

El Malcriado

"The Voice of the Farm Worker"

10¢
No. 18



English Edition

EDITORIAL: DIGNITY OF THE FARM WORKER

FOR NEARLY ALL PEOPLE THERE IS A THING THAT IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN MONEY. IT IS A THING CALLED DIGNITY OR SELF-RESPECT OR HONOR, AND IT SHOWS ITSELF IN MANY WAYS. SOMETIMES IT IS SHOWN BY THE MAN WHO WILL FIGHT WHEN HE IS INSULTED.

WE WHO ARE FARM WORKERS HAVE ALL BEEN INSULTED. WE HAVE SEEN OURSELVES TREATED LIKE CATTLE, WE HAVE SEEN HOW THEY HAVE TAKEN THE WORK OF OUR HANDS AND BODIES AND MADE THEMSELVES RICH, WHILE WE ARE LEFT WITH EMPTY HANDS BETWEEN THE EARTH AND THE SKY.

WE HAVE SEEN OUR CHILDREN TREATED AS INFERIORS IN THE SCHOOLS. WE HAVE SEEN IN THE FACE OF THE COP OUR INEQUALITY BEFORE THE LAW. WE HAVE KNOWN WHAT IT IS LIKE TO BE LESS RESPECTED, TO BE UNWANTED, TO LIVE IN A WORLD WHICH DID NOT BELONG TO US.

OUR COLOR OR OUR LANGUAGE OR OUR JOB HAVE KEPT US APART. AND THE PEOPLE WHO ARE PROFITING FROM OUR SEPARATENESS ARE DETERMINED TO KEEP IT THAT WAY. IT IS A FACT THAT IN SAN FRANCISCO THE GROWERS ASSOCIATIONS KEEP AN OFFICE FULL OF PEOPLE BUSY WRITING PROPAGANDA ABOUT HOW FARM WORKERS ARE ALL WINOS, BUMS, INCOMPETENTS. THERE IS MONEY IN THE ADVANCEMENT OF THESE LIES.

WE WHO ARE PICKING THE GRAPES AND THE PEACHES AND THE TOMATOES WHICH ARE THE LIFE-BLOOD OF CALIFORNIA ARE SOON GOING TO SHARE IN THE RICHNESS WE HAVE MADE. THE LITTLE FIGHTS AGAINST THE LITTLE GROWER AND CONTRACTOR THAT YOU READ ABOUT TODAY ARE ONLY THE BEGINNING. THE DIGNITY OF THE FARM WORKER SHOWS ITSELF IN MANY WAYS.

THIS YEAR AND IN THE YEARS TO COME, IT WILL BE SHOWN BY THE MAN WHO WILL FIGHT WHEN HE IS INSULTED.



THE COVER: While the artist, Elizabeth Catlett, paints in the manner of the Mexican Graphic Art we use in El Malcriado, she is not a Mexican. She is a negro, born in Washington, D. C., and communicates through her art the dignity of all oppressed people.

Tomatoes

"The Rotting Ones"

WE'RE TELLING THE GOVERNMENT THERE'S NO LOCAL LABOR THAT IS ANY GOOD. I THINK THEY'RE BEGINNING TO BELIEVE IT.

-AND THE LOCAL LABOR IS EASY TO GET RID OF. ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS KEEP THEM WAITING TWO HOURS FOR THEIR PAY. THEY WON'T SHOW UP THE NEXT DAY.

-IF THAT DOESN'T WORK, DID YOU EVER TRY TO WORK IN A FLOODED ROW



Three weeks of lies by tomato growers have made the federal government give in and let them have 8000 braceros. Individual growers and associations have used every trick in the book to convince the government that local people will not do the work. In this program of lies and fraud, they have the full cooperation of the Department of Employment.

For example, at the Fresno Farm Labor Office, the president of the Farm Workers Credit Union, Julio Hernandez of Corcoran, was rudely turned away when he went to offer the help of himself and his family to pick the tomatoes. "You will not be able to live with your family in the housing," he was told by the official there. "All the women will be together and all the men will be separate. You cannot even see each other at night."



Sen. Murphy

The growers are making these conditions deliberately in order to be able to cry to the federal government for braceros. U. S. Senator George Murphy, a stooge for the growers, has added his voice to the cries of the tomato growers. The Fresno Bee

Continued on Page 4

Tomatoes

(Continued from page 3)

STRAW BOSS

Here is another example of the lies of the "sobbing tomato growers." Last week they said that local workers are unwilling and unable to pick tomatoes. On the same day comes this report from Fresno:

"At 4:15 I woke my sons and drove them to the Farm Labor Office to get a bus for Coit Ranch in Mendota. They arrived at the field at 7 a. m. but were not permitted to begin picking until 9 a. m."

"There was no water or toilets. The workers were unprepared for the company's disregard for the value of their time. Work was halted at 3 p. m. but the workers were not paid until 5:15 p. m. Growers are crying for braceros and have the gall to criticize local workers."

"After the workers were on the bus they were told there was no guarantee of \$1.40 per hour. My sons can consider this a lesson but what about the others in the bus who earn their living this way and earned little more than the boys? (\$3 each)."

The cooperation of the Department of Employment with this fraud is a public scandal which El Malcriado will continue to expose until Director Albert Tieburg is fired and the Farm Labor Offices are turned over to the Association to be operated as hiring halls.



Mr. Tieburg

In exchange for a few dollars and the chance to drive the boss' pickup, some farm workers will sell their soul to the devil. Sometimes all that is necessary is a five dollar bill to make one of these men forget that they had ever been a worker.

This is nothing new. The straw boss has been with us for a long time. Once he was one of us, a poor farm worker like us. Since then, maybe because he thought he was a little better than us, he sold out at the first chance.

All they have to do is give him charge of the watercan and even his way of walking will change. Now one can see that he thinks he is better than us. This is what he wants.

Little by little, he changes. All you can see is his clipboard or his expensive hat. If you spoke with this person, you would think he was a rancher or at least a contractor.

In spite of this, some of these Coyotes appear to have a good heart. It is possible that a little part of their heart is still with the people. But the biggest part of their heart is with their fat wallet. The best of this class of people would sell their own mother.

The straw boss has traded his identity with the people for the power and the pride which comes with being on the side of the rich ones. Some of them want to have both.

But it is not possible. You are either with the working people, or against them.

DON SOTACO STORY

SCIENCE MARCHES ON

Don Sotaco with his wife Doña Remedios were walking through the property of the University in Davis, California where they were visiting their relatives. In front of a large building marked "School of Agriculture", a little bald man came running up to them, squealing with delight.

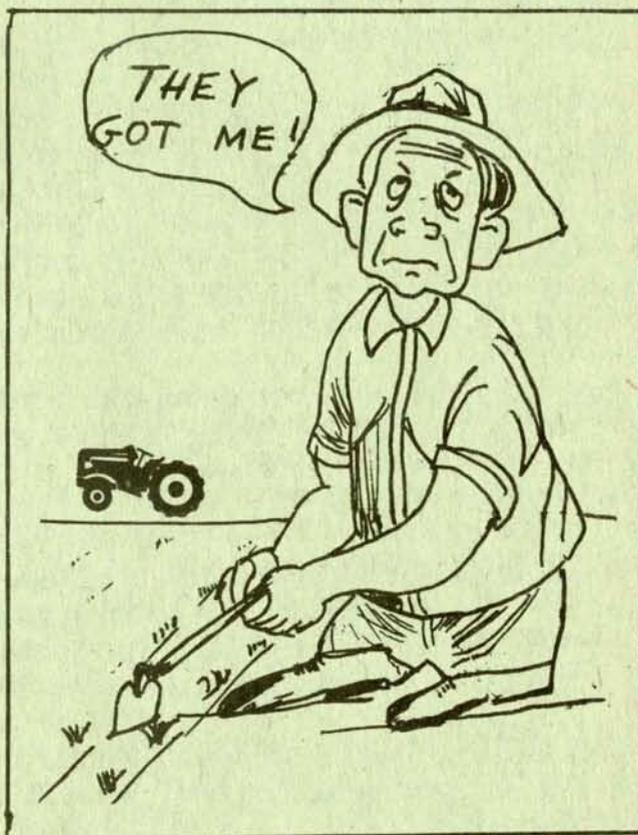
--"How wonderful it is to see a real live farm worker" he said, walking around and around them. "Please come in and see our laboratory. We have been working here for years on the 'Farm Worker of the Future' project. Let me show it to you!"

Sotaco, somewhat frightened at this dancing little madman, hesitated, but finally he said, "OK, we don't have anything else to do right now."

The little professor, Dr. Thorn, ran on ahead of Sotaco and his wife, gesturing wildly. "Look! Look at this, he said, pointing to a little garden of Milo-Maize next to the building. We know that you farm workers don't make much money, so we are experimenting with special low-cost foods".

They entered the big dark building. Next door they could hear the workmen hammering together the latest tomato picking machine for the growers, financed by the taxpayers' money. Professor Thorn kicked at a sack of the chickenfeed in the corner, then rolled his eyes and wrung his hands. "We know how hard it is for you in winter" he said. "Wouldn't it be wonderful if you could have a few sacks of this to feed your family during the hard months? This winter, when the wages are low and your cupboard is empty, they will sell this product--formerly chickenfeed--in all the grocery stores for only \$1 a sack, in vanilla and strawberry flavor. Isn't it wonderful? We have solved the problem of the underpaid farm worker."

Sotaco looked at his wife and mumbled to her, "I can't believe my ears. This idiot ought to be locked up."



Don Sotaco

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

The mad doctor opened a large heavy door to a room full of crying babies, like a hospital. The doctor leaned over to Sotaco's wife Remedios and said in a low voice, "We call this 'Room X'. The growers association just gave us five million dollars for this project which they took from the general tax fund. Here we are trying to develop new methods to fit the changing times."

--"For example" he continued, "the babies in this section here have been given medicine which will make their fingers grow unnaturally long and be fast-working". His voice got louder: "Right in this room we have the fruit pickers of the future!" And he gave a long and hollow laugh.

The mad professor Thorn moved to a new area of the big room and his voice became serious. "For a long time the problem of stoop labor gave us much trouble and then we found a way to change the growth of this batch of babies. Even when fully grown they will be only three feet tall, just right for the short handled hoe. And think of how this will save our friend the farmer so much trouble! He will be able to haul two hundred of these creatures to work in a single truckload! Isn't it wonderful?"

--"But we have many more plans which will keep California green. We are giving some children here a special vitamin preparation, because we cant them to pick the dates next year. It's a race against time, but they are already 27 feet tall."

The mad professor had come to his office. He sat down behind a big desk and said, "Now Sotaco, I come to the point of this whole tour through our wonderful "Future Farm Worker" project. I want you to go back to the valley and tell your friend Cesar Chavez something for me."

--"Tell him that he can stop his fight for better wages. Tomorrow's farm worker won't need better wages. We will be able to keep him alive on less than 12¢ a day."

"We of the University are getting help from the growers and the Department of Employment", the Doctor said, giving a wild stare. "We will soon have workers that will work for almost nothing, and your Association of Farm Workers can close its doors. Education and research are such a great help to mankind," he added.

Sotaco spoke up for the first time. He got out of his chair, grabbed his wife and said to her, "My God, let's get out of here before it's too late!"

--"Viva La Causa" he said, turning to the professor and spitting in his face. Then, with his fat wife trailing behind him, he fled.



CRIMINAL COMPLAINT AGAINST RANCHER

BUTTONWILLOW - After six weeks of delay, the judge in Buttonwillow issued a criminal complaint against Bud Buerkle, rancher, charging that Buerkle struck 5 year old Ramiro Villareal.

The judge stalled them for one and one-half hours, using excuses like "he could not remember Mr. Buerkle's name" and used other means to make filing difficult. Because of this, the Association feels that there is a question whether the case can get a fair trial in the Buttonwillow district and may request a change of location. Also there is gossip that the judge is book-keeper for the rancher.

Association Representative Dolores Huerta went to Buttonwillow to assist the Villareal family in filing the complaint. After receiving a letter from the Association (printed in the last El Malcriado) the Sheriff sent two officers to investigate. Mr. & Mrs. Villareal were asked to come in to sign the complaint.

Now Mr. Buerkle, who is charged with beating the child without cause early in July has two charges against him, a civil and a criminal charge.

LAW FORCES CONTRACTORS

All workers are reminded of the new law against labor contractors. The law provides that all contractors give a written statement showing how much money they are making.

If this statement is not available, they are breaking the law and can be fined. If you know of a contractor whose profits are not public information, come to the Association and we will help you in your case against him.



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DELANO, CALIFORNIA

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RENT STRIKE: PRESSURE FORCES COMMISSION TO TALK TO TENANTS

VISALIA - County Health and Building officials told the Authority at Linnell and Woodville this week "the camps are condemned and we may force you to close them." The Authority under Ferris Sherman does not want to lose this easy source of high income, so they will have to make a deal with the Health officials.

Pressure from all over California has forced Sherman and his Authority to sit down at a table with the rent strikers. Two men from the state government were there to keep the two sides from fighting each other.

Sherman, who was afraid of saying the wrong thing, now that the whole state is against him, had his lawyer do all his talking.

The lawyer said that the Authority is not sure they will be able to continue to operate the camps since the Health Department ordered them torn down. They said they would not talk about lowering the rent until meeting with the Health and Building officials.

Sherman, who lives in Visalia, has a house worth about \$20,000 with running water, toilets, a cooler and heater and insulated walls, all of which are lacking in the tin shacks of the camps. It is likely that his car has a better shelter than any of the tenants at the camps. He earns a large salary as director of the Authority. All the Authority's money comes from taxes and rents from the camps.

History of the Camps

Linnell and Woodville camps were built in 1938 by the Federal Government, under Pres. Franklin Roosevelt. They were operated by the U. S. Government for ten years, at first providing free housing for farm workers. Later a monthly rent of \$2.00 was charged for the tin shacks.

The 400 shacks, which had been built for \$100 each as "temporary housing" were leased to a Growers Association in 1948 for a total sum of \$1 for the whole camp. The growers, in power for two years, charged rents as high as \$5.00 a week for each tin shelter.

In 1950 the Federal Government gave both camps to



THE PEOPLE'S HOUSES
They were built for \$100 each in the 1930's



SHERMAN'S HOUSE
Director's Visalia Home is Worth \$20,000

the Tulare County Housing Authority for nothing. Immediately a schedule of high rents went into effect and the Authority started piling up the profits.

Strikers Demand:

The National Farm Workers Association has demanded that both camps be immediately turned over to a cooperative management controlled by the residents and by the Association, and that the Tulare County Housing Authority be stripped of all its powers.

The rent strikers are also demanding that the rents be lowered to the May 1965 level of \$18 per month. They have not paid any rent since the rents were raised and have promised the Housing Authority and Mr. Sherman that not one cent will be paid until their demands are met.

Investigation

The dispute has become a statewide issue. Assemblyman Mervyn M. Dymally said his government

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committee will hold an investigation and hearings next month on the trouble. Dymally said "I have been in close touch with a group of poor people in Tulare County and I am deeply disturbed about conditions at the Linnell and Woodville farm labor camps which have led to a rent strike protest by the tenants of these camps."

"The fact that this Authority raised the rents for these tin shack homes of the poorest people in our abundantly rich Valley, with a surplus in the bank of more than \$130,000 raises real questions."

Dymally's government committee, which is famous for its investigation of the Welfare Department Slave Labor Corps in Oakland last year, will "find ways to make the Authority responsive to the needs of the people. Conditions such as those at the camps must be changed."

At the same time county inspectors found 51 violations of the building and health laws, ordered corrections, and threatened to close the camps and tear them down.

When reporters asked Sherman about all these things, he refused to say anything, except, "We know the camps are bad."

Assemblyman Gordon Duffy from Hanford got his finger in the pie by also asking for an investigation. "I am sure everyone would welcome such a study," he said.

Everyone welcomes it except the Housing Authority which continues to refuse to make statements to the newspapers as the strikers begin to win the long fight.

After two months of non-payments of rent, the strikers went on a six-mile long march to Visalia last month to dramatize their protest. They have put the Housing Authority in such an embarrassing position that the camps may be taken away from their control. The strike has uncovered so much mismanagement, lies and foolishness by Sherman and his Authority, that now there is no choice but to demand that the camps be either closed or given to the residents to operate cooperatively.

Association Threatens Bigger Strike Against Martin Ranch

The strike by the Farm Workers Association against Martin Ranch between Earlimart and Poplar, Calif., entered its fifth week.

Cesar Chavez, director of the Association, threatened Charles Martin, owner of the 10 million dollar ranch with strike action against the huge Rancho Blanco in Woodlake.

"If you want to continue to fight dirty by bringing in strikebreakers," Chavez said, "We have no choice but to extend and strengthen our strike by staging walkouts in your Woodlake vineyards."

Martin, who has always paid lower wages than any grower in Tulare County, made no comment.

The Association led a successful walk-out of 60 workers in the leaf-pulling in the Earlimart area vineyard five weeks ago. "The action against this slave-driver has been highly successful" said Gilbert Padilla, another Association leader whose attacks on Martin have slowed work in his vineyards.

Workers in the Visalia area have been alerted to stay away from Martin's Ranch on Road 184 south of Poplar, scene of the strike. Strikebreakers entering the field are condemned by loyal farm workers all over the Valley.

Martin has never raised wages on his

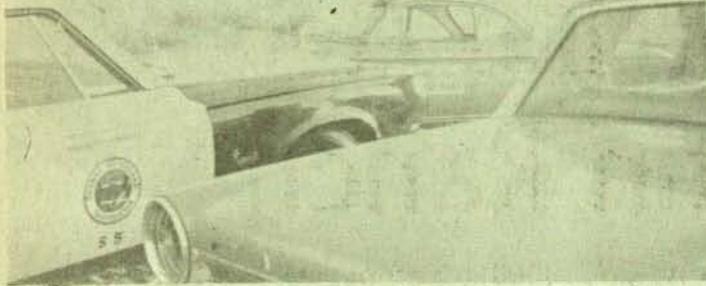
3000 acre operation except in response to strikes by workers in his vineyards and orchards. He paid 70¢ an hour to his workers until a strike threat forced him to raise to 90¢ in 1951. At this time he fought bitterly against workers trying to shorten the 12 hour day. He lost.

In 1959 Martin fought against workers trying to raise wages from 90¢ to \$1.10 and again he lost.

In the Association strike against Martin Ranch, various insects have been hanging around the vineyard in an attempt to threaten workers. Two of these are Charles Gwen and Walt Farney of the Tulare Farmers Association. They make their living by telling farmers that they can protect them from strikes. As the Farm Workers Association grows stronger every day, these men will have a harder and harder time earning a living.

Once again, as in 1951 and 1959, Martin finds himself losing. "The bigger they are, the harder they fall".





'Insect'

Walt Farney of Tulare Farmers Association is unable to hide before El Malcriado takes his picture. He referred to the striking workers as KOOKS. The Sheriff, whose car is shown here, was frightened away by the camera.

What The People Are Thinking

Dear Editor:

This morning I learned that a group of strike-breakers was breaking the strike on the Martin Ranch near Earlimart. What shame I felt when I found out they were Mexicans--and even more, when I learned that they were from here in my own town of Visalia!

I assure you that I would die a thousand times before betraying my fellow farm workers. I hope that Valdivia repents of the evil he is doing before he is drowned by his conscience.

I pledge my full cooperation to all the strikers.

VIVA LA CAUSA
Pedro Flores Guia
Barrio de Crowley
Visalia, California

Dear Editor:

I am one of the strikers at the Martin Ranch. I haven't been working for six weeks because I've been fighting against the slave wages they pay there. I and more than 70 other workers--both men and women--went out on strike. Now I see that a bunch of miserable strike-breakers

are working in my place. If it hadn't been for them, we would have won this strike by now. I'll curse those miserable strike-breakers forever.

Carry on with the Cause
A Member who is striking
for justice... JGR

Dear Editor:

Please publish this letter in El Malcriado. All the strike-breakers who sell themselves ought to be able to figure out that they are the only ones responsible for what happens in this strike. I would rather die of hunger than be a strike-breaker. The strikers are fighting for \$1.40 an hour. The strike-breakers are interfering in order to break the strike for a miserable \$1.25. This plague of strike-breakers is really stupid.

VIVA LA CAUSA
Juan Chacon Garcia
Porterville



Mrs. Angie Rodriguez of Delano is pictured above with the Teflon frying pan she won for selling 5 subscriptions to El Malcriado.

Each person that sells subscriptions to El Malcriado at \$2.00 for one year may win these prizes:

- 3 subscriptions: giant -size flashlight.
- 5 subscriptions: Teflon frying pan, or copper colored oil lamp.
- 10 subscriptions: pocket transistor radio.
- 20 subscriptions: automatic deluxe coffee maker.
- 30 subscriptions: man's or woman's Timex watch.

You can sell subscriptions to your family, friends and neighbors to receive El Malcriado by mail for one year for only \$2.00.



The Roots of

(Translated and Reprinted from
EL MALCRIADO #12)

Why do some men live in fear from the moment they are born until the moment they die? For a single reason: **IGNORANCE.** Ignorance of the rights which the Constitution gives them. A man is ignorant because when he was a child little attention was paid to his education, converting him into a man who lives out his life in fear.

There is an old American saying which goes. "A MAN ACCUMULATES ALL THE MISTAKES OF HIS LIFE. AND THUS THERE IS FORMED A MONSTER WHICH HE LATER CALLS DESTINY." So many people say, God made this my destiny, "when in reality they brought on their troubles themselves.

On the other hand, there is another type of man. How does a man who is not ignorant act? This man is brave and does what he knows to be right, because he is educated and knows all the rights and guarantees which the Constitution of his country gives him for his protection.

But the ignorant man lives in the darkness of fear, and his rights are violated constantly because he does not know how to defend himself. As a result, such a man is a member of the poorest social class of all. Constantly we hear such men saying such



Cowardice

things as the following: "That the boss can't raise the wages, and we should not ask for more money because he'll run us off. We'd better work Sunday, because if we don't we won't be able to work Monday. We'd better not start a strike, or even talk about it, because it's against the law."

And a lot of similar nonsense which is due to one thing and one thing only: **IGNORANCE.**

If you are such a person, it is about time that you informed yourself of your rights under the Constitution for your own protection. Here are a few examples of what the Constitution has to say for your benefit.

***Congress shall pass no law preventing a person from seeking help when he has been badly treated.

***Congress shall pass no law preventing a person from saying or writing what he thinks.

***Congress shall pass no law forcing a person to work for someone if he does not wish to do so.

***All persons under the jurisdiction of the United States shall be treated as equals.

So it is, my friend. Arm yourself with courage and defend yourself under the law that protects you. And educate your children so that they will not have to suffer from the monster of mistakes that is formed by ignorance.



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 894
DELANO, CALIF.

El Malcriado apologizes for a very bad photograph of Kingsburg in the last issue. Nobody won.



ASSOCIATION WINS ANOTHER VICTORY IN CORCORAN

In the continuing campaign to wipe out the Labor Contractors, the Association has scored another victory. Two weeks ago Lupe Martinez, contractor from Corcoran, was taken to the court of the Labor Commissioner by the Association on behalf of the Donacio Alafa family of Linnell Camp.

The charge against him was failing to

get the workers receipts with their pay for the work in sugar beets. After the charges were filed Martinez went to the Alafa family to try to get the receipts, required by law, but it was too late.

The Labor Commissioner, John Manning fined Martinez \$28.00 and gave the money to the Alafa family for their trouble.

(The following is a copy of a leaflet distributed throughout Visalia on Sunday, August 29, 1965 by the National Farm Workers Association against the leader of the strikebreakers in Martin Ranch, boss of the Sequoia Labor Coop.)

JUDAS IS AMONG US

Judas betrayed Christ for 30 pieces of silver. Now, today there is another Judas among us who is selling out his farm worker friends. What do you think of a man who tries to sabotage the efforts of other men who are trying to win a decent wage for their work and for the work of all farm workers? Who are trying to earn enough money to feed their wives and children? This man is JESS VALDIVIA, stooge of the ranchers, who is bringing strikebreakers across the picket lines of the Farm Workers Association in the Martin Ranch near Earlimart, where they are trying to raise the miserable wage of \$1.25 an hour to \$1.40.

If you don't want to be on the side of this JUDAS, don't let yourself be seen with this stooge of the ranchers! The only way that the farm workers can earn a living wage is to refuse to work like slaves for the lowest wages. Any man that tries to hurt the efforts of other men to earn a decent wage is a traitor to his brothers, and he will suffer the same end.

Remember the name of the new Judas: **JESS VALDIVIA**

Don't let this stooge of the ranchers fool you into betraying your brothers.

VIVA LA CAUSA!



WHAT CAN ONE MAN DO?



- Q. Is there any fast way to make wages and working conditions improve?
A. No. For people to learn their own value and to learn not to be afraid takes a long time.
- Q. What is the way it can be done?
A. Through many small strikes and a final grand strike, the people will become strong enough to tell the growers how much they are worth and to get it.
- Q. But what can one man do?
A. Everything! The roots of this country, and the roots of the Mexican Revolution were established by a very few men. It is always a very few men who are responsible for the great social changes in the world. It was one man - for example - Ghandi, who led the huge country of India out of slavery. You, also, are one man.
- Q. Exactly how can one man do what needs to be done?
A. One can first learn how to fight and then find ways to struggle against the system that keeps the farm worker poor. For example it was one man that started the action in the Rose Strike this year that led to big wage increases for all the workers in an entire crop.
- Q. Where can one man start?
A. By joining together with his fellow-workers in the Association, which is working toward the big strike.
-

THE STRIKE BREAKER

There is nothing more shameful and openly wrong than that man who offers to work for a lower wage, or as a strikebreaker.

It makes no difference how hungry his family is. The man who takes a job from another by means of selling out for less or working in a field where there is a strike, should be branded. For these kind of people, nothing is too bad.

It doesn't matter whether the strikebreaker is from here or from other places. To work in a struck field is a crime against human decency.

All of us, the farm workers, must guard against being strikebreakers. Each of these dogs should get exactly what they deserve.

Work is a sacred thing, so are wages. Each man has dignity: the work that the man does deserves fair wages. It is impossible to say what a man is worth: \$1.50 an hour; \$2.00 an hour? A man is worth infinitely more; his value cannot be measured in money.

But the farm worker that takes the job from his brother is lowering the value of all men. He should, in turn, be hated and avoided by all men.

El Malcriado

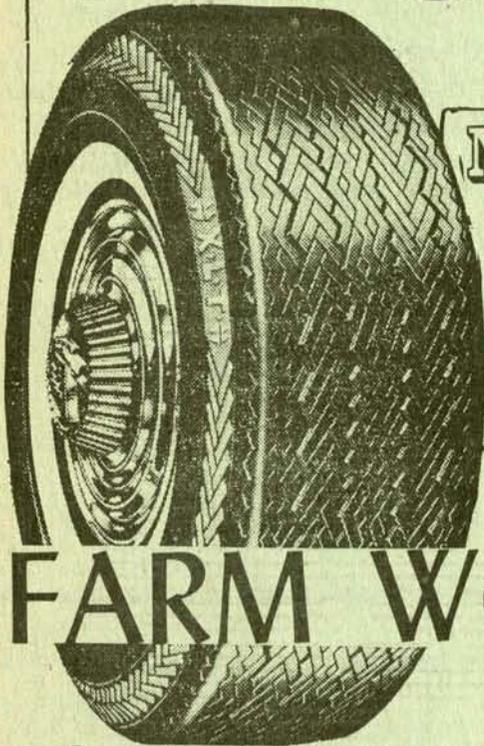
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