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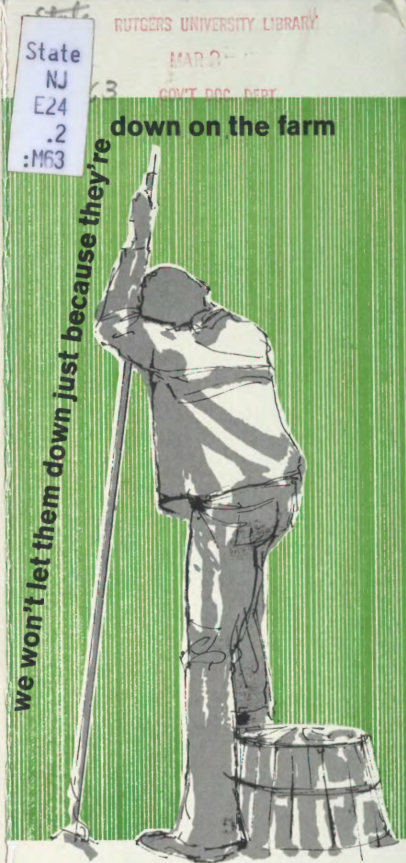
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#### back to n.j.

About the time that millions of birds are migrating back to New Jersey - so are thousands of people. When the birds leave - so will most of these people. They both are migrants, but that's where the similarity ends. For the birds, migration is rejuvenation. For the migrant laborers, and their families, it's degradation.

The migrant birds fly high. The migrant people (seasonal farm laborers) live low. Traveling may be fun for us. It's traumatic for the migrant. But the worst losers are the children.

Things we take for granted, they don't take at all. Normal education, health treatment, adequate diets, job training, social services. . . . Without these normal elements of life, the children never will have a normal life. The despair of their parents, will be inherited by their children. Life holds nothing for these children. Instead, it will grip them with the sub-human, poverty existence, that accompanies nomadic survival.

We can't see into the future. Unfortunately, the migrant child can. Unassisted, he will regress as he grows. His opportunities will be on the same level as the berries and tomatoes his parent's pick. Everytime he bends down to tie his shoelaces, he is practicing for his future. His future will neglect his innate talents, intellect or the opportunities around him. The migrant child's field of endeavor will be the same field where his parents now stoop.

Catching up with the needs of the migrant is the goal of New Jersey's Office of Migrant Education.



#### "buenas dias, Adrian."

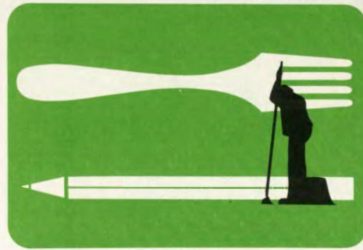
The Spanish-speaking migrant child is pleasantly surprised as he's greeted on the first day of summer session by his new teacher. The teacher is instructing Adrian in a special environment that has been created by the Office of Migrant Education.

The teacher isn't Spanish. Her previous experience with migrants may have come from a few chapters in "Grapes of Wrath." But through an orientation program, she's learned to understand and reach the migrant child.

21 summer and 21 winter migrant school programs try to do more than just reach the Adrians. They try to motivate, while avoiding the pitfalls of terminal usefulness.

Most likely, Adrian will move on after this season. But standard education is directed toward continuity. Standard education also relies upon supplementary instruction, found in varied social interaction, television, radio, magazines, movies etc. The migrant child may not be exposed to these supplemental "educational" media. So Adrian's special educational program substitutes for these missing media, in a program that is less dependent on precise continuity.

Adrian's world will be enlarged beyond the shanties and fruit fields. He will see what he never would have been able to see before. His mind will stretch. His vision will widen. Adrian will begin to dream of a realistic, attainable future. And the Office of Migrant Education won't let him down.



#### food for body and mind

Adrian eats the same food his family does, which doesn't say much for his diet. Not only is the food nutritionally inadequate, but a family income of only \$2000-a-year keeps his portion from being sufficient. So when Adrian goes to school, he doesn't eat what his family eats. Two free, wholesome meals a day strengthen his body and relieve his hunger, so that the teacher can have the full attention of his mind - without having to compete with noises from his stomach.

But years of nutritional neglect already have left their mark on Adrian. So have years of sub-standard sanitation. These only can be solved by a full diet of health services.

His teeth need attention, and maybe his eyes. Our mobile health teams can reach him with the health services he needs. Some children however, have medical problems beyond the capabilities of our mobile health teams, but not beyond the capabilities of the Office of Migrant Education. Serious maladies and congenital health problems will require hospitalization and specialists - provided through our cooperation.

Soon it will be time for Adrian to make a definite commitment to his future. And we'll be there. With mobile vocational vans, Adrian will be taught the skills, with which he can by-pass the stoop labor treadmill. We have brought him up to this point. We won't let him down. Our social services also will help him find a decent job, when it's time for him to jump off the treadmill.



#### family services

Services that benefit Adrian need not be directed at him alone. Medical attention for his ailing mother will permit him to have a better family life. So will the legal counselling his father's receiving. By helping his father avoid usurious credit, the family will be able to keep more of its meager income, and live in less fear.

And when the joyous day comes, when the family decides to settle down and cast aside its nomadic existence, we'll still be there, helping them adjust as permanent residents and workers.

#### we're mobile

We're mobile, because the migrants are. Chances are that Adrian and his family didn't request our assistance by walking into our office in Trenton. He probably never even heard of Trenton, and his family is too isolated and transient ever to have heard of our services. So we take Trenton to them.

One of our recruiters probably found Adrian on the farm, where his family was toiling. The recruiter got Adrian in school, discovered his mother's badly abscessed teeth and heard how his father was being plagued by inhuman creditors.

Recruiters are our link with the migrant. A recruiter is Adrian's link to a better tomorrow.

