

Corrido de Despedida para Sal Santos
por Alfredo Lopez, abril 13, 1972

Te fuíste hermano
Bueno te fuíste a
Descansar Dios quiera
Que en la gloria
Tu tengas un lugar.

Luchaste en éste mundo
Luchaste sin cesár
Por éso a Dios pedímos
Te dé el cielo y la páz.

Tu esposa y tus hermanos
Sentímos gran dolor
Al pensar que nos déjas
Siendo de nuestra unión.

Tu líder Cesár Chavez
Te siente mucho más
Porque es noble y sencillo
Y es bueno de verdad.

Descansa pues hermano
Descansa allá en la gloria
Nosotros lucharémos
Buscando la victoria.

En un carro asesino
Nos da la despedida
Te fuiste de este mundo
Cambiando a mejor vida.

Adios hermano bueno
Tu vas a descansar
Nosotros seguiremos
Con solidaridad.

A Farewell Ballad for Sal Santos
by Alfredo Lopez, April 13, 1972

You left, brother
Well, you left
To rest; God willing
That in glory
You'll have a resting place.

You fought in this world
Fought without ceasing
That is why we ask God
To give you heaven and repose.

Your wife and your brothers
Feel deep grief
As we consider that you leave us
Being someone from our union.

Your leader, Cesar Chavez
Feels your loss more deeply
Because he is noble and unassuming
And in truth, is good.

Rest then brother
Rest over there in glory
We will fight
Striving toward the victory.

In an assassin car
He gives us his farewell
You left from this world
Exchanging it for a better life.

Good-bye good brother
You are going to rest
We will continue
In solidarity.

Translated by Abby F. Rivera 03/06
(RIP good and gentle friend, Sal.)

Barbara here.

I was going through an old folder of miscellaneous music and came upon a

"corrido" written by Alfredo Lopez on April 13, 1972 in memory of Sal Santos.

You may already have posted this to the documentation project; however, if not:

Dear LeRoy,

What a stroke of good fortune that Barbara found a copy of the song and sent it to you. It was heartbreaking for me to do the translation for the song, but I am glad it was me doing it and not someone else. As I wrote in the Doc. Proj., I worked with Sal Santos in the Credit Union at 40 Acres. He used to give me rides to L.A. on weekends since he would go there anyway to visit his fiancée. I left the union and he went on to La Paz, married his fiancé and was as happy as could be having her with him. He was killed coming back from Bakersfield in his small VW one snowy day. Cesar never got over the fact that he had not allowed Sal and his wife to work together even though they had requested it. Add to that the fact that Helen told him that sometimes couples are inseparable because their time together will be short, (God's plan for them and somehow couples tend to have a great need to be together which they themselves cannot explain); well, it made Cesar extremely sad hearing it. He took Sal's death really hard for that reason. After that, Cesar allowed husbands and wives to work together if that is what they wanted. I recognize the name, Alfredo Lopez, but cannot place the face. Anyway, here is the translation. The lyrics had personal meaning to me and I hope I did them justice in the translating. I never knew the song existed. Amazing! Now to find the music.....

The writer certainly knew about how tiring it was working for the union!