself, county welfare by many of its activities is also aligned with the state and national governments in a welfare program which in Oregon, for the month of August, 1949, served 40,501 to the extent of \$1,848,351.28.

(Continued next week)

Brownies Visit Dairy For Close View of Milking

Friday, October 14th, 1949 Brownie Scout Troop No. 299 of Barnes School visited the home of the Alpenrose Dairy which is situated on a beautiful hillside in a perfect setting. With Mrs. Berklund to explain how a modern dairy is planned and maintained we all sat in the living room while she explained, by simplified charts the process of electronic pasteurization plant how their milk is homogenized, how bottles are washed, etc.

Then Mrs. Berklund escorted us through the spotless plant to see in action the very machines she had explained.

The girls were delighted inasmuch as each member was allowed to "attempt" milking a cow. It was the first actual contact most girls—and their Leaders—ever had with a cow. Afterwards they were shown how the cow was milked with an electric milker.

The "Maternity Ward" was greeted with many oh's and ah's for the new calves were sweet but some quite frisky.

Much to the delight of the Troop Alpenrose Dairy treated each member to large dishes of ice cream and cookies. None of them wanted to leave. All of them wished they lived there.

Sincerest thanks are extended to the Alpenrose Dairy farm: Judy Andrews, Danya Berg, Ellen Dahlberg, Yvonne Dallman, Sylvia Hendrickson, Christine Olsen, Marylou Rinker, Joyce Simpson, Sharon Simpson, Vickie Ulrich, their leader, Mrs. Chris Olsen, Mrs. John R. Cram, who helped to make our trip possible, and to Mr. Guy Carr for loaning us his suburban carry-all for transporting our Troop.

AMERICAN ORIGIN

Lumber is truly an American word, originating in Boston.

NOTE OF CAUTION

Be sure your match is out before you toss it into wooded areas.

BEAVERTON ENTERPRISE—Friday, October 28, 1949



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