"TEAMSTER RAIDS IN THE SALINAS AND SANTA MARIA VALLEYS REPRESENTED AN ACT OF TREASON AGAINST THE LEGITIMATE ASPIRATIONS OF FARM WORKERS." -CESAR CHAVEZ

UFWOC MOVES INTO SALINAS
SEE PAGES 3, 16
in gratitude

In any struggle, there is a multitude of unsung heroes. The Delano Grape Strike is no exception. Thousands of people of every walk of life set aside personal comfort and important plans. They plunged headlong into the economic battles that brought victory after victory to the farm workers' movement. Farm workers understand the disappointments and setbacks these people experienced. They understand what it means to be insulted and rejected. Therefore they are grateful to those who have borne insults on picket lines on their behalf. They understand what it means when people play games that deal with their destinies. Therefore they understand how boycott volunteers feel when a chain store executive or a produce manager goes back on a promise to a boycott committee.

The Delano strikers wish to thank everyone who has lent them a helping hand. They include in their thanks the millions of housewives who have passed up the scab grapes in the markets; the volunteers who spend long hours on picket lines, passing out leaflets, and arranging meetings with interested groups; the clergymen who clarified the grape boycott as a moral issue; and the many labor officials and rank-and-file members who contributed valuable time to the success of the boycott. The list of supporters goes on indefinitely.

In reality, the efforts of no one will be forgotten or go unrewarded. The visible effects of the boycott in terms of better wages, human dignity, better housing, better education, and a better future for farm workers are already in evidence. These are the direct results of the hard work and dedication which went into the international boycott of scab grapes. These are a living shrine built by those who believe in the brotherhood of man, and the non-violent means which alone can bring about lasting justice and peace in our land.

To their supporters, the striking farm workers of Delano say: THANK YOU. AND PLEASE CONTINUE YOUR SUPPORT. IT IS DESPERATELY NEEDED IN THE MANY STRUGGLES TO COME.

PHOTOS:
photos pages 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 11 by Cris Sanchez;
pages 8 and 13 by Jack Eisenberg;
page 10 by Bob Thurber.

COVER:
Farm workers march and rally, Salinas.
photos: upper left by Jon Lewis; upper right and bottom by Cris Sanchez.

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Teamster officials thought they had the Salinas and Santa Maria vegetable growers neatly sewed up in five-year sweetheart contracts. Using their traditional back door tactics to “organize” farm workers, the Teamsters figured that Chavez was still busied about the grape strike and boycott in the San Joaquin Valley. Much to their surprise, farm workers began marching on Salinas, and UFWOC mounted the most intensive organizing campaign since the DiGiorgio strike in 1966.

Four columns of farm workers, each with more than 1000 marchers in each line, converged on Salinas from the North, South, East and West. A rally was held on Sun-continued on page 4
SALINAS: TEAMSTERS

WORKERS IN THE SALINAS VALLEY SHOW CLEARLY THEIR UNION PREFERENCE. Above: SIGN READING "DOWN WITH THE TEAMSTERS" IS CARRIED IN THE SOLEDAD-TO-SALINAS MARCH. Below: A PAINTING OF FARM WORKER LEADER CESAR CHAVEZ IS PRESENTED AT THE RALLY IN SALINAS.

day, August 2nd at Hartnell College in Salinas climaxing the marches. Hundreds of farm workers waved the black eagle flags of the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee. Young Chicanos from MECHA and the Brown Berets proudly yelled "Chicano Power" and "Viva la Causa" from the back of a flatbed truck which served as a speakers' platform. A Mass was celebrated by Rev. David Duran, strikers' chaplain from Delano.

Strikers clapped and cheered as Cesar Chavez told them that UFWOC condemned the actions of the Teamsters. Chavez told his listeners that the Teamster raids in the Salinas and Santa Maria Valleys represented an act of treason against the legitimate aspirations of farm workers. "It is tragic," Chavez said, "that another labor union should join the conspiracy of Governor Reagan and the growers to deprive workers of the union they want."

Chavez warned the Teamsters with the following statement: "No longer can a couple of white men sign off the destinies of farm workers without expecting a lot of headaches in return."

"Farm workers deserve a union of their own choosing. They deserve a place in the sun. I now call upon all men of good will everywhere, in the churches, in labor, everywhere, to help us. We want our friends to stand up against this company union."
Chavez added that Herb Fleming, president of the Grower - Shipper Vegetable Association was part of the conspiracy. He also called upon Governor Reagan to encourage secret ballot elections, if he indeed believes in democracy.

The farm union leader added that UFWOC would soon begin an intensive drive against Fresh Pict, Vegetable Corporation, and InterHarvester, two large lettuce growers in Salinas. Fresh Pict is a division of Purex, and InterHarvester is a division of the United Fruit Company.

This makes the third time that Teamsters have made a major incursion into farm worker organizing. They also raided UFWOC membership at the DiGiorgio ranch, and again at the Perelli-Minetti ranch, both near Delano.

The Teamster contracts in Salinas and Santa Maria offer $1.85 at harvest time, and $1.75 at all other times. The new pacts will terminate after five years, and promise the workers only $2.33 and $2.21 an hour in the fifth year of the contract. There is a no-strike at harvest time clause. No hiring halls are permitted in the contract; instead, Teamsters will leave the responsibility of hiring to the labor contractors, who

continued on page 6
have proven to be enemies of the farm workers. Dues checkoff of $1.25 per week is included in the agreement. No paid vacations are offered. The Teamsters Union is the sole bargaining agent. Fleming told a special meeting of 200 growers in Salinas that UFWOC is only an organizing committee, not a bonafide trade union like the Teamsters. The Monterey County Sheriff was in attendance at the meeting, reminding growers to check their property lines in the event of a strike. "That way," he said, "they could tell if strikers were trespassing."

UFWOC organizers now conclude that lettuce and vegetable workers in the Salinas and Santa Maria Valleys are 100% for UFWOC and Cesar Chavez. Farm workers signed over 1000 UFWOC authorization cards at the Sunday afternoon rally alone. (Teamsters claim that they have the growers on their side, but are beginning to learn that it is helpful to organize workers, too, if you want to build a union.)

Meanwhile, workers in the Salinas and Santa Maria areas are reporting that Teamster organizers, farm labor contractors, and growers have been harassing and intimidating workers into signing with the Teamsters Union. They are threatening to blacklist workers, and telling them that something will happen to them and their families unless they sign. In some cases they are signing up the workers under false pretenses.

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: It seems that Teamsters have forgotten that to organize a union, you must go first to the workers, then to the employers. Sometimes short cuts can be disastrous.

LATEST REPORTS HAVE BEEN CONFIRMED THAT 400 WORKERS HAVE WALKED OFF THE JOB AT FRESH PICT PRODUCE RANCH, AND 1000 WORKERS HAVE ALSO WALKED OFF THE JOB, SHUTTING DOWN PICK N PACK FARMS, ALSO IN SALINAS. MEANWHILE, THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS FARM LABOR COMMITTEE IS SEEKING WAYS TO BRING ABOUT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE.
ELOISE AND GILBERT WED

Eloise Chavez, 18 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cesar Chavez, and Gilbert Hernandez Jr., 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Hernandez Sr., were married Saturday afternoon, August 8, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Delano, California.

Father Mark Day conducted the nuptial rites and Mass before several hundred guests. Later, the young couple greeted guests at a reception in Filipino Hall followed by a dance.

Eloise and Gilbert, now honeymooning in San Francisco where they will travel down the coast to San Diego, are planning their first home in Delano where Gilbert is employed at Dan’s Market.
The success of the Delano grape strike is attributable to the well-planned team work which involved thousands of organizers and millions of people throughout the United States, Canada, and Europe.

But within this mass of humanity there was always a core, an elite force of some two hundred original strikers that walked out of the vineyards in the early days of the strike. These people made a solid commitment to win the strike even if it took a lifetime. It was their example and dedication that won the hearts of millions and sparked the most successful boycott in the history of the American Labor Movement.

EL MALCRIADO spoke to a few of these people, and asked them to give some of their post-strike impressions. How was it to be on strike? What was it that contributed to the success of the Delano strike when so many other strikes failed? Have their lives been changed by the experience?

George Ebale, a 68 year old Filipino striker, plans to keep working for the union. George was one of the original members of the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee which struck the vineyards of Delano on September 8, 1965. George has since been in charge of the strikers’ food bank and custodian of Filipino Hall, which has served as the meeting place and kitchen for the strikers since the strike began.

George did not think the strike would be over so soon. “We have so many enemies,” he said with a smile, fingering the stub of a cigar. “And there are so many growers around here. There are about 80. So far, only 26 have signed.”

George worked for Anton Caratan & Sons, before the strike began. “I told George Caratan, his son, that the big strike was coming. He told me: ‘I don’t care about the big strike. Let it come! If you workers leave, I’ll fill up my camps with other men in 24 hours.’”

“We went out on strike on September 8th. We stayed in the camps until the growers closed off the water, the lights, and the gas. We had to cook outside because they closed all the rooms and put security guards on the camps. In the first months of the strike we had hardly any food at all. All we ate was boiled cabbage, rice, beans, and sandwiches.”

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The Delano strikers have a lot more to say. EL MALCRIADO will be telling their story, and will keep its readers in touch with their struggles to come.
THE LAMONT HIRING HALL IS NOW ACTIVELY SERVING THE FARM WORKER COMMUNITY, PLACING WORKERS IN UNION FIELDS SINCE THE GRAPE HARVEST STARTED LAST MONTH. APPROXIMATELY 4000 WORKERS HAVE BEEN DISPATCHED TO WORK AT RANCHES INCLUDING KOVACEVICH, GAGOSIAN, NALBANDIAN, S.A. CAMP, SABOVICH, BARLOW, ROBERTS, AND OTHER LOCAL GROWERS.

Not far from Lamont, California, stands an old forgotten square shaped building in the middle of a barren field. On the front face of the building, above the double doors, is printed: Farm Workers Union, Local # 218, AFL.

This old building, with its peeled plasterboard walls and naked beams, is a haunting reminder to the valley of the brutal injustices suffered by farm workers before their union during the depression. Bertha Rankin, a local grower at the time of the Dust Bowl migration into the valley, sympathized with the farm worker and his plight and built the union hall for them.

Glassless windows stare blindly at the surrounding field, and cobwebs hang where farm workers' shouts for a decent living once echoed. Brave but scared -- for their family's sake -- union leaders rapped and bullied, trying to break valley land barons from controlling and dictating the fate of classless farm workers.

Men like Steinbeck's ("Grapes of Wrath") Tom Joad and Jim Casy met in the Lamont union hall and charged growers with shameless tyranny and tried to rally other farm workers in their only defense against the growers...strike. These first unionizing efforts were bloodily goaded by the subhuman living conditions - no running water, or electricity, or bathroom facilities - and animal-like treatment - police and grower harassment, false job contracting - the farm worker was forced to endure, at times, for a loaf of bread, by the grower.

This union movement, one of many springing from the valley, protested such grower tactics as over-advertising for workers. Growers would print, for example, 5,000 handbills announcing work when only 1,000 workers were needed for picking. As a result, five times as many workers appeared for work, allowing the grower to cut down his offered wage to the starving farm workers who'd work for a minimal wage (2 1/2 cents a box) since the supply of workers exceeded the work. Filthy migrant camps and company stores crediting overpriced products to underpaid workers duped the farm worker into a serf status to the grower.
Although the early unionizing efforts failed, the United Farm Workers Organizing Committee continued the union struggle, thus lessening the land baron's power. The farm worker is now recognized as an individual able to control his own fate which previously was denied him.

The Arvin - Lamont area, site of Steinbeck's historical novel, now centers union activity at the UFWOC hiring hall. The farm worker comes in, registers for work, and is placed on a waiting list, (either under the ranch he was working for when he was signed up in the field by the union, where he has most seniority, or ranch preference).

According to union contract, the grower calls the hiring hall three days before the harvest notifying the hall how many workers he'll need. The hiring hall selects potential workers, according to seniority, for work. The workers are then contacted and are told to come to the hiring hall for work dispatch cards.

This process is alien to pre-union days when growers would call five times more workers than needed for harvest to slash the wage rate, via the Grapes of Wrath.

An afterbirth of the Grapes of Wrath and the farm labor union movement, the hiring hall doesn't attempt to wipe out past memories of farm labor injustices because some things shouldn't be forgotten but humanistically bettered. However, the hiring hall is a social instrument enabling the farm worker to determine his destiny by his sweat and labor, and not an ancient grower's whim.

Jessie Wilkins, a lifetime farm worker originally from Mississippi, was first on the seniority list at S.A. Camp when the grape harvest started last month.

When unionized DiGiorgio Corporation sold its land to S.A. Camp two years ago, the UFWOC-DiGiorgio contract was invalidated. At that time Wilkins was working at another ranch. He said that when DiGiorgio sold out to Camp he felt that all the union's efforts to sign Camp were useless because of S.A. Camp's anti-union stand.

Now, Wilkins is "willing to go back to work" for S.A. Camp since a new union contract was signed because of the increased wages and better treatment of the workers.
Huelga women and the boycott

FROM THE
FIELDS
TO THE
PICKET LINE

With 300 boycott centers stretching across the United States and reaching as far as Canada, Europe and Hong Kong, the grape boycott has been the major factor in the success of United Farm Workers Organizing Committee's grape strike. Activities such as organizing, picketing stores carrying scab grapes, handing out union literature, convincing and influencing people (and consumer power) in favor of the boycott, preventing trucks from unloading hot grapes at various markets have definitely curbed the economic power of non-union farmers.

Approximately 200 persons are on the grape boycott; of this total about half are women. Past labor movements have disregarded the woman's role in union organizing. But UFWOC's realization that women are excellent organizers has been instrumental in the union's successful grape strike and economic boycott.

JESSICA GOVEA

Heading the Montreal and Quebec boycott, for example, is 23 year old Jessica Govea. Citing several reasons why she joined the union four years ago, Jessica said, "I did farm work, and I went to schools where children's futures were determined not by their intelligence but by the color of their skin and the size of their parents' pocketbooks. I hated the way we were made to exist by the present power without knowing what to do about it."

When she first arrived on the Montreal boycott two years ago, Jessica's two biggest obstacles were (1) not speaking French in a 75% French-speaking city, and (2) being the sole boycotter in the fourth largest grape eating city in the world.

"It has been difficult to come..."
"I belong to the thousands of people who are struggling to be free... farm workers, native Indians, blacks, Vietnamese."

--JESSICA GOVEA

Jessica’s boycott experiences haven’t changed her general outlook on life. However, she feels she’s grown and become a better person because “our movement has grown and become a stronger and more determined movement.”

“I no longer belong to myself but to the thousands of people who are struggling to be free... farm workers, native Indians, blacks, Vietnamese. They are proud and they are brave, and I am happy that I am a part of them,” she explained.

CAROLINA VASQUEZ

A five year veteran striker who’s working on the Connecticut boycott, 26 year-old Carolina Vasquez and her husband Manuel have spent their married life as boycott organizers. She and Manuel first met when the union was being

"The only way to convince the public is by saying the truth."

--CAROLINA VASQUEZ
formed in Delano. Later they were both sent on the Connecticut boycott where they were married in Hartford. They have no children.

Although Carolina and her husband are organizing together, Carolina feels that, like many other young wives, she'd like the security of a permanent home, and often dreams of a "real home at all times."

However, when Schenley signed a union contract, Carolina stated boycott tactics used in different areas, Carolina reasoned. "We haven't had to picket in Bridgeport (Conn.) since most of this area carries only union grapes. However, everyone organizes in their own way to convince the public. The only way to convince the public is by saying the truth about child labor laws, pesticides, and many other things."

Carolina feels the boycott has personally educated her by improving her English (speaking before the public and media), and knowing how people live in the large cities. Also, she now realizes that "education is important, and I have a lot to learn," she concludes.

PEGGY McGIVERN

A boycott organizer from the summer of 1968 till early this year, nurse Peggy McGivern (another 5 year veteran), was the only organizer in upper New York state for seven months.

What disadvantages does a single woman organizer face in a labor field long dominated by men?

"The fact that I was a woman, and an Anglo, and a nurse were disadvantages. Labor unions and men in general had problems accepting a woman organizer. People didn't understand why a nurse was organizing, and persons in the barrios and ghettos didn't know why an Anglo was organizing," she soon discovered on the boycott.

Peggy believes the boycott's nonviolent philosophy helped the country because "persons in our society aren't geared to sitting down together to solve a problem. Persons who have been out on the boycott for two years or more have made a tremendous contribution to the educational process in our country."

Now working in the Coachella union office, Peggy feels her personal attitudes haven't changed since she's been in the union. Rather, she emphasized, the farm worker's movement "only enhances ideas and concepts which I believe. Chardin, the French theologian, explains to us how our participation in this movement fits into a much greater plan and movement. Christ tells us to go out among strangers."
and rice. Over 700 Filipinos went on strike. But there was not enough support for them to stay out on strike. Many had to go back to work, and many more left the area to look for work elsewhere.

Looking back on the five years of struggle, George expressed himself very bluntly. "My opinion," the grey-haired man stated, "is that when you start a job, you have to finish it, no matter what happens."

up everyone's spirits," he said. "With the march came the victorious news that Schenley was ready to sign a contract with us. That was it. That was our first big step. We knew we were in."

In the summer of 1968, Bustos went to Kansas City with his wife, Lupe, and three children to work on the grape boycott. "There was a lot of opposition there," he stated. "The people just didn't understand what we were up against in California. A lot of them just didn't care, but we did get a lot of support. The toughest opposition came from the Birchers and the Right-to-Work Committee people."

The young organizer is positive it was the boycott that brought the growers to the table. "Everyone played an important role in the boycott," he emphasized. "We are all grateful for the leadership and organizing skills of Cesar Chavez. He taught us how to organize. He taught us how to conduct ourselves non-violently. He gave us a lot of new programs for our families, too -- medical insurance, death benefits, a clinic. I think these things made our union different. Many things contributed to the success of the movement and its popularity among the workers."

said. "Henry was fired from both the Lucas and the Pagliarulo ranches, since they knew we were in favor of the union. The farmers had seen our pictures in EL MALCRIADO and they wouldn't hire us. Mr. Caratan, another rancher, told my dad; 'Your wife can come and work here, but Ofelia can't.'"

"We just couldn't get work anywhere, and we had to eventually re-finance our house," Henry added. "When I finally got a job, I was fired again. The rancher said that the other growers were calling him day and night, telling him I was a striker, and that he should let me go." Diaz also told EL MALCRIADO that he lost some lifetime friends because of his strong feelings in favor of the strike. "But I didn't care. If they were against the union, I didn't need their friendship."

The Diaz said that most of the workers were in favor of Cesar Chavez and his union. They come up to us and say: 'Why didn't we ever help the union before?'

EL MALCRIADO offers its condolences to Maria Robles a union volunteer working in the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Fund Department, over the loss of her brother and nephew, Gilberto Sr., 37, and his son, Rudy, 14, in a drowning accident August 3 at Tule River. The tragedy occurred when Rudy, fishing with his father, a brother, Rocky, 11, and a cousin, Raymond Castro, 11, attempted to swim. He is a non-swimmer. Robles went in to help his son but both were swept away by the strong river current. Another fisherman hearing their cries for help, made a futile rescue attempt.

Survivors include Robles' wife, Gracela, and children Xavier, Ricardo, Gilberto Jr., Isabelle, Sonia, and Gloria. Robles was a group co-ordinator for Self-Help Enterprises in Visalia.
UFWOC-TEAMSTER DISPUTE ENDS

At a press conference in Salinas on August 12th, chaired by Monsignor George Higgins and Roger Mahoney of the Bishops Farm Labor Committee, it was announced that UFWOC and the Teamsters Union had arrived at a mutual agreement regarding their jurisdictional dispute in California. Teamsters headed by their west coast director of organization, William Grammi, agreed not to raid UFWOC's jurisdiction over field workers. According to Grammi, Teamsters will stick to creameries, canneries, frozen food processing plants, warehouses, dehydrators, dryers and storage shed workers except those which are directly related to field work.

On August 12th, workers on the three struck ranches, (including Oshta Foods of Soledad) agreed to go back to work. They plan to strike again, however, if UFWOC is not recognized as the sole bargaining agent for the growers in the Salinas Valley.

Meanwhile, UFWOC director, Cesar Chavez, continues on a spiritual fast since many problems remain unresolved in the Salinas area.

EL MALCRIADO SAYS: At this critical time in the organization of farm workers, cooperation is desperately needed from all sections of the labor movement. We hope that the August 12th agreement will be respected, so that farm workers will enjoy the benefits of the union which truly has their interests in mind.

FRESNO GROWERS GET BLACK EAGLE-SEAL OF APPROVAL

Contracts with table grape growers are continuing to pour in, as the grape harvest moves north through Tulare and Fresno counties.

Twenty-three more growers have signed with UFWOC in recent weeks. Those who signed prior to August 6th were: the D'Arrigo Brothers of California, the Triboro Fruit Co., Coachella and Fresno Packing Company. Others in the group were Dennis Rietz, Edna Riets & Culotta, Edna C. Germer, John Ygaste, and the Chris Sorenson Company.

The wage is $1.75 an hour plus 25¢ a box. In 1971 the wage is $1.90 plus 25¢ a box and by 1972 the wage is a $2.00 minimum plus 25¢ a box.