

Welfare Administrator Reports On Effects Of Technological Changes

Editor's Note: The following statement was presented to the Legislative Interim Committee hearing on Technological Employment by Mrs. Julia Brown, Klamath County welfare administrator.

By Julia Brown
 There are not many facts readily available to support any report of the effects of Technological Employment on a county public welfare caseload. The facts are there, in each case record, but lacking the staff or the time to do this type of sociological research, the only facts that I can give you are contained in the following brief tables. I have taken the liberty of drawing some conclusions from these facts and from the day to day experience in administering a county public welfare program.

The effects of the mechanization of the potato harvest are the most easily discernible and there are some actual figures to support the conclusions. In the following table I have set forth the General Assistance caseload and expenditures for the months of July, August, September, October, and November. To offset some changes in the clerical procedures involving the closing process, I have also included the expenditures. You will note the general rise in both cases and expenditures to the peak of 1960. Then there is a quite dramatic drop, both in caseload and expenditures. Since this coincides with the extended use of machinery in potato harvest, I feel mechanization can be cor-

rectly interpreted as having an effect on the public welfare caseload. I do not think the evidence of fewer workers coming into the Basin, as illustrated through the caseload, can be determined to mean that there has been more work in the Valley. Since 1961 there have been several "short crop" experiences in the Valley. It is an interesting conjecture — where have those people gone, who used to come here, and what are they doing? Formerly the heavy influx of people in need at this time of year came from Northern California and the Willamette Valley, and left for the Bakersfield-Shafter area when our relatively short harvest was completed.

During the same period of time, I have set forth in this next table the rise in the Aid to Dependent Children caseload. From my day to day experience in the office, I feel that a good part of this rapid rise is due to the financial situations of the families involved. There are many problems present in the family, but the added pressure of loss of job, with loss of income; or a job without sufficient income to provide adequately; or the wife and moth-

er going to work to augment family income, with the resultant additional pressures this involves, serves as "the last straw" for many marginal families. This interpretation, though perhaps not scientifically sound, derives strongly from our experience of the years 1960-61 (with its period of economic stress in this community) and the startling increase in the ADC caseload by 1962. Again, this is impression, but I am sure that very few of the husbands and fathers involved have had employment as a skilled craftsman. These men are usually employed as laborers and there is a tightening up of such work available, at the same time that there is an increase of unskilled youth entering the labor market.

Taking the period from June, 1960-June, 1961 the county experienced a gradual but almost irreversible loss of 30 per cent of our certified foster homes. This loss represents 28 homes. Slightly less than half (12) were the consequence of economic problems (or so it was stated). Two of the twelve involved the wife seeking employment. The other ten moved out of the county or out of the state on the basis of

finding new or consistent employment. One additional home remained in the community, but it was necessary to grant ADC on a step-parent basis after the Unemployment Compensation Benefit was exhausted and before new employment was obtained. The twelve mentioned above were not all mill workers, but the economic slow down influenced their own resources—i.e., one was a construction worker of a very skilled nature, one was a carpenter-builder, one was a salesman.

(2) Beginning of unemployed parents.
 In June of 1961 the agency began finding new additions to the foster home register, but in January of 1962 began losing ground to a new low representing 36 per cent less than the 1960 level. Our impression is that much of this loss was a backwash from the preceding year, since we still had the children needing care and the remaining homes were over-used. Thus, they became a permanent loss to the agency from these pressures, where with a more favorable register these people could have been given a "rest." August of 1963 we had again achieved the 1960 level of operation—but what a struggle!

Klamath County has not yet submitted a completed plan to the State Commission for vocational training under the new provision for this type of service. Nor have we actually entered anyone on a formal training plan under the Community Work and Training Program. There are several plans now un-

der study, but we feel we want to be as assured as it is possible to be that we have the right plan in all its aspects from the standpoint of both the client and the agency. An interesting sidelight to this planning is the finding of several individuals who will qualify for DVR

woman with five children, one is a man with a wife but no children, and the other seven are heads of families of varying size. They are all ages, ranging from one young man who went to OTI with six months experience as a box boy after high school, too severely

handicapped to maintain himself without a skill, to a man in his early forties. One mother of school age children is also attending school with her husband with her family paying tuition. We need maintenance costs for these students, with DVR supplying educational costs.

CASELOAD

	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
1955	216	232	239	260	266
1956	265	114	98	118	150
1957	161	183	194	255	180
1958	215	175	291	199	182
1959	114	104	127	100	108
1960	250	165	226	277	184
1961	168	192	144	149	158
1962	106	114	104	115	121
1963	116	122	121		

EXPENDITURES

	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.
1955	\$6,566	9,296	10,707	12,918	15,351
1956	5,141	3,582			
1957	6,162	5,325	6,723	13,464	12,238
1958	16,108	9,946	13,269	11,699	11,284
1959	6,749	5,004	6,636	4,576	7,369
1960	17,626	6,521	12,401	16,001	7,764
1961	8,647	8,978	7,444	6,107	6,457
1962	4,418	4,744	3,390	3,725	4,740
1963	4,900	5,674	6,131	4,261	(1)

(1) To 5:00 P.M., 10-28-63

services. They had physical handicaps of one nature or another which did not hinder them in the performance of their housewife-mother duties, but which came to light as we discussed health problems in relation to sustained training and employment.
 There are presently nine clients of the agency attending OTI. These people came from other parts of the state as well as Klamath County. They are matriculating in various fields of technology. One student is a



SHATTERED DOOR — Bill Evans, employe of Calhoun's Floor Covering on East Main, peers through one of the broken window panes in the firm's front door. Two glass doors and four large front windows were broken at Calhoun's Halloween night. Police have arrested three boys for this and other acts of vandalism Thursday night.

Three Teenage Boys Cited For Vandalism

Three teenage youths were arrested by Klamath Falls police Friday afternoon as being responsible for part of the wave of vandalism that struck Klamath Falls Halloween night.

They were identified as Jerry Ollashea, 15, 1218 Owens; Roger Bryan Bell, 16, 106 Laguna, and Monte Lewis Chandler, 17, 343 Hillside.

Police said a fourth boy was with this trio, but was not actively involved in the breaking of hundreds of dollars in windows, and therefore was not held.

The three were held in City Jail at the request of juvenile authorities.

Police said all admit breaking 18 windows out of Shondo's Drive-In, Martin and Main, and one boy said they also shattered four large front windows and two glass doors at Calhoun's Floor Covering and the Builder's Supply, both on East Main Street.

In addition to this, they admit breaking windows in two cars. All of the vandalism was done with a wrench and the boys could give police no reason for it.

Police said the four had left the Moose Lodge Halloween dance when the vandalism occurred.

Police came across the four boys at Shondo's and recognized one, but they were able to elude police. With the recognition, however, that boy was soon picked up and the other two who were involved.

Meanwhile, police continued to investigate other acts of vandalism throughout the city Halloween night. Dozens of reports of window breakings and paint smearings were received. It is not believed the three boys arrested Friday were involved in the other incidents, since they were on foot and the incidents were scattered throughout the city.

In addition to the list of vandalism in Friday's Herald and News, police have received two new reports of destruction. A beer bottle was tossed through a window at the Olympia Grocery, 2123 Holly Street, and Mrs. J. H. Marshall, 336 Michigan, reported that her picket fence was torn down.

Survivors include the widower, Walter Smith of Bonanza; two sons, Walter Jr. and Richard A., both of Bonanza; a daughter, Mrs. Lewis (Mary Ann) Parsons, Mt. Hebron, Calif.; three sisters, Mrs. Effie Gilman, Merrill, Mrs. Ella McKenzie, Calgary, Canada, Mrs. Torrence (Hazel) Meister, Nova Scotia; and three brothers, Harry, George and Elliott Lantz, all in Nova Scotia; also eight grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. at O'Hair's Memorial Chapel.

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Longtime Resident Dies Here

BONANZA — Mrs. Genevieve L. Smith, 75, a resident of Klamath County since 1926, died in Hillside Hospital Friday, Nov. 1. She had been ill since June.

Mrs. Smith, a native of Nova Scotia, Llanbur County, born Feb. 18, 1888, volunteered to serve as a registered nurse in World War I, with the Harvard Unit from Massachusetts, under the British. She was a graduate of Massachusetts General Hospital where she was nursing when war came. She served as a front line nurse in charge of a ward in France for three years.

Her future husband, Walter Smith, was wounded in action, cared for by Genevieve Lantz and returned to the United States. The couple was married in Bishop, Calif., on July 20, 1921. They ranched in California in the Owens Valley, before coming to Klamath County where they settled on a farm, continuing to live there.

Mrs. Smith was a member of the Baptist Church but had attended the Full Gospel Church at Lorella where she was a member of the Missionary Society. During her earlier life she was active in grange work.

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