

El Malcriado

IN ENGLISH

NO. 46

"The Voice of the Farm Worker"

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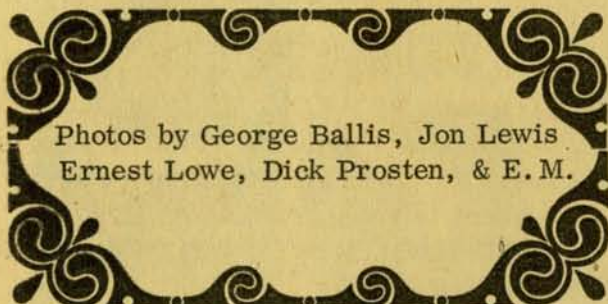
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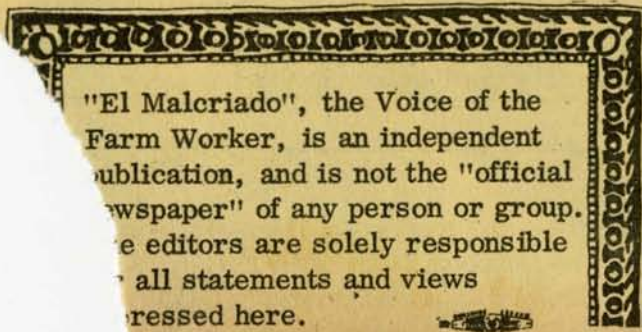
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NEW UNITY IN LAMONT

The workers at DiGiorgio's 9,000 acre haciendo near Lamont want an election. That was made obvious at a huge rally last Sunday when several hundred workers from the ranch gathered in a Lamont auditorium for the rally. After prayers and songs, the crowd warmed up as several workers blasted DiGiorgio for the treatment they had gotten out at the ranch. The juice grapes (and piece rates) were so bad this year that many workers were averaging under \$1 a hour. Some were making as low as 29¢ an hour. Some workers spoke of the hardships of the 1930's and the reasons why the unions had failed at DiGiorgio before. Everyone agreed that DiGiorgio's oldest trick, of playing off one race against another would never work and all said the same thing: "If we all stick together, we can win. And we will stick together and we will win."

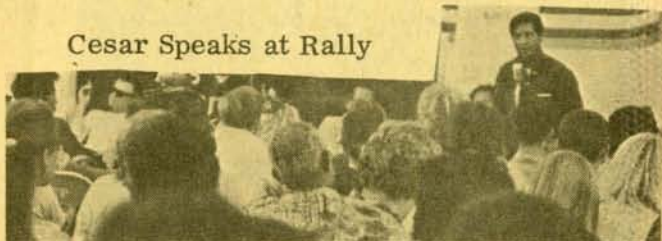
Cesar Chavez spoke to the workers, and told them of his dreams: That someday farm workers would have a strong union, with everyone united, with no discrimination as to race or religion; and that the union would win decent wages and good conditions from the growers; and that the workers would be protected by a written contract. This dream is already becoming a reality in Delano.

The rally ended with more songs and the Teatro Campesino, doing a very funny skit of the Marriage Between DiGiorgio and the Teamsters.

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: For the first time, the workers at Lamont were working together for the cause, instead of letting themselves be divided and conquered. There

are still some people at DiGiorgio who do not want a union, or who want the Teamsters. But the big majority want the United Farm Workers. Why don't you have an election, Mr. DiGiorgio, like you promised?

Cesar Speaks at Rally



DiGiorgio Won't Allow Vote

DiGiorgio announced last April that they would allow their workers to vote, either for or against a union. After a lot of uproar, striking, boycott, and pressure, DiGiorgio finally held fair elections at their Delano Ranch. The United Farm Workers won that election. A special impartial man, named Mr. Haughton, appointed by Governor Brown to set up fair rules for the election, suggested that elections also be held at DiGiorgio's Lamont Ranch in late October. The Farm Workers accepted this plan. But the Teamster-Scab Union and DiGiorgio said "no". The blame rests on DiGiorgio. If the Teamsters don't think they have a chance to win, they should pack their bags and go home. BUT THAT IS NO REASON TO CALL OFF THE ELECTIONS. There is no reason why DiGiorgio should not allow his workers to vote. THE WORKERS WANT TO VOTE, NOW! WHAT'S HOLDING UP THIS ELECTION? Mr. DiGiorgio, you said six months ago that you would allow elections. As long as you don't even have enough respect for your other workers to let them vote, we will continue to tell the world exactly what we think of you.

The negotiations for a contract between DiGiorgio Corporation and the workers at Sierra Vista Ranch are going well. The workers' committee and leaders of their union, the United Farm Workers, will resume negotiations on October 26 with the DiGiorgio officials. Any issues not settled at these meetings will be decided by an impartial arbitrator. Union leaders were pleased that negotiations so far have gone so smoothly.

Horrible Event in New York

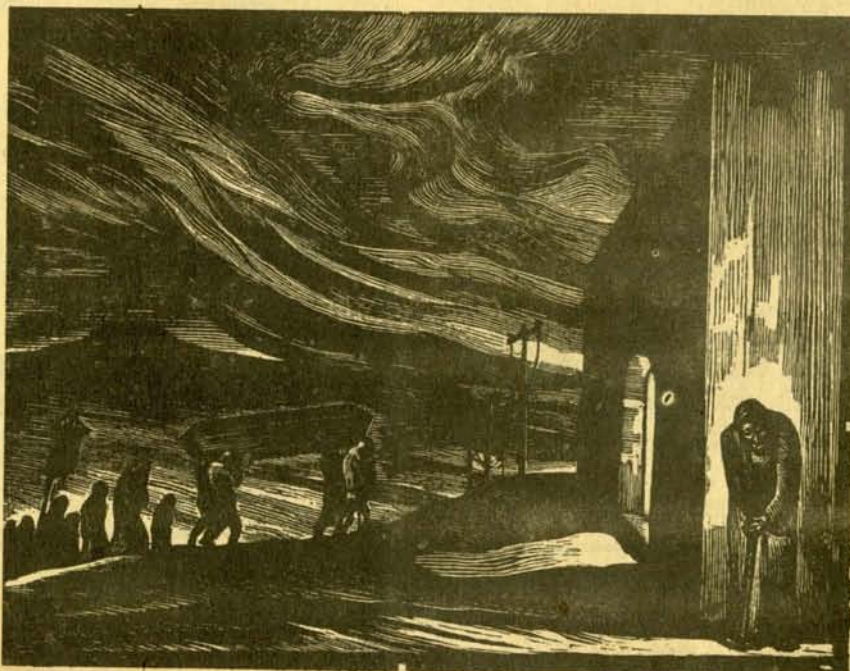
A horrible event has shaken the town of Fredonia, New York. Fredonia is the center of a big wine-producing Valley which employs over 1000 workers during the harvest. And last week, a fire broke out in one of the crowded camps, and in the tragic events that followed, two farm workers were burned to death.

This terrible event was an "accident". It is the type of "accident" that occurs every year in the labor camps all over the country, because these camps are usually in such treeble condition. Growers often treat their horses better than their farm workers. They give us camps fit only for pigs.

Many people in the Valley around Fredonia are getting fed up with the awful housing and the bad wages. Lares Tresjan, a fiery young woman from Fredonia, called a meeting of the farm workers in the area and said that what they needed was an organization or union, to protect them from the abuses of

the growers Jerry and Jane Brown, who had spent a summer in Delano, told the farm workers of New York what Cesar Chavez was doing for the farm workers in California. Now the workers are working together to form an organization strong enough to make the growers clean up the camps and pay decent wages, so the farm workers can live in nice homes like other Americans.

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: We join the workers in New York in mourning the loss of their brother. And we salute Lares Tresjan and the others who have started the union there. New York has so many wine companies, like "Taylors". There is no reason why they can't treat their workers decently and give them better wages and conditions. The workers in California are proving that, if we work together, we can make the growers treat us fairly. And in the not-too-distant future, the eagle of the Farm Workers will be flying over the big wineries in New York.



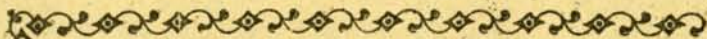
MELONS IN TEXAS

The great march from the Rio Grande Valley to Austin is over, and the Texas Farm Workers Association is concentrating once again on the melon strike near Rio Grande City. The strike began on June 1st, and several small growers signed contracts promising to pay \$1.25 an hour. The biggest melon grower of them all, La Casita Farms, raised their wage from 85¢ to \$1 an hour because of the strike, but will not sign a contract or pay the full \$1.25 that the workers need. Most growers still pay 60¢-80¢ an hour.

As the winter harvest approaches, the union is trying to convince Mexican Nationals (green card holders) not to break the strike. Thousands cross the border every morning and return home at night. We must convince them to join us, to help us build our union. They too will profit from the higher wages. Because of this problem, over 50 Mexican-Americans picketed in front of the Immigration and Naturalization office in Roma, Texas, last week. Their signs said: "Join our union or stay in Mexico" and "Stop Mexican Nationals from breaking our strike."

our Union or Stay in Mexico" and "Stop Mexican Nationals from Breaking our Strike".

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: The grape strikers in Delano have this same problem. There should be a law forbidding green card holders from breaking a strike and working on a struck ranch. They can go anywhere else in the country, and there is no reason why they should break our strike. For it is a crime against their American brothers for them to break our strikes. AFUERA, ESQUIROLES!!



The farm worker movement in Texas is only 4 months old, but it is already rich in history. The Texas Observer, an English magazine in Texas, has published a special edition on the melon strike, the March to Austin, and other articles on the Texas farmworkers, as well as interviews with Gene Nelson, Cesar Chavez, and many of the strikers and marchers. This excellent issue is available for 50¢ from the Texas Observer, 504 W. 24th Street, Austin, Texas, or from the Farm Worker Press.

Send this coupon to
EL MALCRIADO, BOX 1060
DELANO, CALIFORNIA

The best way to be sure you will get your MALCRIADO is by mail, delivered to your home every two weeks. Send your name and address to Box 1060 Delano, Calif., and we will send you the newspaper to you for one year.

The cost is \$2.00 per year, but you do not have to send this now. We will send you a bill.

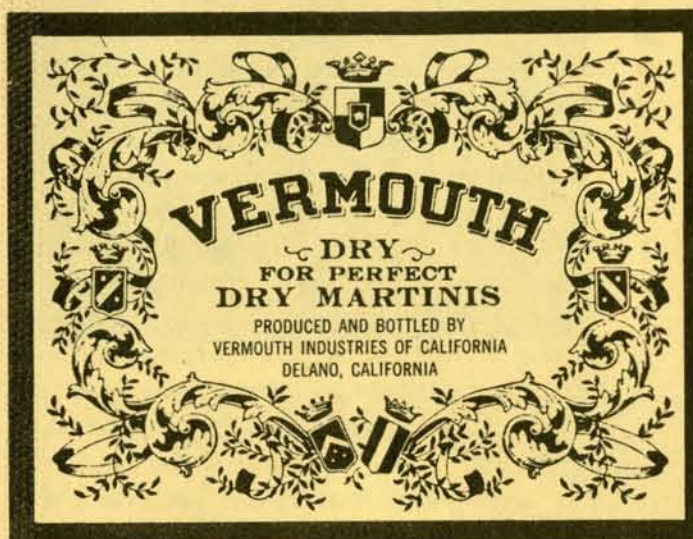
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SCAB LABEL

TRIBUNO



This Dry Vermouth is made solely from Selected California Wines and Imported Herbs according to the original formula of M. J. Perelli

"21" Brands, Inc.

ALCOHOL CONTENT NEW YORK, N. Y. SOLE AGENTS FOR THE UNITED STATES 18% BY VOLUME

Boycott

When the farm workers launched the boycott against Schenley, everybody said, "Schenley is too rich and powerful and big. You poor farm workers can never beat Schenley." The boycott lasted almost 4 months, and then Schenley signed a contract.

Then we went after DiGiorgio. And people said, "Well, you were lucky with Schenley, but you will never beat DiGiorgio." DiGiorgio tried everything to break the strike and boycott. They spent millions of dollars on advertising. They even held a phoney election and brought in a Scab Union. But nothing could stop us. Finally they held a fair election for their workers, which of course we won.

Now we're hitting the third biggest winery near Delano, owned by Perelli-Minetti. Minetti owns 2280 acres near Delano and McFarland, and buys grapes from many

Number Three: PERELLI-MINETTI

other growers. All his field workers went on strike on September 9, and the State officials certified the strike as Labor Dispute #66-6940A. But instead of negotiating with the union, Minetti signed a back-door sellout agreement with the Teamsters-Scab Union. The Teamsters' job is to recruit strike breakers, and they have been bringing them in on Teamster busses into the fields. Teamsters armed with rifles, pistols, chains, and golf clubs have attacked the strikers.

In addition to continuing the strike and picketing, and trying to convince the scabs to join the strike, we are also asking everyone to stop buying Perelli-Minetti Products. The union has printed over 100,000 leaflets and over 20,000 pledge cards, which people sign pledging to stop buying Minetti prod

ucts. Every liquor store in Los Angeles and San Francisco has been notified of the boycott, and representatives will be visiting them to make sure they remove all the Minetti products from their shelves. At the stores that refuse to cooperate, a picket line will be set up to warn customers not to buy scab wine. Boycott offices will be soon set up in every major city in California.

In addition to contacting liquor stores and picketing, we are also getting tremendous help from the Bartenders Union and the Retail Clerks Union, who have promised to do all they can to beat Minetti. This boycott is officially endorsed by the AFL-CIO executive council. Bartenders and clerks will advise their store owners and customers not to buy or drink the putrid scab brew of PERELLI-MINETTI.

WINERY WORKERS WILL VOTE

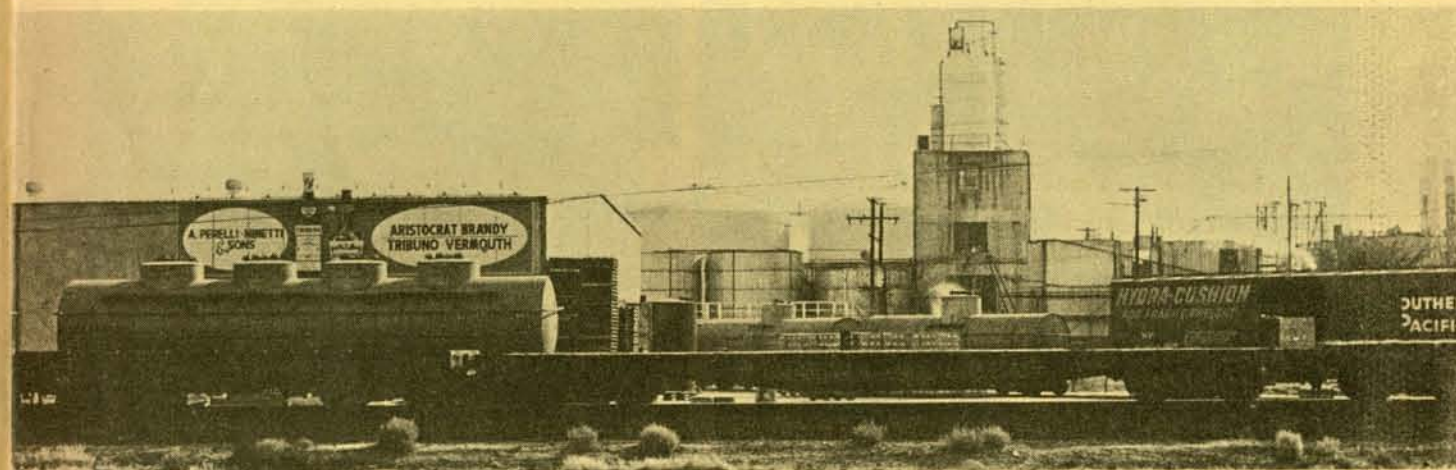
El Malcriado reported last week that Perelli-Minetti Company was trying to force all of its workers to join the Teamsters. For 17 years, Perelli-Minetti has been fighting the unions, especially in the wineries. But now suddenly they LOVE the Teamsters.

Well, the winery workers could smell a rat. So they demanded a secret ballot and an election to decide what union they wanted. Almost all the workers in the winery have joined the Distillery Workers Union, AFL CIO, (and many are also long-time NFWA members). They want the Distillery Workers Union to represent them.

At a special meeting of the National Labor Relations Board, an election was set up for October 27, between 3:30 and 5:00 P. M. At

this meeting, the Teamsters conceded that none of the workers supported them. They didn't even want their names on the ballot. So the only union will be the Distillery Workers Union, and the workers will vote either for the union or against it. Perelli-Minetti has promised that he will fight the union with all the pressure and money they have. But we predict that the union will win easily.

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: The workers in the winery are protected by a "Labor Relations Law" which guarantees them the right to a secret ballot if they want it. But the field workers do not have this law. The government should immediately pass this law, so that workers could PROVE beyond any doubt which union they want.



Factories in the Fields: Perelli-Minetti's huge winery, which produces 3.5 million gallons of wines and brandies a year, can store up to 6,000,000 gallons.

ROLL OF HONOR



AGBANYI

IN MEMORIAM: We mourn the loss of our friend and brother, Paul Agbanyi. Paulo Agbanyi, 56, was serving on the picket line last week when he suffered a sudden stroke. He died within a few hours. Paul was originally from Vintar, Ilocos Norte Province in the Philippines, and had worked in Hawaii before coming to Delano. He had lived in Delano for many years and was working for JACK RADOVITCH when the strike started. He joined the strike the first day, and walked the picket line every day since then, for over a year, except for a short "vacation" in the Coachella Valley, when he went to work to win a little pocket money. He was unmarried, but he leaves behind him thousands of friends and admirers.

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: We would like to pay special tribute to Paul Agbanyi, whose selfless devotion to the cause is an inspiration to all farm workers. He died while serving the cause, while trying to gain a better life for his people and all farm workers of California. We also wish to pay tribute to Victoriano Tablac and Leo Astituto, who died earlier this year, while serving the cause. To these brave men we all owe a debt which we cannot now repay. While we honor their memory we must even more rededicate ourselves to the cause in whose service they gave their lives.

VIOLENCE....

Since the Teamster-Scab union came to town, there has been a big increase in violence against the farm workers. Below are some pictures of the results of their invasions:



Windshield smashed by a Teamster golf club.

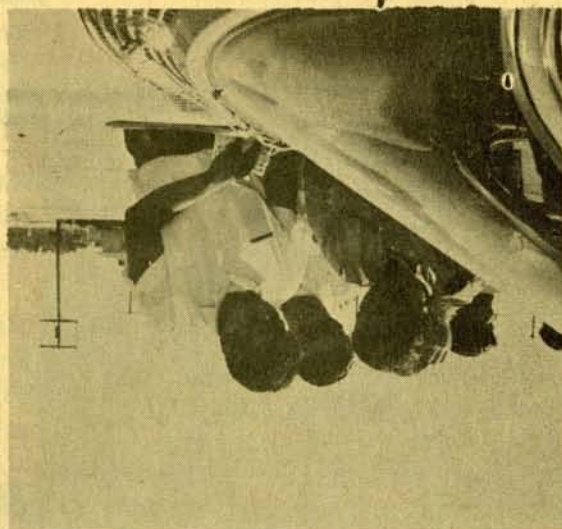


Paul Sanchez, U.F.W. supporter, examines a tire "mysteriously" slashed.

THREE FRIENDS

FROM FRESNO

Fresno is now becoming one of the most important communities in the movement for social justice started by the NFWA. In Fresno, our leader, Crescencio Mendoza, head of the United Farm Workers Office there, has been receiving great support from the Mexican Community. Among such valuable friends of the farm workers, we count Jose de la Rosa, the popular radio announcer, (on the left in this picture); Miss Candelaria Arroyo, well-known and talented performer; and Sr. Tomas Atuna, on the right, owner of the Jardin de las Palmas Club. Our three friends appear in this photo with our leader, Crescencio Mendoza.



Eliseo Medina and Robert Bustos, U.F.W. organizers, explain the advantages of the union to a worker and sign him up in the union.

What is the Name of This Town?

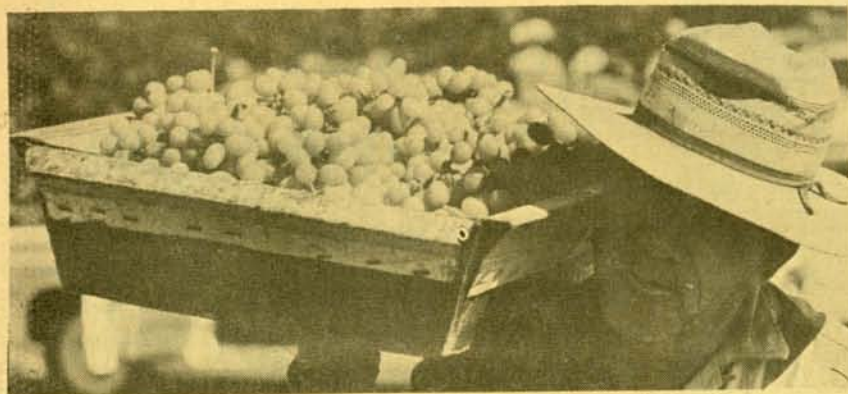


*The first answer
wins \$5.00*

SEND YOUR ANSWER AND
YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS
TO:

"GAME OF THE TOWNS"
P.O. BOX 1060
DELANO, CALIF.

The winner of last week's GAME OF THE TOWNS is Daniel Airozo, who correctly guessed the name of the town, VISALIA.



the dignity of man

The vines are green in the evening hush,
As the mockingbird trills at the setting sun--
But the quiet is as deceptive as the grapes are lush,
For the work of "La Huelga" has just begun.

The grapes of wrath are grown in hell,
With stooping and lifting at a hundred and ten--
While the absentee owner just rings a bell
If the wine isn't chilled as it should have been.

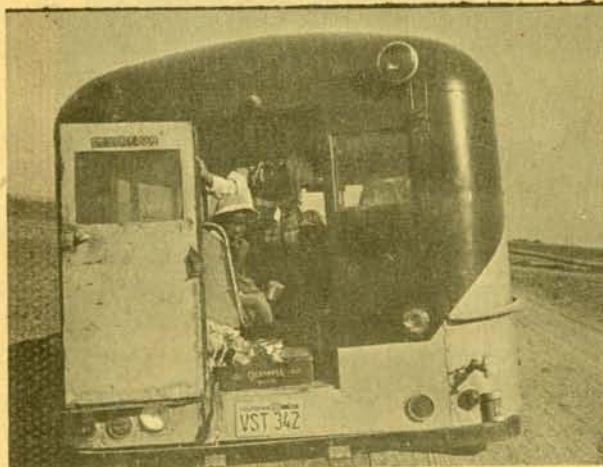
The worker gets up at four o'clock
To get to the fields which are miles away--
And as a reward for beating the cock,
He has to settle for half a man's pay.

Children are not covered by Child Labor Laws
So they work in the fields and don't go to school--
And we must correct these legal flaws,
No matter what happens to the labor pool.

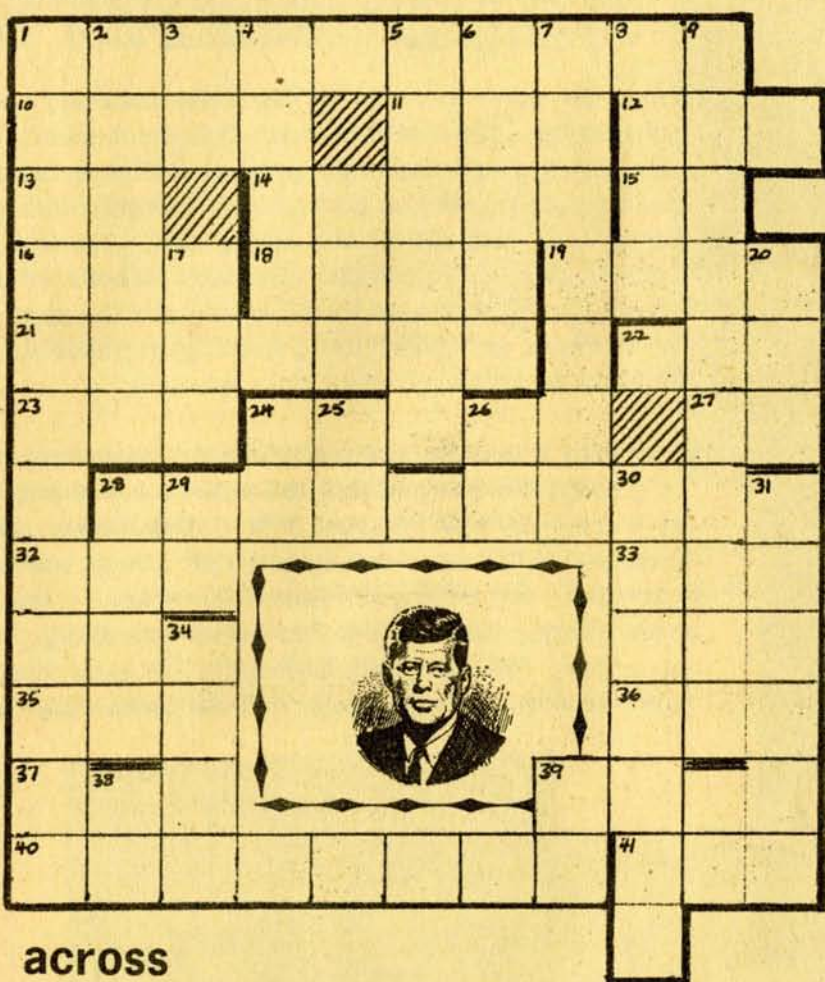
A man's entitled to a decent wage
Regardless of what job he has to do--
And now we're turning a historical page
With "La Huelga" the tool to push it through.

Soon a worker can walk in a store
Expecting service given those with no tan--
For discrimination will be no more,
And he will have the dignity of man.

- Al Kieffer



EL MALCRIADOGRAM



across

1. A vile substance bottled in McFarland, California.
10. City in Indiana.
11. Union of Driving Instructors.
12. What DiGiorgio is going to do to El Malcriado.
13. Registered Nurse. (abb.)
14. Delano Police Chief.
15. Filter cigarette.
16. The "good guys " in Washington.
18. The courageous Mrs, Huerta.
19. What you will be if you do not join the Farm Workers Association.
21. The Spanish mane of a crop with a federal minimum wage that is never enforced.
22. Spanish gold.
23. Used Liberals Society. (abb)
24. El Malcriado _____ the official voice of any organization.
28. Frozen fingers pick this crop.
32. What you need in Delano in August.
33. What you need to do in Delano in February.
35. One of the things we are called South of the Border.

36. National Scab Institute
37. Mr. Divizich's present condition.
39. Who will inherit the earth?
40. Where the thunderbird will fly next.
41. "Do or _____."

down

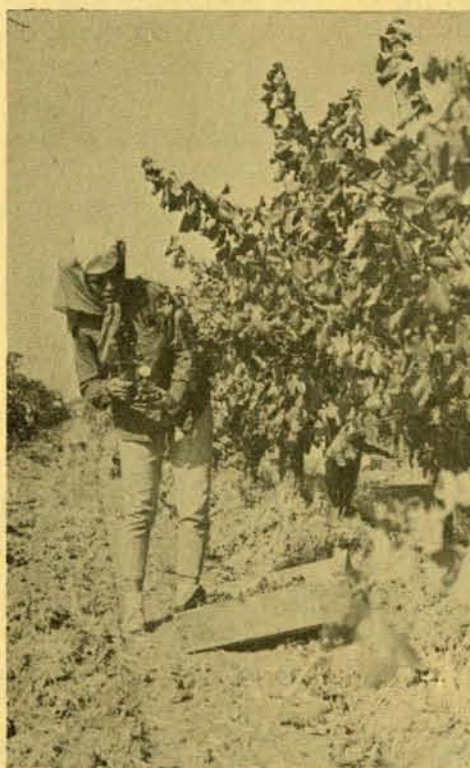
1. The fancy name for the activity of a few rich men in California.
2. Another Chavez who said, "Sure I'm an agitator. An agitator is the most important part of a washing machine. And there are a lot of dirty people in this town."
3. _____ OWN. Rhymes with Clown.
4. Zapata named his Plan after this town.
5. Jack Pandol after our victory.
6. What the Teamsters offer a grower.
7. Villain of the book Huelga. He is now a struggling farmer.
8. One of the several far away places the growers would like to send Cesar.
9. The United States Post Office is going to put our Thunderbird on a new postage stamp.
17. Disease of the winos.
20. Non-union grapes are going to _____.
24. Word that rhymes with Schmidt.
25. The good Mr. Cassady.
26. What Mrs. Guimarra says when she sees a huelga sign.
27. These taste good, but not when you have to eat them every meal.
28. They have had their last fiesta.
29. Regarding (abb.)
30. Whose picture is it?
34. What is a Ford in Mexico?
38. Bob Dylan: "Where it's _____."



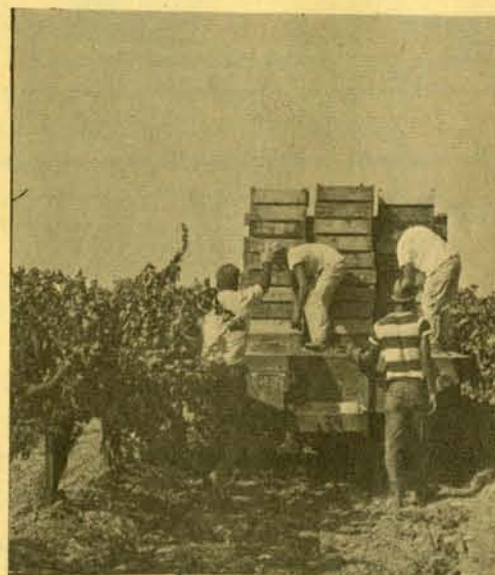
GOOD NEWS FROM SCHENLEY

There are many good things about the contract between Schenley Corporation and the Farm Workers Association. The best is that when the workers are dissatisfied about something, they can sit down with Schenley and make an agreement that is fair to everyone. Here are a few examples of this: Schenley's harvest has gone more smoothly straight through the season. When the company needs crews, they just call up the hiring hall. The union has a list of those who want to work, and the type of job he prefers (gondolas, alicante). There is no discrimination because of race or religion. One Schenley employee said, "I think we have the most dependable and best work force in the whole valley." The workers are proud to be working at Schenley's, so their work is top quality. No wonder the Company is so happy about the contract!

When they started picking alicante grapes at Schenley, the swampers (who load the boxes of grapes on the trucks) complained that the rate of 1.94¢ per box was much too low. In the early picking, the swampers were only making about \$13. dollars a day, and less. The Company and the union representatives discussed this wage, and agreed that it was too low. So the Company agreed to pay 2.75¢ a box, and guarantee the swampers that if the grapes were bad or picking slow, they would be paid for 4500 boxes a day. This means that swampers are guaranteed about \$30 a day and often make more. The swampers, including Jim Culpepper, O.C. Moore, and Joe Alejandro, are all happy with the big raise. This shows how the company and the union can work together to help the worker.



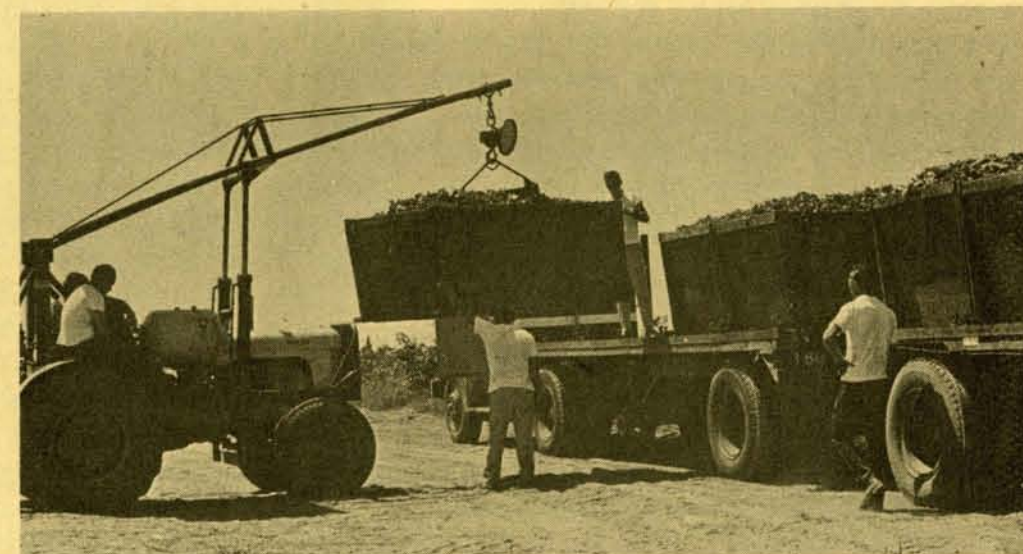
Beautiful Helen Serda picks grapes at Schenley. No grape picker makes less than \$1.75 an hour at Schenley. They get 5¢ a box bonus, so they make over \$2 an hour.



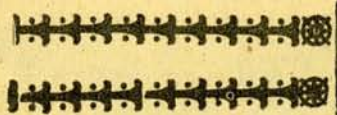
Swampers at Schenley. Their new wage guarantees them about \$30 or more a day.



Boxboys scatter empty boxes. They are paid a straight \$1.75 an hour.



In the wine grapes, every gondola is weighed, so that the workers are paid for every pound of grapes picked. Many crews average \$3.50 an hour or more for each worker.



Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor;

Through this letter, I congratulate you on your courage and honesty, that you have been serving and helping the farm workers. I also congratulate you on the answer you gave to the man who complained that your grammar was bad and uneducated. I tell that man that in the towns where Malcriado is sold, we read it with great attention, because we are workers and want to read about the farm workers' cause. Cesar Chavez is not defending the educated, but fighting for a better living for farm workers so they will no longer be slaves of the bosses, and so they won't be cheated by the contractors.

I also feel that in the struggle of the Mexican people in the fields of Mexico, their leaders did not at first know how to read or write. Emiliano Zapata, for instance. So I know that Cesar Chavez and El Malcriado are not looking for educated people. They only want us the farm workers to understand them and to get together to defend the cause. I, who am writing this letter, say only: LONG LIVE OUR CAUSE, LONG LIVE OUR UNION, and LONG LIVE OUR LEADERS.

P.S. If you will allow me, I will send from Corcoran news and everything from the monstrous bosses here. I would like to be your correspondent here. Maybe it would be a good idea if you don't print my name, for obvious reasons.

Farmworker from Corcoran

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: We need good correspondents from Corcoran and all the farm worker towns. It is often difficult for us to get the facts about growers and contractors because the other newspapers don't tell the truth about the growers and

the farm workers. So, anyone with stories about farm work, contractors you have worked for, growers, problems with welfare or state officials, etc., is encouraged to send it to us, EL MALCRIADO, P.O. BOX 1060, DELANO.



Dear Editor:

In answer to Sr. Salvador Hernandez and others, I would like to try to answer some of his questions.

He asks in the MALCRIADO about the young students who came from other parts of the United States to Delano to help us.

This summer, 91 medical students, dental nurses, nurses, and dental hygienists and fifteen Community Workers from 11 states participated, joined by staff members and health professionals who have been actively involved with the poor. They work directly among the deprived and underprivileged families in rural and urban areas.

Sr. Hernandez, you ask: what are they studying? In their field work has been with the County Health Department, County Hospitals, Private practitioners, who serve the poor, and Community Action Programs.

New generations are interested to help one another in this everwidening world of today. It also was a privilege to have been a part from us in helping in the Delano strike.

I too salute your leader Cesar Chavez, in his beliefs, character, patience, and his

What The People Are Thinking

theory of fighting for social justice.

A Mexican-American Community Worker
from Fresno, Fresno County, California,
Bobbie Soliz

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: and this was
just one group of volunteers!

Dear Friends---

I have just listened to the wonderful L. P.
record, VIVA LA CAUSA which you sent
me, and want to order three more copies
for my friends. I enclose 3 x \$4.25, plus
50¢ extra for postage.

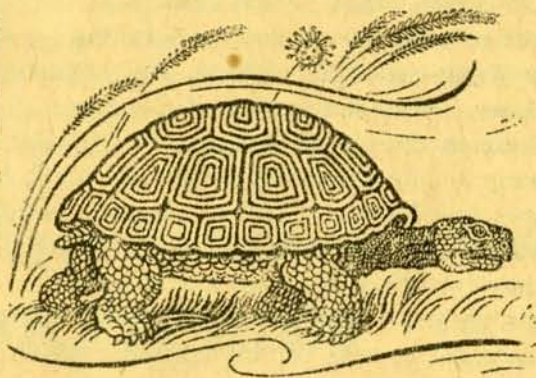
Sincerely,
Pete Seeger

P.S. Where can I get the words to the
song on side 2, in between the statements
of the Filipino worker and the Mexican
worker? The tune is La Feria de los
Flores.

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: We also think
the record is excellent. Unfortunately,
we do not have a transcript for the songs
on side 2.



This is the NFWA float in the Independence Day Parade in Chicago. We have thousands of supporters in Chicago who will soon be helping on the Minetti boycott.



PIXLEY "JUSTICE"

PIXLEY JUSTICE: Once again, farm workers were given a strange show of "justice" in Pixley, when they went before that Court last week, charging grower John Dulcich with spraying them with sulphur. The incident had occurred last June. Three prospective jurors were dismissed simply because they had at one time or another been union members. The jury ended up: twelve growers or ex-growers. The verdict was predictable. The grower-jury said Mr. Dulcich had not done wrong. The farm workers had been picketing Dulcich when he sprayed them. Most of them were Filipinos. Only two were allowed to testify at the trial.

Farm Workers Say:

*"Viva
Pat Brown"*

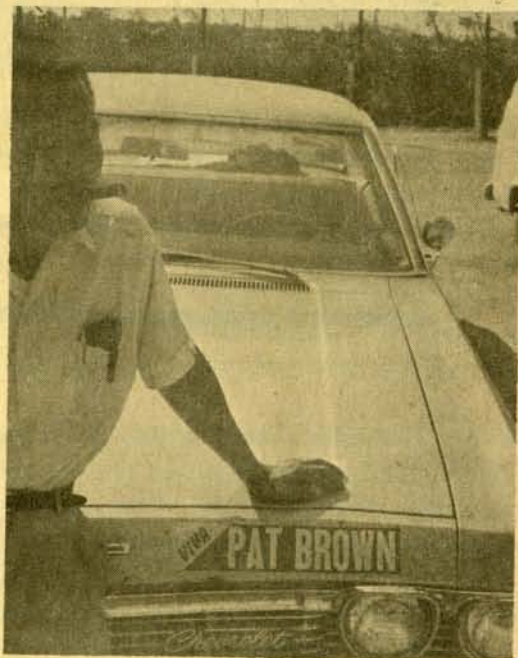


The United Farm Workers Association voted last week to support Governor Brown and help him get re-elected. In the meeting of the membership, not a single farm worker voted for Reagan, the Republican running against Brown. The action came after a committee of farm workers, including Philip Veracruz of Richgrove, Andy Imutan of Delano, Julio Hernandez of Corcoran, and Dolores Huerta of Delano met with the governor. The governor promised the farm workers that he would call a special session of the legislature in January, and demand that they immediately pass a collective bargaining act. This would give the workers the right to vote for or against a union, in a secret ballot, on every ranch in the state. Then DiGiorgio could not refuse to hold elections, like they do in Arvin. Brown should also pass unemployment insurance that covers farm workers, and a minimum wage law. And he should end the bracero program at once. There is no reason to stall on these laws. They should be passed NOW; we're sick and tired of promises and we want some ACTION!

Reagan seems opposed to these laws, and that is why most farmworkers will vote for Brown. Cesar Chavez mentioned other reasons farmworkers should vote for

Brown. Cesar said, "We support Brown because of his historic precedent-setting role in bringing about the first free and open elections (at DiGiorgio) in the history of agriculture in this nation."

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: In the past, the politicians have bought the farm workers' vote with promises and then betrayed them. It better not happen again.



Larry Itliong, Associate Director of the Union, says: "Viva Pat Brown."

OTHER POLITIANS



While the farm workers will vote for Brown for re-election, we are not the prisoners of the Democratic Party or the Republican Party. We have been betrayed by the politicians too many times before. We do NOT support those "Democratic" rats like Sisk, Cooley, Cobey, and the others who rule this Valley and are trying to keep us in slavery. And we especially do not support HARLAN HAGEN, the most viscious opponnet the farm workers have in Congress. Hagen has openly declared war on Cesar Chavez and the farm workers, has started a hate campaig, insulting the Mexican-American people, and doing everything he can to smear our union and our cause. A vote for Hagen is a crime against our people, against all farm workers. Harlan Hagen is a member of the Farm Bureau and is obviously a stooge and a dupe for the growers. Any change is for the good.



Conference Blasts Politicians



At a big Conference in Los Angeles last week, people from all over the state came to discuss how to get better people elected to government offices. The Conference on Power and Politics, as it was called, criticized Governor Brown for not helping the poor people. They agreed that most politicians, whether Democrats or Republicans, are pretty bad. Dolores Huerta, Vice-President of the NFWA, said, "The majority of office holders are so rooted in their official chairs they can't see what the poor people need." She suggested that the politicians spend a day with the farm workers in Delano, or the poor Negroes in Los Angeles and Oakland, to find out what our problems really are. Her speech to the Conference got a great ovation. The conference later voted to support the Perelli-Minetti boycott.

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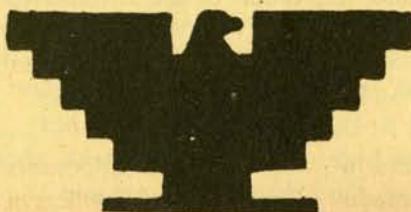
THE ENEMY



The enemy is everywhere. Now it is not only the grower, and the cops in their service. Asinister new element has appeared in Delano, the worst of all, because they are like Judas, who sold his soul to the devil for a handful of coins. **KNOW THIS ENEMY! DENOUNCE HIM!** We are talking about the ones who have betrayed their own people: The Teamsters, the Scabs they have brought in: and even some former strikers who betrayed their brothers.

Top left: Margaret Luque and her husband, who gained fame by scabbing everywhere. Top right: Mary Ruiz and her husband, contractors, kicked out of Schenley and DiGiorgio, and now scab-queen of Delano. Middle left: Turncoat Ben Gines, who betrayed AWOC and the Filipinos for a big Teamster salary. Bottom: Teamsters, including Roger Wallace (middle), the worst of their devils, in charge of busting our strike.

THIS IS THE COMMON ENEMY...KNOW HIM AND DENOUNCE HIM.



GILBERT PADILLA

"THE BLACK DAYS ARE BEHIND US"

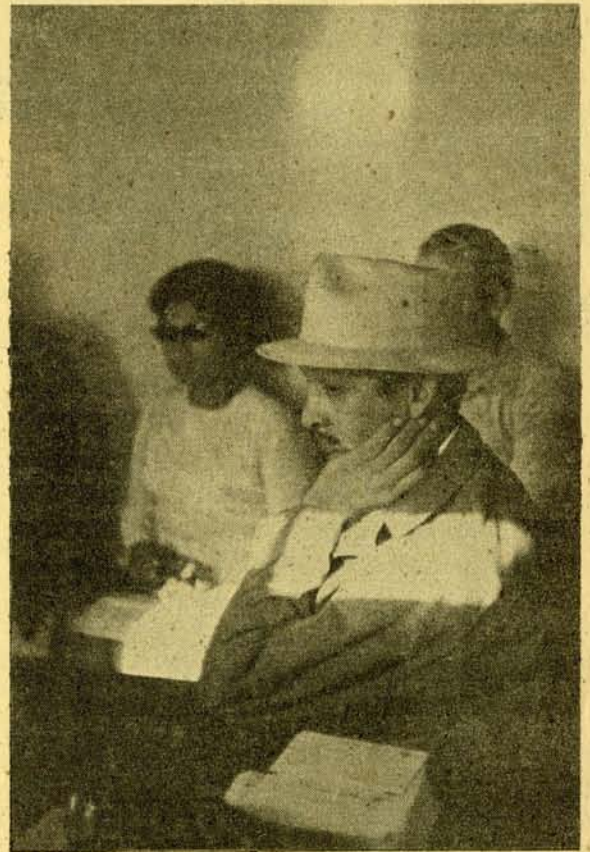
After Cesar Chavez and Larry Itliong, two of the principal figures on whose shoulders rest the responsibility of success or failure of the United Farm Workers Association are Dolores Huerta and Gilbert Padilla. In this issue we would like to give a short biographical scetch about Gilbert Padilla, Vice -President of the NFWA and one of our foremost leaders.

There is the saying that everyone is born especially suited to one job or line of work, and that true success and satisfaction comes only when one has found out what this true destiny is. This certainly seems true of Padilla. Gilbert Padilla could by now be a fat, contented contractor, rich on the sweat and exploitation of farm workers. He has had more than one chance to do it. But he does not have the black soul and inhuman instincts that are essential to the contractors and bosses who betray their own people to get rich.

Even the birth of Padilla pointed to a destiny as an important leader in the movement to bring justice to farm workers. Gilbert was not born in a hospital, but in the fields where his parents had gone to work. This day occurred 38 years ago, when his parents. Longino and Juanita Padilla were on their way to pick cotton in the fields near Los Banos, California. They had been living there since leaving Mexico during the Revolution.

Gilbert's childhood was like that of thousands of other Mexican-Americans in the United States: working in the fields with his parents, discrimination, rebelling at his impotence to do anything to improve himself or his people. It was a grey life, which was about to push him into that frustration where people hate society and all that it stands for.

In 1946, when Padilla was 18, he joined the Army and served in the Philippines, Japan, and other Asian countries. Over there, he came in contact with many new people, other ways of thinking, and new ideas. He decided to return to California to fight for those



— GIL PADILLA —

changes which would free the farm worker from the slavery and social injustice which he knew so well.

Padilla recalls those early years after the war, saying: "My brothers and I came back to our home town, Los Banos, and discovered that the bad conditions of the farm worker hadn't changed a bit. We had to go to work in the fields for 60¢ to 70¢ an hour. A con-

tractor friend of mine gave me a job of supervisor. But my duties made me treat the workers like animals. One day, I saw Women, children, old and young men, all drinking water from one can. The water was full of sweat and dust. So I went and got cups so that the workers wouldn't have to drink contaminated water. When the contractor found out, he called me and said,

removed from the misery of his fellow Mexican-American farm workers. But, as one might expect, he soon returned to his old ideal of trying to help his people. He took time off from his business and began organizing farm workers around Hanford and Corcoran. 'Soon after I would begin work at the laundry in the morning, Julio Hernandez and some workers from Corcoran

"TIMES HAVE CHANGED TODAY...IN THOSE DAYS WE ONLY HAD PROMISES TO OFFER THE FARM WORKER. TODAY MANY OF THOSE PROMISES ARE A BEAUTIFUL REALITY...THE BLACK DAYS ARE BEHIND US."



'Don't be a fool, Gilbert. The more you treat those people like animals, the easier it will be for you to handle them, and the harder they will work. And besides, why do you worry about them, when you are getting 10¢ an hour more than them.' That way of thinking made a big impression on me. I reached a decision. The next day I called my first strike. I got the workers and persuaded them to quit work and join the strike. But I didn't have the necessary experience to run a strike, and after a few days, the bosses threats had scared many workers into going back to work. As a consequence, we had to leave Los Banos. No one around there would give us a job, because we were considered agitators."

After so bitter an experience, Padilla left the fields and got a job in a laundry in Hanford. He went to school to learn all the things necessary to handle the business. Once again he seemed to be on the road to middle-class comforts and success, far

might arrive, and need my help in going to court or to fix some problem. The owner of the laundry let me take time off for these things. He was a very good man, and accepted my activities philosophically," says Padilla.

In those days, he and some of his friends formed the MEXICO club, which held meetings and reunions, but which lacked any real programs or goals. Finally, in 1956, Padilla met Cesar Chavez and joined the Community Service Organization, which was educating Mexican-Americans, teaching them their rights and how to fight for them. Padilla became one of the main leaders of the CSO. Cesar Chavez became the General Director. But when CSO split into two groups, groups and Cesar resigned, Padilla also left that organization. From then on, Padilla worked with Cesar to build the NFWA. In the next few years there were several small strikes. "Times have changed now," says Padilla, with satisfaction. "in those days we only had promises to offer to the farm worker. Today many of those promises are a beautiful reality. I am still as poor as I was when I started the struggle. But the days when we had nothing to eat but peanut butter sandwiches, and nowhere to sleep but the back of an old car, are behind us." Thus speaks Gilbert Padilla, Vice-President of the Farm Workers Association and one of the most valuable lieutenants of Cesar Chavez.

THE HOT LINE



While the Central Valley Teamsters, under super-scab Einar Mohn, are busy trying to break our strike, other Teamster groups are trying to help us. And in at least two places, the Teamsters have strikes of their own, trying to help workers. One strike is in Orange County, against a major flower nursery, Hines Nursery. Out of 155 workers, over 120 left on the first day of the strike. But the boss is a member of the notorious "Associated Farmers", a violent group similiar to the Ku Klux Klan, and famous for beatings and burnings of workers in the 30's. The grower is desparately fighting the strike. Workers at another nursery, Bordiers' Nursery, have also voted to join the strike unless the bosses sign a fair contract. Most of the workers at these nurseries are Chicanos.

And over near Soledad, in the Salinas Valley, 40 tomato pickers went on strike against the contractor-shipper, O.P. Murphy, at the Latesa Brothers Ranch. This strike is led and supported by the Teamsters.

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: We hope the workers win these strikes. We hope the Teamsters help the strikers, and don't sell them down the river like they did in Delano. We still hope that the Teamsters throughout the state will try to get Einer Mohn to call off his dogs and get out of Delano. If they exerted half the effort in Orange County on winning their own strike, as they have exerted in Delano in trying to bust our strike, every nursery in Southern Claifornia would bekorganized with a contract by now.

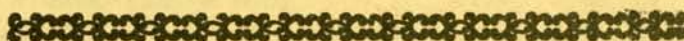


In sympathy: California pear growers are complaining that the big companies are robbing and cheating them, and are holding prices for pears down to a low level. The growers have sued Cal-Pak, California's biggest agricultural corporation, for \$500,000 because of the cheating. Other companies cheating the pear growers are Dole Corp., Hunt Foods, Libby McNeil and Libby, and Stokley Van Camp, according to the pear growers.

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: the poooooooooooooooooor pear growers. What t hey need is a good ur to make the canners pay them a better price. But instead they spend all their time fighting against the farm workers' union. When will they ever learn??



Members: Elmer Homer of Delano, on the kitchen staff at the union hall, had an operation in his leg last week and will be off duty for several days to recover.



Del ano's Stardust Motel is a busy place, indeed. Like, last Friday morning, for example, While Mr. Wallace (Top Teamster in Town) was enjoying a cup of coffee with the Tulare County Sheriff, three other cars of the Kern County Sheriffs Department were also parked outside. Was this a summit conference of the lawmen and the law-breakers?



BASTA!

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todos, estos pueblos de Delano, Fresno, Merced, y en todo el Sacramento, porque por todo este camino se ha sacrificado, ya por causa de la conciencia of the history of the farm workers. That our path is not the same.

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