

## A CONVERSATION WITH PEGGY MCGIVERN

ROBERTO A. BUSTOS / STRIKER 1965-1973

PEGGY MCGIVERN WAS OUR NURSE DURING THE STRIKE OF 1965. SHE ALSO WAS IN CHARGE OF OUR FIRST FARMWORKER CLINIC WITH A STAFF OF FOUR. SHE ALSO WAS THE NURSE IN CHARGE OF THE 1966 MARCH TO SACRAMENTO (PILGRIMAGE). PEGGY AND HER ASSISTANT HOPE LOPEZ TOOK CARE OF THE MEDICAL NEEDS OF THE MARCHERS. WE CONVERTED A STATION WAGON INTO A MEDICAL AMBULANCE AND IT WAS USED TO TREAT THE MARCHERS IF THEY GOT SICK OR HURT!

CESAR VISITED THE MEDICAL UNIT OFTEN TO BE TREATED FOR HIS SPRAINED ANKLE THAT HE GOT WHEN WE REACHED OUR SECOND TOWN (DUCOR) FOR THE NIGHT. SO PEGGY WOULD RUB THE ANKLE WITH ALCOHOL. SHE ALSO ATTENDED IN THE TREATMENT OF BLISTERS! BOY WERE THERE BLISTERS! EVERY DAY AND NIGHT SHE WOULD POP THEM AND MEDICATE THEM. IF IT WASN'T FOR PEGGY WHO KNOWS!

ONE NIGHT I WENT TO ASK HER HOW THINGS WERE GOING, SHE TOLD ME A STORY THAT AS OF THIS DATE I STILL REMEMBER AND SHARE WITH OTHERS. SHE SAID ROBERTO, I HAD A DREAM (NIGHTMARE) LAST NIGHT AND IT WAS ABOUT THIS BLISTER THAT I WAS TREATING AND THIS ONE WAS BIG "HUGE" THAT WHEN I POPPED IT, IT CAME AT ME LIKE A BIG WAVE OF AN OCEAN AND COVERED MY WHOLE BODY! IT WAS LIKE I WAS SWIMMING TO REACH THE TOP! WE STARTED LAUGHING, AND COULDN'T STOP! I WILL NEVER FORGET THIS ONE!

PEGGY, WHERE EVER YOU ARE, THANK YOU, AND GOD BLESS YOU!