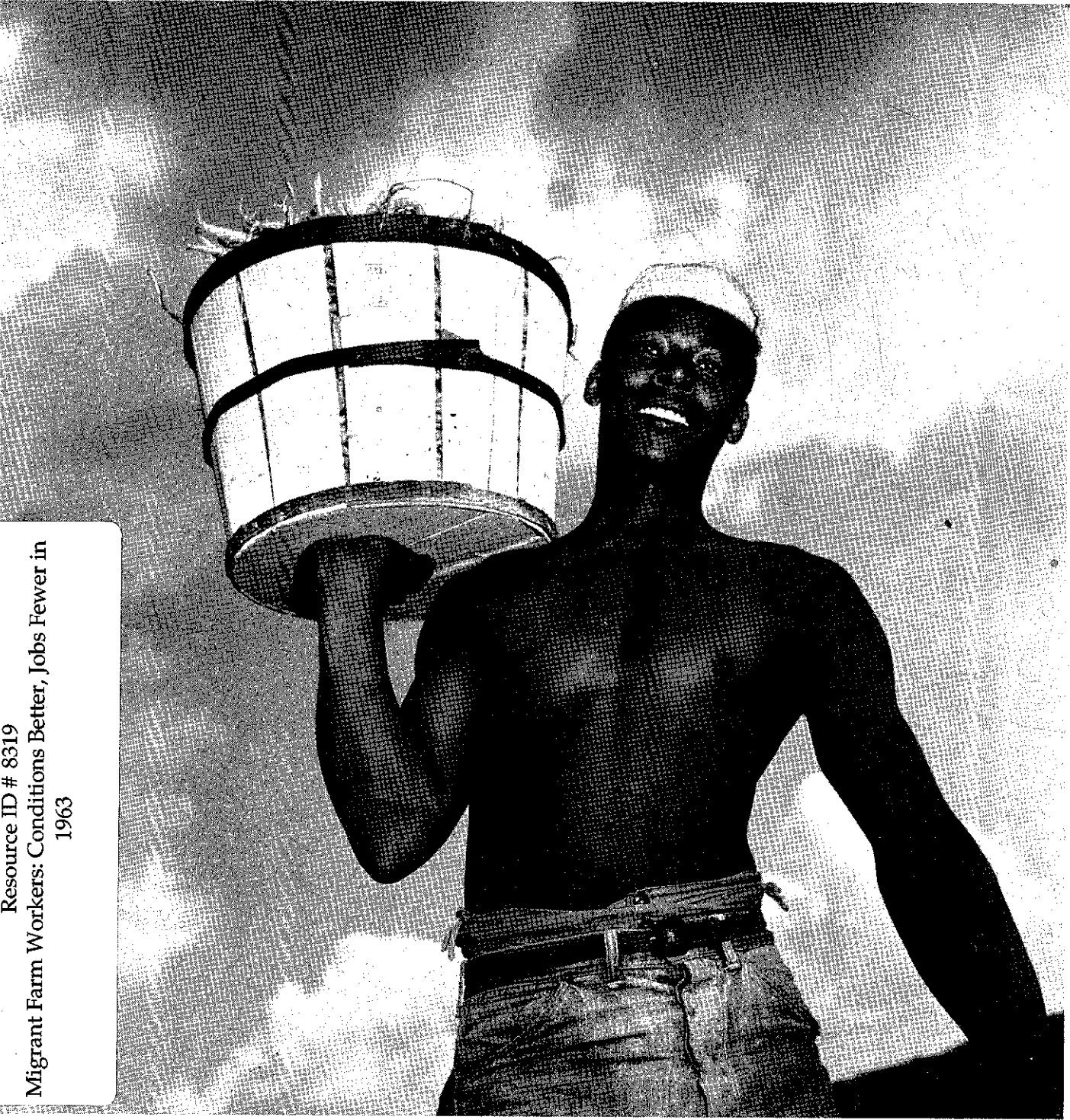


MIGRANT FARM WORKERS



Resource ID # 8319
Migrant Farm Workers: Conditions Better, Jobs Fewer in
1963

Conditions better--jobs fewer in 1963

Far Cry from Vicious Big City Gangs

Migrants Thriving on Farms

Bay State Mecca For Puerto Ricans; 2000 Every Year

By STANLEY EAMES

When the neighbors learned that Frank and Joseph Cogliano intended to import Puerto Rican migrant laborers last year for their Blueview Nurseries in Canton, they hit the ceiling.

★ ★ ★

Those who hadn't seen "West Side Story" had read lurid reports of vicious gang life in Spanish Harlem, and they wanted no part of it transplanted to the Coglianos' immaculate, 11-acre operation.

★ ★ ★

The Coglianos are sons of immigrant parents, and they knew, as well, that Greater Boston's 3500 Puerto Ricans are among its most law-abiding citizens. They stood firm.

★ ★ ★

This week, in the second year of employing Puerto Rican migrants, the Coglianos pronounced them an outstanding success, and so did the neighbors. And in this view they echo the beliefs of other farmers, who hire about 2000 every year in Massachusetts.

They come to the United States in droves, from early March onward, some big East Coast farms hiring as many as 200. They leave San Juan chattering bravely in their colorful shirts, a guitar to almost every other man, and any statesider on a migrant flight is likely to be serenaded most of the way home.

But they come to a curiously ascetic and lonely sort of life, separated for many months from wives and children; for the most part speaking little English, and too shy to mingle much in their new communities.

Puerto Rico is a little paradise, and those who leave it do so more from necessity than desire. Their first few weeks here are a succession of strange days and homesick nights, and they spend most of their time writing innumerable letters home.

If they are lucky, they have two friends here beside those who ac-

company them: one is the farmer who hires them; the other—and this one they can count on—is Antonio Del Rios, volatile, mustached mother-hen to every Puerto Rican who needs his help.

Del Rios' title is field representative, migration division, Puerto Rico Department of Labor. It covers a host of tasks that impinge continually upon his evenings and weekends.

He meets migrants at their airport, briefs them, briefs their employers, settles disputes, listens to woes and worries, gives advice, talks like a Dutch uncle in spattering Spanish to the recalcitrant, and ranges the length and breadth of the state.

In the course of a season, he may see about 1300 of the migrants, the number hired by contract through the state employment security division. Almost as many more are hired individually, without state or agency help, many of them by farmers who

want to bypass the necessity for paying the prevailing wage of 80 cents an hour for vegetable workers and \$1.25 for greenhouse and nursery workers.

Classes in English

A Puerto Rican who left his native Arecibo in 1927, Del Rios constantly urges his wards to try to learn English, and his department hires teachers to hold classes on the larger farms. Although state law now sets standards for housing of the laborers and forces local health boards to inspect their quarters, no contract worker moves his guitar into a camp until Del Rios has seen it.

"Camp" is a poor designation, however, for the quarters used by the Coglianos' eight hands; it is a small house, neatly furnished, and it has a television set which isn't in the contract.

Joe Cogliano hassled amiably this week with his men over their insistence upon leaving every window-shade drawn all day long.

"It keeps the place warm," said one as he stood in 80-degree heat, and that was that. The shades stayed drawn, and the workers continued to ignore the oil-heat thermostat which had been painstakingly explained to them.

Net \$1000 Each

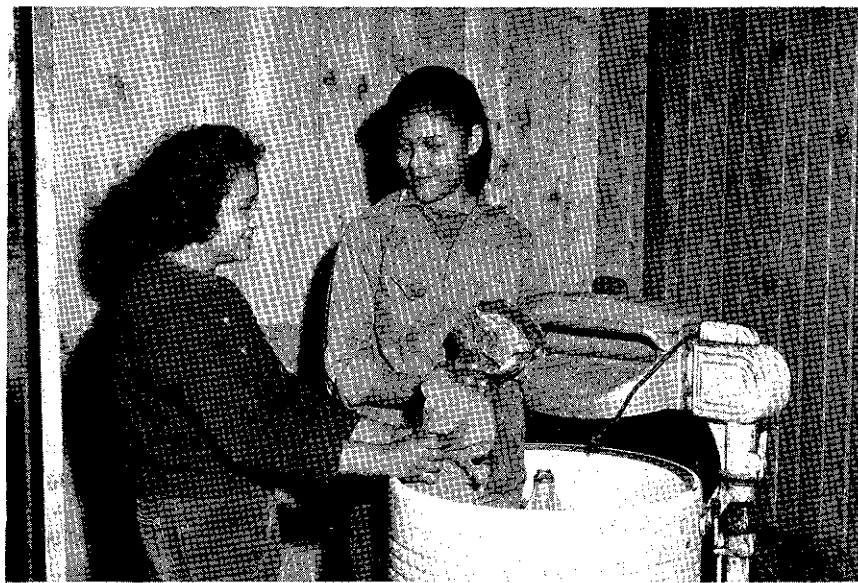
Most of the Coglianos' hands will take back \$1000 or more when they return to San Juan next December. Joe Cogliano, a short, stocky, merry man who works harder than his hands do, took them all to the bank on their first payday and insisted they open accounts.

"A good man earns anywhere from \$55 to \$90 a week, tax-free," Del Rios said. "He also gets free lodging. His food and cigarettes may cost him \$10 a



GUARDIAN ANGEL of Puerto Rican migrant workers is Antonio Del Rios, field representative for Puerto Rican labor department, chatting here with Delfin R. Maldonado, 40, of Corozal.

New Tomato Harvester Will Not Eliminate Need For Migrant Labor



Harvesting tomatoes by migrant workers results in a test for any washing machine. Many migrant camps have facilities for their workers to wash clothes. The Ray Fishbaugh farm near Celina is no exception, as Esperanza Canizales (left) and her sister-in-law Estella, 19, demonstrate.

By George Robey, Jr.

THE three-to-five years some experts forecast for mechanical tomato harvesting to handle the most of Ohio's crop will not solve so-called problems in migrant labor.

"But mechanical harvesters will decrease the roving populations which now come to Ohio in the spring and then again in greater numbers for the late summer harvests," one Ohio State University professor noted.

He pointed out that not all migrant laborers pick fruits. Some sort for quality in the processing plants. Others help harvest cherries, apples and peaches, commodities not affected by the newly developed mechanical tomato harvesters, more than a dozen of which now are operating in California.

The reason for Ohio trailing in this new mechanical phenomenon relates somewhat to varieties of plants and irrigation.

"Irrigation can control the ripening process for the one-shot harvest trip of the machines in California," the professor said. "The dry climate also helps the plants through the picker. Here in Ohio, we are har-

vesting more of the varieties which are most easily handled by the tomato harvester. But we still see tomatoes ripening at various times, necessitating several trips over the vines by pickers."

For some time, the professor continued, many Ohio fields will need hand work.

"We'll always have migrant workers," he said.

This statement follows another made by a school official in Ottawa County who pointed to a long history of migrant labor in Ohio.

"More than 40 years ago tomato harvesting was done by Belgians," he recalled. "Next came the White Russians who helped dig sugar beets. Both were absorbed into the communities. Then came a period when white persons from the Southern United States helped harvest. Now we have the Mexicans or Texacans, as many refer to them."

There always has been a shift in labor, he continued, as the migrant worker raised his level and was absorbed into the community.

What, then, is the picture in mi-

grant labor as the harvest scene begins this year with clusters of camps on some 2,000 farms containing an estimated 10,000 migrant workers, mostly from Texas and of Mexican birth? The Buckeye Farm News cut a wide swath through Northwestern Ohio, where most of the workers are located. Interviewed were farmers, migrant workers, various city officials, police, health and education officers.

Ned Baker, supervising district sanitarian for the Ohio Department of Health, northwest district, pointed out that 19 of the 27 counties in this area contained 1572 migrant housing units under camp permits last year.

Migrant camps, he said, are under the same regulations as those for state parks. Of those camp operators who asked for camp permits, 85 percent received approval.

There were improvements in 17 county programs, he said, in evaluating the camps by a three-year program of "sanitation goals." He said the improvements were mostly in water supply, liquid waste disposal, privy construction and maintenance, and in refrigeration and storage of refuse.

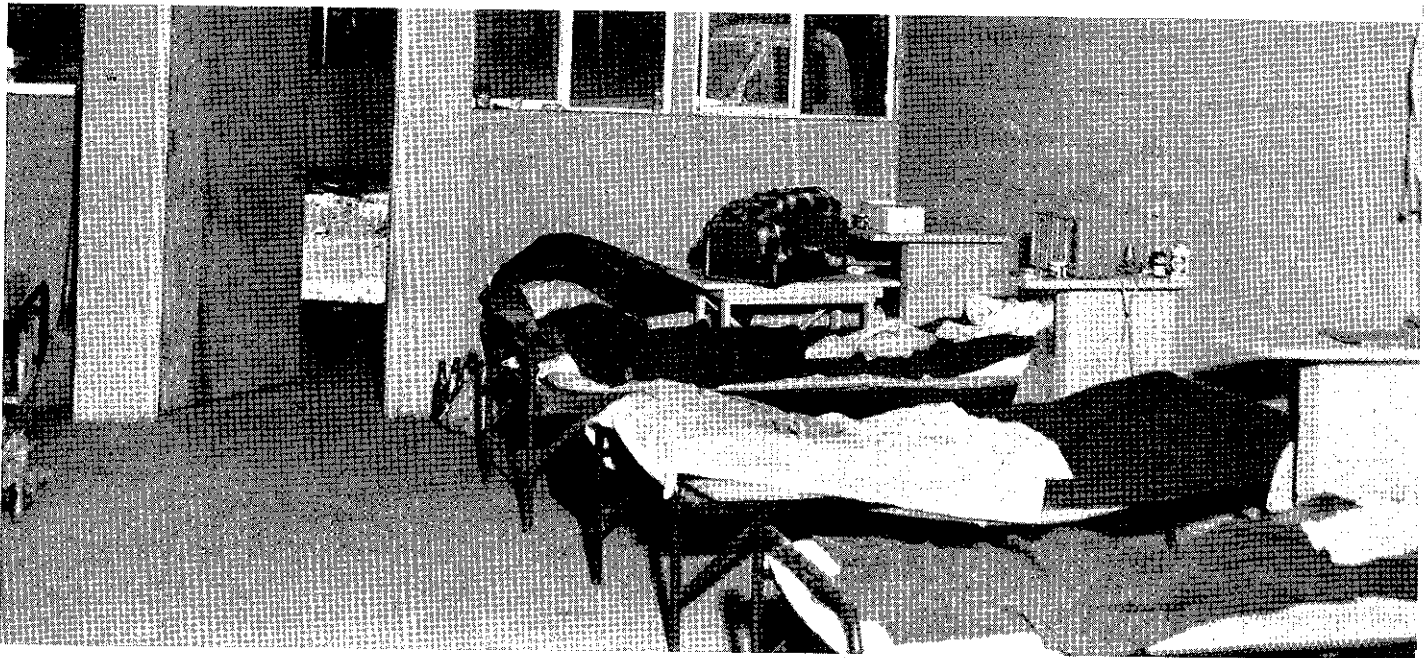
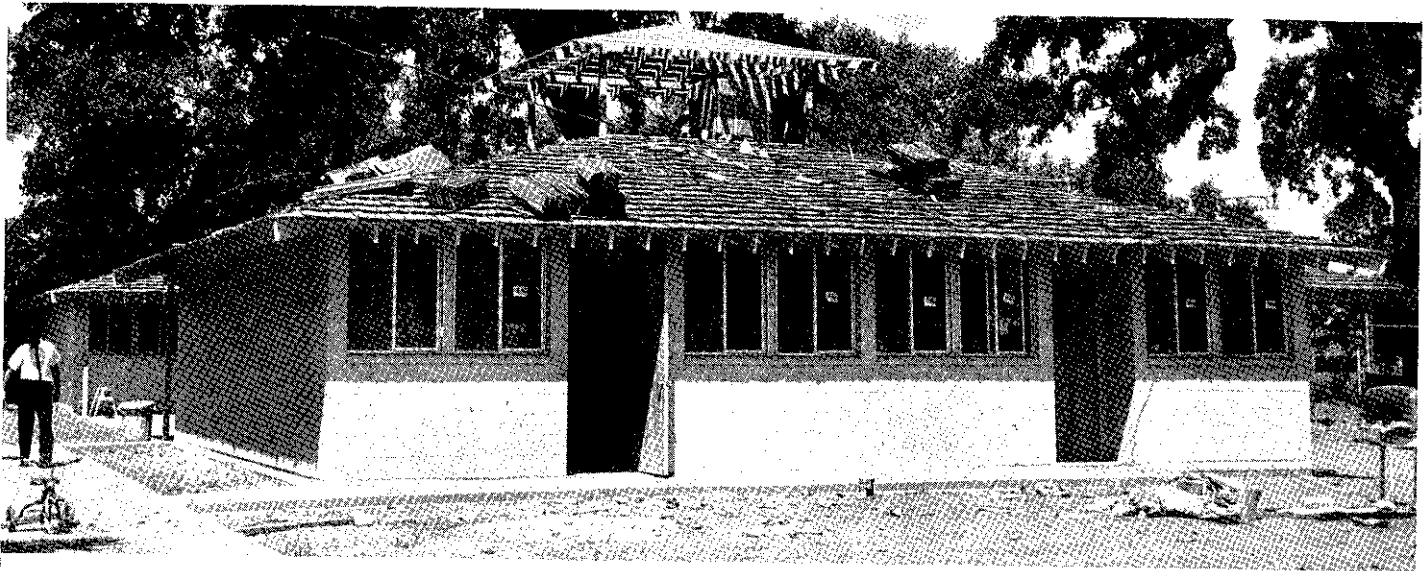
"The sanitation problem with migrant camps has been magnified in relation to other community problems, many not related to migrant workers," Baker said. "Our records and inspections show that 53 percent of the camps have reached the minimum requirements of the three-year sanitation goal as outlined by the northwest district office."

Another health official indicated that migrant workers have created no noticeable health hazards and generally were in good health, as far as is known by the Ohio Department of Health.

There still are unsolved problems, the Health Department noted:

1. Some camps not properly maintained or adequate housing provided,
2. A few operators not applying for camp permits.
3. Lack of enforcement because of under-staffed local health departments.

A final point by the health department, lack of education, is being met head-on by the Ottawa County school



"PEACHY" FARM HOUSING - BUTTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

Completed in August, 1962--just in time for the peach harvest--this unit of new housing on the Herringer Ranch accommodates 28 single workers, and is constructed for ready conversion into units for 8 families.

Built of sturdy concrete block, with cement floor and roof of redwood shakes, each dormitory is divided into two long rooms with a connecting door, and a front and rear entrance for each side.

An interior view of the dormitory is shown in the second picture. Note the low, neat concrete block dividers which set off each man's quarters for bed and personal belongings. Shortly after this picture was taken, shelves were added above the dividers, with a pole for hanging clothes between the shelves.

Visible behind this unit is another identical building with

court between, shaded by large oaks. On the other side of the court, at the right of the unit pictured, is a separate building housing excellent sanitary facilities. This building also is divided in the middle, with identical facilities for possible future "his" and "her" use when the housing is converted into family units.

The sanitary facilities include showers, enclosed toilets, urinal, lavatories, laundry tubs and space for expected installation of electric laundering equipment.

Sidewalks surround the buildings and courtyard. Landscaping is planned. It is also expected that another unit may be constructed on the fourth side of the courtyard. Adjoining the housing is a mess hall where excellent meals are served at minimum cost.

Major Factor

A recent survey conducted by a Montana newspaper revealed that a considerable number of agricultural employers still did not use the facilities of the Montana State Employment Service, but utilized help procured from local bars and streets. Possibly this is a major factor of complaints by employers that good help is hard to find. Our local employment personnel has taken pride in our methods of registration, selection and recruitment of migrant agricultural workers. A detailed description of all types of equipment the applicant is capable of operating is kept on his registration for easy referral by both the office and employer.

Selection of the applicant is made in accordance with the type of work involved, working and living conditions and wages involved. Recruitment of workers is made not only between offices within the state by TWX or phone but also through our central Helena office to all neighboring states if the need should warrant it.

Ed. Note:

Montana's story on housing for year-round and seasonal workers is included here because (a) it is just as important to promote good housing for year-round workers as for migrant workers; and (b) it is an excellent story by an Employment Service man.

Swink Migrant Center Adds Advantages For Workers

SWINK (C-SJ) — Empire Field Crops Inc., farm labor agent for a five-county area, is transacting business from a new office this year.

Headquarters of Robert Mayeda, secretary-manager, still are maintained at the labor camp originally constructed by the Holly Sugar Corp. for its laborers. However, this year a modern cinder block building, well lighted and with room enough for a community center, is replacing the brick building. The old building had been used since 1958 when the corporation was formed to solicit the help of Mexican nationals.

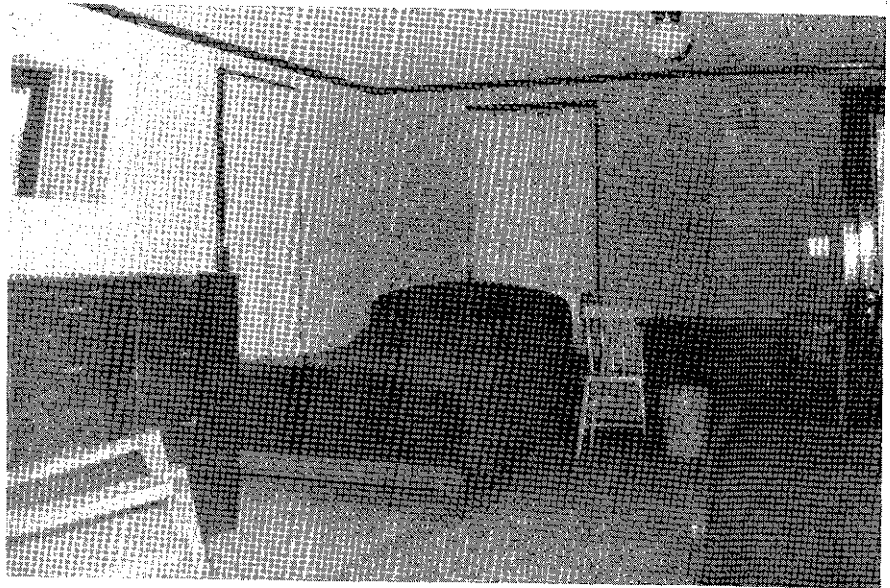
As usual, one room in the building is used by a representative of the Colorado State Employment Service who places migrants and local agricultural laborers in jobs. The state employment service uses the Swink office in the summer as well as the regular offices

in La Junta and Rocky Ford, used the year around.

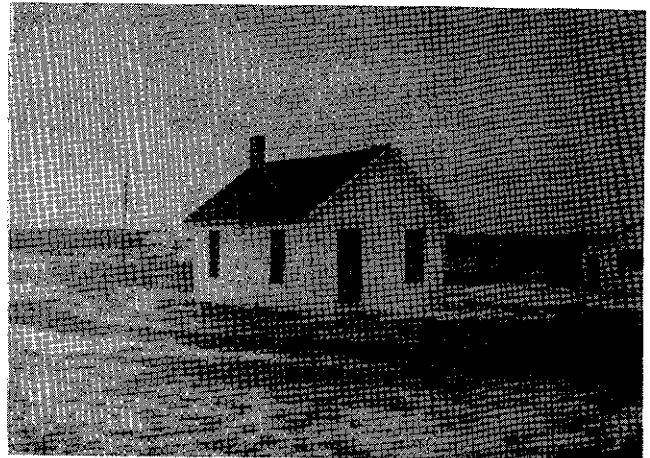
In spite of automation, onion, beet, melon and tomato crops in Pueblo, Otero, Crowley, Bent and Prowers counties still require enough hand labor to keep 550 Mexican nationals busy. These laborers are used in addition to every available migrant from New Mexico and Texas and every local agricultural worker.

The new office is just one of the improvements being made at the labor camp in Swink where 70 persons will live this summer. A brick tile combination bath house and laundry room was completed in the center of the quadrangle in 1960. The men's and women's areas have separate laundry rooms. City water from the Swink artesian wells has been piped into the bath house.

Although running water has not been piped inside the separate houses or apartments yet, there is



BUNKHOUSE—This is the interior of the bunkhouse on the George Gray farm northwest of Carter. Here is a place where a man can rest easy after a hard day's work.



NEAT—The outside of the bunkhouse on the Gray ranch is kept painted and neat. Some of the men that stay here have worked for him each season for 11 years. His cook has worked there for 12 years.

a hydrant with running water in front of each house. This year concrete drains have been placed around the hydrants to prevent mud in front of the neat, screen doors of the houses. Tons of sand were hauled into the quadrangle to improve drainage during rains. The quadrangle is sprayed regularly with herbicide to prevent weeds.

Wall switches are replacing drop cords in all of the houses, and electrical outlets for appliances are being added. Residents prepare their own meals on the butane gas stoves in each house.

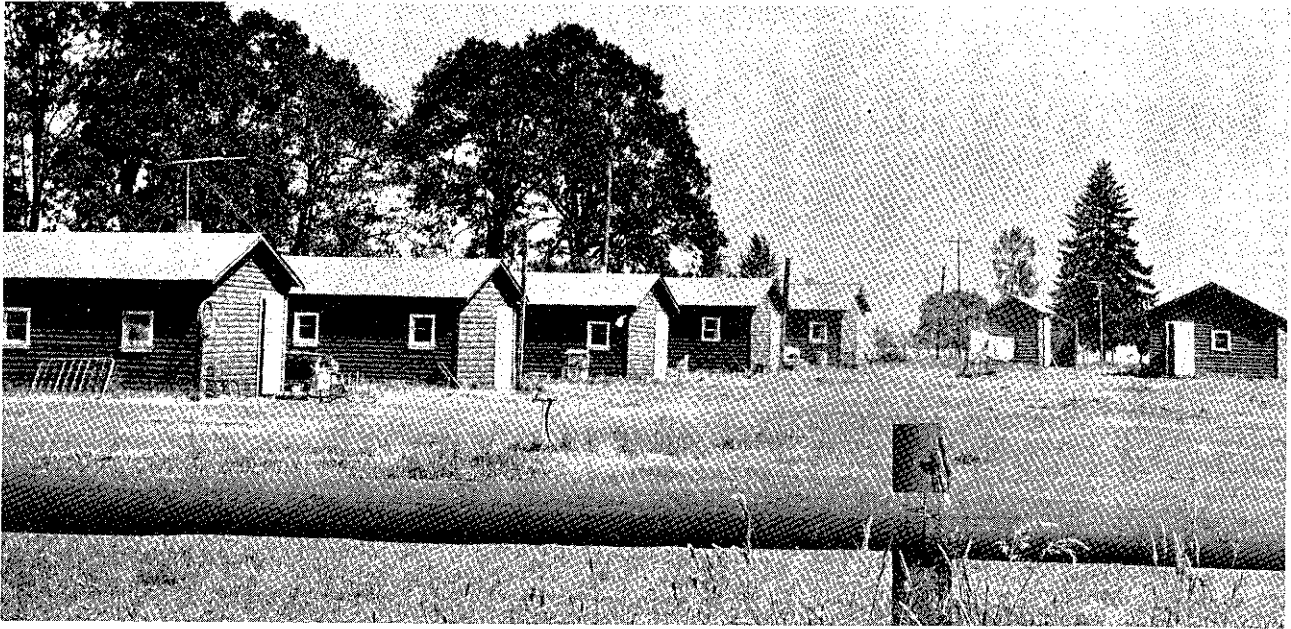
A patio with lawn chairs and table doubles as outdoor movie theater and church during weekends. Benches and chairs are moved into the patio on Saturday nights when Spanish movies are

shown. All religious denominations are free to use the patio on Sunday for outdoor church services.

Nearing completion is a recreation area west of the quadrangle of houses. The lot will be open to workers and their families for softball, touch football and other games.

A nurse from the Otero County Health Department makes regular visits to the camp. The Otero County Medical Society is continuing a study to determine whether a clinic at the camp is necessary.

The camp provides housing for Mexican nationals and for migrant families as long as they remain in the area. Many of the migrant families will leave in July to continue their itinerary they follow each year.



THIS 15 cabin camp in West Stayton is owned by Benny Beldon, a berry farmer. The occupants do not pay rent and occupy the cabins during the three month harvest season. The camp is cleaned daily by attendant.

both placed out of reach. The camp is checked daily and strict sanitary measures are enforced.

One farmer who refuses to employ the out-of-state migrant is faced this year with a possible \$3,000 loss on his strawberry farm.

Dick Kirk of St. Paul, said he could not afford to pay for the migrant labor. Said Kirk, "The migrant labor contractor wants half of my crop for the help he gives me. I don't get enough for my berries to pay half . . . I have to use children and what I can get from skidroad."

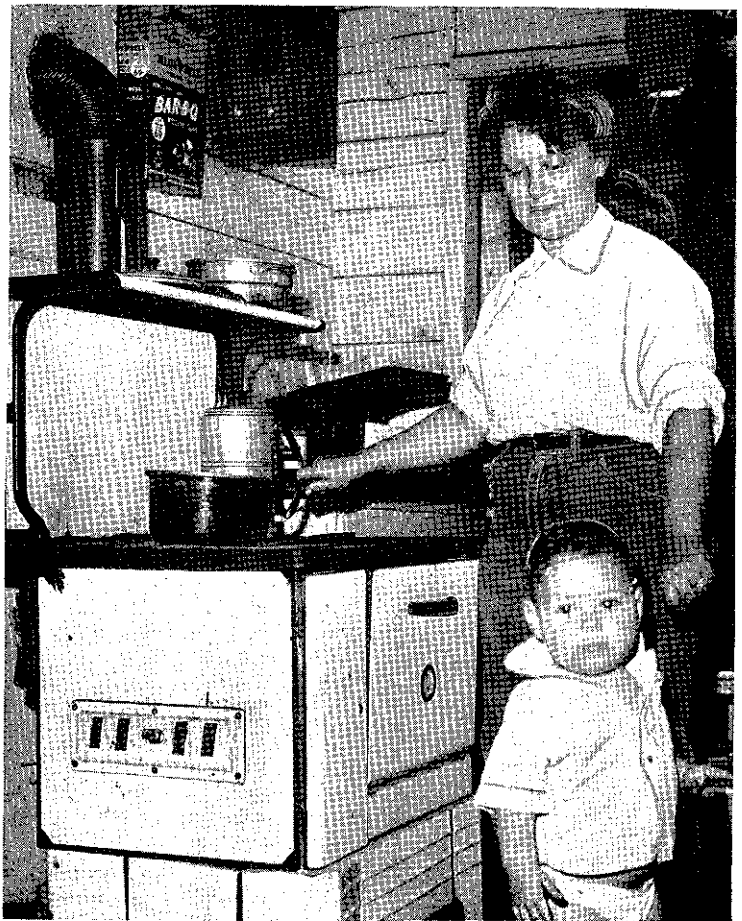
However, the migrant problem goes deeper.

The camp visits showed that the migrant worked on farms where suitable housing existed. Also, the quality of worker was commensurate with the quality of housing available.

One migrant worker, Frank Alvarez of McAllen, Texas, told The Oregonian that more migrants of the caliber needed for the harvest would come to western Oregon if there were enough adequate housing. He proposed a community camp similar to the camp at Vale. Such a settlement would be a project of farmers, businessmen and others in the area. This would centralize the operation.

Independence is a community which has demonstrated what can be done when people are willing. Last year Independence organized the Independence Migrant Center, a social hall for migrants. The center is governed by a board which includes representatives from service groups, churches, farm organizations, business establishments and the migrant force. Each year money is collected through donations for maintaining the center. John Strong, Independence businessman and board chairman, said this year most of the money raised came from farmers.

In addition to this, the migrant children are invited to a summer school. This, of course, is statewide and sponsored by the state. The children are given lessons in reading, writing, spelling and vocabulary. The school opened June 18 and closes Aug. 10.



THE BETTER units on the Hartman camp have stoves, lights and water. Mrs. Annabelle Pittman, Yuba City, Calif., prepares child's meal.

Says Migrant Labor Farms in Good Shape

FIND MOST CONFORM TO RULES

LIBERTYVILLE — At least 90 per cent of the migrant farm labor camps in Lake County will meet health and sanitation standards under the new state licensing law.

This is the opinion of John H. Fairman, a representative of the Illinois Department of Labor, who recently inspected the camps in Lake and Cook Counties.

Such is not the case in Cook County, however, according to Fairman. He said at least 70 per cent of Cook County camps need to be improved before the department will authorize the employ-

ment of migrant labor.

There are about 20 labor camp sites in Lake County and about 15 of these employ six or more persons during the growing season, according to Ward Duel, supervising sanitarian for the Lake County Health Department in the west portion of the county.

SOME HAZARDS

"We see things that can be improved and would like to work with our farm operators in this direction. There are some basic safety and health hazards in these camps which we are trying to correct but on the whole facilities are good," said Duel.

He spoke of facilities for personal cleanliness, laundry facilities, disposal of garbage, preparation of food and toilet facilities.

"If we can provide safe and sanitary conditions to take care of these problems we will have made some progress," he said.

As an example, he said a garbage can should be placed near enough to the camp to make it convenient for campers. It should not be placed behind a barn somewhere out of easy access.

The new state licensing law governs all camp operators who employ more than six persons.

SOUTHWEST AREA

Duel said most of the labor camps in the county are in the southwest district with at least half of them in Ela and Vernon Townships. The others are in the Townships of Wauconda, Fremont,

Libertyville and Cuba.

Farm operators employing migrant labor have been concerned about the effect of the new state licensing law claiming they would not be able to meet the new regulations on sanitation and health.

Richard Dawson of the DuPage County Department of Health, was scheduled to meet with Lake County Health Department officials today but sent word he would be unable to attend the meeting.

Lake County Health Department officials are interested in the DuPage County program and have sought information from Dawson.

County health and safety laws set higher standards than state.

Daniel Asks Revision Of Migrant Worker Program

BROWNSVILLE (TEX.) HERALD

March 8, 1962

The governor said the best hope for solution to unstable conditions in the farm labor market lies "in the expansion of our economy and our industrial base, so that jobs will be available for new citizens entering the labor market and the technologically-displaced workers who are capable of pursuing new careers."

He said the Texas Industrial Commission and local and regional development agencies are already working in that area.

Daniel concluded that on-the-job training programs to develop migrants' skills and create a new labor force "would be mutually profitable to private industry and the workers forced by circumstances of a changing economy to seek non-agricultural employment."

AUSTIN (UPI) — Gov. Price Daniel asked two state agencies today to take the lead in a concentrated push to make better use of the migrant workers who work sporadically in agriculture.

Daniel told the Texas Conference on Education for Adult Migrant Farm Workers, "many of the migrant workers have native talents and potential skills which could be encouraged and developed to provide an abundant source of labor for our expanding new industries. I am informed that this is particularly true in such fields as textiles and ceramics."

Daniel asked the Texas Em-

ployment Commission and State Board of Education to undertake studies of education and jobs open to migrant workers.

The statewide conference opened in the House of Representatives, co-sponsored by the Texas Committee on Migrant Farm Workers and the Good Neighbor Commission of Texas.

All-Day Meeting

In addition to speeches from state officials on the migrant worker problems, the conference scheduled special interest discussion groups through the day from which suggestions for solutions will come before adjournment

late today.

Daniel asked the State Board of Education to broaden its present study of migrant children's education problems to include those of adult migrants so that recommendations could be made to the board and the legislature.

Daniel asked the TEC to undertake a simultaneous study "with a view to development of new information as to occupational trends, skill requirements, and training needs."

He remarked, "mechanization of farms is making it increasingly difficult for Texas migrants to find steady employment."

RALEIGH (N.C.) TIMES - May 25, 1962

Few Farmers or Migrant Leaders Abuse Setup

By ALLEN PAUL
Times Staff Writer

Less than one per cent of the farmers in North Carolina who use migratory labor abuse commitments made with the State Employment Security Commission when placing requests for workers.

Since one request could mean laborers would work for any number of farmers, officials of

the commission say it is difficult to determine how many farmers in this state are using migratory labor.

Representatives of the commission went to Florida this year with 180 requests for workers. And it is expected that an additional 75 groups will ask for tobacco workers later in the year.

High on the commission's list of abuses to laborers are farmers who are "habitual defaulters on their agreements." In some

cases, this may mean the farmer does not provide adequate housing or he may renege on previous wage agreements.

Most of the time in cases like these, the farmer will dicker with the crew leader to lower wages after the crew arrives.

Another abusive practice is what the commission labels use of "free-wheeling" labor. For instance, the farmer may pick up a group of migratory laborers looking for a job on their own

who will underbid the contract of a crew leader with whom he already has a contract.

Often, when the crew under contract arrives the whole crop has already been harvested.

The commission, however, maintains no blacklist of farmers. Nor will it actually refuse to accept a farmer's bid for migratory labor. However, if the farmer has a history of failure to cooperate, the commission informs any migratory labor crew leader considering making a contract with him of the record.

If the crew leader still decides to work for a farmer with a bad record it's his prerogative.

The same works in reverse. Farmers are forewarned of crews that are habitual defaulters on agreements.

Manzanola Seeks Better Migrant Worker Housing

MANZANOLA (C.S.J.) — Improved housing for migrant workers is the objective of the proposed Arkansas Valley Housing Inc. The non-profit corporation is being formed among businessmen, labor contractors and other persons interested in agriculture.

Legal procedures have been started to organize Arkansas Valley Housing Inc. The corporation has obtained an option on land about a mile west of Manzanola for a housing development. The group will work with the Federal Housing Administration, the Department of Labor and the health department in constructing approved housing.

A labor camp in Manzanola was closed last fall as being undesirable for housing. The camp was not opened to migrants. It was not used until migrants coming into the area voluntarily moved into the camp in August. They were permitted to remain there until health authorities ordered the camp closed.

Families from Texas and New Mexico who have lived in the Manzanola area during the past

10 farming seasons have been forced to live in Avondale this year, because of the local shortage of houses. Consequently, the migrants are working in fields nearer their quarters instead of working here and local merchants are losing their business.

Joe Foster, president of the Manzanola Improvement Foundation, which also is interested in improved housing, says that low-cost houses for domestic farm workers are the most serious need to maintain a labor supply.

He says, "Farmers provide houses for their Mexican nationals in order to obtain the nationals. Our domestic laborers are the ones without a place to stay."

Mexican nationals do not bring families with them when they come to work in the United States. Migrant workers with families need larger homes than the braceros. When they are unable to find this type of housing they move to other areas.

Their moves create a labor shortage that can be relieved only by bringing Mexican nationals to the region.

group operates the state's only day care center for children of migrants, and there may be two or three more next year.

"Our position is that we are trying to help the community, the farmer and the processor to see the migrant as a human being who has the same needs as anyone else," Roth states.

CREW LEADERS—Davis says incidents of mistreatment of migrants by crew leaders are probably less common here than in other states because by the time large numbers of migrants come here they have been on the road several months. And if a leader robs them they leave him.

"The crew leader is a father confessor, boss and banker for them, but how often he is a loan shark, too, I don't know," Davis adds.

One of the services employment security provides

is to send representatives to Texas, Florida and other supply states early in the year to help make arrangements for that summer's needs in Indiana. Through the United States Department of Labor it co-operates in a system of bulletins that helps tie the national migrant labor market together.

More and more frequently the migrant labor situation is figuring in the news.

RECENTLY the governor's committee proposed that the state provide summer schooling sessions for migrant children. At present state funds are available only for secondary summer sessions.

Noble also reported that investigations are under way to see if the migrants could be covered under the short-term hospitalization insurance that could be transferred from job to job.

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N. Y. AMSTERDAM NEWS, Sat., Dec. 8, 1962

New Migrant Worker Program Called Success

ALBANY — A recently completed pilot program to aid the 25,000 migrant workers who harvest and process food crops in New York State has met with significant success, it was announced this week.

Horace M. Putnam, executive secretary of the New York State Interdepartmental Committee on Farm and Food Processing Labor, reported to Industrial Commissioner M. P. Catherwood that a committee evaluation of the pilot program indicates it was highly successful.

Four teams of specially-trained personnel were sent to 50 migrant labor camps near Utica and Rochester during the peak of the harvests. They briefed workers on the spot on their rights under State law and their responsibilities.

Told of Services

Through the use of handbills, flash-cards, public meetings and sound trucks, farm workers were told what health, education and social service facilities were available to them and what was expected of them during their residency in the State.

"The pilot program has succeeded beyond our highest expectations," Mr. Putnam reported, noting that the teams, made up of field specialists from the Labor and Health Department, had talked to more than 2,500 workers in ten upstate counties during the eight weeks in which the program operated.

The program is believed to be the first of its kind in the United States.

Samuel P. Singletary, Labor Department employment practices representative, who guided the pilot program from its inception, commented:

Guided Program

"It has meant a better break for the worker, for the grower, for the processor and the State of New York. We will all benefit and improve as we go along."

Mr. Putnam said results of the operation were so encouraging that the committee hoped it could be expanded next year to other agricultural areas in the State.

BOISE, IDAHO, SATURDAY MORNING,

NOVEMBER 17, 1962

Migrant Ministers to Study Workman's Act Expansion

Members of the Southern Idaho Migrant Ministry voted Friday to study possible support of the group for a proposal to include all farm workers, including migrant workers, under the Workman's Compensation Act.

Rev. Stanley Andrews of Boise, who was re-elected president, said the group will study the proposal and vote on whether or not to support it at a future meeting, probably just before Christmas.

At the meeting in First Methodist Church, other officers elected were Rev. Stanley Banks, Parma, vice president; Mrs. E. A. Liming, Boise, secretary, and Dr. Merle Wells, Boise, treasurer.

Delegates also voted to support a husband-wife team from the Mennonite Church who will live at the Caldwell Labor Camp and minister to the needs of migrant workers at the camp. This will be done on a year-round basis.

The Migrant Ministry meeting also voted to commend the Idaho Children's Commission for including children of migrant workers in its studies and operations.

The delegates also agreed to hold a leadership school in Boise in February for persons intending to work in migrant labor camps.

Other action included the passage of a \$3200 budget. Of this, \$1800 will be put up by the local Migrant Ministry committees in Canyon, Twin Falls and Minidoka counties where the camps are located. The remainder will be provided by the state organization.

Speakers included Dr. Terrill Carver of the State Employment Security Agency; William Robison, state labor commissioner; C. Ben Reavis, local social security district manager, and Walter Lockwood, Denver, of the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

Lack of Skills Puts Workers on Road

Education Often the Difference

By Dorothea Kahn Jaffe
Staff Correspondent of
The Christian Science Monitor

San Antonio, Texas

Many of the little houses on Santa Ursula Street where migrant farm workers live in winter are small and crude, and the Santana home is no exception.

But the interior is clean and pleasant, full of little family treasures. Seeing it, you understand why migrants like to return to home base once crop picking is over.

The Santanas have a television set which doesn't work, a record player which does (you should hear Pedro Infante on it), a comfortably upholstered living-room set, venetian blinds, and a collection of family photographs including wedding pictures of Robert and Airopajita—the mother and father of this little family—done in bas relief by some remarkable process.

Why do they intend to migrate again this year? It's a very hard life, traveling by truck, living in one-room shacks without plumbing, doing endless washings by hand after long days picking cherries or tomatoes or cotton. Life seems much more comfortable here in San Antonio.

Education Lacking

It all hinges on education. A person who has no high school training and no special skill finds it hard to make a decent living in this area of too much unskilled labor.

Life is difficult for persons like Robert Santana, men who are intelligent but lacking in schooling and vocational skills.

Mr. Santana got married at the age of 15. His education, which was sketchy even up to that point, ended at that time. He writes a good letter, however.

In San Antonio, he gets jobs from time to time with a moving-van company, which pays about \$8 a day. Days when there is no work—and there are many—cut his weekly earnings severely. His oldest sons have restaurant jobs which also pay poorly.

The possibility of a summer migration north where the family, working together on piece work, can make perhaps \$50 a day, looks very good.

Besides, everyone likes a bit of vacation travel, an opportunity to get away from everyday surroundings, even though picking crops is no vacation, the chance to sight-see is appealing. For a person who has always lived here on the border there is something alluring in the prospect of seeing Indiana, Michigan, the Great

Lakes, and the Mississippi.

And a man who at home earns \$8 a day when there is work couldn't hope to travel with his entire family except as pickers.

Education is a dividing line between the migrant way of life and the more established way of living, even within families.

Robert Santana has a sister, Mrs. Jesse Sánchez, who went through high school and married a social worker. She has served as president of her PTA, and is keenly interested in social work herself. Jesse Sánchez, the brother-in-law, is a college-trained staff member of the Inman Christian Institute, a Protestant settlement house which provides recreation for Spanish-speaking people of all denominations. Another brother has his own plumbing business.

Differences in education do not, however, divide these closely knit Spanish-speaking families.

The afternoon I called on the Santanas some friends of theirs, the Flores family, drove us all over to the Sánchez home and there I met Mr. and Mrs. Sánchez, the Sánchez's son and daughter, both in high school, and the plumber brother, with his wife.

Close-Knit Family

Both Mr. and Mrs. Sánchez see the need for better education for their people. Mr. Sánchez said most of them want better schooling for their children but they don't realize they have to sacrifice for it. Thus he was not greatly encouraged when, in a survey conducted by his institute, it was found that 86 per cent of the people questioned said they want more education for their children than they had.

"The parents don't realize what it takes to educate a child," he said. "I wish they would come to hear the talks we give about education, but they don't."

Boy Gets Schooling

But some children of migrant workers have it in them to get an education, even when their parents don't co-operate. Andomaro Sandoval, a staff member of the Texas Employment Commission in McAllen, told me of a young boy, a relative of his, whose parents discouraged his education and wanted him to migrate with them.

"The boy told them flatly, 'I'm going to school,'" said Mr. Sandoval.

The boy stayed at home while his family traveled; he lived alone in the house, had

his meals with relatives, and found a kindly aunt to do his washing. He finished high school and had three years in college when he was called for Army duty, but he expects to get his bachelor's degree when he gets out.

Mr. Sandoval told me that his own father had little education, but his mother had finished the 10th grade and was determined that her children would go ahead. His father was co-operative. Now nine broth-

ers and sisters all are well educated. Several are teachers. A sister has a master's degree. He, himself, has three years of college and he expects to finish his last year at night classes to catch up with his wife, who has her bachelor's in education.

There is plenty of native ability among the Spanish-speaking migrant workers, but only education can make it blossom like the irrigated desert.

SURPRISE VISIT TO MIGRANT FAMILY

From Page 14

elaborate shell arrangement from Florida. But not until I entered the parlor did I see the real prize—a coffee table.

"We bought it four years ago when we were picking tomatoes in Indiana. It cost \$67." Mr. Castellón looked at it with pride. And with reason. It was a beautiful fruitwood table with a panel of polished pink marble set in the center. It dominated the small, clean room.

But I noticed other things about, among them a box of new books which I learned contained a set of readings for children which the father is buying on the installment plan for his youngsters. There also was a new unabridged English dictionary in the box. All were kept in the parlor and the children seemed hesitant about touching them.

Problems Remain

Eventually I got to the kitchen. This was the real living room. Mrs. Castellón has acquired the conveniences every woman desires whether she migrates or stays home—gas range, electric refrigerator, hot-water heater, electric iron.

When I came in the children were looking at the portable television set the family takes on its travels. One of the tots opened the back door while I sat there and a flock of baby chicks walked in and nobody seemed to notice them, although the room was kept neat and clean. Mrs. Castellón, a retiring serious-faced woman made a hot drink and graciously handed me a cup.

Everything seemed to indicate prosperity, but the Castellóns have their problems. Recently Mrs. Castellón acquired large hospital bills. Mr. Castellón is fortunate to have good credit rating for migrants get no fringe benefits. He figures on getting an advance

from the Tennessee farmer to pay for the expense of the trip to his first picking job.

The men and boys in the family seem eager to go except for a lad who wants to finish school, but Mrs. Castellón will, I'm sure, cast a regretful glance at her kitchen when the family locks its doors.

Olga Castellón, a young daughter-in-law, told me some of the things they put up with on the road. Last summer when they arrived late at night at a Michigan farm they found one-room cabins waiting for them, as promised, but there were no mattresses on the coil springs.

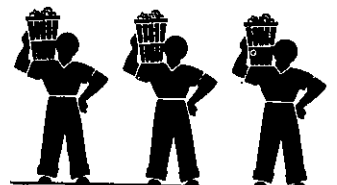
They had to unpack their clothes and pad the springs with them before they could fall into bed.

In one place they lived in a machine shed. In another place they were housed in an abandoned farm house, one room to one or two families.

"It was very bad," said Olga, her two tots clinging to her as we spoke. "Once there was trouble with the electric wires and a fire started upstairs. Everyone ran out and then one woman missed a child. You can imagine what it was like. The older boys managed to get the baby out."

But there were better places. The Indiana farmer they had worked for every year for 17 years took a colored movie of our friends picking tomatoes and doing things about town and gave it to them. To be able to show this treasure to their friends, the Castellóns bought a projector.

It was with great satisfaction that they put on the family movie for me just before I said good-by.





Wide World

Advances in housing, working conditions and community relations have recently improved circumstances of some 800,000 migratory farm workers. Annual worker plan schedules crews for specific jobs, thereby averting plights as that met by family above, stranded in Nevada awaiting late harvest.

'SHOCK TROOPS' on the Farm Front

Migratory farm workers, 800,000 strong, impose special problems but have their insurance safeguards.



A BRONZED AND PRACTICED crew of 50 workers has been busy for months near Fortville, Indiana, planting and cultivating acres and acres of tomatoes destined for canning. They'll still be there through harvest, adding as much as \$30 a day to the nest eggs they will take home to Pharr, Texas, in November.

During its annual six-month stay in Indiana, the migrant crew led by Lupe Garcia lives in well-constructed stove-heated houses near central toilet, shower and laundry facilities. A playground keeps children happy while their parents and grandparents work in the fields. In 15 years of

'Shock Troops' on the Farm Front

working for the same grower, Garcia's dependable crew members have become known as "our friends from the south."

Fortville's "friends" are but one contingent of 800,000 migratory farm workers who follow the sun to provide essential agricultural help. Growers and food processors in more than 40 states employ 500,000 domestic migrants and 300,000 foreigners for the stoop labor needed to grow and gather U. S. crops. Domestic come chiefly from Texas, Louisiana, Florida and Arkansas. Most foreign migrants are Mexican, but some come from the British West Indies, Canada, or as far away as Japan.

Migrants have been called "feudal serfs" whose work has been labeled "harvest of shame." Yet the nation's migratory farm workers also include fresh-looking teenagers who harvest Connecticut's tobacco crop and affluent husband-wife teams who earn \$50 to \$60 a day picking fruit in Northern California.

There is, in fact, a more heartening side to the entire migrant farm worker story, though it is not so well known as the darker side because of its recency. In many ways the lot of migrant families has been markedly bettered within the past decade through co-operation between growers and voluntary aid associations, as well as federal and local government agencies, and by utilization of protective services afforded by, for example, insurance. Advances, some of them brought about by the influx of foreign migrants, have included higher wages, better housing, safer transportation and improved relations with residents of farming communities.

Typical of these advances is the annual worker plan operated since 1949 by the U. S. Department of Labor's farm labor service in co-operation with state employment services. By scheduling workers to a series of successive jobs, the plan provides maximum employment throughout the crop season. Migrants no longer follow rumors to blind alleys; they sign for jobs before they leave home.

Here is another advance of recent years: After a series of tragic highway mishaps involving migrants, the Interstate Commerce Commission in 1956 was given jurisdiction over interstate transportation of migratory workers in groups of three or more. ICC inspectors stop migrant-carrying vehicles to check driver qualification, vehicle maintenance and conditions of passenger compartments. Rest and meal stops are required by ICC on trips of six hours or more.

Much of the federal government's role in regu-



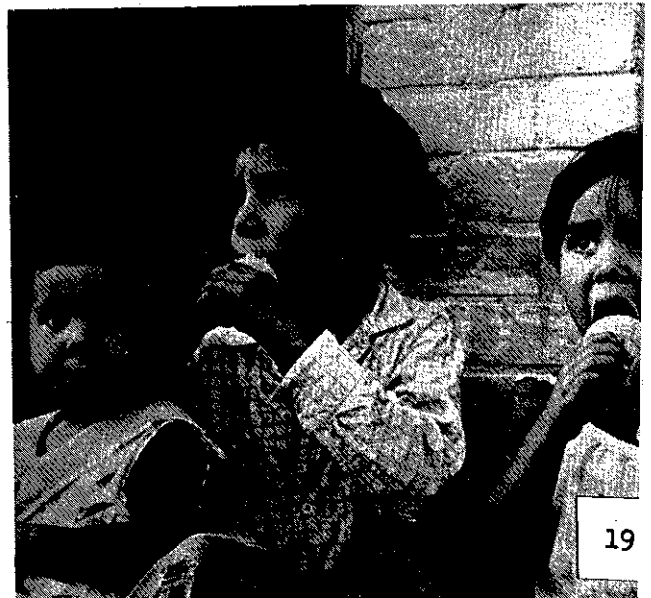
Robert H. Roberts

Picksack slings identify migrants as they buy groceries in farm communities. Friction between itinerants and local residents has been reduced by sympathetic volunteer aid groups. Churches, businessmen's clubs have led the way.



An Illinois school (above) opens classrooms to migrant children from Texas whose learning may help them to get jobs away from fields. New generation of migrants (below) faces threat of automation replacing seasonal workers.

Dorothea Kahn Jaffe



Migrant Workers' Care

New U. S. Law for Health Clinics Moves to Correct a Social Injustice

By HOWARD A. RUSK, M. D.

Last Wednesday, President Kennedy signed a bill that takes the first step toward eliminating the social injustice to which migratory workers have long been subjected.

The new law authorizes a three-year program of Federal grants up to \$3,000,000 annually to help establish clinics and other health projects for this group.

The funds will be used to stimulate state and local health agencies in areas seriously affected by the seasonal impact of migratory workers.

The domestic migratory farm worker has been called the forgotten man of social justice. Our 500,000 domestic migratory workers and their 1,500,000 dependents have been excluded from virtually all modern social legislation.

These 2,000,000 Americans have been excluded from the social advances the rest of us take for granted. Among the advances are minimum wages,

workmen's compensation, unemployment insurance, adequate child labor protection, public welfare and Federally protected rights to organize and bargain collectively.

Foreigners Get Benefits

Ironically, the contracts under which foreign farm workers come to the United States for short-term employment contain benefits not provided United States citizens.

These usually include health and accident insurance, minimal standards for transportation and housing, and guaranteed periods of work.

With fewer than 150 days of employment annually, the average domestic agricultural migrant earned \$911 in 1959. Of this, \$201 came from odd jobs found outside of farming.

The constant movement between states of migratory farm families prevents them from utilizing public health services generally available to other citizens. Their infant mortality

rate, for example, is probably double that of the nation as a whole.

Few Children Immunized

Studies show that few of the children of migratory workers have been immunized against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus.

In Hale County, Tex., a diphtheria epidemic involving 72 cases, of which 29 were among migratory farm families, needlessly exposed the 37,000 residents of the county to a costly battle against this highly contagious disease.

The high rates of tuberculosis and venereal diseases among migrant workers also provide reservoirs of disease that threaten the entire population.

Health problems of migratory workers also provide serious fiscal problems for local hospitals and health facilities, both public and private.

Hospital Bills Unpaid

A 1960 report from a community hospital in Florida showed that although agricultural migrants accounted for only 2 per cent of its total admission, they were responsible for 21 per cent of all unpaid bills.

The collection rate for physicians from inpatient migratory workers was 0.039 per cent.

"Read My Arm," a new professional film on farm migrant health, is scheduled for a

première showing to the Association of State and Territorial Health Offices in Washington on Oct. 10.

The film depicts the first demonstration of a new tuber-

culosis screening test on several hundred workers conducted by the New Jersey Department of Health last summer.

The new health care law is one of ten bills dealing with migratory labor introduced by Senator Harrison A. Williams, Jr., Democrat of New Jersey, in the current session of the Congress. It is the first to be enacted.

Other Laws Expected

Calling the new law "the first substantial, really helpful bill ever passed for the migrant," Senator Williams has expressed confidence the other bills would become law soon.

Four that passed the Senate last year still await action by the House. Scheduled next for consideration by the House is the one of the four bills dealing with child labor.

The benefits of modern agricultural science are brought to bear diligently against the diseases of plants and livestock. It is encouraging that at long last we have seen the necessity for applying the same diligence in combating the diseases that kill and cripple those who harvest our food.

Green Bay, Wis. Press-Gazette, May 4, 1962

Area Counties Arrange Model Migrant Plans

PRESS-GAZETTE MADISON BUREAU

MADISON—State officials have worked out a schedule of special services for migrant workers and their children in Central and Northeastern Wisconsin for this summer that are intended to serve as models for other communities in future years.

Home demonstration agents of the Cooperative Agricultural Extension Service will be assigned to work with migrant families in Oconto, Brown, Door and Kewaunee Counties, among others, and a special demonstration day care center for young children of migrants in the Wautoma region will begin operations in July.

Both projects will be financed with grants of federal government funds, officials of the Extension Service and the State Department of Public Welfare informed a Governor's Committee on Migrant Workers advisory commission here.

Eye Broader Program

Members of the commission, led by Mrs. Elizabeth Raushenbush of Madison, chairman, expressed the hope that the demonstrations would lead to

a broader program of social services for the migrants in the future. The commission has been critical of what it has called negligence toward the seasonal agricultural laborers from Texas and other localities, as well as their families.

* * * * *

Mrs. Margaret Brown of the Extension Service says the money for the home agents is available, but that she has not yet found the women to take the jobs. She added that such a service was offered to Wausara County also, but that local officials there were not encouraging.

Cooperation Cited

But a state welfare spokesman said local officials in Wautoma are cooperating cordially in setting up the day care center, which will cost about \$120 per child and last for six weeks starting July 2. Parents will pay three dollars at the rate of 50 cents a week "for its psychological value," it was explained.

The center will use one of the schools in the Wautoma School district, and the staff will include specialists who are familiar with the Spanish language. Children under the age of seven will be accepted,

and will receive meals as well as care and instruction.

Walter Tess, a Plainfield vegetable grower and member of the Migrant Labor Advisory Commission, indicated some skepticism about the problems that such a program will encounter, but he declined to elaborate.

'Set in Their Ways'

He suggested that other members of the commission are not familiar with the culture and habits of the Spanish-speaking farm workers.

"They enjoy their way of life and they are very set in their ways," he observed.

Studies by the commission show that Wisconsin can expect somewhat more than 12,000 migrant laborers to work in the fields and factories this year, and that they will bring with them at least 5,000 children.

The commission has been pushing for several years for special assistance laws for such migrants, and especially schooling for their children, because typically they have short school terms in Texas where most of them are legal residents. The last Legislature enacted laws providing state aids for local summer schools

which enroll migrant children, among others.

Public Schools Urged

Public summer schools for migrant workers would reduce "tacit antagonism and suspicion" between Protestants and Roman Catholics now providing most of such education, an education professor said Thursday.

Thomas W. Walton, associate professor of education at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, told the Governor's Committee on Migrant Workers "ministers and priests we have talked with indicated that public instruction for the children would remove this antagonism."

He said Catholics did not like the children of migrants to attend Protestant schools because they believed it tends to move the children away from Catholicism. Walton said a public school program would enable the churches to limit their instruction to religion.

"In most areas where there are concentrations of migrants there are religious instruction programs going on," he said.

Catholics are quite active in migrant worker areas such as Belgium and Sturgeon Bay.

State Migrant Picture One Of Brightest Spots

MORGANTOWN (W.VA.)
POST
July 6, 1962

CHARLESTON, W. Va. (UPI)— Officials from the state departments of Health and Employment Security are pointing to their work with seasonal farm laborers as a bright spot in the West Virginia employment picture.

The term "migrant laborer" usually brings to mind scenes from some of John Steinbeck's novels. But reports from John Crawford of the State Department of Employment Security and Ray Lyons of the State Health Department indicate that working conditions in the Eastern Panhandle, the center of West Virginia's fruit-belt, bear little resemblance to such stories.

Crawford and Lyons said a con-

certed effort to improve living and working conditions for the migrant laborer started some years ago when a typhoid epidemic brought the Health Department's sanitary engineers into the area to enforce a housing and sanitation code.

As a result, Crawford and Lyons said, the 4,000-or-so workers who began harvesting the cherry crop last week, or those who will come in for the peach and apple harvest later in the season, are housed in sprawling one- or two-story, cinder-block buildings, with only about two or three to a room.

A crew leader usually handles food purchases — the food usually is prepared in a central kitchen available to all—conveys the

orders of the day and is generally responsible for the quality of work done, Crawford said. He also is the spokesman for the workers.

A new innovation being tried is to have each worker carry a health record when he applies for work, Lyons said. This permanent record will be kept up to date and enables employers to do away with much of the procedure of certifying the applicants' physical ability to do the work.

The Employment Security Department also is cooperating with other states in sending young West Virginians to other states to do farm work.

In the latter part of June, a busload of 50 boys was sent to

work in the fields in Connecticut. This is not the first time such a program has been attempted. It worked so well last year, Crawford said, that another busload of 60 girls was contracted for and sent to the New England state. It is anticipated by officials that the program will continue to expand.

The Department of Employment security is emphasizing youth when they fill the seasonal farm jobs in and out of the state.

"Summer employment of urban youth on the nation's farms is a source of needed earnings, healthful exercise and recreation to the young people themselves," Crawford said. "It is also a relief from worry for parents, teachers and social workers when most of the community's youth are gainfully and healthfully employed."

Appeal to Cities Stressed

All Towns Urged to Develop Some Interest in Migrant Crop Workers

SALEM — Oregon towns and cities with an urge to develop some community interest for migrant harvest laborers who assist in maintaining their agricultural economy have a ready-made pattern in Independence, population about 2,000.

Prior to the 1961 harvest season, Independence created a Migrant Community Center, literally on downtown Main Street. Here hundreds of migrants — workers mainly in strawberry and bean harvests — came for recreation and fellowship. Rupert, Idaho, recently requested the Independence formula.

How and why was the Community Migrant Center started? Who made it possible? How much money did it take? Who ran it? Will it be continued? Why does Governor Hatfield's committee on migrant labor point to the Independence venture as a model for the remainder of the state? These are some of the questions asked.

With the idea of expanding the long-time work of church groups, a minister broached the idea of a communitywide approach. It caught on. A general meeting was

called. The governing board was chosen and organized with 10 members, two each representing business, service organizations, growers, workers, and churches (one Protestant, one Catholic.)

Undaunted by no money, no materials, no experience upon which to draw, the Board went to work with zeal but "shooting in the dark," as one member puts it.

Probably because many of the harvest migrants are Spanish speaking nationals, mostly from Texas and Arizona, the Board's worker members are from this group. Each has returned to the area regularly for 10 or more years. Their ability to speak excellent English as well as Spanish has been an asset to the Center movement.

The Main Street building, between a restaurant and an electrical store, was rented. Merchants made that possible — practically every merchant in town contributed cash up to \$5 and many donated generously otherwise. Rent — \$105 for the season — was the largest cash outlay.

"Merchants had a big hand in making the project go because

they dug down financially. Oregon College of Education Student Body gave \$75 toward a stereo record player," recalls John Strong, grocery store manager and chairman of the 1961 board.

Volunteers gathered donations and painted the interior; the whole town was enthusiastic. Doors opened the latter part of June — a bit later than is planned this year because there's experience and more time for planning for 1962. Grand opening was delayed until July 8 when 250 migrants packed the building. The upper floor is a dance hall. The Center functioned Friday nights, all day Saturday, Saturday nights, Sundays until 10 o'clock at night and on rainy weekday afternoons. Crowds and harvest began tapering off in mid-September.

Books, games, comfortable furniture, writing table and supplies floor lamps, a television set and antenna, magazines, pictures, potted plants, a ping pong table, card tables, children's toys and play materials — all these and more were part of the inpouring to make the Center a home away from home. A children's Corner, with older youngsters helping

smaller ones, is a feature.

Much of the time volunteered to guide the Center weekends fell upon a few people. This was the only real flaw in the first year's operations, say some of the Board members. They anticipate more volunteers this year.

Chief of Police H. E. Shellenbarger and his men didn't have the serious problems of some former years during the 1961 harvest. He's not sure whether the total credit should go to the Center or be shared with a "better class of workers."

In only a few other areas in the nation, notably in Texas and Minnesota, have entire towns given this attention to their visiting agricultural helpers.

For benefit of other Oregon areas which may be interested in further information, members of the 1961 Board of the Migrant Community Center, besides Strong, were: Dick Taylor, druggist; Mrs. Mildred Pomeroy and Mrs. Strong, service organizations; Gordon Hadley and Fred Marx, farmers; Maria Carrillo and Lupe Alvarez, workers; Mrs. Charlotte Walker and Don Gibbons, churches.

ALBANY (OREGON)

DEMOCRAT-HERALD

April 16, 1962

Nebraska's Migrant Clinics



Clinic of June 24, 1962 - Above (1) Almost ready to start. Left to Right: Mrs. Ruth Johannes and Mrs. Marjorie Kissack, County Health Department, student nurse Miss Shirley Hixon, John P. Heinke, M.D. and surgeon in charge of clinic, student nurses Miss Avis Macy and Mrs. Windy Asmus from West Nebraska General Hospital School of Nursing.

Free 'Shots' Clinic Set For Sunday

A free immunization clinic for domestic migrant workers will be held at 1 p.m. Sunday in the basement of the Courthouse in Gering.

A follow-up clinic for booster shots will also be held Sunday, July 8 at the same location, starting at the same time.

The clinic is a joint effort by the Scotts Bluff County Medical Society, which is in charge of the clinic, the State and Scotts Bluff County Health Departments, the Nebraska Division of Employment, the Great Western Sugar Co., and sugar beet growers of the area.

Salk polio vaccine will be administered to adults, while children will receive polio, diphtheria and smallpox inoculations, if they have not already had them.

The employment office emphasized that the clinic is only for workers and their families who are residents of the United States. Not included are nationals from Mexico, for they receive immunizations upon entering the country.

Efforts are being made to reach the approximately 800 persons here who qualify and who could benefit from the project.

Pamphlets explaining the clinic's purpose are being distributed by Great Western fieldmen and personnel of the employment office. These pamphlets are printed in both Spanish and English. Nevertheless, a turn-out of one-third is considered about average.

In addition to the "shots," the workers will receive immunization records for later use at follow-up clinics in other states.

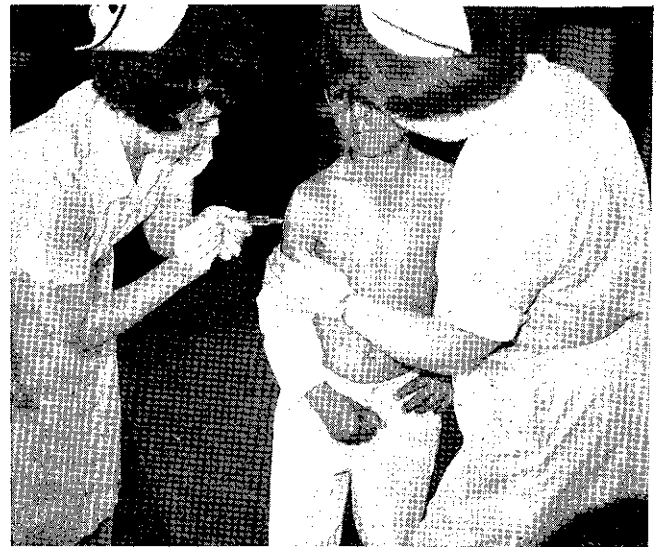
The clinic is an outgrowth of discussions and recommendations of the recently-activated Governor's Committee on Migratory Labor.

(2) Registration table - Jim Ellerbeck.

(3) Student nurses Mrs. Asmus and Miss Macy.

(4) County Health Department nurses Mrs. Kissack and Mrs. Johannes.

(5) Dorothy Madden and K. Richins recording shots given to individuals during the clinic



Inoculate 61 Beet Worker Children Here

Sixty-one children of beet workers in the Alliance area were inoculated for childhood diseases Wednesday at the District 42 schoolhouse, five miles north of Alliance.

The clinic was held through the cooperative efforts of area beet growers, the Great Western Sugar Company, Alliance medical personnel and the Alliance office of the Nebraska Division of Employment. The clinic was supervised by Dr. D. D. Shannon. Inoculations were given by student nurses of the Alliance School of Practical Nursing, under the supervision of Dorothy McGuire and Wilma Parkin, both registered nurses.

Student practical nurses participating in the project were Betty Spencer, Marjorie Tutt, Jane Knapp and Cynthia Eastman.

Another similar clinic will be held Tuesday at 10 a.m., at the Mirage Flats, Dr. B. A. Owen of Hay Springs, will supervise this clinic.

Booster shots will be given at District 42 schoolhouse on June 28 and at Mirage Flats on June 29.

Most of the children inoculated are members of Mexican families brought here from Texas to aid in the area beet harvest.



In California Migrant Camps

"The early contact with sanitarians and public health nurses in the same area in which they live is most important because it establishes sound, early communications," explained Hildebrand. The aides are hired for six months during the migrant season. They work 20 hours a week and receive \$1.50 an hour. Although the pay may seem small it does supplement the family income and is equal to the pay given a clerk (grade 1) in the county.

For example, one of the aides is a Spanish-speaking woman with eight children. She was on welfare and was highly recommended by her welfare worker as a "fine, hard-working person." Her husband was a seasonal agricultural worker. Through this program the woman was given an opportunity to earn money, said Hildebrand. Another aide, an unmarried, Spanish-speaking woman, was working in a grape packing shed when hired and had experience in seasonal agricultural work.

Some of the aides' activities include:

1. Conducting a fact-finding survey to help determine levels of knowledge and problems.
2. Assisting in reviewing and preparing educational literature in Spanish and English to meet the needs.
3. Helping to set up educational programs, which cut across the usual social-cultural barriers.
4. Assisting public health nurses in many aspects, such as translating where language problems existed; referring problems to nurses; helping nurses to make contacts and helping them to become more aware of the importance of their role as teachers as well as nurses.

5. Informing and educating migrants about local health resources.

The work of these aides has brought results:

—Nurses and sanitarians have overcome many of the communication and cultural barriers which existed between them and the families they serve. This has resulted in better use of professional staff time and of existing services.

—More and improved health educational materials are available for use. Aides review, pre-test and help select educational literature and assist with the development of new materials.

—Surveys of problem areas have been made to obtain useful information on basic health knowledge of the people, and their attitudes toward public health services.

—Health education programs of various types have been sponsored.

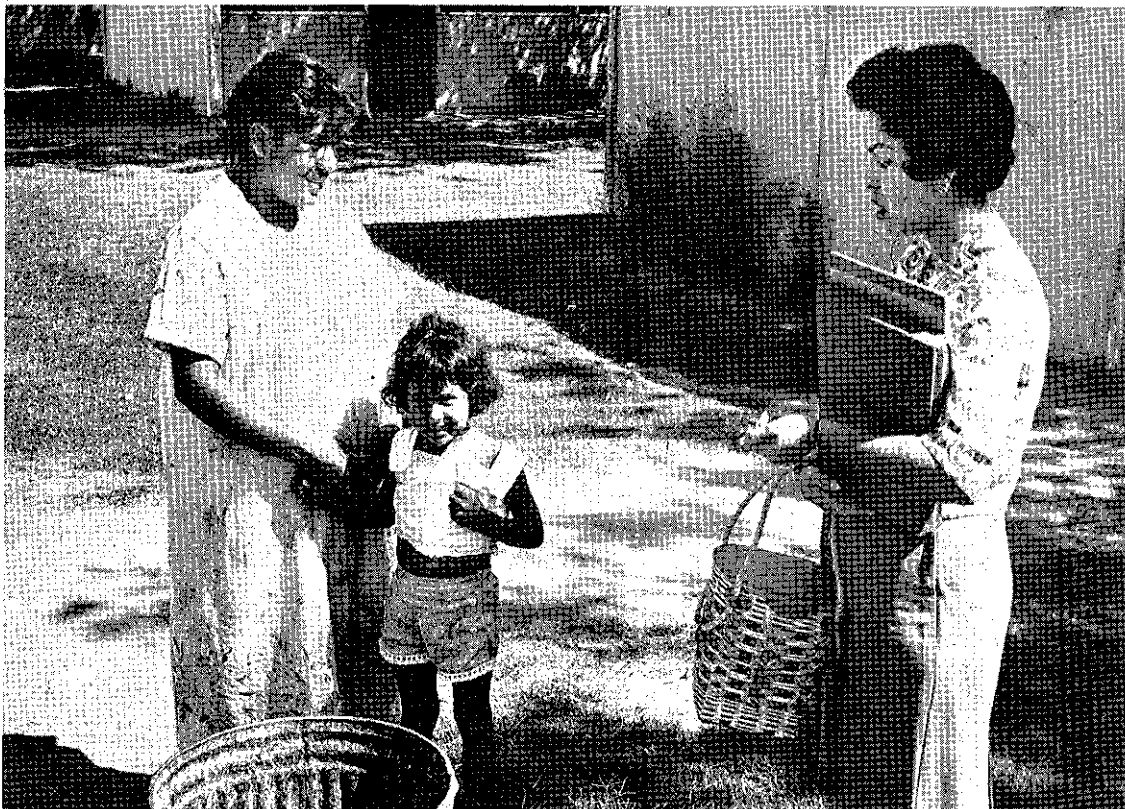
—Newly-arriving migrants are welcomed with educational materials, up-to-date directories of county health and welfare services.

There are 15,000 agricultural workers in the Kern County area, working to harvest grapes, cotton and potatoes that grow abundantly in this part of the San Joaquin Valley.

Tsun Hai Lee, who works with Hildebrand and is a public health educator, said the county health department's goal is to "restore the dignity" of a proud people.

However, this program could not have been initiated without the assistance of the state health department and the U.S. Public Health Service.

PHOTOS BY THE OREGONIAN



MRS. ANITA Arciniega, an aide, reviews health rules with Mrs. Erminia Portillo, shown with daughter, Elsa.

Migrant Labor Camp Found Happy, Healthy Place

PORTLAND REPORTER
July 6, 1962

By ALLEN HOFFARD

SANDY—The life of a migrant worker can be both happy and healthy.

That fact quickly becomes clear to the visitor at the tidy migrant camp operated by Mr. and Mrs. Miles Drum near here.

The shouts and laughter of dozens of children create the late afternoon theme song amid the neat rows of frame buildings adjacent to the Drums' acreage of strawberries and raspberries, after the day's work of harvesting is complete.

None of the conditions depicted in the prize-winning CBS documentary "Harvest of Shame," or in other exposes of camps maintained in filth and disorder, are to be found here.

The Drums take a personal interest in the welfare of their harvest crews, and the popularity of the camp is shown by the fact that many families return each year, and look forward to doing so.

Nearly 200 workers, ranging in age from 5 to 85, are in camp as the strawberry season nears an end and the raspberries approach the peak of their ripe, red beauty.

First of a series of special health programs is being carried out this week under auspices of the Clackamas County Tuberculosis and Health Assn., and the county health department.

Tuberculin tests were administered Monday to the migrants, and on Thursday—72 hours later—the public health specialists will be back to check them out for positive reactions.

Dr. Hollister M. Stolte, county health officer who supervised the testing, said if swelling is observed the subjects will be X-rayed on Thursday and, if necessary, further steps will be taken.

Scene of the testing program is a spotless, freshly-painted room provided by the Drums and outfitted by volunteers, primarily with donated supplies.

A bilingual sign outside ready "Health Room — Casade Salud."

Typical of those who arrived a skeptic and left a friend on Monday was 11-year-old Donnell Allen. He opined the TB test would be dangerous and firmly eschewed participation.

But after remaining to watch Nurse Alberta Cole administer the test to dozens of others, including several of his brothers and sisters, wide-eyed Donnell became a "convert" and cooperated happily.

"Now, Don," said Mrs. Cole, "I'll expect you to be here Thursday to help me." He grinned and nodded in assent.

Donnell is one of 18 grandchildren of 85-year-old Wesley Allen here with "grandpa" for the harvest. (He also has 30 other grandchildren). Fresh air living apparently agrees with "grandpa" because he looks far younger.

The TB testing project is one facet of a program developed by civic, religious and health groups in the

Sandy area to insure the welfare of the many harvest-season visitors who swell the local population each summer.

Bible schools, recreation and crafts programs also are scheduled at both the Drum camp and at nearby Sandy Farms.

If morale at the Drums' camp on Monday can be taken as the criterion, it is safe to say that both the employers and the civic groups can take pride in their achievements to date.



AL JESSEN PHOTO

■ Sylvia Solis is not amused by four-pronged tuberculin test injection given her during special public health clinic at migrant worker camp near Sandy. Brother Pepe also looks apprehensive, but big sister Gloria and Mrs. Alberta Cole, supervising nurse for the Clackamas county health department, appear happy.

test," said John Graham Altman, head of the Charleston Employment Agency, "and it came through with flying colors."

That test was to fill the stomachs of people who came here to harvest the crops and found instead sad-faced farmers looking into rain-soaked tomato and cucumber fields.

Community leaders went into high-gear action when it became evident there would be no work, no money and no food for those people with the Florida license plates.

The Rev. Vernon F. Frazier, pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, and the United Churchwomen began packaging food.

The United Fund offered transportation money to allow the workers to go on to the next harvest area.

The Salvation Army offered food.

Charleston County Councilmen agreed to allow the workers to stay in the camps rent-free for a reasonable length of time.

"It was the only humane thing to do," said Council Chairman J. Mitchell Graham. "Those people are stranded hundreds of miles from home without work."

The tiny concrete block migrant cabins at the John's Island, Mt. Pleasant, Wadmalaw and the Hollywood area camps rent for \$10 a week. The clapboard shacks are \$6.

Just as county councilmen agreed to put free roofs over the heads of the Negro and Mexican families, the United Churchwomen got together their first community meal.

They gathered at St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church in Oakland and packaged food with the aid of Boy Scout Troop 14.

The menu consisted of pinto beans, rice, butter, cheese, dried milk, bacon, bread and Irish potatoes. The food was taken to the crew leaders in the various camps, they in turn distributed it to the workers.

The bulk of the food came from the surplus commodity store used in the school lunch program.

Mr. Altman said the churchwomen are prepared to feed 2,000 persons a day until Monday.

The majority of the workers are expected to pack up their children and pets by that time and push on to Virginia and the eastern shore of Maryland.

What they will find there, however, is an unknown quantity.

Migrant Workers Begin Salvaging Of Soaked Crops

By BELVIN HORRES
Evening Post Staff Writer

Hundreds of migrant workers, idled by almost incessant rains for as much as three weeks, trooped back to drying fields in Charleston County today to salvage what they could of the area's multi-million dollar truck crop.

From Edisto Island to McClellanville, fields for the first time in weeks, were free enough of water to allow the workers, carts and machinery to move about.

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A CRASH PROGRAM to feed the thousands of migratory workers in three county operated camps and a number of privately operated camps must continue through tomorrow.

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"THE DEPARTMENT contributed surplus foods including pinto beans, rice, butter and powdered milk. The Salvation Army came through with salt pork.

"The West Virginia Pulp and Paper Co. contributed bags to package the food and Boy Scouts,

"I called Maryland last night," one worker said, "and it's raining there."

Although most of the workers will be leaving Monday, a few will stay on just in case they are needed.

Charlie Edwards has been comint to Charleston for 23 years to pick tomatoes and he isn't going to leave until his farmer gives the word.

"This has never happened to me before," Edwards said. "The Lord do things for the best, but it's pretty tough. There's nothing for us to do but just sit around."

A Negro woman sitting in the tiny camp office contributed to the discussion. "It's the Lord's will," she said. "He promised to make a way for us. I'm not in no way uneasy. His will's got to be done."

The worker isn't alone in his resigned optimism. Ralph Hale, a Mount Pleasant farmer who lost 85 per cent of his crop, said:

"When you make a miss on a crop and it's your fault, that's one thing. But when the Almighty steps in, I got no comment."

individual men and women and other organizations rallied to pack the bags.

"This packaging was done under the direction of Dr. William Kirkland of St. John's Episcopal Church. The National Council of Churches sent \$50 and offered to open its warehouses in Maryland to the cause.

"St. Philip's Protestant Episcopal Church collected \$100 and other churches contributed. It was an inspiring community effort," Dr. Fraser said.

DR. FRASER said the United Church Women annually employ a chaplain, the Rev. Willis Goodwin of the Greenville area to work with the migrants. "He kept us informed of the conditions," the minister said.

The women's organization annually provides a nursery and school for the children of the workers, from babies to teenagers, at Haupt Gap School.

GRAHAM ALTMAN, head of the South Carolina Employment Service for Charleston County and who has worked closely with Rev. Fraser's committee, said he toured the county today.

"Everywhere they were going back into the fields. The pessimism of last week has changed to hope. Farmers have not been able to pay the workers through the idle period but were anxious to have them stay here in case harvesting could be resumed.

"The picture is much brighter today," Mr. Altman said.

Last Migrant Crews Plan To Leave

The last of some 2,500 migrant farm workers, with the possible exception of a few "strays", were expected to leave Charleston County labor camps today.

J. Graham Altman, head of the South Carolina Employment Service here, said he had been informed by the county that the last two crews planned to seek work in fields to the north of South Carolina.

The workmen have had a hard time to exist since they began arriving in Charleston County work camps and in privately owned camps some six weeks ago.

Many families were able to obtain only a few days work during the entire period and it has been necessary for the employment service to furnish gasoline and oil for some of the crews to leave.

In addition, thousands of packages of food and much clothing have been furnished the workers by charitable organizations and individuals through the United Church Women, an interdenominational organization.

Heavy rains throughout the harvest season ruined truck crops, particularly the multi-million dollar tomato crop. It also cost the loss of approximately two-thirds of the bean, cucumber and squash crops and curtailed the harvesting of Irish potatoes.

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Mr. Altman said some of the workers left for peach fields in upper South Carolina but the majority are going to the truck crop farms in Virginia, Delaware and other states.

Harvest Delayed By Rains

Almost 2,500 migrant workers will go to work today — after more than a week of rain-enforced idleness.

John Graham Altman, head of the Charleston Employment Agency, said yesterday the workers will

start working the Charleston County tomato and potato crops this morning.

No rain has fallen here in the past two days and none is expected before tomorrow, according to the weather bureau forecast.

The potato crop will probably be completed this week, Mr. Altman said, however the tomato crop will require about two weeks work.

The majority of the workers were expected to go on to the eastern shores of Maryland and Virginia before because of no work—and no money or food. But the rain stopped and only a few crews left this area, Mr. Altman said. * * * * *

MIGRANT LABOR

From page 4

migrants return year after year to the same farms. Many strong friendships are established during the harvest. Frequently Ohio farmers visit their workers in the winter.

Ray and Edith's farm has been host to migrant workers for more than 10 years. They were the second farm to provide migrant housing in Mercer County.

The reasons Ray Fishbaugh hires migrant workers are:

1. They are on the farm when needed,
2. Help in the total farm work load of critical harvest time limits,
3. Can pick fruit every day as tomatoes ripen for best quality,
4. And they know how to pick and recognize quality by color.

Migrants are willing and able to work Fishbaugh added.

"Local people just won't do the work. They don't like it. So there is no problem of labor competition," he added.

Those willing to work are well paid, Fishbaugh said. They pick for 12 cents a hamper, of which there are about 65 to a ton. Yields run from 17 to 20 tons per acre. Migrants are paid by the week.

Assures Money

It's a general practice by gentlemen's agreement, both Fishbaugh and Canizales said, to withhold two cents per hamper as a bonus for the end of the season. This insures money to return home and holds the migrants

on the job until the harvest is completed.

Most migrants come to Ohio farms via four routes:

1. Processing companies will contact them for farmers,
2. The Ohio State Employment Service provides them,
3. Some farmers go to Texas to secure migrant help, but
4. Most migrants return almost traditionally to the same farms.

Clean In Beginning

Ray and Edith agreed with what most other farmers reported. They said facilities are clean at the beginning. Most unsanitary conditions, which could be ruled exceptions in the general picture, are caused by the migrants themselves. Cities face the same kind of problem in many slum areas.

"If the grower tries to make things nice for them, the migrant families will return the kindness if they are any kind of a family at all," Edith said.

"The so-called modern conveniences are still new to migrant workers," Ray said. "After all, you don't have to go back very far in any of our own families to find poorer living conditions."

Out in the field, Florencio Canizales stood up from his work. A broad-brimmed sombrero shaded his alert eyes. Six other members of his family continued their work while Florencio talked. "This is a vacation for me and the family," he said.

"We wouldn't come back except for the Fishbaughs," he continued. "We enjoy it here. We don't regard

it as hard work. The boys like it for a change."

The change is that the Canizales family managed the Cactus Courts Motel in Laredo, Texas.

Community Friendly

"Most people in the community treat us very nicely. They are very friendly. Most migrants are happy with their facilities," Florencio continued.

The Canizales family had been migrants for three years. This year, the Fishbaughs have hired another family since the Canizales have remained in Texas to work.

Most migrants list Ohio as only one stop. They start by hoeing sugar beets in Minnesota; picking cherries in Michigan; tomatoes, apples, peaches and cherries in Ohio, and thence to the South to pick cotton.

Southern Michigan tomato growers are closely allied with Ohio farmers in marketing tomatoes through membership in the Ohio Agricultural Marketing Association. A difference in migrant workers between the states is that Michigan uses some Mexican nationals. Ohio does not. Living conditions in Michigan for migrant workers are similar to Ohio.

Of all the states they visit, Ohio seems to be fulfilling their needs the best. There are exceptions, of course. The state and the farmer seem to be facing up to their responsibilities in this field. And the migrant laborer himself seems to be thriving and proving himself a healthy and honest visitor to Ohio.

PLACEMENT SERVICE

From Page 16

order to the Texas office, which sent it to local branches. So when José Gómez of Karnes, Texas, walked into the labor office in his area one day in February and said he wanted work up north for himself and crew of five (wife, two sons, daughter, and unmarried neighbor) the Texas office offered him Mr. Barnes's application. It looked all right to Mr. Gómez and he accepted it.

That one order, however, would not keep his crew busy all summer. The office gave him other orders, and in the end he was able to fill the entire season by moving north as the crops ripened, with side trips east and west for tomatoes and "pickles," with some

cotton picking on the way home.

Mr. Gómez's group happened to be a small one traveling in a passenger automobile. Crews may be much larger—25 or 30, normally, but some are reported as big as 75.

Each crew is under the direction of a leader, who assumes certain responsibilities, including transportation and usually supervision on the job. In return he gets a bonus from the farmer on each unit picked by members of his crew. He may also be paid for use of the truck in which he brings the workers, for an extra truck is handy on the farm at harvest time.

Last of a Series

The New York Times

September 18, 1962

MEXICAN GIRL HEADS CREW OF LABORERS

PLAINVIEW, Tex. (AP)—A 20-year-old Mexican girl, one of 14 children, spent her summer, as she has done for two years, leading a crew of laborers in order to go to college.

With a little money saved while working as a car hop Maria Louisa de la Cedra of Olton, Tex, made down payment on a pickup truck. But she couldn't contract a job without a crew.

In desperation, she lied to a farmer that she could give him a crew of 25 to work his fields. Then she spent the day and night rounding up workers.

By daylight she was in busi-

ness.

"I stayed in the field ten hours a day with the crew," she recalls, "but after I got them trained, I took along my books."

Miss De La Cerda lives in Olton with her mother and seven of her brother and sisters. Her father, a farm laborer, died in 1958.

She has been admitted to Wayland, and will be the only Roman Catholic in a Baptist college.

Her ambitions include teaching Spanish, studying journalism, and writing a book in Spanish about present social problems. She has been collecting material for the book during her two years in the fields.