FARM STRIKE STIRS
A COUNTY IN TEXAS
Politics, Race and Wages
Among Issues in Dispute

BY DOUGLAS E. KNEELELAND
Specia! To The New York Times
RIO GRANDE CITY, Tex.,
May 16 — Rio Grande City, parched and dusty, sits uncomfortably astraddle modern, well-
paved U. S. 83, which runs down the valley 100 miles to Brownsville and the Gulf of
Mexico.

At this time of the year, the midday sun is the center of town faces down all comers. The business district, crumbling with age, lies out of sight of the slow-moving green waters of its namesake. But the river is never out of mind, for the river is Rio Grande's wealth, such as it is.

Rio Grande City is not really a city at all, but an unincorporated town. Taxes, local residents explain, would rise with incorporation.

Control jeopardized.

Besides, they add, the party in power might lose control of the dozens of patronage jobs in this community of 6,000, which will work into a conversation elsewhere.

The uninvited statistic: "You know, of course," they will say, "the county has a population of 7,000, of whom 85 per cent are that: Starr County is the 17th most populous county in the country."

Farming is Starr County's last hope. Last June the valley was a virtual step in the nation's strike as a fiction, even as the big grape producers of the San Joaquin Valley's east.

Prices Are Down

The farmers have the problem of competition with their black thunderbirds. The growers are demurring the strike as a fiction, even as the big grape producers of the San Joaquin Valley's east.

Pickets demonstrate outside the main gate of La Casita Farms, Inc. Eight Starr County growers are being struck.

The Texas Employment Service says 1,000 families, composed of 4,774 persons, are on relief.

With a hint of community pride, almost anyone in town can tell the story of the community of 6,000, which will work into a conversation elsewhere.

To an outside observer, the red huerta (strike) flag, with its black thunderbird, sometimes shimmering disconcertingly, an elusive as the folk are here, as there, carried at most religiously by the Mexican-American strikers. The growers are denouncing the strike as a fiction, even as the big grape producers of the San Joaquin Valley's east.

"It's a demonstration," Ralph Ross declared angrily the other day in the air-conditioned offices of the packing shed of La Casita Farms, along a road spur just east of town. Mr. Ross is assistant general manager of La Casita, the state's largest producer of cantaloupes, honeydews, cantaloupes and honeydews, in the fields at home. Local politics gets involved in would scoff.

Pickets demonstrate outside the main gate of La Casita Farms, Inc. Eight Starr County growers are being struck.

The Texas Employment Service says 1,000 families, composed of 4,774 persons, are on relief.

With a hint of community pride, almost anyone in town can tell the story of the community of 6,000, which will work into a conversation elsewhere.

To an outside observer, the red huerta (strike) flag, with its black thunderbird, sometimes shimmering disconcertingly, an elusive as the folk are here, as there, carried at most religiously by the Mexican-American strikers. The growers are denouncing the strike as a fiction, even as the big grape producers of the San Joaquin Valley's east.

"It's a demonstration," Ralph Ross declared angrily the other day in the air-conditioned offices of the packing shed of La Casita Farms, along a road spur just east of town. Mr. Ross is assistant general manager of La Casita, the state's largest producer of cantaloupes, honeydews, cantaloupes and honeydews, in the fields at home. Local politics gets involved in would scoff.

"It's a demonstration," Ralph Ross declared angrily the other day in the air-conditioned offices of the packing shed of La Casita Farms, along a road spur just east of town. Mr. Ross is assistant general manager of La Casita, the state's largest producer of cantaloupes, honeydews, cantaloupes and honeydews, in the fields at home. Local politics gets involved in would scoff.

The Texas Employment Service says 1,000 families, composed of 4,774 persons, are on relief.

With a hint of community pride, almost anyone in town can tell the story of the community of 6,000, which will work into a conversation elsewhere.

To an outside observer, the red huerta (strike) flag, with its black thunderbird, sometimes shimmering disconcertingly, an elusive as the folk are here, as there, carried at most religiously by the Mexican-American strikers. The growers are denouncing the strike as a fiction, even as the big grape producers of the San Joaquin Valley's east.

"It's a demonstration," Ralph Ross declared angrily the other day in the air-conditioned offices of the packing shed of La Casita Farms, along a road spur just east of town. Mr. Ross is assistant general manager of La Casita, the state's largest producer of cantaloupes, honeydews, cantaloupes and honeydews, in the fields at home. Local politics gets involved in would scoff.

Pickets demonstrate outside the main gate of La Casita Farms, Inc. Eight Starr County growers are being struck.
FARM STRIKE STIRS A COUNTY IN TEXAS

Continued From Page 2

The New York Times

Published: May 19, 1967

Copyright © The New York Times

Agricultural unions have been reemerging in the years since the end of World War II. Union organizers have strengthened their efforts in the South and the West, where more than a dozen states have about 50,000 members in about 100 local organizations.

The unions are primarily concerned with improving working conditions and wages. In recent years, they have also been able to negotiate agreements with employers that include health and safety provisions.

The unions have been particularly active in the cotton industry, where they have won significant gains for workers. In other industries, such as dairy and citrus, the unions have also been successful in negotiating better contracts.

In addition to improving working conditions, the unions have also been able to negotiate wage increases for members. In recent years, wage increases have averaged about 3 percent per year, which has helped to offset the effects of inflation.

The unions have also been successful in organizing new members. In recent years, the number of organizing efforts has increased, and the unions have been able to sign up a large number of new members.

The unions have also been active in political affairs, supporting candidates who support their agenda. In recent years, the unions have been particularly active in supporting candidates who support increased funding for education and health care.

The unions have also been active in community affairs, working to improve the quality of life for their members. In recent years, the unions have been active in supporting efforts to improve schools, provide affordable housing, and increase access to health care.

Overall, the agricultural unions have been successful in improving working conditions and wages for their members. In recent years, they have also been active in political and community affairs, working to improve the quality of life for their members.