Thousands of farm workers and supporters jammed the huge tent for songs and speeches.

Yes, even Forty Acres — the spacious, historic UFW site in Delano — was barely big enough to hold the thousands of farm workers and friends who flooded it on May 23 for a festive celebration of the birth of the union 25 years ago.

But from Cesar Chavez' statement at the opening press conference through the last inspiring speech by labor leaders at the evening program, the 25th anniversary fiesta was more than just a celebration of the past. In fact, "Boycott Grapes!" edged out "Happy Birthday!" for the day's top billing.

Chavez said a summer boycott offensive would be launched in every major grape-consuming market in North America against grape growers' new marketing season beginning this month.

"Seventeen years ago this summer, Delano grape growers came to this very hall to sign their first contracts with us as a result of the power of the boycott," he said. "And with our new drive against supermarkets and our growing international labor support, they're going to be back in Delano for another command performance sooner than they think."

**U.S. Labor Support**

Heading a long list of U.S. labor leaders who announced support of the stepped-up grape boycott was Thomas Donahue, keynote speaker and national secretary-treasurer of the AFL-CIO,
Cesar Chavez with U.S., Canadian, and Western European labor leaders at opening press conference: California grape growers will be "back in Delano for another command performance sooner than they think."

John Henning, president of the California Labor Federation, was honored by the UFW for his many years of service for farm workers.

Shirley G.E. Carr, president of the Canadian Labour Congress, receives thunderous applause after telling Chavez and farm workers: "... we are with you all the way!"

Carr, the first woman to be elected president of the CLC, promised the same kind of support for the current UFW boycott that previous CLC presidents and millions of "Canadians with a conscience" provided in both previous international grape boycotts. Repeatedly interrupted by applause during her impassioned speech, Carr dramatically summed up Canadian labor support:

"Cesar, farm workers, you are not alone— we are with you all the way!"

Carr also received a special anniversary award for the support both she and the CLC are giving the UFW boycott. Both Carr and Henning were presented large portraits of themselves with UFW workers.

Thomas Donahue, national secretary-treasurer, AFL-CIO, declared boycott support at press conference and during his keynote address.

International Support

Proclamations of international boycott support representing millions of
Selma Freeman plants the first tree in Martyrs' Park in memory of her daughter, Nan, the first UFW martyr. At her left is her husband, Milton Freeman, and their daughter, Liz Freeman Spears.

An Idaho locust tree was planted in memory of Nan Freeman, a young college student killed by a truck on a picket line in Florida in 1972. Assisting in the planting were her parents, Milton and Selma Freeman, and her sister, Liz Freeman Spears, from Massachusetts. A rain tree was dedicated to Nagi Daifullah, a young farm worker from South Yemen who was killed in Lamont in 1973. His father, Moshe Daifullah, now living in Oakland, helped plant the tree. And in honor of Juan de la Cruz, a farm worker shot to death on a picket line near Arvin only two days after Daifullah's death, a magnolia tree was planted with the assistance of Juan's son, Jose.

A jacaranda tree was chosen to commemorate Rufino Contreras, a farm worker shot to death by company foremen near Calexico in 1979. His wife, Maximina Rosa, and Julio Cesar, one of their two children, were present for the ceremony. And Dolores Lopez was present to help dedicate a creek myrtle tree.
Fiery Impressions

From the sight of the massive 400 x 100-foot tent visitors first caught a glimpse of as they approached Forty Acres in the afternoon until the sound of the last departing car faded away in the night, the senses were bombarded with vivid impressions.

Eyes and ears were hard put to absorb all the sights and sounds of the busy day: cameras clicking and flashing during the opening press conference . . . the snazzy uniforms and pulsating beat of the "El Sol de Mexico de Jose Hernandez" mariachi band serenading in the afternoon and the "Sensacion 83" and "Nostalgia" bands keeping dancers on the floor late into the night . . . the deafening roar of thousands in and around the big tent as they applauded speeches, shouted "Viva la Causa" and "Boycott Grapes," and sang along with Luis Valdez and El Teatro Campesino . . . the brightly colored mural covering the entire back of the stage and a host of flags and symbols everywhere.

Smell, taste, and touch got pleasant workouts, too: the tempting aroma of Mexican-style food floating over Forty Acres . . . families and friends quenching their thirst on sodas and Stroh's beer (not a single drop of boycotted Coor's was on hand to spoil the fiesta) . . . shoppers rubbing shoulders and emptying their billfolds as they bought out booths filled with boycott buttons, T-shirts, and commemorative anniversary books . . . bear hugs and handshakes as farm workers, old friends, and former volunteers greeted one another

Maximina Rosa Contreras, wife of Rufino Contreras, the fourth UFW martyr, speaks at evening program. At left, her young son, Julio Cesar, is comforted by Dolores Huerta, first vice-president of the UFW.

in memory of her son, Rene, who was shot to death by company agents near Fresno in September 1983. Five clusters of red balloons were released to soar above the park as the poignant ceremony ended.

Luis Valdez (second from right) and the famed El Teatro Campesino had the huge crowd clapping and singing along to the farm worker anthem, "Huelga en General," and other early movement songs.
and reminisced ... and, finally, the ideal grace note to make the day perfect: 70-degree temperatures, sunshine, and balmy breezes — the kind of weather you pray for for such celebrations but hardly ever get.

All in all, it was quite a bash.

A well-organized food program kept hungry guests from long waits for a feast of Mexican dishes.

Reminiscing at a reception for guests are (left to right): Dolores Huerta; Rachelle Donahue, wife of Thomas Donahue; Rebecca Flores Harrington, state UFW director in Texas; Fred Ross, Sr., who worked with Chavez and Huerta in the Community Service Organization in the late 1950s and early '60s; and Jacques Levy, author of "Cesar Chavez: An Autobiography of La Causa."

**FRIENDS AT THE FIESTA**

Led by Luis Valdez and El Teatro Campesino, the audience joins hands and sings "De Colores." Pictured (left to right) are: Fr. Eugene Boyle, vicar of Inter-Religious and Public Affairs of the San Jose Diocese; Deacon Sal Alvarez, national executive secretary of Los P.A.D.R.E.S.; and Steve Nutter, regional director, Western States Region, International Ladies' Garment Workers Union.

A guest examines the 25th anniversary commemorative book.

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A guest examines the 25th anniversary commemorative book.

Father and son take a breather on the Forty Acres lawn.

A guest examines the 25th anniversary commemorative book.
Cesar Chavez, holds up framed UFW flag presented to Moshe Daifullah, father of Nagi, the second UFW martyr, as Frank Ortiz, second vice-president, looks on.

*LEFT:* Sharing a joke at the guests’ reception are Fr. Luis Olivares, Queen of Angels Church, Los Angeles; Dolores Huerta; and John Henning.

ABOVE: Father Louis Vitale, Santa Barbara Minister Provincial, Franciscan Friars, delivers the opening prayer at the evening program.

LEFT: “Long time, no see” greetings were the order of the day. Here friends laugh over old times with Fr. Bill O’Donnell, St. Joseph the Workman Church, Berkeley.

BELOW: Visitors from Christian Hutterian communities in the East join Cesar Chavez at a reception on the eve of the 25th anniversary celebration. From left to right are Peter Blough, Ian Winter, and Leonard Maendel.

**IN CELEBRATION!**

**The Graphics Workshop Presents...**

**Knit Shirts** — Red shirts with embroidery
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**Caps** with the 25th Anniversary logo
red, adjustable, union made

**Visors** with the 25th Anniversary logo
white, adjustable, union made

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Chavez welcomes farm workers and guests to the evening program.

FIESTA SNAPS

Josh, a spittin' image of David Aroner, executive director of state-wide Local 535, Service Employees International Union, Oakland, finds the lap of his father too inviting to pass up.

Edmund Charles, an officer of the Nan Freeman Workers Committee at the Coca-Cola Company, was among a group of farm workers and supporters who came from Florida for the fiesta.

LEFT: A generation of proud flag-wavers at the dance.
BELOW: This dignified couple, veterans of the 1966 March to Sacramento and years of picketing and marching, enjoyed every minute of the fiesta.

"All in all, it was quite a bash!"
IN CELEBRATION!

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78 pages, hundreds of photographs

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