

ROSIE'S

36-YEAR SAGA

**To Try To Do Something To
Help Farm Workers**

Dedicated to the multitude of farm workers who have worked to help put the food on my families table:

To my father, R.V. Ashmun who was a farmworker for a while in California,

And to my husband of 60-years who has been sympathetic to my "passion to try to help farm workers" and help me get these stories in print.

Rosemary A. Cooperrider
June 2003

ADVOCACY FOR FARM WORKERS

“Can’t We Do Something To Help Farm Workers?”

a 36-Year Saga

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ADVOCACY FOR FARM WORKERS

Rosemary Cooperrider

"Can't we do something to help farmworkers?" A 36-year saga

PREFACE

There are approximately 2-5 million farm workers in the United States in the year 2003.

During WWI thousands of workers were imported from Mexico and other Latin American countries to work in the fields as most of the men living in the U.S. had joined the armed forces. Agribusiness has always employed workers as cheaply as possible. Slavery had been outlawed in the 1860's so the source was mainly south of the Mexican border. There were some from Asia who had been recruited to build the railroads who were denied the right to purchase farm land under the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

In the late 1930's there was a terrible drought in the Midwest U.S. "Okies" and "Arkies" flooded into California to work in the fields. In 1937 the Chavez family lost their small farm in Arizona and headed to the cotton fields to work. About the same time of January 1937 my father, desperate to help our family survive, headed to the San Joaquin Valley of California where he cut spinach and celery and suffered to his dying days from using the machete and undoubtedly the short handled hoe (now outlawed) bent over so the foreman "could see the farmworkers were working". The Mexican workers were deported by the train loads. The author of "Esperanza Rising", Pam Ryan, says at least 145,000 and probably as many as 1,000,000 were sent back to Mexico because they could get the poor Anglos like my father and Cesar's family cheaper than the deported Mexican workers.

My first encounter with a farmworker organization was meeting a "Wobbler", a member of the International Workers of the World (IWW). One or two came to our door at different times and asked my Mother for some food. She fixed a plate full of food and the man sat on our front porch and ate it. We were living in Waterville, WA. My father was the pastor of the Federated Church. We lived in the Parsonage next door to the church. Those days there were no government agencies such as a welfare department to help people in need so churches were asked for help, this was 1931.

We also heard of some "Wobblers" trying to organize farmworkers working on a very mechanized dairy farm in the Sunnyside, WA area. They were herded into a 6-foot high

barbed wire stockade in the center of town, held a month in the freezing cold of winter, "tarred" and "feathered" and run out of town. There are still "Wobblies" active in the U.S. according to an Oregonian article about a May Day Rally in Portland on May 1, 2002.

According to Anne Loftis, the author of "Remembering Cesar: the Legacy of Cesar Chavez", Driva Books, Clovis CA 2000, there were labor leaders in the 1930's who belonged to a Communist Party union who were tried and convicted and sent to state prison under a criminal syndicalism law in effect in California.

After I got started organizing people who cared to help farm workers I realized that one of the main reasons I became so passionate about this cause was because of my own "Dear Dad's" involvement in La Causa.

There are now three labor unions in the United States:

UFW of America, AFL-CIO in California with a branch in Washington state.

FLOC, Farm Labor Organizing Committee, with most of the tomato and pickle fields under contract in Ohio & Michigan, now organizing the workers in the pickle fields of North Caroling owned by Mt. Olive Pickle Co.

PCUN, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos Noroeste in Oregon.

UFW & FLOC Unions in Florida are working with the Immokalee tomato workers to get a contract with tomato harvesters supplying the Taco Bell Restaurant chain.

Verne and I started working on this issue in Oregon in 1980 first with a support group working on the Campbell Soup Boycott and then helped organize the Oregon Farm Worker Ministry. We have been members of the National Farm Worker Ministry (related to the National Council of Churches) Board of Directors since the early 1970's.

THE FARM WORKER MINISTRY

Introduction

In 1966 my saga of 36+ years in the Migrant Ministry began. We have 4 children, 2 boys and 2 girls. Kristi and Sally were in Junior High and the boys older. Verne had a good income so I didn't have to help earn a living and could do volunteer work which was mainly in the church, University Baptist Church of Seattle, and Church Women United and the Seattle Council of Churches. I was the counselor of a group of Junior High girls in our church called The Guild Girls. One of them, Linda Ellis, had become concerned about migrant farm workers she'd learned about in a church school lesson. She asked me "Mrs. Cooperrider, can't we do something to help the farm workers?" So we did! This is what triggered my passion. Another trigger to my passion was the sudden realization of my own father becoming a farmworker the year I graduated from High School. In desperation from the depression in 1937 he left home to become a farmworker in the San Joaquin Valley of California and I became a farmworker's daughter. (See my father's letter from a labor camp near Modesto in 1937.) B-4

While I was associated with Church Women United I met staff in the Seattle Council of Churches. They asked me to lead a workshop for a Church School Teacher Training School. I had met Mrs. McFarland, Migrant Ministry staff person on the Seattle Council of Churches staff. She helped me arrange to take a group of junior high young people from our church over to a labor camp on Vashon Island and take care of a bunch of little children. Most were grandchildren of some Indians (5 tribes) from British Columbia who traditionally came down to the Seattle area to pick beans, cherries, or currants. For two weeks the grandparents of the kids we cared for were picking currants at the largest currant farm west of the Mississippi. They went to work early in the morning and came back to the camp about 3 or 4 p.m. covered with dirt and berry juice and went in the owners bus to get food in town. (They had no refrigeration so had to get food every day and not even a broom to sweep the floor of their little cabins) We cared for the children in an old church building. We were amazed at one mother (13 years of age) who brought her baby for us to care for diapered in newspapers

A funny sidelight of the experience was the Weight Watcher's Weigh-In which occurred once each week in the building we were using. WW had scales locked up in the building. If they weighed too much it was "those kids had tampered with the scales". If less than the time before, everything was fine. The scales were guarded very carefully from the children's tampering!

Our Sally had her little Sheltie dog with her. Some kids doing a mission stint caring for kids whose relatives were picking cherries shared dinner with us one evening. One of the kids made a racist remark our Kristi couldn't tolerate. She went for a walk on the county road, the dog followed her and was run over by a car careening around the corner. The dog was almost trained at Obedience School except for the last command, "Down".

When we returned to Seattle we wondered "what on earth was causing the poverty we saw with the farmworkers on Vashon Island." We read every thing we could on the

subject and we could see that collective bargaining was the farm workers only salvation. The Washington State Council of Churches Farm Worker Ministry Staff person asked Verne and me to help organize a Task Force to assist some farm workers living in the Sunnyside area who had received Manpower Training in welding and had taken jobs in the Seattle shipping industry. The first thing we did was to arrange for some help from a Chicano staff person on the University of Washington radio station staff to talk to us about Mexican culture. We laughed at his emphasis on Mexican lack of concern about time. He had no watch. He would have been late for his next broadcast if Verne had not taken him to the radio station. So with a slide show we'd developed I talked to church groups all over Seattle I organized 11 churches to take a family each and help them get settled in the Seattle area. One youth group was so proud of themselves, they found a house, painted it, furnished it and filled the cupboard with food. They were insulted when the farm worker family didn't eat a bit of the food. A Chicana teacher at a local High School gave these kids a talking to, asking them "What did you put in that cupboard?". They knew nothing about Mexican food which was very difficult to find in Seattle. Most of the Latinos lived in the Yakima Valley. Only one of the 11 families lasted in Seattle, an Anglo family. The rest were Mexican, they missed the culture of the Latino community in the Sunnyside area.

In 1968 I was hired by the Washington State Council of Churches to work half-time on this issue which I did for a year and a half. Before we left Seattle, organizers for the Grape Boycott came to see me at the Washington State Council of Churches office. My boss, Everett Jensen, said "you help these UFW folks all you can but not in the name of the Washington State Council of Churches." So when I talked about the grape boycott I spoke as the Chair of the Seattle Council of Churches Migrant Ministry. There were growers on the Board of the Washington State Council of Churches. The Washington State Council has continued to be very supportive of the farmworkers struggle for self-determination.

I was involved in a task force made up of church and labor leaders and representatives of the farmworkers. One of the leaders was Tomas Villanueva. He wanted us to organize farm workers. We told him when the farmworkers started organizing we would help them but not before. Also Roger Candenoza and Guadalupe Gamboa, the only Latino student at the University of Washington. Now there are well over 100 at the UW. Lupe had a hard decision to make upon graduation. He decided to head to California and work for the UFW. After learning the art of organizing he returned to Seattle and got his law degree at the U.W. He is now the President of the Washington State United Farm Workers who have their first contract. Reports say it's the best ever. They joined the UFW of California which loaned them staff in the last months of the struggle for a contract at Ste.Michelle Wineries in the Seattle area, owned by the U.S. Tobacco Co.

Before we went to lobby in the state capital at Olympia for a bill to provide workmen's compensation for farm workers we met with the famous Saul Alinsky from the Chicago Areas Foundation who trained Fred Ross who then trained Cesar Chavez. Alinsky told us what to do before we went to Olympia. We should buy some cans of dog food and eat some in front of the legislators to illustrate the poverty of farmworkers. He also told us to

fill the restrooms so that the legislators couldn't get in. We were able to get one little piece of legislation passed on Workmen's Compensation and helped get \$9-million in health care from the federal government. Before they authorized the money we had to have a conference with all segments of the population to tell HEW just what the farmworkers wanted: They wanted mobile health units to visit the labor camps and Spanish-speaking doctors and nurses. The program was to be jointly administered by farmworkers and growers. I helped organize this conference which was held in the Sunnyside area. I went over to the area in a small plane, my first airplane ride.

After we moved to Los Altos CA in 1970 I was curious to see what was happening in Santa Clara County to minister to farm workers. So I visited Rev. Ken Bell, Executive of the Santa Clara County Council of Churches. No one had organized help for farmworkers in the Santa Clara Council for 5 year. "would you, would you!" So I formed a committee, which was mainly me, to assist the UFW organizers any way we could. The task Force is still in existence. Our house in Palo Alto where we moved after 2 years in Los Alto (I couldn't stand the white ghetto in Los Altos) was the headquarters for the UFW staff to phone and meals anytime they were needed. Many of the young people are still some of our best friends. We picketed stores to get them to remove grapes from their shelves and participated in a San Francisco Bay Area Task Force. The most exciting project was a campaign to get Safeway Stores to quit selling Red Coach lettuce. That struggle finally was won, a contract was signed last summer after 18 years of boycotting and four years in court battles. We won a class action suit and were awarded \$6,000. We found Safeway was mis-labeling meat, dumping fattest chickens in East Palo Alto where the largely black population had no other place to shop. Neck bones were labeled spare ribs, and "Health Food Cookies" had bugs in them. At the trial, Safeway stated the cookies hadn't been sprayed before being put on the shelves.

I was a delegate to Board Meetings of the California Farm Worker Migrant Ministry. The California Farm Worker Ministry became the National Farm Worker Ministry and the headquarters were first in Los Angeles, then Oakland, Chicago and no win St. Louis.

From a labor camp near Modesto, 1937

Dear Rosemary,

I got your announcement. They are nice. I was 21 years old before I finished the 8th grade, and from that time on I worked all my way up through Academy, College, Seminary. I got \$10.00 from home in all that struggle. I am happy for you that you are getting through High (High School) in normal time and Mamma and I are going to make a desperate effort to make it possible for you to go to College. (I hope it (will be) Redlands, California). They say Redlands is very beautiful, both town and college. I would like to drive down and see it with my own eyes.

You have quit yourself like a lady, never letting down or up, but unceasingly and unendingly at it. That is what counts. Now you will find that because you have scholarship you will have a foundation upon which to proceed. You will find your standing will help because you will be sought for the same. You will learn easier because of the mental training.

I would enjoy far more than you can imagine being present at your exercises. None of my folks were present at any of the three graduations I had. None of my own family have ever heard me preach. I have had to "Hoe my own row" quite a little. I will be with you in spirit.

We will not be able to give you much of anything as gifts. However, your character largely made possible because of your parents, is a precious gift. Perhaps it will be fitting for you to prize that heritage at this time. Your sisters are a gift. Christ is a gift.

Lots of long distant kisses and hugs from a papa who knows he loves you.

Royal



*Royal V. Ashmun, Rosemary's father, Pastor
turned Farmworker*

Deportees

The crops are all in and the peaches are rott'ning,
The oranges piled in their creosote dumps
They're flying 'em back to the Mexican border
To pay all their money to wade back again

CHORUS:

Goodbye to my Juan, goodbye, Rosalita,
Adios mis amigos, Jesus y Maria;
You won't have your names when you ride the big airplane,
All they will call you will be "deportees"

My father's own father, he waded that river, They took all the money he made in his life;
My brothers and sisters come working the fruit trees,
And they rode the truck till they took down and died.
Some of us are illegal, and some are not wanted,
Our work contract's out and we have to move on;
Six hundred miles to that Mexican border,
They chase us like outlaws, like rustlers, like thieves.
We died in your hills, we died in your deserts,
We died in your valleys and died on your plains.
We died 'neath your trees and we died in your bushes,
Both sides of the river, we died just the same.
The sky plane caught fire over Los Gatos Canyon,
A fireball of lightning, and shook all our hills,
Who are all these friends, all scattered like dry leaves?
The radio says, "They are just deportees"

Is this the best way we can grow our big orchards?
Is this the best way we can grow our good fruit?
To fall like dry leaves to rot on my topsoil
And be called by no name except "deportees"?

Grape Boycott Begins in Seattle

The first major farmworker organizing by the United Farm Workers in California was the table grape industry. There were many strikes in the fields which didn't produce contracts so the farmworkers resorted to the consumer boycott to bring the needed pressure for the growers to bargain. (Since farmworkers are excluded from the NLRA there are only two remedies: strikes and boycotts). Verne and I had been members of a task force working on the goal of justice for farmworkers. We had re-settled 11 families under the auspices of the Seattle Council of Churches. I was one-half time farmworker ministry staff for the Washington State Council of Churches. We were working on some Workmen's Compensation for farmworkers in the Washington State Legislature and Health Care through the federal government when UFW volunteers started fanning out all over the U.S. to get help. Bill & Liz Taylor were the first to come to Seattle. My boss, Everett Jensen said "You help these folk all you can, but not in the name of the Washington State Council of Churches (There were several growers on the Board of the Washington State Council.)"

The first action to support the grape boycott by our task force was an informational picket line at a little independent market. Six little boys thought this was of interest going on in their neighborhood. They walked up and down in the aisles of the market chanting "Don't buy grapes, don't buy grapes, don't buy scabby grapes, don't buy grapes." The store manager kicked them out and back they would come, "Don't buy grapes, don't buy grapes, don't buy scabby grapes, don't buy grapes." About three times this was repeated so the store manager called the owner of the market who immediately roared up in a white pickup and almost ran over us picketing in front of the store. Needless to say that quickly ended our first non-violent informational picket line.

Chris Hartmire, Executive Director of the California Migrant Ministry based in Los Angeles came to Seattle. We had a meal with Chris at a restaurant and I laid my purse on a window sill next to our table. Chris gave me a lecture: "Don't you ever do that again, Rosie. Someone will plant some drugs in your bag." There was a strong concern about safety amongst the UFW staff as you'll note in the account of threats to Cesar's life. (And most recently a threat to staff and lawyer of PCUN.)

Some farmworkers from the Yakima Valley also visited us in our home. They were members of the Task Force. They stayed overnight at our new house in Meadowbrook Estates in northeast Seattle. The farmworkers were curious about all the gadgets in our house, especially the inter-com hooking up all of our rooms.

Cesar came to Seattle to get help for the grape boycott. He stayed in our home. Cesar was a strict vegetarian. He brought several staff with him including a woman lawyer who took care of his food. Cesar was recovering from one of his long fasts so it was convenient for him to stay in our daylight basement so he didn't have to climb stairs.

There were several attempts to organize farmworkers by non-farmworkers. The IWW "Wobblies" were the first, I think, then the Communists. But it was not until a man who had been a farmworker in a farmworker family gave his life to this cause that unionization became a reality for farmworkers. After we moved to California in 1970 and worked full time for the UFW from Nov. 1977 to Nov. 1979, the grape boycott was successful in helping the farmworkers organize practically all of the table grape industry. When we left the union, approximately 120,000 farmworkers worked under a union contract at some time during the year.

OUR F.W. MINISTRY- ON TO CALIFORNIA

In 1970 Verne requested a job change, he had worked for the Burke Co. in Seattle for 21 years, latest as the regional manger. His new assignment was as Technical Services Manager at the home office in Burlingame CA. First we lived in Los Altos, Sally and our fourth foster child, Karen Schluger, were in a closed-campus high school. Kristi was at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Keith and Bob were graduated and on their own. Los Altos was a peculiar community made up mostly of corporation families who stayed just a few years and then moved on. It made them seek friends quickly, for survival. The women stayed inside in the summer but came out as school started. We had potlucks out in the street on the cul-de-sac where we lived. We had moved in the early summer and it was so hot and dry compared to Seattle. I had a hard time getting used to those "golden hills". When it finally rained in December I went out in the street and did a rain dance, I was so happy.

With time on my hands I looked up the Executive Secretary of the Santa Clara County Council of Churches to see what was happening in the churches to help farmworkers. Ken Bell said "No one in the churches has been talking about farmworkers for the last five years. Would you, Would you?" So I began calling on pastors and formed a small committee and contacted the United Farm Workers (UFW) who had an office in Palo Alto. We attended the first fund-raiser for the union. It was a program put on by Teatro Campesino which depicted the farmworkers and their relation to the growers, using satire to combat the fear and reluctance of farmworkers. It was held at a farm owned by the Duveniks who did a lot to educate school children about the environment.

After two years in Los Altos and facing an "empty nest", we moved to Palo Alto, a more integrated community. We bought an Eichler house, very poorly constructed, hot water pipes placed in the concrete floor which had long ago leaked, to be replaced by a steam heat system which made an awful racket. We bought the house in 1972 for \$35,000 and sold it when we left for Oregon in 1980 for about five times that much. Sally left in the fall of 1972 to attend Oberlin College in Ohio and Karen had left us by then so I had plenty of time to devote to farmworkers.

One of the first activities in which we participated was to take a group of young people from our church down to Delano to help in the building of Agbayani (retirement) Village for old Filipino farmworkers.

Our house in Palo Alto soon became the headquarters where a UFW organizers would have dinner with us on Friday evening and make phone calls to encourage folks to participate in some activity - picket line, contacting legislators, march, or whatever. I never knew how many might want or have lunch - one time it was 13, the organizer called as they were heading south from San Francisco to make the "reservation". I took quite a few delegations up to Sacramento when lobbying needed to be done. Many dedicated young people worked long hours for "La Causa". They burn out occasionally if they don't take good care of their bodies and get some fun in life. As they became ill, Larry Tramutt and Marion Steeg Bustamente each stayed with us a while to recuperate.

Larry lived with us for about three months. Marion was with us about a month, sometimes confined to bed. Her parents living in New Orleans were very appreciative of our looking after her. They entertained us royally when Verne went to a construction convention in New Orleans, I tagged along. Steegs lived in a "shotgun house", so-called because in the early days houses were built narrow in width to minimize taxes, the tax rate was based on the front footage, but the houses extended way deep in long lots. The house was full of antiques and hired help for cleaning, gardening, cooking, etc. Marion's father is a well-know lawyer famous for helping stop the infamous Huey Long. Her parents had a home on Lake Ponchartrain where they entertained 100 people at a time. Marion rebelled at a grandiose lifestyle when she was working for the farmworkers as a contract negotiator. She is married to Chava Bustamente. That's another story. She now works for the California Public Employees Union. I've never slept between silk sheets any other time. Between feather beds at Granda Corn's home once with my grandmother but not silk sheets. Melba, Marion's step-mother, showed me a cupboard full of silver and linens being saved for their 3 children. But not for Marion! Maybe her lawyer brother, and not her sister who lives in a kibbutz in Israel. Steegs took us to the famous French Quarter in New Orleans of Mardi Gras fame for dinners at fancy restaurants like Antoine's. One afternoon Melba took me to the area of antique dealers who beckoned her into their shops, wishing to show her their latest acquisitions.

Dolores Huerta would call me and say "Get ? supporters up to Sacramento on ____". I learned to wait 24 hours until she called to tell me what the purpose was so I could find folks willing to go.

We did informational picketing at grocery stores to encourage folks to refrain from buying table grapes and later lettuce and get the stores to remove the items from their shelves. One store in Los Alto on which I worked so hard would remove the grapes while we were in front of the store and as soon as we'd leave put them right back on the shelf. A 13-year old boy, John Brown, got excused from his high school to help me. He was a legend of the UFW, lived around the block from us. He is now a private "T" in Los Angeles vicinity

Bugs in the "Health Food Cookies"

A San Francisco Bay Area support group was formed, and I represented the Santa Clara County Council of Churches. The group usually met in Oakland or Berkeley. Many people are confused about secondary boycotts. Because farmworkers are not covered by the National Labor Relations Act they can use secondary boycotts. They are hard to organize so not used much. The simplest form is "Don't shop here because they are selling Red Coach lettuce" (The video "Common Man, Uncommon Vision" shows supporters asking people not to shop at a store carrying Red Coach lettuce.)

An inventive Secondary Boycott was used when UFW was trying to get the largest lettuce company to negotiate. Some of us in the SF Bay Area support group filed a class-action suit against Safeway Stores. After research work we discovered:

- 1). East Palo Alto Safeway Store which was the only store where the largely black population could shop because they were cut off by the Bayshore Freeway from Palo Alto proper, was mis-labeling meat, calling pork neckbones spare ribs, and

steaks a cut more expensive than legal. (I had to look at diagrams in my recipe book to figure this out), and dumping their fattest meat.

2) Advertising loss leaders such as Safeway margarine and mayonnaise in their ads and then charging one cent more each at the check stand.

3) Health Food cookies had bugs in them which at the trial the Safeway representative told the judge they had forgotten to spray with pesticide before putting them on the shelf.

We won the suit. I was the treasurer of the support group and personally handled the \$6,000 check for the judgement we were awarded

Chris Hartmire was the Executive Director of the California Migrant Ministry, an ordained Presbyterian Minister. He did anything Cesar asked him to do. His attitude was that if the farmworkers made mistakes they had to learn from them. Cesar made a terrible mistake when he went to the Philippines at the urging of some Filipino farmworkers in the union. Cesar received an honor from Dictator Marcos and this lost a lot of support from some church folk.

One of the campaigns we worked on in Santa Clara County was Propositions 13. We didn't win the campaign, and the organizers were all called into La Paz. Chris gave us "hell". He said, "There are lots of good people out there, but you 're all a lousy bunch of organizers!" Prop. 13 finally became part of the CA Labor Relations Act which Jerry Brown maneuvered between the growers and farmworkers in his first year as governor.

I was a delegate to the CA Migrant Ministry biannual Board Meeting representing the Santa Clara County Council of Churches. The group became the National Farm Worker Ministry with headquarters first in Los Angeles, then Oakland, Chicago and now in St. Louis.

One of the board meetings was held in Oxnard. We accompanied farmworkers on a picket line on a county road at the edge of an orchard. We faced Sheriffs with big dogs and big Teamster goons who filled their pockets full of stones and were about to throw them at us when Cesar Chavez and a host of newspaper cameramen came on the scene. The Teamsters disappeared and the Sheriffs backed off. Our NFWM Board Meetings have always been held at the spots in the country where farmworkers unions are having the hardest struggle to support farmworkers.

We've participated in several walks and marches in solidarity with farmworkers. I walked from Oakland to Modesto (except on Friday when I had to ride) from Monday to Saturday. Our mission was to call attention to the effort to get Gallo Winery to sign a contract with the UFW. It was a beautiful walk. We covered about 13 miles per day walking along access roads in February with the peach trees in bloom. The planners knew we had a woman infiltrator along. She walked by me a lot of the way trying to get information I guess. When we got to the winery in Modesto she tried to get some marchers to climb over Gallo's fence. The folks in charge knew who she was and watched her all the way. She didn't prevail. We stayed in churches and homes along the

way. Fred Eyster was in charge. He was assistant to Chris and later the Executive Director of NFWM when Chris quit to work full time for the UFW.

Sister Florence Weber was the financial wizard working at La Paz, living in Tehachapi who was killed in an auto accident going home one evening. Cesar asked Chris to take her place. Chris and Cesar parted ways when a volunteer working under Chris absconded with \$5,000. Many folks never forgave Cesar for firing Chris. It's interesting that Cesar's wife Helen trusted Chris to arrange Cesar's funeral. It was a long time before Chris made official re-connection with the NFWM. I admire Chris for swallowing his pride and helping us on the NFWM Board.

Eventually the CA Migrant Ministry became the NFWM and is concerned with all of the farmworker organizing in the country. Three unions – UFW-AFL/CIO, FLOC in the mid west and North Carolina, and PCUN in Oregon. We who are concerned about farmworkers must be careful to preserve the NFWM organization. It has been standing with farmworkers now for over 80 years,

THE SECONDARY BOYCOTT

Efforts to preserve the Secondary Boycott have taken a lot of time in the farmworker struggle. I see the passage of the National Labor Relations Act in the early '30's and later the Wagner Act as an effort by the employers to diminish the effect of labor organizing. One of the worst provisions was outlawing the secondary boycott. The few protections and exclusions are outlined below. Agribusiness was successful in excluding farm workers with the excuse that strikes could effectively stop food from getting on our tables. The exclusion of farmworkers cited in Section 152 Title 29 Chapter 7 Subchapter II, U.S. Code, in the definitions # 3 says "the term employee shall not include any individual employed as an agricultural laborer".

Since the NLRA doesn't include farm workers for protection, it also doesn't prevent the use of the Secondary Boycott which they have used a number of times to their advantage. Many times farmworkers have been able to encourage grocery stores to refrain from selling certain produce being boycotted, or food containing the product, i.e. the table grape boycott or Campbell Soup. The first boycott we participated in was the table grape boycott. We were asking people to stop buying all table grapes coming from California. It was extremely successful. About 16 million people in the U.S. quit buying the grapes. Later we were boycotting lettuce from the largest lettuce grower in the U.S. We asked people to not shop at Safeway stores because they were selling the lettuce. The Safeway boycott was a Secondary Boycott.

The Safeway secondary boycott took a clever twist in which I was involved. Our farmworker support committee in the San Francisco Bay Area found a way to get Safeway to agree to participate. We filed a Class Action Lawsuit against Safeway.

The city of Palo Alto in California is split by the Bayshore Freeway. The black population mainly came from San Francisco when that city got too crowded and they settled on the east side of the freeway. The anglos settled on the more desirable west side. Because most of the blacks didn't have transportation they were held hostage to shop only at the one grocery store available - Safeway. We did some research work.

- 1) Mislabeling meat: neckbones labeled ribs, beef steak labeled one cut more expensive for a higher price.
- 2) Advertising some loss leaders such as Safeway margarine, and when the item crossed the checkstand the price charged was one cent higher than advertised, netting many dollars.
- 3) Bugs in the Health Food Cookie packages. At the trial Safeway gave the excuse for the bugs that they had "forgotten to spray the cookies before they were placed on the shelf."

I was the treasurer of the support committee and personally handled the \$6,000 check awarded by the court. (There was a press conference at Glide Memorial Church before the trial. Chris Hartmire, NFWM Executive, had been carrying around some of the meat samples in a picnic cooler, and by that time were very ripe.

Safeway stopped selling Red Coach Lettuce, the object of the boycott. Cesar Chavez used to say "the growers have money but the farmworkers have time" It took over 17 years of strikes and boycotts to win that contract. Cesar was in Arizona testifying on the case when he died.

We are now in a struggle to preserve the secondary boycott as well as strikes in Oregon, the only tools farmworkers have to bring the agricultural employers to the bargaining table.

ROSEMARY - 1973

II MEMORIES OF 13 DAYS IN JAIL IN SELMA, CALIFORNIA

As I look back at approximately 35 years of involvement in the farmworker ministry, the time which probably was the most exciting and unusual was the 13 days spent in a Fresno County jail with 450 farm workers and supporters (90 priests and nuns, and a few assorted other church folks) in August, 1973

1973 was a terrible time of struggle for the United Farm Workers Union. The Teamsters Union was endeavoring to take away all the contracts the UFW had worked so hard to negotiate. The chronology of this struggle which was featured in "Fighting For Our Lives" is itemized in the addendum, "The 1973 Farm Workers Strike", attached. We had been hearing and reading about it in the news. I became directly involved the weekend before July 31 when I got a phone call asking me to recruit a carload of supporters and meet at a park in Selma, CA on Tuesday, July 31st at 5:30 am.

The reason for the arrests was that the farmworkers were breaking the "Injunctions" being used to break their strikes. There had been violence in the Fresno jail. 9 organizers were hosed down and made to run thru a gauntlet of 15 deputy sheriffs and were beaten up using a bunch of chairs (County Property) and women were handcuffed so tightly they had scars on their wrists.

We were to be prepared to go to jail with the farmworkers for 2 or 3 days. I recruited Rev. Dave Schilling, United Methodist pastor from Milpitas; Anne Loftis, Palo Alto, long-time farmworker historian and member of the Palo Alto 1st Congregational Church; Sal Alvarez, Lay Leader - Catholic Council for the Spanish Speaking. I called a WILPF sister, Blanche Nosworthy, in Fresno to see if we could stay all night with her. "Yes, and I'll go with you."

It was still dark in the park when we arrived at 5 am. There were 90 others who said they were willing to go to jail with the farmworkers. The priests and nuns had been attending a conference in San Francisco. A few had come from foreign countries and had to change airplane tickets, etc.

After a rally we were loaded onto busses and headed to a nectarine orchard where we began picketing at 7:30 with everyone waving red flags with the UFW red eagle on them except me. (I had asked my pastor, B.J. Bjornson how I could be identified as a representative of the church and the Santa Clara County Council of Churches. B.J. said "There's a Christian flag up in the belfry of the church, far better it be used on a non-violent picket line than gathering dust"). The reason religious folk were asked to participate was to help protect the farm workers who had been meeting a lot of violence as they were challenging the illegal injunctions being imposed on them to try to break their strikes. *See accompanying booklet "Why We Boycott."* They had been arrested over and over again since April. They'd be booked and after 2 or 3 hours released to join a picket line and be arrested again. On June 24th 90 UCC folk attending a convention in St. Louis responded to Cesar's call for help, chartered a plane and joined the strike line in Coachell. Huge delegations of supporters from all over the country were responding.

This was my jail list: Sleeping bag for 1 night in Fresno, camera, hat, toilet articles, postcards,

Stamps, reading material, flag, change of clothing, "Huelga" buttons, knitting.

Tuesday July 31, 1973 Here's the schedule:

6:30 Bussed to field. We bunched up as close as possible shouting "Huelga" and a bullhorn was used to shout to the workers to leave the orchard.

8:15 UFW strike leaders were called every once in awhile to see if we were ready to be arrested. {The Fresno County Sheriff's Dept., had been warned that there were 450 of us to be arrested. He UFW leaders would say, not yet, and made sure everything was ready. Arrested after flags collected to be stored until after jail time.

9:00 Bussed to the Parlier Minimum Security Labor Camp, Fresno County. (Post Office address is Selma, CA)

9:30 Booked, finger-printed and strip-searched.

10:30 To barracks (this means part of the County Honor Farm had been consolidated into one barracks and 3 others filled with the new arrestees, men in one, women in two. Some men were sent to the Youth Hall and some to the basement of the Fresno County Hall where the air-conditioning was broken and terribly hot.

11:30 Justice Dept. visited (the UFW had called them to protest the food, etc.)

3:00 All of us herded into Recreation Hall

3:30 Reporter from Channel 21 interviewed arrestees (not me) and took pictures. We turned in our clothes to be washed.

5:30 Dinner (The "church folks" were asked to go to the head of the chow line. We refused in 'solidarity' with the farmworkers. All were to be treated equally, we hoped)

10:00 Lights out. There were 30 double-decker bunks in my barracks, many arrestees had coughs, 5 lights were kept on. (We were given salt and soda to clean our teeth with our fingers)

August 1, Wednesday

7:00 ;am Breakfast was fried potatoes, gravy, pinch of hamburger in gravy, biscuits with jelly, coffee, cereal and dried milk, under-ripe plums and canteloupe.

7:30 Recreation hall, nuns organized exercise. (56 inmates were sleeping in there)

9:30 Showers, uniform gowns issued. The Latino women were shy, kept underwear on even in showers which weren't private. Nuns has strung up blankets around toilets for privacy.

Lunch on Day 2 was frijoles, cornbread, salad, onions in water, cantaloupe. Big rumpus about a sister losing her undies. Lots of folks wrote "Huelga" on uniforms

Mass: 3 priests from the area came in to hold mass, men and women at separate time.

Priests seemed to be much beloved by the women who lived in the area. This was the turning point of the way deputies treated us and we them (Later on at 1pm members of City and Fresno County Jail Advisory Committee came to visit.)

"El Malcriado" the farmworker newspaper, brought for us in the evening. Cesar came to see us about 4 pm. He said we'd play the taxpayers game and cost them as much as possible. 1,000 were to be arrested tomorrow. Nuns had visitors who brought all kinds of toilet articles. Security tried to get nuns to sign "own recognizance" agreements. No way! Not until every one is released!

Lunch consisted of jello, kool-aid drink, noodle stew, salad of onions/tomatoes/cucumber slices in

water/zucchini, white bread, canteloupe.

August 2nd, Thursday

5:00 am Reveille. Breakfast: 1st time scrambled eggs. Organized for cleaning, etc. Sharing more and more with Chicanas. Clean towels. Talked to women from barracks next door in the yard. Included Dorothy Day, head of the Catholic Worker Movement who told the nuns to accumulate as much land as possible. Allowed phone calls, many visitors. Word was sent out for more lawyers to help. Women told me about their families. Juana Moreno (59 years old) had Carolina (38), the oldest of 9 children with her youngest child at 19 years. Jo (33) had 2 children. Geo(20) with 1 child, born in San Jose. Husband: Hipalito, they were married at 19. When George was 3 years old moved to Texas and in 1953 came to San Jose, California and to Selma in 1961. (If kids caught a mouse they'd get credit for picking 20 buckets of apricots) Marysville - Were paid \$1.25 (5-6 hours) to prune a whole tree-1960. In 1952-90cents/hr. ave., in 1960-\$1.25/hr., 1967-\$1.75/hr. She broke her foot on gondola. Father was a shoemaker in Mexico, a hole in shop floor was covered with a tin can top. The son of clients cut his foot. got tetanus and died (Had 14 shots in his back)

Irene told me she went to pick cotton, left baby with grandmother, baby was sick.

On Thursday part of men were moved to fairgrounds. About 10 were moved to B Barracks and then went to the courthouse in Kingsburg where they were arraigned and came back. We were issued clean towels and sheets. Early supper (1st good meal, hooray!) We understood Justice Dept. has an interest on our behalf.. Carrot salad and dressing, stew, "always pepper", kool-aid and coffee, jello dessert.

Joint mass with men and women, priest from St. Peters, San Francisco. Men on one side, women on the other. As we were leaving a deputy sheriff said, "Whew, nothing happened!" What could have? Strict discipline after that was broken completely. A black guard sang with us. Many guards were very nice.

Friday: August 3rd - Rumor that 6 illegals had escaped in the night

Saturday: August 4th -Catholic history lesson. Sisters told me about their Catholic orders and how the church is organized. .Dull day. At mass announcement was made that bombing had stopped in Vietnam.

Sunday: August 5th Visitors all pm. Mass in evening. (bombing still on) Probations had us sign a questionnaire.

Monday: August 6th Prayer vigil all night. Visited by Sisters from Burlingame

Tuesday: August 7th - Mass in yard. Bishop Metzger of El Paso, TX and many priests with guitars visited us. . (Sr. Martha & Sr. Timmie went to court on our behalf. Got hope we'd be released but when they returned our hope was dashed. Yetta Lackner (her husband, Dr. Lackner, was responsible for outlawing use of the short-handled hoe) came to visit us and told me about a demonstration and picketline shoulder to shoulder facing the sheriffs. One hour before court, Chris Hartmire spoke. Vigil 8 hours. Prayer vigil all night. Extra guards put on. We were criticized for the expense we were causing, instead they could be arresting drug offenders and murderers. Started fasting at breakfast time, lasted 24 hours.

Wednesday: August 8th - Continuation of hearing. At one time the farmworkers were offered release. But they refused in 'Solidarity'. The authorities wanted to hold us church folk longer to punish us for interfering in Fresno County business.

Friday: August 10th - Judge Peckinpau ruled that the promise we'd been encouraged to sign that we would never be arrested in Fresno County again was illegal and that our application for release on our own recognizance (O.R.) must be re-done and we must be accompanied by a Public Defender. So this we did on Saturday.

Monday August 13th - The first busload of fellow "jailbirds" including yours truly headed for the Fresno County Courthouse to be released, I sat with Dorothy Day. As we approached the intake door we were ordered to return to the County Honor Farm as the papers were not ready. So we returned to the Courthouse that afternoon. After answering a few questions we were told we could leave on O.R. but would have to return for sentencing when requested. Judge Peckinpah asked if anyone would volunteer to help them with paperwork. Which I did for 2 hours before going to the park outside where there was a joyous connection with our families and friends. It took until Wednesday August 15 for all to be released.

Many exciting things happened during those 13 days. Immediately after we arrived in jail. the priests started negotiating for celebration of the daily mass. The first one was celebrated at different times - men and women. Next day we were together men on one side, women on the other with 3 sheriffs standing spread eagle between us. Since nothing happened they afterwards retreated to the back of the room with sighs of relief that nothing had happened and afterwards joined us in the celebration.

We had many visitors: At first we were told we were limited to Sundays, then they were welcome at any time every day. Lots of families and friends visited us.

One morning Joan Baez and her mother, and Daniel Ellsberg came. Joan sang for us out in the yard as we were waiting to go in to the dining hall for lunch.

The matrons would always inspect any baggage visitors carried. The jail I was in was on an honor farm where vegetable and beef were being raised for the Fresno County prison system. Irrigation produced 1000's of small frogs all over the farm. Some children of farmworkers decided to have some fun and filled paper bags with tiny frogs. When the matrons opened the bags to inspect, frogs flew everywhere. This almost caused a riot and of course everyone was ushered out of the visiting room. Wow!

Many hours were spent talking to Dorothy Day, founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, at the fence in the yard of the barracks next to mine. (She and others were arrested on Wednesday, the day after I was) All the women signed her "gown" My signature is on the back. The day she was on the picket line she read the new Testament to the Sheriffs sitting on a little 3-legged stool. She and several others were from a group of War Resister's League members having a conference in California.

We so filled all the jails that farmworkers could picket all they wanted to and shout "Huelga" and use the bullhorn. In other words, we broke the "Injunction".

{Finally there were 2 farmworkers killed, Nagi Daifullah -an Arab date-worker from Yemen, and Juan de la Cruz, shot on a picket line who died in his wife's arms three hours later. The picketing was called off In August 500 workers were sent to cities all over the U.S. to organize a boycott of non-UFW grapes.

On October 2nd I attended a hearing of the California Assembly Select Committee on Farm Labor Violence of the past summer. This hearing was held on one end of the Fresno Convention building. On the other end a banquet was honoring the Sheriff who had colluded with the growers to have us all illegally arrested. At the Conference I happened to sit next to a priest. We talked about my Christian flag I had retrieved from the Head Start School where all our belongings were secured while we were in jail. He asked me if I knew what that flag was. "No," I didn't. "It is a Crusader's flag, covered with blood and has no place on a non-violent picket line."

That winter the farmworkers organized in Fresno Co. and the Sheriff responsible for our arrest was defeated at the next election. None of us ever had to appear for sentencing. We have no "record"

This struggle paved the way for the passage in 1974 of the California Agricultural Labor Relations Act when Jerry Brown was governor, and the unionization of almost the entire table grape industry. Unfortunately as California changed governors this all changed and almost all the contracts were lost. (Funds were withdrawn for the administration of the Act and appointment of Board Directors hostile to the farmworkers.) The growers have refused to renegotiate the contracts.

So ends one of the most interesting two weeks of my life! (P.S. There were over 3,000 arrests that summer and up to that time the number included the largest number of clergy ever arrested at one time in the U.S.)

Verne and I were so concerned about farmworkers that we volunteered to help the UFW for two years from Nov. 1977 to Nov. 1979 under the auspices of the National Farm Worker Ministry. We were assigned to work in the UFW Headquarters in Keene, CA located between Bakersfield and Tehachapi on Hwy. #58. Verne was assigned to administer the Word Processing Dept. which was mainly producing the contracts being negotiated very fast. The contracts were produced in English and Spanish so that each worker knew the content of the contract. I typed Spanish into the computer 4 hours per day for 6 days/week and then compared new contracts to old one in the afternoon. This was a very interesting two years of our lives.

Have You Been to Jail for Justice?

Anne Feeney

Chorus:

Have you been to jail for justice?
Wanna shake your hand.
Both sitting in and lying down
Are ways to take a stand.
Have you sung a song for freedom
Or walked a picket line?
Have you been to jail for justice?
Oh you're a friend of mine.

Was it Caesar Chavez or maybe it was Dorothy Day?
Some will say Dr. King or Gandhi set them on their way.
No matter who your mentors are
Its pretty plain to see.
If you've been to jail for justice,
You're in good company.

You law abiding citizens listen to this song.
Laws were made by people and people can be wrong.
Once unions were against the law but slavery was fine,
Women were denied the vote and children worked the mine.
The more you study history the less you can deny it.
A rotten law stays on the books till folks with gut defy it.

Now the law's supposed to serve us and so are the police,
But when that system fails, it's up to us to speak our peace.
It takes eternal vigilance for justice to prevail
Take courage from your convictions.
Let 'em haul you off to jail.

THE 1973 FARM WORKER STRIKE

Chronology

The nationwide premiere of the new UFW film documentary, "Fighting For Our Lives" on the 1973 Farm Worker Strike in California has stimulated new interest in the details of this strike. Donald Watson of the Research Project of the Unitarian Universalist Migrant Ministry has prepared this chronology.

1973

April 9 – Cesar Chavez begins tour of the Coachella Valley to warn of "the storm that is about to hit us".

April 11 – Newspapers print the result of the poll of Coachella farm workers by 245 religious leaders and Congressman on union preference. The results are UFW 795, Teamsters 80, no union 78.

April 12 – Coachella farm worker rally readies for strike by standing vote of 1,000. Teamsters negotiate with growers in Palm Springs.

April 15 – 85% of Coachella growers sign Teamster contracts for \$2.30 an hour. Growers Lionel Steinberg and Keene Larson sign UFW contract for \$2.40 an hour. Teamster contracts eliminates hiring hall and pesticide clauses. UFW contract retains the hiring hall.

April 16 – Coachella strike begins. Violence starts as the side of the face of 19-year old Alicia Uribe is smashed from a moving car. Cesar Chavez at news conference in Washington calls for secret ballot elections.

April 19 – 135 Pickets arrested at Thermal and Mecca vineyards for violation of picketing injunction bringing total arrested up to 242. At rally in front of jail Chavez again calls for election.

April 20 – 61 pickets arrested. Riverside Judge Matheney drops contempt of court charges against all 303 arrested on basis UFW was not present when injunction was issued. He amends injunction from 60 feet of edge of field to 15 feet. UFW complies with injunction.

April 24 – Teamsters enter CID labor camp and beat UFW organizers with tire chains in the presence of law enforcement officers. Teamsters explain to Los Angeles Times that guards, paid \$67.00 per day, are "to protect the property and those who will continue to work behind picket lines."

May 1 – 17 Lamont-Arvin area grape growers in Kern County sign with the Teamster Union. Cesar Chavez is quoted in the papers, "I think it is only a matter of time before they all sign 'sweetheart' contracts with the Teamsters."

May 4- CA Roman Catholic Bishops in S.F. call for secret ballot elections.

May 5 – Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons at a meeting in San Diego rejects secret ballot elections. He says, “ I feel very secure in my position in representing farm workers on the basis of the evidence we have”

May 9 – Bakersfield Superior Judge P.R. Borton hands down injunction restricting UFW picketing to two people each side of an entrance at Roberts and Kovacevich Farms. AFL-CIO Executive Council grants 1.6 million dollars for three months strike activity. AFL-CIO President George Meany says Teamster action is the “most vicious... I have seen in my lifetime”.

May 10 – Teamster caravan attacks UFW Mother’s Day meeting in Coachella park.

May 12 – Cesar Chavez asks for U.S. Senate investigation of activity of Teamster “guards” in Coachella.

May 30 – 300 lb. Teamster “guard” Mike Falco, accompanied by 12-14 Teamsters, breaks the nose of Father John Bank while he is sitting in ICoachella restaurant with a Wall Street Journal reporter.

May 31 – Coachella harvest begins. Henry Reider, head of CID, says the strike “has affected the quality of our thinning work and run our costs up”. He threatens to bring in alien workers if UFW succeeds in getting substantial numbers out of the fields. Teamster Councils in the United States asked to refuse to support strikes of any union giving financial aid to UFW.

June 5 – Tulare County Board of Supervisors passes ordinance banning loud speakers on public roads and highways.

June 6 – The leading Coachella grower, Mike Bozick, tells Harry Bernstein of the Los Angeles Times “ there is no point to an election. The workers have already decided”

June 7 – AFL-CIO President George Meany sends Paul Hall of the Seafarers Union, Joseph Keenan of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and Al Wall, legal counsel to the AFL-CIO to Coachella.

Bishops Jan Arqube of Los Angeles and Patricio Flores of San Antonio arrive to celebrate Mass.

June 15 – UFW wins Coachella decision granting use of bullhorns for calling to workers in the fields.

June 18 – Murray Westgate, public relations man for the Teamsters, sent on a fact-finding mission by President Frank Fitzsimmons, is beaten by a Teamster “guard” at the Indio motel near Coachella.

June 19 – Teamsters circulate a report to newspapers and wire services that Teamster leader William Grami has been shot. He holds press conference and claims his head was hit by a rock.

June 21 – “Guards” in Coachella stab citrus worker Ismael Guajardo with ice pick. He is mistaken for a UFW supporter.

June 22 – Six “guards” are arrested for throwing rocks at Cesar Chavez’ car in UFW caravan.

June 23 – At 12:30 am while his wife, Patricia, and their small daughter Elisa are asleep, the trailer home of Francisco Campos is burned down. The wife and baby escape. A neighbor overhears a voice saying “We’re going to burn your house, Pancho”.

200 Teamsters attack 150 UFW pickets at Thermal with tire chains, lead pipes and clubs. Six Teamsters are arrested.

June 24 – In response to a telegram from Cesar Chavez, 100 clergy of the United Church of Christ in St. Louis at convention fly to Coachella strike lines.

June 25 – In Coachella, Teamster “guards” charge picket lines. Two UFW pickets are pulled from car and beaten. Cesar Chavez and Msgr. Higgins of the United States Catholic Bishop’s Committee call press conference to condemn violence.

June 26 – In Coachella, leading UFW Organizer Marshall Ganz is knocked unconscious. Riverside County Court orders Teamster and UFW members to stay 60 feet from each other.

June 27 – Shots are fired into the home of UFW Organizer Ray Huerta while Cesar Chavez is in the house.

June 28 – A flatbed truck and cars full of Teamsters arrive at Kevacevich Ranch near Wheeler Ridge in the Lamont-Arvin area and attack a 200-member UFW picket line with lead pipes, clubs and tire chains. Three men and one woman are hospitalized. Thirty Teamsters arrested. National campaign is begun to remove the “guards” from the valley.

July 3 – Teamsters announce removal of “guards” because “we have been assured that there are now enough law enforcement agents to protect our members”. Meetings are held between AFL-CIO President George Meany and Teamster President Frank Fitzsimmons. General UFW tree fruit strike begins in Fresno County.

July 4 – At Fresno, 450 pickets at Parlier labor camp dissuade 400 farm workers from going into the fields.

July 7 – 1,000 farm workers picket stores in Los Angeles, while field picketing is temporarily suspended because of violence.

July 9 – 900 farm workers picket Fresno Border Patrol protesting grower use of illegals for harvest.

July 10 – 58 pickets arrested at Bakersfield for blocking labor camp exit. The E & J Gallo Winery signs a four-year contract with Teamsters while workers are on strike.

July 13 – Picket line at Sabovich sprayed with Aldrin. 18 women and 2 men treated at clinic. Suit is filed 45 Priests join the picket line in Lamont led by Bishop George Evans of Denver.

July 16 – Teamsters sign four-year contract with Franzia wines, formerly under UFW contract.

July 18 - 450 pickets are arrested in Kern County for violating an injunction allowing one picket every 100 feet. This is the largest on-day arrest in 25 years in Kern County. Kern County District Attorney Leddy reduces charges against 30 Teamsters in June 28 picket line attack from felony to misdemeanor. 450 cantaloupe workers walk out at Tri Produce and Perez Bros.

July 19 – 600 UFW pickets arrested in Fresno and Tulare Counties for violations of injunctions. Cesar Chavez says “Those inside have won great glory”.

July 20 – 406 arrested in Fresno and Tulare Counties. 120 workers in Kern County refuse to sign releases unless all imprisoned are released.

July 21 – 2,500 rally in Delano for labor caravan from the San Francisco Bay area. 200 more arrested in Fresno County.

July 23 – 67 melon pickets arrested plus 59 grape pickets at Porterville and Ducor.

July 24 – 2,000 farm workers at meeting in Delano take strike vote. Delano contracts are due to expire on July 29.

July 25 – Grape grower Johnny Giumarra, Jr. says, “We want peace in this industry, but that means we have to do something about the union hiring hall, which has caused us serious daily problems since we agreed to it three years ago”. Cesar Chavez answers, “They know it (hiring hall) effectively strips the power to hire and fire people from exploitive labor contractors”.

July 26 – 68 pickets arrested in Fresno.

July 27 – Teamsters mail notices to 29 Delano growers for negotiations.

July 28 – UFW and Delano growers negotiate 15 hours.

July 29 - Negotiations reach impasse at 3 am Sunday. UFW says breakdown is over hiring hall, pesticides, grape boycott and UFW recognition in crops other than grapes.

July 30 – 2,000 pickets out, mostly in Lamont-Arvin and the Kern-Tulare County line.

July 31 – Over 3,000 on strike lines. 300 pickets arrested in southern Fresno County, including 40 priest and nuns. Sheriffs in Lamont-Arvin area use clubs and mace on men, women and children at Guimarra Ranch. Sheriffs and Teamsters collaborate in beating up strikers at Kovacevich Ranch. Protest rally of 2,000 held at jail in Bakersfield

August 1 – 1,200 picket Guimarra Farms in the Edison area. 1,000 picket in the Delano area and 800 in the Fresno area. Priests and nuns in Fresno jail begin fast. Jim Smith of the Teamsters says he is in negotiations with the Delano growers.

August 2 – 500 pickets arrested on 1st and 2nd of August including Dorothy Day of the Catholic Worker of New York. A total of 3,000 arrested in two weeks according to Fresno Bee. Chavez calls for friends throughout the nation to violate the injunctions and fill the jails.

August 3 – George Meany and Frank Fitzsimmons hold peace talks in Washington.

August 5 – UFW leader Marshall Ganz and six picket captains arrested in a new Kern County program of only arresting leaders for injunction violation.

August 8 – Talks set between Chavez and the Western Conference of Teamsters. However, Jim Smith continues negotiations with Delano growers.

August 9 – Jim Smith of Teamsters signs contracts with Delano growers despite the fact that Teamsters are in peace negotiation with UFW.

August 10 – Cesar Chavez walks out of peace talks at the Western Conference of Teamsters in Burlingame upon hearing of Delano contract signing. He says, “ They’ve played this little trick once too often”. Teamster leaders repudiate contract signings. John Guimarra, Jr., leading grower, announces the growers are pleased with the contracts and they are going to keep them. UFW picket Paul Saludad is shot in the hip and Marcelino Barajas receives a flesh wound in the head from a bullet.

August 15 – Gunfire goes into picket line at Earlimart which includes two sons of Cesar Chavez. Arab UFW member Nagi Daifullah of Yemen dies in Kern General Hospital of a fractured skull. Deputy Gilbert Cooper is accused by the union. Sheriffs claim death is accidental.

August 16 – Chavez calls for a three-day fast in honor of Nagi Daifullah. Juan De La Cruz, age 62 is shot in the chest at 3pm in the Wheeler Ridge area 27 miles south of Bakersfield. He dies three hours later. UFW calls off picketing.

August 17 – UFW Executive Board votes to suspend picketing during period of mourning. The New York Times estimates 10,000 march five miles in memorial to Nagi Daifullah.

August 21 – Funeral and Mass are conducted for Juan De La Cruz. Cesar Chavez at the service in Arvin calls him a “martyr for a just cause. We honor him for the meaning of his life and the sacrifice of his death”.

August 25 – Workers assemble at UFW headquarters at La Paz in preparation for a car caravan of 500 workers to boycott cities in the United States. They will organize boycott of non-UFW grapes.

STATEMENT OF FAST BY THE RELIGIOUS, PRIESTS, & SEMINARIANS JAILED IN FRESNO, CA.

August 1, 1973

- 1) The fast was initiated by priests, seminarians and religious women to express solidarity with all farm workers who have sacrificed blood, sweat and food in their quest for freedom.
- 2) We are fasting to accentuate our support for farm workers as they seek to express their basic constitutional rights of free speech and free assembly on the picket line.
- 3) We are fasting because we believe there are some evils which as Jesus said can be cast out only by prayer and fasting.

LETTER FROM: JUAN SALAZAR - and all the strikers who have gone to jail (over 2500 of them) Long live our cause!

"Dear Brothers and Sisters:

"From the Strikers at the Industrial Farm barracks and from all of us who are in jail. As you might know by now yesterday (8/1/73) we started a fast where nobody ate anything and we are going to continue until we are free. For we are humans who believe in justice and liberty for all people and farmworkers including our families and ourselves.

"In the first place we were arrested for doing nothing - just for walking together united on the edge of the road. Our religious brothers and sisters from all over the country are here with us too and with great spirit.

"Because we believe in Jesus Christ and in our great leader, Cesar Chavez the only way to win our contracts back is non-violent.

"We are willing to sacrifice our lives for others and we believe that a man or woman who has not found something worth fighting for and dying for has not really been born."

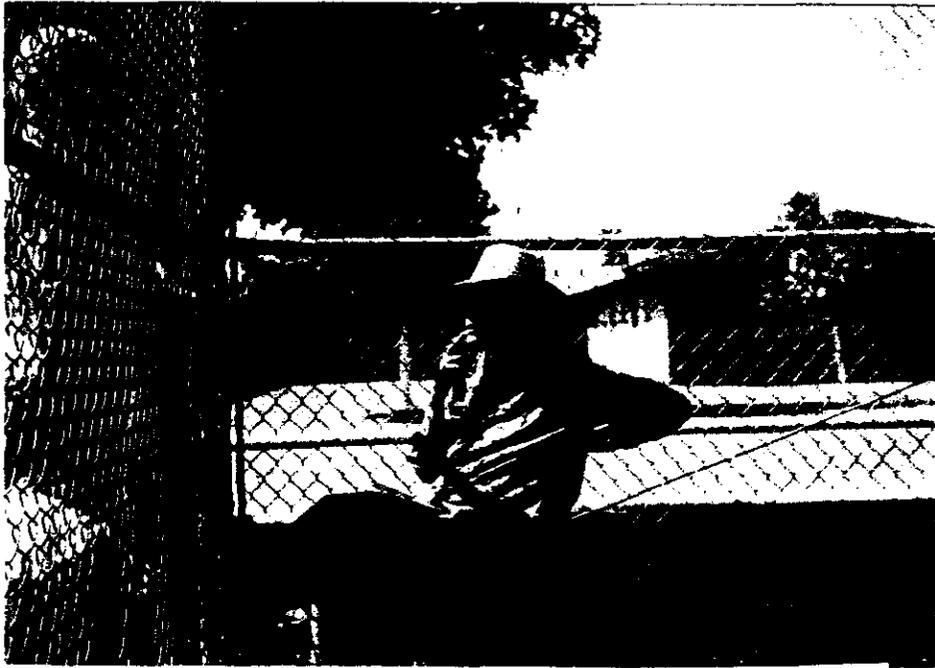
VIVA LA HUELGA!

August 2, 1973

SOLIDARITY FAST by Friends of the Farm Workers outside the Fresno County Jail

August 7, 1973

"We are fasting in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in jail who have been arrested because they believe they are free men and women who have the rights of free men and women."



Dorothy Day sitting near fence in small yard at entrance
to the barracks (talking to women in the yard of one I was in)



Women in the barracks I was in

FRESNO MUNICIPAL COURT
PRE-TRIAL RELEASE QUESTIONNAIRE

1855

NAME: Rosemary Ann Cooper DOB: 2/9/1919
ADDRESS: 85 Roosevelt Circle Palo Alto Ca 94306 (STREET) (CITY) (PHONE NO.) 415-327-643

HAVE YOU LIVED AT THAT ADDRESS FOR:

DO YOU LIVE:

- LESS THAN 6 MONTHS?
- 6 MONTHS TO 1 YEAR?
- 1 TO 2 YEARS?
- OVER 2 YEARS?

- ALONE?
- WITH A FRIEND?
- WITH YOUR FAMILY?

DO YOU HAVE:

FRIENDS IN THE FRESNO AREA?

NAME: Blanche Nosworthy PHONE: 227-2805

RELATIVES IN THE FRESNO AREA?

NAME: Vernice K Cooper PHONE: 111-1111

HAVE YOU LIVED IN FRESNO COUNTY:

- LESS THAN 1 YEAR?
- MORE THAN 1 YEAR, BUT LESS THAN 5 YEARS?
- OVER 5 YEARS?

DO YOU HAVE:

A JOB? (WHERE YOU WERE WORKING WHEN ARRESTED)
Housewife

NAME OF EMPLOYER

A PROMISE OF A JOB?

NAME OF PROSPECTIVE EMPLOYER

HAVE YOU:

- WORKED CONTINUOUSLY FOR 1 YEAR?
- WORKED AT LEAST 6 MONTHS OUT OF THE LAST YEAR?
- WORKED AT LEAST 4 MONTHS OUT OF THE LAST YEAR?
- RECEIVED ANY FORM OF GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS? (WELFARE, DISABILITY, VA, UNEMPLOYMENT, ETC.)

HAVE YOU:

- BEEN ARRESTED FOR MORE THAN 2 FELONIES, OR HAD MORE THAN 5 ARRESTS?
- LESS THAN 5 ARRESTS FOR ANY REASON IN ANY STATE?
- NEVER BEEN ARRESTED?

ARE YOU:

- ON PAROLE? _____ AGENT
- ON PROBATION? _____ OFFICER
- ON BAIL ON ANY CHARGE?
- ON O/R ON ANY CHARGE?

I UNDERSTAND THAT ANY FALSE INFORMATION GIVEN ABOVE COULD RESULT IN MY BEING HELD IN CUSTOD WITHOUT POSSIBILITY OF AN HONOR RELEASE OR, IF RELEASED, COULD RESULT IN MY RELEASE BEING REVOKED ANI MY BEING RETURNED TO CUSTODY.

TOTAL DATE: 8-12-73 SIGNED: _____

THIS QUESTIONNAIRE
BEEN REVIEWED

Henry Garcia
HONOR RELEASE OFFICER

8-1-73
DATE

OR GRANTED
OR DENIED
UNTIL FURTHER REVIEW

JUDGE

DATE

27

C O P Y

TELEGRAM TO:
AUG. 1, 1973

JUDGE BLAINE PETTITT
Fresno County Court House
Fresno, California 93721
Phone 209-488-3446

We respectfully urge you not deny basic constitutional right of farm workers to assemble and communicate. Your injunction allowing only one picketer every 100 feet, and no bullhorns, seems a denial. Through many years our Council has worked with and supported farm workers in their struggle for justice.

Santa Clara County Council of Churches
Dr. Fred Hillier, President
Rev. R. Kenneth Bell, Executive Director

COPY TO:

SHERIFF MELVIN L. WILLMARTH
FRESNO COUNTY JAIL
Fresno, California 93721 P. O. Box 1788
phone 209-488-3111

western union

Telegram

RNB260(1546)(2-087848E213)PD 08/01/73 1546

1973 AUG -1 PM 1:48

ICS IPMRNCZ CSP

4082462129 TDRN SANTA CLARA CA 11 08-01 0346P EST

FON 2098643221

MS ROSEMARY COOPERRIDER *Inmate* AND OUR OTHER BROTHERS AND SISTERS
FRESNO COUNTY HONOR FARM EAST ELKHORN AND SOUTH ELM
CARUTHERS CA 93721

WE APPRECIATE YOUR COMPASSION AND YOU HAVE OUR LOVE AND SUPPORT
BETTY AND JIM ZIMMERMAN

MGMFSOB FSO

2-145277E214 08/02/73

ICS IPMRNCZ CSP

4082441096 MGM TDRN SAN JOSE CA 100 08-02 0959P EST

ZIP 93662

western union Mailgram



ROSEMARY COOPERRIDER
CARE UNITED FARM WORKERS 2008 EAST FRONT ST
SELMA CA 93662

ATEMPTING TO CONTINUE YOUR EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATIONAL WORK OF
TELEGRAMS AND OTHER APPROACHES. YETTA BETTY AND BROTHER OF FATHER
OPENHEIM AND OTHERS HELPING. LARRY AND I SPOKE TO YW. HOPE THEY
DECIDE TO SUPPORT WORKERS. REACHED MCALISTER. WE APPRECIATE
YOUR DEEP COMMITMENT AND THAT OF OTHERS IN JAIL. HOPE HOME
BASE WORK COMPLIMENTS YOUR DEDICATED EFFORTS GOD BLESS ALL FARM
WORKERS AND YOU WHO SUPPORT
R KENNETH BELL

2607 EST

MGMFSOB FSO

MGMFSOB FSO
2-148362E215 08/03/73
ICS IPMRNCZ CSP
4153276431 MGM TDRN PALO ALTO CA 100 08-03 0054A EST
IP 93721

western union Mailgram



ROSEMARY COOPERRIDER
FRESNO COUNTY JAIL
FRESNO CA 93721

GOOD WORK, WORD IS SPREADING ABOUT THE MASSIVE SUPPORT FOR FARM
WORKERS CAUSE. WE LOVE YOU
VERNE COOPERRIDER

0116 EST

MGMFSOB FSO

MGMFSOB FSO
2-148425E215 08/03/73
ICS IPMRNCZ CSP
4082449841 MGM TDRN SAN JOSE CA 100 08-03 0058A EST
ZIP 93662

western union Mailgram



MRS ROSEMARY COOPERIDER
CARE UNITED FARM WORKER OFFICE 2008 EAST FRONT ST
SELMA CA 93662

DEAR ROSEMARY WE ARE AWARE OF YOUR SITUATION. OUR PRAYERS ARE
WITH YOU
JEROME AND YETTA LACKNER

0106 EST

MGMFSOB FSO

AUG. 6, 1973

JUDGE JAMES PAIGE
FRESNO COUNTY COURT HOUSE
FRESNO, CALIF. 93721

WE URGE YOU TO RELEASE ALL FARM WORKERS STRUGGLING FOR JUSTICE NOW IN JAIL
BECAUSE OF A VIOLATION OF INJUNCTION AND ALSO THOSE PEOPLE FROM THE CHURCHES
OF OUR COUNTY WHO ARE IN FRESNO JAIL OUT OF THEIR SUPPORT OF WORKERS BECAUSE
OF CONSCIENCE INCLUDING ROSEMARY COOPERRIDER, CHAIRMAN OF OUR COUNCIL'S MIGRANT
MINISTRY; ANN LOFTIS, FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, PALO ALTO; REV. DAVID
SCHILLING, PASTOR MILPITAS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH; SAL ALVAREZ, CATHOLIC COUNCIL
FOR SPANISH SPEAKING.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY COUNCIL OF CHURCHES
DR. FRED S. HILLIER, PRESIDENT
REV. R. KENNETH BELL, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

305 No. California Avenue • Palo Alto, California 94301 • Phone: 327-0561

August 6, 1973

Mrs. Rosemary Cooperrider
In Care of United Farm Workers
2008 E. Front Street
Selma, California 93662

Dear Rosie:

My vacation starts tomorrow so I am typing this letter for Margie to retype and send to you on Monday. My typing is almost as bad as my handwriting so Margie has to "rescue" me.

I do not know and cannot know just what experiences you are having because I have never been in a like situation. I do know this that you have done a courageous thing which gives full evidence of your belief in what you have been saying all along.

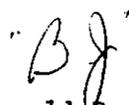
Last Friday morning I announced your predicament to our Friday morning Bible study group and some of them said they didn't agree with your stance but one said and it was to me one of the great contributions of the hour; "Rosemary is the only person I know who believes enough in what she stands for that she is willing to go to jail for it." I suppose that sums up the attitudes of our people. Some simply disagree and some agree but I believe that most respect you for what you have done.

You were not forgotten in our prayers either on Friday or on Sunday morning. I hope you felt some support reaching out to you.

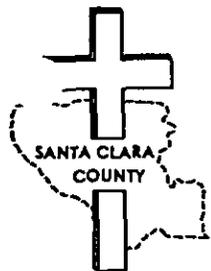
Tomorrow Miriam and I go on vacation. But I am going to be so very anxious to know how you are getting along and just what your experiences have been.

May the good Lord both support and bless you in your witness and give you wisdom and love beyond your own as you deal with a complicated situation. So often there runs through my mind that statement - "Any society will be judged by the manner in which it treats its least." Tie that with the statement of Jesus, "Inasmuch as you did it unto the least of these my brethren you did it unto me" and you have much weight on the side of what you are doing.

With Christian love,


Harold B. Bjornson

mc



Santa Clara County Council of Churches

R. Kenneth Bell, Executive Director
Mrs. Carol Hoyt, Friendly Visiting Director

1229 NAGLEE AVENUE

SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 95126

Box 4430

Aug. 8, 1973

Dear Rosemary,

This follows the letter to the Judge by a couple hours.

Yetta called to report on her visit with you.

I have called Edwards and McCloskey's offices. Edwards is in London and will return to Washington later, not to return to San Jose.

McCloskey was not in his office but I spoke twice to his assistant designated to work with political prisoners. He said there is nothing they can do re. farm workers for the injunction is local, but he was concerned. He was aware of the people in jail. He wondered what the ~~prisoner~~ Teamster's had in mind in all their actions. I asked him to contact Tjoflat who was an expert, which I am confident he will do.

He said those in jail could bring suit, or file a case re. their arrest. I am not clear on this and the issue.

I told Yetta I would call the new minister of Wesley United Methodist Church, Fresno, and have him visit you and call the judge but he will be away till September and has ministry of visitation also. I tried to reach Dodds at 50 miles to the South but he was not at church or home.

I will attempt to reach American Baptist denomination.

Peace and God Bless,

P. O. Box 4430

August 8, 1973

Judge James Paige
Fresno County Court House
Fresno, California 93721

Dear Judge Paige:

I feel compelled by conscience to write you regarding the farm workers and their supporters from our County who are now in Fresno Jail. This morning I talked by phone with the Rev. Wayne C. (Chris) Hartaire, Executive Director of the National Farm Worker Ministry, who is working out of your County to support the farm workers in their struggle for justice. I understand you may be making a decision today with regard to those in jail and their possible release on recognizant. This I hope you can do.

The concern to which I want to adross myself is why would all these people from our County, and from across the nation, many of them priests, nuns, pastors, and lay people from churches like our own Mrs. Rosemary Cooperrider, Chairman of our Council's Department of Migrant Ministry, let themselves be put in jail in support of the farm workers. This is so out of keeping with what some believe to be a prevailing mind-view of the average American citizen, namely they are self-centered, looking out for their own comfort and well-being, and unwilling to commit themselves to any issue or truth that would demand much in the say of self-sacrifice.

I know the four people from our County who are in Fresno County Jail and know a bit about their struggles within themselves to be willing to support the United Farm Workers in their justice issue, even to the point of being jailed, if their moral support on the picket line would so involve them.

Mrs. Cooperrider now lives as a housewife and mother in Palo Alto. She has told me, however, that her father had been a sharecropper and as a child and youth she knew intimately the problems of a family growing and harvesting crops. Her father was a Baptist minister, and she grew up in the climate of a family with a vital religious faith, and with a concern for justice for all God's people. As the chairman of our Council's Department of Migrant Ministry she workers almost full time as a volunteer, interpreting to people from our churches the plight and struggle for justice of farm workers. I must say with her own sense of integrity and honesty, her witness and influence upon the members of our Council's Board of Directors is very great. She helps to keep us honest, and to understand the issues clearly. This continues to be closely related to her faith in God and her understanding of the meaning of Christian servanthood. I am enclosing a recent statement of our Council

which she originally drafted, though it has been changed at points by our committee of clergy and lay theologians. I urge you to read this carefully.

Rev. David Schilling is a young minister serving the Sunnyhills United Methodist Church. His father is a United Methodist Minister and has recently served six years as a United Methodist Superintendent in the Wisconsin Conference of the United Methodist Church. Dave attended Union Theological Seminary and was greatly influenced by the great teachers there in that Christian School. Dave shared in the development of the Statement. I have discussed recently with him the farm worker issue in the light of the Biblical message. I shared with him a recently re-discovered passage from the Letter of James in the New Testament, where James admonishes some of the early Christians who apparently were not acting justly towards those who worked for them. He said, "Behold, the wages of the laborers who mowed your fields, which you kept back by fraud, cry out; and the cries of the harvesters have reached the ears of the Lord of hosts." James 5:4. This is out of context. The message is impressive.

At this point Dave shared with me another verse having great meaning for him earlier in the Letter of James (if a brother or a sister is ill-clad and is in lack of daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what does it profit? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead."

We discussed this a bit in terms of our helping the farm worker to have the needed opportunities of organizing for contracts that would give him his daily food and livelihood.

Sal Alvarez, formerly with the Catholic Council for the Spanish Speaking is quite well known by me. I know his faith and his action are closely related.

I hardly know Ann Loftis from Palo Alto but was at the First Congregational Church of Palo Alto last Sunday and her minister reported she was in jail in Fresno acting out of her convictions and commitment for justice for farm workers

I know Father Eugene Boyle well, and have worked closely with him through the years in areas where our fellowmen are being hurt by society. He, of course is from another County. I understand there are many priests, nuns pastors and others who are in jail in support of the farm workers.

Judge Paige, I hope you recognize the injustice of the present farm worker struggle for justice, with the powerful Teamsters Union in "sweetheart" agreements now taking over the former contracts of the United Farm Workers. I can help get authentic information for you, if you do not have access to it from other sources. The Vice-President of our Council of Churches has been professionally in labor law for twenty-eight years, six of these with NLRB when the Teamsters ruthlessly engaged in similar unethical practices with cannery and field workers. Few people have the understanding and knowledge of the issues that our own Council Vice President has. Incidentally, he is a Lutheran layman of deep commitment.

I send you this letter, having personally typed it myself, with the knowledge it is too long and might not be read, or that I may be labeled in some way. I hope it will tell you just a bit about the people who support the farm workers because they fear and witness the use of law in such a way that it does not protect the farm workers in their basic Constitutional rights. Out of their belief in God, and their commitment to His call to justice, they are now

in Fresno County Jail, and are now in the eighth day of a hunger fast.

I plead with you to look at these issues clearly, and with recognition of the rights of the farm workers. We all know that laws can often be interpreted in ways that can perpetrate injustice, and I suppose any decision may infringe somewhat on somebody. These farm workers, however, are so often the losers in local decisions of the courts, and it takes so long for issues to be fought up to the higher courts. In the meantime the people suffer.

Sincerely,

Rev. R. Kenneth Bell
Executive Director

OPEN LETTER FROM FRESNO COUNTY JAIL

August 3, 1973

Quentin Reynolds
Chairman of the Board
Safeway Stores, Inc.

Dear Mr. Reynolds,

It has happened again. Those with power and influence in our society have failed to exercise their corporate moral responsibility to assist the most oppressed people of our society, the farmworkers, achieve their just rights. For this reason, we the undersigned religious people, have chosen to join our struggling farmworker brothers and sisters in their challenge of an injunction which is clearly a grave infringement of their constitutional rights of free speech and free assembly. We have also chosen to accept with them the consequences of this action: arrest and imprisonment. This imprisonment is in the very primitive conditions of the Fresno County Jail and other makeshift detention facilities. Proven beatings of some of the farmworkers by sheriff's deputies has been but the logical outcome of an outrageously unjust situation.

We believe that the current strike, including the beatings, could have been prevented had Safeway, the largest chain store in the country, lifted even a little finger to help. We believe that Safeway must continue to bear a major share of the pain and suffering endured by so many of the farmworkers today.

We religious persons plead with you to activate your corporate moral conscience and use your well-known power and influence to alter the destructive course of present events.

Signatories:

Fr. Eugene J. Boyle
Mr. James Burke, S.J., Wisconsin
Mr. John McConeville, S.J., California
Fr. Patrick Carroll, S.J., Oregon
Fr. Michael Cooper, S.J., Chicago
Fr. Louis Cox, New York
Fr. William Davis, S.J., Oregon
Fr. Neil Doherty, New York
Mr. Andrew Dzida, S.J., California

Open Letter from Fresno Co. Jail
Page Two

Mr. Donald Foran, S.J., Oregon
Bro. Charles Fitzsimmons, C.S.C.
Fr. James Hagan, San Francisco Archdiocese
Fr. Patrick Hurley, Oregon
Mr. Robert Lebel, S.J., New England
Fr. Joseph LeBran, S.J., New England
Fr. Patrick Lee, S.J., Oregon
Fr. Ralph Loona, SDB, Los Angeles
Fr. Frank Oppenheim, S.J., Chicago
Fr. Juan Romero, PADRES
The Rev. David Schilling, Methodist, Milpitas, CA
Fr. Richard Smith, S.J., Oregon
Fr. William Spine, S.J., Chicago
Mr. William Sullivan, S.J., California
Mr. Garry Uhlenkiet, S.J., Oregon
Fr. Eugene Toland, Maryknoll, New York
Fr. Carl Voelker, S.J., Wisconsin
Fr. Michael Walsh, S.J., Oregon
Fr. John Wyand, Albany, N.Y.

Sr. Annabelle Raich, St. Louis
Sr. Bernita McTernan, Burlingame, CA
Sr. Rose Cecilia Harrington, Torrance, CA
Sr. Mary Ellen Moore, Chicago
Sr. Katharine Morris, Pasadena
Sr. Bernice Snell, Portland
Sr. Mary Mardell, Provincial of Sacred Heart Srs.,
San Francisco
Sr. Karen Gowser, Portland
Sr. Rita Ann Houlihan, New York
Sr. Carol Frances Jegen, Chicago
Sr. K.C. Young, Los Angeles
Sr. Timothy Gatto, San Francisco
Sr. Judith Best, St. Louis
Sr. Carol Naumann, San Francisco
Sr. Mary Ellen Caldwell, Dubuque
~~Sr. Elizabeth Pleas, Dubuque~~
Sr. Marilyn Schaefer, San Francisco
Sr. Rose Cirillo, Stockton
Sr. Joyce Higgins, Stockton
Sr. Sandra Anderson, Tacoma, WA
Sr. Elizabeth Barber, Pasadena
Sr. Katharine Box, Pasadena
Sr. Alice Callaghan, Pasadena
Sr. Maureen Mahoney, Orange, CA
Sr. Lucy Malarkey, Pasadena
Sr. Connie O'Conner, Rosemont, PA
Sr. Regina Peltier, Marymount College, Salina, Kansas
Sr. Rachel La Paz de Jose, Tucson, ARIZ
Sr. Felicia Sarati, Union City, CA
Sr. Mary Cathleen Small, San Francisco
Sr. Joan Viery, California

DOROTHY DAY, The Catholic Worker, New York

THE UFW STRIKE

And You

CITIZENS OF FRESNO COUNTY

Your tax dollars are being used AGAIN to subsidize the big growers in Fresno County. Sheriff Melvin Willmirth says that nearly \$200,000 has already been spent on overtime pay, and additional hundreds of thousands of dollars are being wasted to keep people in jail. This money is being used to break the United Farm Workers' strike against growers who are refusing to renew contracts with the Union, NOT to protect life and property as the growers and Sheriff claim.

WHY ARE FARMWORKERS BEING ARRESTED?

Major contracts in this area have expired; strikebreakers are harvesting orchards that have been under contract for 3 years. Unreasonable injunctions have been issued, far more restrictive than those in other areas of the state. If the Union accepted the terms of these orders it would be IMPOSSIBLE to effectively communicate with workers in the fields.

We will not allow our strike to be broken in the courts. The growers are now using the Sheriff's department as a private army to remove the pickets.

Why? Because they know a strong picket line shows the scabs the Union is strong. A strong union is something that will gain much more for the workers than promises from the growers or labor contractors. We must reach our brothers and sisters in the fields, convincing them to join us.

fallacy: "The Sheriff has no choice but to arrest pickets under court orders."

▼ fact: The court orders the Sheriff to enforce its order by any means including but NOT LIMITED to arrests.

fallacy: "There is no other way to control violence."

▼ fact: The Union has maintained a consistent policy of nonviolence. The Sheriff doesn't need a court order to arrest scattered individuals who violate existing laws.

fallacy: "The Sheriff 'bends over backwards' to make sure the arrests are legal."

▼ fact: The Sheriff has ignored the patent unconstitutionality of the orders and declared non-violent assemblies unlawful.

Boycott



Lettuce

ICEBERG
LETTUCE

fallacy: "Prisoners in the county Jail and Industrial Farm are being treated well."

▼ fact: Strikers have been refused the right to make phone calls when booked. No one has been released on citations since July 23. Lawyers and law students representing the strikers have been harrassed while visiting and even physically ejected before completing interviews. Toilet articles are being refused strikers.

fallacy: " No one has been beaten in jail."

▼ Fact: Not since the incidents on July 21. Those assaults by jail personell have been documented by UFW legal and medical staff from both strikers and non-striker sources. We are greatful that prompt outcry from the public has prevented any reoccurances.

* * * * * HOW YOU CAN HELP * * * * *

write: Judge Blaine Pettit protesting the unconstitutional injunction -- P.O. Box 1628, Fresno, Ca. 93717

Sheriff Milvin A. Willmirth protesting the mass arrests and treatment of strikers -- P.O. Box 1788, Fresno, Ca. 93717

Fresno County Board of Supervisors -- Room 301, Hall of Records Fresno, Ca. 93721

Civil Rights Division, Department of Justice -- Room 4303, 1130 "O" Street, Fresno, Ca. 93721

Letters to local newspapers

picket: (not necessary to get arrested) Every day; phone U.F.W. headquarters in Selma for time and location -- 896-5251

boycott: Safeway Stores. And boycott non-union grapes and lettuce at ALL stores.

volunteer: your time at the U.F.W. Office -- 2008 E. Front Street Selma, Ca. -- 896-5251

advertise: your support. Wear a U.F.W. button on your shirt and a sticker on your bumper

i VIVA LA U.F.W.!

September 6, 1973/20¢

CESAR CHAVEZ SPEAKS OUT ON NONVIOLENCE
PHIL & DAN BERRIGAN ON TORTURE
IN NORTH VIETNAM
WRL CELEBRATES 50th ANNIVERSARY
VVAW TRIAL DRAGS ON

win

PEACE AND FREEDOM THRU NONVIOLENT ACTION



Dorothy Day on the picket line

COPY

85 Roosevelt Circle
Palo Alto, CA 94306
August 16, 1973

Letter to the Editor
San Jose News
50 Ridder Park Drive
San Jose, CA 95190

Dear editor:

Mis-understanding of 2 statements which I made at a Press Conference entitled "Chavez Strike: Protest Jail Conditions" must be corrected. Picketters for the U.F.W. union, striking farms in Fresno County, have gone to jail over and over again in the past month. These loyal U.F.W. union members have deliberately violated the injunctions sought by the growers and by the Judge. Injunctions have historically been used to break strikes.

On July 31 and August 1st approximately 95 clergy, priests, and nuns, and lay persons from churches all over the U.S. made the decision to go to prison with their brother and sister farm workers to test the injunctions which violates their 1st amendment rights of freedom of speech and association. The right to picket freely is essential for farm workers to receive freedom from economic oppression and dignity as human beings.

Not only did we go to prison to stop the misuse of the injunctions but to help bring equality into the prison and court. The women imprisoned with us assured us many times during those 2 weeks stay at the Fresno County Industrial Farm that conditions and attitudes of employees of the Sheriffs Dept. had changed dramatically for the better during our stay. I did not see a Chicana striker in handcuffs. I saw bruises on her arm from being handcuffed in a previous arrest. I did not see men with clubs and hoses facing our picket line. Women arrested the same day at another ranch, incarcerated in the same barracks as I, did see it. (A priest took pictures of it.)

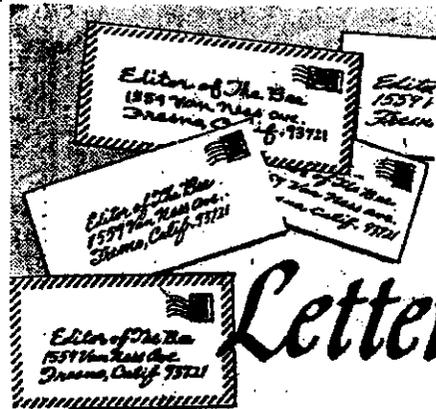
I grieve that my sister and brother farm workers are sometimes treated differently than officials of the church on the picket line, in jail, or court. Hopefully, someday, working together the ideal may be a reality of "brotherhood and justice for all."

Si se puede,

Rosemary Cooperrider
Santa Clara Co. Council of Churches
Dept. of Migrant Ministry

Fresno Bee

8/22/73



Happy Prisoner

Editor of The Bee—Sir: Muchas gracias to the powerful citizens of Fresno County who have welcomed me with room and board for my recent 14-day visit at your Industrial Farm. I appreciate the Christian fellowship of my beautiful friends who shared these very meaningful days. Our first amendment rights of freedom of speech and assembly were taken from approximately 150 of us. But this was a small sacrifice to make in comparison to the suffering of our farm-worker brothers and sisters denied these rights for years resulting in the frustration of another constitutional right to associate in a labor union of their choice, the UFW.

All of us who are concerned about the preservation of these rights appreciate the fellowship of all those in our country who are struggling to preserve these rights including Joan Baez and Daniel Ellsberg. Your readers should know that both Joan and Dan have suffered far longer than I have struggling nonviolently for the preservation of these same rights for you and me.

This is why they came to Fresno recently. (Note to the writer of Saturday night's editorial about celebrities on the picket line: Joan's father was born in Mexico. She understands the economics of the farm workers' struggle and has sung for their benefit many times, always donating 90 per cent of the proceeds to La Causa.) They raised our spirits when they came to talk and sing for us. They had very expertly redirected a possibly violent confrontation with a few growers' wives on the picket line before they came to visit us. God bless them.

Thanks again for the blessed opportunity you gave me.

ROSEMARY COOPERRIDER.

Palo Alto.



UNITED FARM WORKERS, AFL-CIO

P.O. BOX 62 KEENE, CALIFORNIA 93531 (805) 822-5571

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We have asked our friends to suffer many sacrifices with us during the past eleven years of organizing. But few have had to give up as much as you did during your imprisonment with your brothers and sisters of the fields in Fresno. This is what our Lord meant when he said, "Inasmuch as you do it unto the least of these, my brethren, you do it unto me." We are very grateful for the witness which you provided to the strikers as well as to the general public.

You are in our prayers now that you have returned to your homes. We hope you will share with people you know the trials we continue to suffer. Hundreds of strikers will be leaving this week to go to boycott cities around the nation. They will face new experiences of city life and separation from their families in some cases. Please ask your friends around the country to watch for their arrival so they may be welcomed in the spirit of love which makes us hope for a strong union.

Si se puede!

Your brother,

Cesar E. Chavez
Director

CEC/ssd

BY THE CLERGY AND RELIGIOUS IMPRISONED IN THE FRESNO COUNTY JAIL

August 9, 1973

Judge Blaine Pettitt, Superior Court of Fresno County, Department 1, has arbitrarily denied our Farmworker brothers and sisters their constitutional right to peacefully assemble and to exercise the right of free speech. Judge Pettitt has stringently restricted the number of pickets and the use of bullhorns. During the past weeks the Farmworkers have challenged this unjust curtailment of their constitutional rights, and for this, they have been arrested, jailed and treated as common criminals.

On Tuesday, July 31, we priests, sisters, brothers, seminarians and other concerned people joined our brothers and sisters in their courageous challenge of the clearly unjust court order. We joined them in the picket line and with them were arrested and jailed, and with them we have spent thus far 10 days in jail.

The conditions of the various places of incarceration have differed. For 250 of us detention has been in the near medieval conditions of the Fresno jail. In this short statement we cannot mention every detail, but we consider it sufficient to say that since our booking into the jail we have been confined in groups of 22 to 31, in tanks of no more than 20 by 30 feet, for 24 hours a day except for 20 minutes for breakfast and 20 minutes for dinner. We have never been allowed to see the light of day or to get any exercise. All prisoners, some of whom are here for months, experience this curtailment of physical freedom as brutal punishment. The question we ask is: For what crime, if any, are we subjected to this extreme punishment? We are being treated as criminals and we have not been convicted. Even if we were convicted of the alleged misdemeanor, we certainly would not have been subjected to a punishment so intense or prolonged. We are also convinced that we will not be convicted because the order under which we were arrested could never survive a constitutional challenge.

It is objected that we could be released on bail. Though many of us cannot afford bail and we believe bail to be a form of discrimination against the poor, bail is not the issue. It is our contention that all of us, farmworkers and religious persons alike, are entitled to release from jail on our own recognizance. But the arbitrary criteria for OR established by local courts have denied all but a few of us this right. OR is for the poor what bail is for the rich. All of us intend to stand together until this right is acknowledged for all.

The justice of our cause is attested by the joyful and hopeful spirit that has persisted among us despite the oppressive conditions. The shouting of "Huelga" and the singing of "De Colores" has been almost endless through the caverns of the jail. We are daily sustained by our prayer and fasting. The Mass celebrated in these circumstances is reminiscent of the early Christian era and is a constant source of strength.

In conclusion, we believe even the attempt to make a case that our punishment fits whatever alleged crime we have committed could be achieved only by the grossest distortion of the judicial process. It is quite obvious to all of us that our imprisonment is not required or justified by the judicial process, but is another clear case of the judiciary and police power being used by the local political establishment to suppress protest and, thereby, to try and break the strike of the United Farm Workers.

REPORT OF THE EVENTS IN FRESNO COUNTY DURING THE PERIOD AUGUST 6-18 in support of the United Farm Workers Union and of those farmworkers clergy, religious and others numbering more than 400 who were in jail for violating the picketing restraining order granted growers by the Fresno courts. Vicky Plaisted, Barbara DuPee, Fred DuPee and Frank Plaisted were with the UFW strikers on the picket lines during this period of time.

August 6 - 5 A.M. Met with the Union picketing groups in the park at Parlier, Calif., Chris Hartmire, Director of the National Farmworker Ministry briefed us on the probability of our all being arrested for massive civil disobedience in violating the unjust picketing restraining order that had already resulted in the arrests mentioned. Moved by car caravan with farmworkers to orchard employing strikebreakers. Engaged in all day violation of restraining order which prohibited more than one picket each 20 feet and limited use of bullhorn to 1 hour each day. Sheriff's busses arrived and for some reason left without making any arrests. We were later informed that there would be no arrests because we seemed "non-violent." Had picket line been composed of farmworkers only we feel sure they would have been arrested. Supporters interspersed with farmworkers represented clergy and sisters from various parts of the nation along with other non-clergy supporters. Oppressive heat, 90 to 101 during day. At end of day to "junta" (meeting in El Parque) Parlier to discuss the day and plan the next. Many sheriffs' cars and deputies in attendance all day. Many growers in attendance at whatever grove we picketed. Spanish speaking priests and nuns manned bullhorns asking strikebreakers to leave the fields.

August 7 - 5 A.M. Same pattern as previous day except that we formed much larger picket lines with many more farmworkers and continuously violated the restraining order. At noon we all formed a car caravan and drove to the Fresno County Court House to stand in a vigil (about 2000 of us) during the hearings regarding whether OR (own recognizance) releases would be granted to all, farmworkers and supporters alike, rather than just to supporters. Another "junta" in the court house park with Joan Baez and Daniel Ellsberg in attendance along with a contingent from the WRL conference being held at Asilomar. No decision by the judge this day.

August 8 - 5 A.M. Back to the picket lines continuously violating the restraining order. Joan Baez and Dan Ellsberg picketed all day with us and Joan used the bullhorn and sang to the strikebreakers in the orchards. (Seasoned employees of most of these ranches were on the picketline, and, on strike. Strikebreakers were brought in from other areas and from Mexico and had no knowledge of strike. Some came out of the fields each day. Others did not come back to work the next day. Picking was slow and strikebreakers were kept back in orchards as far as possible from pickets.) Farmworkers from other areas in the state began arriving to support those in the Fresno area. They came from Mendota, Coachella, Napa, Salinas, Santa Maria and other places. A number of ranchers and their wives came to the orchard on this day with a huge American flag and confronted us. They sang "America the beautiful," in which we all joined, after which they were silent except for looks of anger, perplexity and dislike. Back to the courthouse at noon waiting for word of judges decision. We visited people we knew in the county jail and at the Industrial Farm where the sisters and women farmworkers were being held. It was good to see Francis Heisler at the courthouse lending support to the UFW legal staff. No decision by Judge Paige on the OR question on this day.

August 9-5 A.M. picketline again. Rumors that releases from jail would come today. Clergy, Nuns and supporters still adamant in their stand that they would not accept non-bail release unless all farmworkers granted same terms. RACISM! This day we began picketing grape vineyards joined by still more supporters who came from other areas of the country. "La Misa" The Mass was celebrated at the county labor camp, Parlier, in the evening, in spanish with sermon by The Rev. Leo Nieto from the Ethnic and Langaue ministries, United Methodist Church Headquarters, New York City.

August 10 Same picketing schedule. In afternoon clergy and sisters visited their denominational churches in the area asking for support for the workers.

August 11 - Picketing again. 13 workers came out of one vineyard

(cont.)

Strikebreaking crews in field are at much less than full strength. Many are picking "despacio" (slowly.)

August 12 - 9 A.M. Mass in park at Parlier. No picketing or work on Sunday. Some of us went to courthouse to assist attorneys for UFW in analysis of prospective juror lists for forthcoming trials.

August 13 - 5 A.M. Back to picket line with ever increasing number of supporters and farmworkers. To courthouse at noon awaiting release of those jailed. Late in afternoon they began coming out after Superior Court judge overruled almost every OR point of original Municipal Court Judge. VICTORY! All released on OR. Mass of celebration in courthouse park interrupted continuously by arriving busloads of released prisoners coming from other detention facilities. Much reuniting of farmworker families and everyone in high spirits. Released men, women, farmworkers and supporters all ready to go back to picketlines and do it all over again. The previous day it was announced that strike benefits (\$1,600,000) given by AEL-CIO were running out and that they would end. Farmworkers visibly moved and some through tears said that they would continue to strike and picket regardless of benefits. All agreed to do this even if it means wearing castoff clothes and eating food others bring them. CERTAINLY WE CAN BOYCOTT SAFEWAY - GRAPES - HEAD LETTUCE as our small sacrifice if the farmworkers can give up almost everything!

August 14 Picketing again. Hundreds of farmworkers picketing without any strike benefits. Back to courthouse to await release of the last 100 prisoners. Press conference at courthouse. Magnificent 76 year old Dorothy Day of the Catholic Worker, New York, Fr. Eugene Boyle, Cesar Chavez and others spoke. By 2:30 A.M. on the 15th., all were out of jail. Last to leave, Fr. Juan Romero who did not trust authorities to release all farmworkers until he saw them all out of the jail. Clergy, Sisters and supporters who were in jail all left for various home areas all over the country to hold press conferences and to support the worldwide boycott of grapes - Safeway - head lettuce. All supporters in jail came out in high spirits and changed in thinking. They realize now that the poor and powerless fill our jails and that they must use their influence to change this. Fr. Boyle made the statement that this was the largest mass arrest of clergy and religious in the history of the United States.

August 15 Picketing resumed. Some of those in jail now back on picketline. We are still violating the restraining order and there are no arrests.

August 16 Picketing again. News comes of death of 24 year old Nagi Daifullah, Arab farmworker from Yemen at the hands of Kern County deputy Gilbert Gooper. News received of the shooting and death of Juan DeLa Cruz, 60 year old UFW picket at Arvin by sniper fire. Cesar Chavez orders all picketing stopped until law enforcement agencies protect rights of farmworkers.

August 17 8 A.M. We all move to Delano, California for the funeral procession for Nagi Daifullah. 7,000-8,000 of us walk slowly from the park in Delano out into the countryside to "40 Acres" the UFW Headquarters for the service. That evening attended large "junta" meeting at 40 Acres. Saddening sight to see small group of Yemenese farmworkers and to hear their Arabic chanting. Agri-business still combs the world for cheap labor for our fields. Three day fast announced and cessation of picketing until violence stops. First Constitutional Convention of the United Farmworkers of America is announced. All are invited. Fresno Convention Center, September 22-23. 500 delegates from California, Arizona, Texas, Florida, Colorado and other areas will be there. This is a first for farmworkers. \$50,000 presented to UFW by United Auto Workers at this meeting.

August 18 We came back to our homes on the Monterey Peninsula. We are further strengthened, changed and determined to assist the farmworkers in their struggle even more than our past efforts. The spirit of the farmworkers has never been higher and their determination stronger. Thousands are now part of the struggle rather than the hundreds of just a few years ago. THEY NEED THE SUPPORT AND CONCRETE HELP OF ALL PEOPLE OF GOOD WILL. MONEY IS NEEDED - FOOD IS NEEDED - OUR PRESENCE IS NEEDED AND VERY IMPORTANT. ALL THE POWER POSSIBLE, COURTS, LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, LARGE GROWERS AND MONEY IS ARRAYED AGAINST THE FARMWORKER. WE WILL WIN BECAUSE IT IS TIME FOR SUCH A VICTORY! HUELGA! VIVA LA CAUSA! VIVA LOS CAMPESINOS!

Vicky & Frank Flaisted; Barbara & Fred DuPee
375-7693 625-1718

Monterey Peninsula UFW Support Group

NATIONAL FARM WORKER MINISTRY

(CONTINUING THE NATIONAL MIGRANT MINISTRY)



Related to the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA

August 21, 1973

TO: Those Persons Who Went to Jail

Dear Friends:

I am enclosing some statements and articles that you may or may not have seen. There are many other articles from all parts of the country that I have not had access to or that we can't afford to duplicate. What you did in Fresno has had a profound effect on the farmworkers and on people who are actual or potential supporters of the farm workers' cause.

A couple of observations:

- 1) Your witness in Fresno proves again that it is what people do with their lives that most effectively and powerfully communicates to others. Hundreds of people began to care in a personal way about the suffering of farmworkers because they care about you and learned that you were willing to go to jail with striking farm workers.
- 2) Father Boyle is convinced that this is the largest group of religious folks to go to jail in any justice struggle in the nation's recent history.
- 3) It was certainly the largest group in the history of the farm workers' struggle and your stay in jail was the longest (except for Cesar's time in jail in Salinas in December of 1970).

Some of you felt that you had been misled about the possibility of a long time in jail. Father Boyle and Father Gene Toland and I did not really know how long it would be. Our assumption on Tuesday morning, July 31, was that everyone would be released by the weekend — particularly if there were more arrests on Wednesday or Thursday or Friday. We hesitated talking about that assumption because we weren't absolutely sure how the County would react. We were very wrong and I apologize to anyone who felt used or misled.

The letter to Safeway was drafted by Father Boyle at my request and was to have been passed around to each one of the jail facilities. With the new arrests (Thursday, August 2) and the transporting of people to the fairgrounds and to the arraignments it was not done. I did not worry too much about it because it was a natural letter to send to Safeway under the circumstances — but I have been reminded that what seems natural to me after being around the strike and the boycott for years cannot possibly seem natural to other folks who are in a different circumstance. Again I apologize

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8/21/73

-2-

to anyone who felt offended or used by the letter to Safeway. I accept full responsibility for that happening.

I want you all to know that it was very hard being on the outside of the jail while you were in — especially as the days turned to weeks. I wish I had gotten to know all of you better. You have done a beautiful deed for the farm workers' struggle and the ripple effect of your actions will continue for months to come.

There have been two deaths in the strike this past week. Bishop Donohoe (Fresno) and Bishop Arzube (Los Angeles) and Bishop Flores (San Antonio) will say the funeral mass (8/21/73) for Juan de la Cruz who was shot and killed on the picket line last week. Cesar has called off the strike temporarily and is asking for federal protection for the strikers.

What should be done now to help the United Farm Workers?

- 1) Send a telegram to Attorney General Elliott Richardson (Dept. of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20535) asking that the Justice Department assign personnel to Kern, Fresno and Tulare Counties to help protect the lives and civil rights of the striking farm workers.
- 2) Spread the word about the boycott of non-UFW grapes and head lettuce. The boycott is the most important way to help the farm workers' cause. In Washington, D.C. and in the Western United States the boycott is focussed on Safeway Stores.

Warm thanks for your caring and your sacrifice. Because of their own spirit and determination and also because of folks like you, the farm workers will win and have their own union.

SI, se puede,

Chris Hartmire

Wayne C. Hartmire, Jr.

WCH/sm
enclosures

P.S. The hearings and trials in Fresno County have all been postponed for six months. The chances are excellent that all charges against all people arrested for picketing will be dropped.

Protest Jail Conditions

By JIM DICKEY
Staff Writer

Striking farm workers in the Fresno area have received "brutal punishment" in the "near medieval conditions" of Fresno County Jail, it has been charged by four church leaders from the San Jose area.

The four, who were released from the jail Monday after two weeks, held a press conference Wednesday at the Santa Clara County Labor Temple to speak of the jail conditions. The press conference was cosponsored by the Santa Clara County Council of Churches.

Groups of 20 to 31 members and supporters of Cesar Chavez' Farmer Workers Union were placed "in windowless tanks 20 by 30 feet in size," and not allowed "to see the light of day for two weeks," it was charged.

They said they were awak-

ened at all hours of the night by guards, never getting a full night's rest. Guards themselves worked up to 16 hours a day for as many as three weeks straight and were tired and angry and "took it out on" the jailed farm workers and clergy, they said.

The four among 400 persons arrested for allegedly violating restrictions on picketing at struck fields are: Mrs. Rosemary Cooperrider of Palo Alto, the Rev. David Schilling of Milpitas, Mrs. Ann Loftis of Menlo Park and Salvadore H. Alvarez of San Jose.

"We were there to protect farm workers on the picket line and in the jails," Mrs. Cooperrider said. "We saw (men) approaching striking farm workers with clubs and hoses in their hands. They sheepishly put them behind their backs when they saw priests and nuns on the picket line."

In jail, she said, a woman who spoke only Spanish could not complain that her handcuffs were making bruises on her wrists, so the clergy complained to jailers, and the manacles were loosened.

The Rev. Mr. Schilling, a Methodist minister, said he

was denied a toothbrush for four days and was never given a change of clothing in the two weeks he was jailed.

Mrs. Cooperrider remarked:

"We have power in the church and the growers knew it — power to help dissolve the injustice that prevails among farm workers."

The jailed clergy and farm workers were denied release on their own recognizance for two weeks, which they claim is a violation of their constitutional rights.

It was claimed also that a Superior Court injunction limiting pickets to one every 100 feet is a denial of the workers' right to organize and wage an effective strike.

In a prepared statement, the church leaders said:

"We believe even the attempt to make a case that our punishment fits whatever alleged crime we have committed could be achieved only by the grossest distortion of the judicial process.

"It is quite obvious to all of us that our imprisonment (was) not required or justified by the judicial process, but is another clear case of the judiciary and police power being used by the local political establishment to suppress protest and, thereby, to try to break the strike of the United Farm Workers."

MISSION CORNER:

Fresno County Industrial Farm
500 E. Ellhorn Avenue
Caruthers, California 93609

My Dear Church Family:

Greetings to you from the Fresno County Industrial Farm. Thank you for your letters & Prayers. Do not feel sorry for us. We have undergone no physical pain except some from hunger on a fast. There have been only a few inconveniences the worst being freedom to go where we wish. Only by the Grace of God have we been privileged to share our lives for 14 days with our guards & about 150 beautiful people. The tremendous solidarity of these followers of Christ has never before been experienced so deeply. Our hearts have grieved for ^{our} fellow farm worker inmates who have suffered all their lives from great injustice. We worry about their families. We grieve for the regular inmates here & the deputy sheriff who must enforce the unlawful court order by which we were denied our freedom of speech & assembly and farm workers are being frustrated in their right to freedom to associate.

We came here to protect our farm worker brothers & sisters from cruel treatment in prison to make it possible for others to peacefully picket. We came to give the growers & sheriffs Dept. the opportunity to understand they must treat farm workers they employ & jail with dignity and allow them to live in equality with you & me. None have broken a valid law. When trial is over we will be exonerated & no longer will judges be able to issue injunctions to jail for non-violently picketing. For this we have paid a small price, & received great blessings. All of us are praying for the understanding of all our brothers & sisters in the Church. God bless all of you,
Rosemary Cooperrider

Ed Mulholland 7/21/73

Two Peninsulans arrested with UFW

Two Peninsula women, one a volunteer member of the Santa Clara County Council of Churches, were among 215 United Farm Worker (UFW) strikers arrested in Fresno County, police said.

Mrs. Cooperrider is the migrant representative for the Council of Churches. According to Fred Ross of UFW in San Francisco, she was among a contingent of Bay Area religious leaders and others who went to Fresno County on Monday and Tuesday.

Lt. William Cunningham, of the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, reported these details:

Mrs. Rosemary Cooperrider, of 85 Roosevelt Ct. in Palo Alto, was arrested on charges of failing to disperse and refusing to obey a lawful command.

On the same charges, police booked Mrs. Anne Loftis of 7 Anastradero Road in Portola Valley.

They were arraigned yesterday in Kingsburg Judicial District Court. Cunningham said the arrests were made in the vicinity of Kingsburg, 20 miles south of Fresno.

The charges against the women are misdemeanors. The judge ordered them held at the Fresno County Industrial Farm in lieu of \$400 bond cash. Court appearances were set for three weeks away.

SJ Merc



Dorothy Day leaves jail

"I think Cesar Chavez and his United Farm Workers Union is the most important thing that has happened to the U.S. labor movement, according to Dorothy Day, seventy-six year old co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement.

This interview took place as Ms. Day left the Fresno County Industrial Farm where she was jailed August 1 along with 400 others for violating a court injunction limiting pickets to one per one hundred feet.

"The working poor in the fields have banded together through free choice to work out their own destiny. The sacrifices of Chavez and his associates are unknown to a vast proportion of the people of this country.

One has only to visit Cesar's

home and his family to understand the situation - an old frame house in a poor part of the town. There is no sign of the opulence normally attached to the homes of other leaders of labor unions. Chavez's salary is well below the poverty level, and his associates, including the Union attorneys, exist under the same substandard conditions. Whatever money comes into the union is used mainly for its members, not for its leaders."

Dorothy Day had flown in from New York to help the farm workers in their struggle with the growers and the Teamsters. Several hours after arriving, she was on the picket line. Several minutes later, she was on her way to jail.



OFFICE OF PUBLIC DEFENDER

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ALAN YENGOYAN, JR.
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LENORE SCHREIBER
VICTOR N. PAPADAKIS

DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDERS

August 27, 1973

Ms. Rosemary A. Copperrider

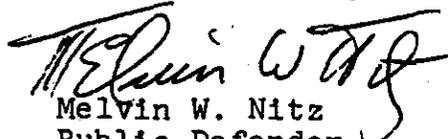
85 Roosevelt Circle

Palo Alto, Ca. 94306

All UFW cases in Fresno County are now being continued until February and March 1974. At that time the cases will be dismissed unless you have been re-arrested for violation of any anti-picketing order in Fresno County between now and the 1974 date.

If your appearance is needed at any time in the future we will contact you. No word from us will mean that your case has been dismissed. Please feel free to make any inquiry of us at any time.

Sincerely yours,


Melvin W. Nitz
Public Defender

MWN:mbf

SF Clergy Jailed In Fresno With UFW Pickets

Sacramento Union
News Services

FRESNO — An estimated 250 to 275 United Farm Worker supporters, including some visiting priests and nuns from San Francisco, were arrested on the picket lines Tuesday in southern Fresno County.

The Fresno County Sheriff's Office said that the pickets were charged with refusing to disperse.

A union spokesman said about 85 priests and nuns were from a conference of the International Symposium of Ignatian Spirituality in San Francisco and went out on picket lines to view the farm labor dispute first hand.

Kern County sheriff's officers estimated that 2,000 strikers picketed off and on at many of the 29 grape ranches whose contracts with the UFW expired Sunday after a breakdown of negotiations.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Loren Fote of Kern County said, "this is the largest display of force in the eight years of picketing activities of the UFW."

It may be years before the faltering United Farm Workers Union wins back contracts with Delano table grape growers, a UFW spokesman said Tuesday.

The union struck after failure to renew historic contracts reached with 29 growers here in 1970 after five years of strikes and boycotts.

The Rev. John Banks said the union was "back in total struggle like in 1965."

"It will take at least a year and probably several years to get our contracts back," Banks said. "The Teamsters have been hanging around the growers here and we anticipate they will sign shortly."

The UFW, affiliated with the AFL-CIO, is locked in a jurisdictional battle with the Teamsters Union, which has signed 51 growers in California this year who had held UFW contracts.

an army of 2,000 men was on the lines of a fire in Klamath National Forest but it would take at least three more days to control it.

Cesar Chavez, who has seen his UFW dwindle from 40,000 members to about 6,500 since his contracts began expiring in April, said he is confident the union will win its strike and boycott battle just as it did three years ago.

The Rev. Banks didn't deny that UFW members might have been involved in two outbreaks of violence but said the union encourages a full investigation.



(AP Wirephoto)

Catholic editor booked

Dorothy Day, 75-year-old editor of the Catholic Worker, was among the hundreds of striking farm workers and strike sympathizers — including 20 nuns — arrested Thursday near Fresno.

Chavez appeal—'Stand

FRESNO (AP) Cesar Chavez wants his followers all over America to "stand with us" and be arrested here where droves already have been jailed for challenging court bans on mass picketing.

Almost 3,000 United Farm Workers Union members and supporters have been arrested in the San Joaquin Valley during two weeks of massive civil disobedience picketing at fruit ranches where growers had obtained court restrictions on the number of pickets. Almost 2,000 of the arrests have been in Fresno County, reportedly the na

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Jail Is Old Hat for 75-Year-Old Radical

BY URSULA VILS

Times Staff Writer

FRESNO — The first time she went to jail, Dorothy Day was the youngest protester. This time she was the oldest.

At 75, the longtime Catholic radical—she insists she is no mere liberal—came to California from New York City to join those backing Cesar Chavez's United Farm Workers Union in a grape strike. And once more, Dorothy Day found herself in jail.

"Oh," she said in a voice raspy with age and fatigue, "I have seen the inside of eight or nine prisons and been in jail for up to 30 days six times."

Old Hat

Miss Day, leader of the Catholic Worker Movement and an author, was among 100 women, including 30 nuns arrested on Fresno County picket lines and held in the Fresno County Industrial Farm for up to 14 days while lawyers worked for their release.

To Dorothy Day, jail was old hat. In her years as a

radical activist and pacifist—as a pacifist she has never voted for any political candidate and refused to go underground during New York's World War II air raid tests—she has been arrested during demonstrations on behalf of labor and the poor.

Informal Note

During the 1920s she contributed to revolutionary journals attempting to arouse people to the needs of the poor, and she still edits the Catholic Worker, tabloid publication of the Catholic Worker Movement which she founded.

The morning after her release in Fresno, she showed up at the courthouse park for an informal press conference called by Chavez. A paisley scarf covered her white hair, a braid wrapped around her head like a crown. She plopped a battered straw hat atop the scarf to ward off the summer heat.

Then she climbed atop a bench, stood next to Chavez and addressed UFWU



ACTIVIST PAIR—Catholic Worker leader Dorothy Day displays autographed dress to Cesar Chavez. Times photo by Tony Barnard

partisans and the press.

"This strike," she said, "is not just for wages or hours or conditions. It involves men's dignity."

She then referred to the

more than 60 priests, ministers and nuns who were among about 500 persons jailed for illegal picketing.

"To see the church in jail," she said, "is to see real

Christianity." Chavez ended the press conference and sat next to Miss Day. She proudly showed him a memento of her incarceration, a green jail uniform she calls her "habit."

The front carried the signatures of the women imprisoned with her, and on the back was the UFWU's Black Eagle and "Viva la Causa."

Cesar Signs

She asked Chavez to autograph the dress.

"But I wasn't in jail with you," he protested with a broad smile, then signed his name boldly across the top of the dress.

Then he asked Dorothy Day if she would come back to support his cause again.

"Tell me," she said calmly, "when you want me."

At first glance, Dorothy Day seems frail and aged, worn by decades of effort on behalf of largely unpopular causes. Not so; she is a tough, resilient woman, one who is not about to give up fighting for what she believes is right and just.

"I'm sure Cesar is winning," she said levelly. "For myself, I am a more confirmed anarchist than ever."

"When will I give up? Women never give up—you know that."

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2 Midpeninsula women arrested with strikers

Two Midpeninsula women, one a volunteer member of the Santa Clara County Council of Churches, were among 215 United Farm Worker (UFW) strikers arrested in Fresno County, police said.

Lt. William Cunningham, of the Fresno County Sheriff's Department, reported these details:

Mrs. Rosemary Cooperrider, of 85 Roosevelt Court in Palo Alto, was arrested on charges of failing to disperse and refusing to obey a lawful command. On the same charges, police booked Mrs. Anne Loftis of 7 Arastradero Road in Portola Valley.

Mrs. Loftis co-authored a book on the internment of Japanese-Americans after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. In an interview with the Palo Alto Times in 1970, she said: "I'm interested in the phenomenon of self-realization among all minorities — people getting a new image of themselves and carrying on their own programs. Their ferment is part of the emphasis on human values, of realizing that people aren't just economic cogs."

Mrs. Cooperrider and Mrs. Loftis were arraigned on Thursday in Kingsburg Judicial District Court. Cunningham said the arrests were made in the vicinity of Kingsburg, 20 miles south of Fresno.

The charges against the women are misdemeanors. The judge ordered them held at the Fresno County Industrial Farm in lieu of \$400 bond each. Court appearances were set for three weeks away.

Mrs. Cooperrider is the migrant representative for the Council of Churches. According to Fred Ross of UFW in San Francisco, she was among a contingent of Bay Area religious leaders and others who went to Fresno County on Monday and Tuesday.

Ross said the contingent included about 85 people who participated in a three-day International Symposium on the Status of Women held at San Jose State University until Monday.

One of the issues raised at the conference, Ross said, was the farm worker issue. The 85 wanted to "bring a fuller meaning of spirituality into the realm of social action," he said.

They decided to participate in Fresno

County where farm workers have been striking, on and off for eight years.

Ross said Tuesday, he said, because of the feast day of St. Ignace of the Jesuit Order, Ross and others were arrested with the strikers on Tuesday, and another 40 were arrested in a group of 100 on Thursday.



AP Wirephoto

On the firing line

State Sen. George Moscone of San Francisco, right, an almost-certain candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor next year, was with Cesar Chavez at a rally in Fresno Thursday to show his support for the United Farm Workers Union's strike.

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UFW Makes New Plea ^{From} To Free 450 ^{8/10/63}

By William K. Patterson
Bee Legal Affairs Writer

Failing to win the release from jail without bail of an estimated 450 United Farm Workers Union members and supporters from Municipal Court Judge James V. Paige; attorneys for the group are taking their request to a higher court.

A hearing before Superior Court Judge Denver C. Peckinpah was scheduled for late today in connection with a writ of habeas corpus granted in response to a petition declaring those jailed on charges arising out of UFW picketing activities are being illegally held in jail.

The petition asserts the arbitrary denial of release on their own recognizance constitutes punishment without proof of guilt and is in violation of the strike supporters' rights to peaceably assemble.

It is noted in the petition the pickets and the priests and nuns and others supporting the UFW strike have served at least eight days in jail and are being denied a release without bail either because of previous arrests.
See UFW's Scheme Page A4

UFW's Plea:

Continued from Page A1
rests on similar charges during the strike situation or because they reside beyond a 100-mile radius of Fresno.

Paige, in refusing to order the release of those in jail on their own recognizance (OR), said a condition of release, namely to obey all laws and lawful court orders, shall remain as a condition of release.

The judge did order the Probation Department to re-examine all denials of OR release of UFW strikers and supporters for further recommendation.

Paige specifically denied OR releases to Sister Timothy Gatto, a Santa Rosa nun, Jesus Delgado Torres of Parlier and Malletano Mancha of Sanger subject to further review.

He noted Sister Timothy and Torres both testified they would accept OR release only upon condition that all others similarly charged would be released on their own recognizance.

Mancha admitted four arrests on charges of unlawful assembly and failing to disperse, the judge also noted.

Expressing disappointment at Paige's decision, Robert Y. Bell, an attorney for Sister Timothy, and UFW attorney Ellen Lake, said all of those in jail are there "because of their attempts to express their beliefs in support of the UFW strike."

Both said there is no serious question that any of those in jail will appear for trial when directed.

"Until there is a proper hearing or a final adjudication, these people should not be held in jail," Bell said. "Everyone is entitled to his day in court."

Miss Lake claimed Paige's order "reflects a desire to keep the strikers from returning to the fields to talk to the workers."

Meanwhile, Superior Court Judge Milo Popovich granted a preliminary injunction sought by the Ballantine Produce Co. and Superior Court Judge Blaine Pettitt issued a temporary restraining order sought by Lamanuzzi & Pantaleo ranches limiting pickets to one every 20 feet.

Bid For Jail Release Of UFW 450 Goes To Superior Court

By William K. Patterson
Bee Legal Affairs Writer

Failing to win the release from jail without bail of an estimated 450 United Farm Workers Union members and supporters from Municipal Court Judge James V. Paige, attor-

neys for the group are taking their request to a higher court.

A hearing before Superior Court Judge Denver C. Peckinpah was scheduled for late today in connection with a writ of habeas corpus granted in response to a petition declaring those jailed on charges arising out of UFW picketing activities are being illegally held in jail.

The petition asserts the arbitrary denial of release on their own recognizance constitutes punishment without proof of guilt and is in violation of the strike supporters' rights to peaceably assemble.

It is noted in the petition the pickets and the priests and nuns and others supporting the UFW strike have served at least eight days in jail, and are being denied a release without bail either because of previous arrests on similar charges during the strike situation or because they re-

sue beyond a 100-mile radius of Fresno.

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Fresno B 8/4/73

Judge Eases Ban On UFW Pickets At 4 Fresno Farms

By William K. Patterson

Bee Legal Affairs Writer

Superior Court Judge Hollis G. Best has modified court orders aimed at the United Farm Workers Union to restrict picketing at four Fresno County ranches to five pickets every 100 feet instead of two.

Temporary injunctions issued by Best Friday modify temporary restraining orders issued about three weeks ago by Superior Court Judge Elaine Pettitt. Pettitt's orders led to large-scale picketing and mass arrests of protesting UFW workers and union supporters who felt the judge's orders were too restrictive.

Best's ruling applies to picketing activities at the Kay Bee, Song, E. L. Barr and Harry Aslan Ranches.

UFW attorney Ellen Lake said Best's ruling "still rigidly restricts" the number of strikers on the picket line.

"I am just sorry the court decided the strikers are not free to exercise their constitutional rights to assemble like other Americans," she said.

There are a number of other court orders coming up for hearings this month, and the attorney said the

UFW will continue to fight the orders and hope for a favorable ruling.

UFW spokesmen said they do not know what strategy the union will use in fighting the injunctions, but there are indications the massive civil disobedience campaign, which has been unusually quiet the last few days, will be stepped up next week.

Scattered picketing by about 250 UFW supporters was reported in Fresno County this morning. Deputies said pickets were obeying restrictions ordered by the courts.

Kendall Manock, an attorney for Aslan, described the orders as an "obvious attempt to compromise the issue between the strikers and growers."

"I feel that neither side will be satisfied," he said. "The union wanted unlimited picketing and the growers wanted one or two pickets every 100 feet. Instead they will have five."

While Best's rulings allow the union to have more pickets on the line, other restrictions ordered by Pettitt remain in effect. They include bans against blocking entrances and exits to the ranches, violence, threats or

See Judge Page A2

Judge: UFW Curb Eased

Continued from Page A1
intimidation of workers, injury or property damage and loud and raucous use of loudspeakers.

Under the new orders, which were to have been posted in UFW offices in Fresno and Tulare Counties Friday night, pickets must stay at least 10 feet from entrances and exits to ranch properties, and picket lines must remain 20 feet from the property line.

Attacked Order

During the hearing conducted by Best, UFW attorneys attacked the temporary restraining orders issued by Pettitt as "overbroad and unclear" and unduly restrictive of the union members' right to talk with the workers and to assemble.

File Bonds

Best's preliminary injunctions became effective Friday night with the filing of surety bonds of \$1,000 each in the three legal actions before the court.

After Best's decision was issued, Manock sought to defend Pettitt from UFW accusations that the temporary restraining orders were unconstitutional.

He referred to UFW leader Cesar Chavez' comments in a Thursday rally in Courthouse Park in which he was quoted as saying he would make Fresno another Selma, Ala., by taking the union's case to the court of public opinion to make county officials "realize they've made a grave and unjust error" in jailing strikers. Calling Chavez' remarks "totally

unjustified," Manock said the UFW has in other cases in recent years and before the problems in Fresno County this year "agreed, without trial, to the same kinds of limitations (on picketing) as ordered by Judge Pettitt."

Cites Precedents

Manock said both the California and US Supreme Court "have clearly established" the authority of a judge to restrict picketing as a means of protecting public safety and private property.

Meanwhile, the Fresno County Sheriff's Office reported Friday was the quietest day in more than two weeks of UFW picketing.

Picketing was reported in a number of areas in the eastern portion of the county, but there were no arrests, the sheriff's office said.

Near Richgrove in Tulare County, a bus carrying nonstriking farmworkers was forced off a road and into a ditch Friday. The Roberts Farms bus was carrying 49 workers to fields, and Don Bendowski, farm manager, said 14 windows were broken and the bus was pelted with rocks.

Some Injuries

Bendowski claimed UFW pickets were responsible for the incident. He said some workers were injured, none seriously.

In Kern County, five arrests were reported Friday in the Delano-Wasco and Arvin-Lamont areas for trespassing, malicious mischief and rock throwing.



Daniel Ellsberg sings; Joan Baez talks over bullhorn.

Bee Photos by Edward C. Nold

Fresno B 8/8/73

Ellsberg, Baez Join UFW Picket Line In Inviting Arrest

Fresno 10 8/8/73

Ellsberg, Baez Join UFW Picket Line In Inviting Arrest

By George L. Baker
Fresno Bee Staff Writer

About 200 United Farm Workers Union supporters invited arrests this morning in Fresno County, and when they were not they began singing "We Shall Overcome." About 100 farmers and their wives countered by singing "America the Beautiful."

The picketing of an E. L. Barr ranch at Leonard and Thompson Avenues west of Sanger was dominated by folksinger Joan Baez and Daniel Ellsberg, the man who started the Pentagon Papers controversy.

Most of those who picketed are friends of the Cesar Chavez cause who came to aid the UFW in its struggle for survival. About 50 were members of The War Resistance League.

They picketed in apparent violation of court orders that limit picketing activity and used a bullhorn, also prohibited, to talk to workers in the peach orchard.

As the farmers and their wives, holding an American flag, looked on from the orchard, sheriff's deputies

merely watched. Sheriff's Capt. William Young said there would be no arrests "because there's no potential for violence."

2,000 Arrests

In recent weeks, more than 2,000 arrests have been made of pickets who picketed in violation of the court orders. The UFW contends the orders are unconstitutional and says it will challenge them in court.

There were no incidents in Fresno this morning where about 300 pickets continued their strike activities. The picketing provided a stark but peaceful contrast.

On one side were Ellsberg, Miss Baez and their friends, shouting "huelga," "viva la causa" and "viva Cesar Chavez" at workers in the field.

Twenty feet away were the farmers and their wives, standing nonchalantly and telling the pickets that the nonstriking workers have a right to work.

"We came out here to show our support for the farmer and the farm-

worker," said Mrs. Jessie Sorenson of Reedley. "We believe they have a right to work without being harassed and threatened."

Added her companion, Mrs. Mary Clark of Reedley, "All they're doing is dividing the Mexican people."

Miss Baez, who led singing this morning and who came to Fresno Tuesday where she took part in a vigil at the Fresno County Courthouse, said she is here to show her support of the farmworkers. "I wanted to come down and see what I could do."

"You have to stand with us if the human race is to survive," Miss Baez told the nearby farmers' wives. "We'll walk hand in hand," she added, as she started singing another chorus of "We Shall Overcome."

"Not with you we won't, shot back one of the women in the orchards.

Ellsberg, against whom charges of espionage in connection with the Pentagon Papers were dismissed, said he came to aid the farmworkers'.

See Pickets Page A4



Bishop Sidney Metzger

Pickets: Ellsberg

Continued from Page A1

cause in fighting the court orders because he has an interest in First Amendment rights.

"There is no more important aspect than the right of picketing and expression of views. It's a cause very close to my heart," Ellsberg said in an interview.

"The issue is a straight First Amendment issue," he added. Ellsberg said he has been a long-time admirer of Chavez, adding that he was "very glad to have a chance to pay my respects. He's an inspiration to me."

Texas Bishop

Additionally, Bishop Sidney Metzger of El Paso, Tex., visited with about 430 UFW supporters still held in custody. Metzger, who has been involved in the Farah clothing plant strike in El Paso, said he came on a mission of mercy to "console those who believe they are persecuted."

The bishop celebrated Mass in the Fresno County Jail, Industrial Farm and Youth Center. At a press conference Tuesday afternoon he said he was not in Fresno to condemn local law enforcement officials.

But he said even though some laws are on the books to be enforced that does not mean the laws are morally proper. "Laws such as these should be tested in courts," he said.

Along with Bishop Metzger was

Auxiliary Bishop Juan Arzube of Los Angeles, who said he was in Fresno to observe what is going on.

In a statement Tuesday, Sheriff Melvin A. Willmirth said no arrests would be made unless it appears that violence will occur.

"It isn't up to me to make a decision on the court orders, other than to enforce them," said Willmirth. "They have to realize, some of the arrests made in past were for their own protection. They said they would go through the fields or whatever to get arrested. We're trying to play it low-key and we'll continue that way. It certainly doesn't give us any satisfaction in arresting religious people."

Fire Report.

Fresno sheriff's deputies reported the headquarters of the Gerawan Ranch in Reedley was destroyed by fire last night in what is believed to be related to the farm strife.

Investigators said the fire was started by a firebomb. No one was injured. The headquarters for the ranching operation are on Alta Avenue near American Avenue.

In Kern County six sheriff's deputies and three UFW pickets were injured Tuesday during a rock-throwing incident at the Giumarra Vineyards near Lamont.

Chief Criminal Deputy Loren Fote said deputy Carroll Clendonon was hospitalized with a broken arm and the other deputies and pickets were injured when struck with rocks.

Injured Woman

A UFW spokesman said one woman picket was injured badly and that arrested pickets who were hurt were not getting medical attention. Kern officials denied the charge.

Fote said the incident occurred when about 275 pickets tried to run into the field and threw rocks to drive workers out of the fields.

He said 30 persons were arrested on charges ranging from rock-throwing and trespassing to assaulting a peace officer. The outburst was the most serious of several such incidents reported in the farm labor strife in the valley.

Tulare County authorities reported two bombs made of firecrackers and rocks exploded in a field, but no one was injured. Four persons were arrested, deputies said.

7. Bee 8/11/73

Peckinpah Lifts Restrictions On Release Of Jailed Pickets

Fresno County Superior Court Judge Denver C. Peckinpah has reversed a Municipal Court ruling and will allow jailed United Farm Workers Union pickets and supporters to be released from jail on their own recognizance (OR) without stringent conditions.

However, Peckinpah said the case of each of the 450 jailed UFW strike supporters will be considered individually. He will begin considering cases at 2 p.m. Monday.

Peckinpah reversed a ruling by Municipal Judge James V. Paige which said pickets released from jail

OR had to obey all laws and court orders.

UFW attorney Ellen Lake said Peckinpah's decision was "a wonderful victory that shows people must be presumed innocent and not held on a presumption of guilt."

Most of the pickets are being held in jail on charges they violated court injunctions limiting the number of pickets at certain Fresno County ranches. Many of the pickets have been in jail for more than a week.

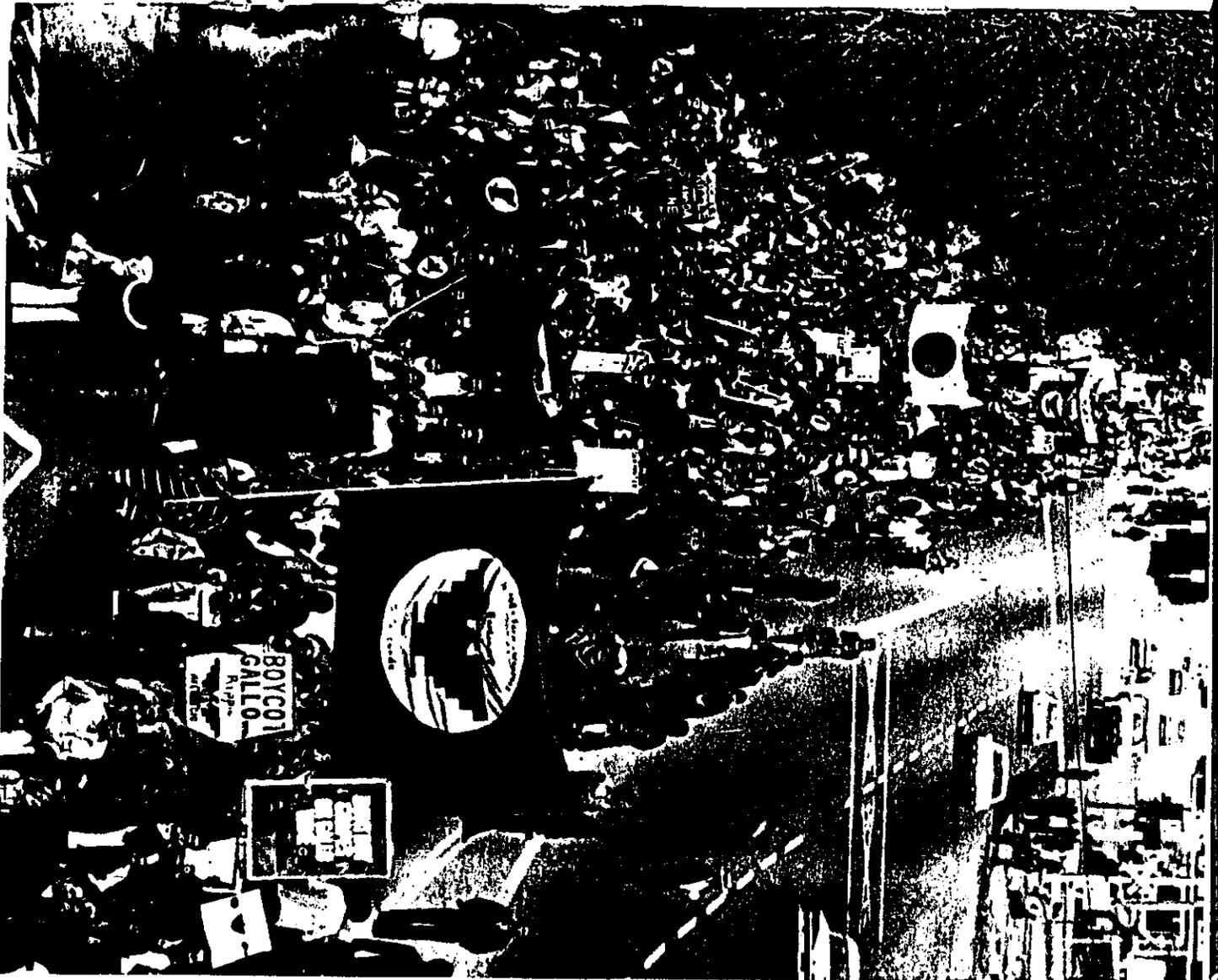
Attorneys for the UFW and jailed strikers contended Paige's order was an attempt to punish the strikers be-

fore they stood trial and to prevent them from returning to the fields to talk to workers.

Peckinpah said, in effect, that it was not proper for Paige to consider protection of the public in fixing bail.

However, he warned that if UFW strike supporters released OR are arrested again, they face the possibility of remaining in jail until they stand trial. Trials are scheduled to begin Tuesday for some of those jailed in connection with the farm strife.

Some of the jailed pickets, including
See Peckinpah Page A



Some of the 15,000 adherents of the United Farm Workers Union who marched into Modesto, California, in 1975 to demand a law which finally promised collective bargaining rights to California's farm workers. (Jim Kunz, El Malcriado)

III - TWO YEARS IN LAPAZ, CA - UFW HEADQUARTERS

Verne and I decided when he retired in 1977 that working for the UFW under the auspices of the National Farm Worker Ministry was what we both wanted. At first our assignment was to go to Salinas and wait for an expected opening at the UFW Clinic there but a decision was made to close the Clinic so we moved to La Paz, the farmworkers name for their national headquarters, at Keene CA between Bakersfield and Tehachapi. We had locked up our valuables and rented our Palo Alto house to a family on sabbatical from Dartmouth Univ. The father was taking classes at Stanford Medical School and the mother was a soloist with the San Francisco Symphony and they had two children. They took excellent care of our house for the year they were there, cleaner than when we left. The second year we had student renters from Stanford Medical School and they made a mess of the place. So we had bit of clearing and cleaning when we got home.

Originally the UFW office was in a little pink house in Delano CA. They had a big hall on "Forty Acres" and built "Agbayóni Village" to house elderly Filipino farm workers and others. Cesar had made a promise to accommodate these workers when the Mexican UFWOC and the Filipino Union merged several years before to become the UFW-AFL/CIO. In _____ a Hollywood movie producer, supporter of the UFW, made a down payment on an old Kern County TB Sanitarium which had been on the market for 14 years. It had several buildings on the 300+ acre tract. Helen Chavez, Cesar's wife, refused to move to La Paz from Delano for a long time because as a child she had been a patient at the Sanitarium. The UFW officially moved the headquarters to La Paz about 1972.

One of the three largest buildings was converted into an office building, one into living quarters for volunteers, and the third was used for large events. There were several old house trailers and several small wooden houses which housed mainly families. We lived in one room in the building used for Living Quarters that was located just behind the Office Building. We slept and lived in one small room and cooked in a cooperative kitchen where anywhere from 2 to 20 of us cooked and ate. Our kitchen had once been the X-ray room for the hospital. There were four groups living cooperatively in the building, each having a kitchen but using co-ed bathrooms and shower rooms (a bit hard to get used to). We took turns shopping in Bakersfield and cooking in the kitchen, and also took turns cleaning the building including the bathrooms. One of the kitchens consisting of all men was supervised by the resident priest, Ken Irrgang. They didn't do their job of bathroom and shower cleaning. I got very angry at this situation and wrote a protest letter to Cesar with a copy to the "kitchen". The cleaning was done pronto!

The population at La Paz varied in number depending on the union's current campaign. One time practically the whole community left for cities all over the U.S. and Canada to support the lettuce boycott campaign. They left with just a bus ticket and phone numbers of supporters who might help them.

Many of the events during that two years were organized under crisis conditions with little advance warning. We always came through however. We all went to Los Angeles and did voter registration one time. We set up ironing-boards in shopping malls for people to sign their registration forms.

The large building at the other end of the property was the scene of parties, dances, banquets and at least one wedding we attended and the famous "Graduation Exercise". In a small house about a block away from the Office Building Cesar and Helen lived with their two German Shepherd dogs (Huelga & Boycott) he raised as guard-dogs and kept behind a high wire fence.

The La Paz UFW Headquarters is located between Hwy. #58 and the combined SP/Santa Fe railroad tracks. The grade up the Tehachapi Pass is so steep that up to a dozen locomotives are used on the trains of over 100 cars, and their noise combined with big trucks storming up the freeway made a big noise at times. The Tehachapi Loop is only a couple of miles up the Pass where a tunnel makes a complete loop inside the mountain so the locomotives up front cross over the end cars with over 70-foot vertical separation. So if you sit on the hill and watch you can see both the front and end cars of the train at once and if you're lucky 2 trains going both ways curling around in the mountain. It is a "7th Wonder of the World". Anytime we had community meetings the trains and trucks would drown out the speakers which usually happened several times during the meeting so we would have to wait. Our community meetings took place usually on Friday afternoon. We were up-dated on happenings of the previous week and sometimes had an interesting guest.. One of them was Chuck Diederick. Cesar had been associated with him in CO days. Unfortunately he had become the leader of the Synanon cult. (That cult had put a rattlesnake in the mailbox of the attorney of a former member suing the cult) Fairly often Cesar would be on the phone when the meeting was to start so Verne would entertain folks playing piano jazz. You can bet those mostly young folks loved it. We were privileged to help ourselves in the wonderful vegetable garden maintained by one of the oldest men in the community, a retired Mexican farmworker. He entertained us with some traditional dances, Wolf Dance, Day of the Dead with a colorful mask

Cesar told us on one occasion in our kitchen about the 5 times his life had been threatened. We learned about one of them while we were there. Because information was received from the FBI that a price of \$5,000 had been placed on Cesar's head by someone in Arizona, the Delaney St. organization (SF group that worked to rehabilitate drug and other offenders) was enlisted to guard La Paz. Some of them sat up on the hill and all of us took turns doing guard duty at night at the guard station located at the entrance to La Paz. I spent shifts about midnight walking thru the halls of the Office Building and the building we lived in to make sure nothing unusual was happening. It was scary. There was no possible way the property could be guarded with railroad tracks on one side and a freeway on the west side, and the small town of Keen consisted only of a gas station and small market, a post office and a few little houses.

After we first got to La Paz Chris Hartmire encouraged all of us to participate in "The Game". After a couple of times I refused to participate. There was a scheme to blame a person in your group for something real or imagined that another person in the group had done. Then everyone would join in criticizing that person. We later found out this was a way Cesar had of checking up on what was going on. He had a "stooge" in each group who reported back to him.

One time when Cesar was off on a trip he spent time with the leader of the Sylva Mind Control cult, and when he came back he told us how he could see 'auras' around people's heads. Because of the involvement of our son Keith in a destructive cult (Moonies) we didn't think much of the Sylva Mind Control group.

Most of the folks in the community were volunteers. They were paid \$10 a week and room and board which was enhanced by food stamps and the privilege of using wonderful vegetables from the community garden (we were on a similar stipend paid by the NFWM but returned it to them as a donation). Cesar had the philosophy that anyone organizing workers must not live any more lavishly than those they were organizing. He died without a penny. When we were at La Paz several of the legal staff quit. They had children and wanted to see that they could afford to send them to college. The one lawyer remaining was Marcos Camacho who is now the chief lawyer for the UFW. Several young people passed the California Bar exams by learning on the job. You don't have to go to law school to be a lawyer in California. Mary McCartney and Dolores Huerta's son are now on the UFW legal staff. A recent visit to La Paz in December of 2000 for the NFWM Board Meeting revealed that these income restrictions have been changed and staff are earning salaries more like other union employees. The Union is now able to pay some retirement and health benefits to the older retired farm workers. The Union has built some beautiful housing for these workers in several areas in Southern California.

Verne was placed in charge of the Word Management Department, responsible for buying the UFW's first word processing computer to produce contracts printed in English and Spanish per regulations of the new California Agricultural Labor Relations Act. When we arrived, contracts were taking up to 3 years to be delivered to the members just at the time for contract renewal. By the time we left after two years the contracts were produced ready for the farmworker's use in about a month. The first computer had huge discs which had to be kept in a room under controlled temperature and humidity. We had to back-up our work every night. During a thunderstorm everything had to be turned off to keep the information from being lost on the discs. We worked 9 hours a day for 5 days and on the sixth day, Saturday, we got off an hour early.

I spent four hours a day in the morning typing Spanish into the computer. In the afternoon I compared the language of an older contract (English) to one which had just been signed. The new pacts were then turned over to 3 translators so those of us running the computer could insert the new Spanish language. I got so I could type the Spanish very fast, about 90 words per minute. One day Cesar stood behind my chair watching me. He said, "I didn't know you could type so fast," and of course I couldn't when he or

any one else was watching me. The greatest difficulty for those translating English to Spanish was for the tools and machines used in agriculture. Many were not in any dictionaries. The farmworkers used the word "fiel" for field instead of campo. They had heard their employers say "field".

On the weekend we sometimes left La Paz to go camping, usually at Red Rock Canyon State Park or occasionally to visit our daughter Kristi and husband in Fresno. Several times we took some volunteer staff camping with us. Great fun!

One winter was eventful. The usually placid creek running through the property flooded so it was necessary to get into the property by using the high-wheeled fire engine we kept ready. On one occasion we forded the stream with our car hoping it wouldn't bottom out as we crossed the deepest part. Another time a thunderstorm was so close that lightning struck a chicken house located just across the creek from La Paz. Our Christmas tree was a "tumbleweed".

After we left in November of 1979 the legal department moved from Delano to La Paz into the large building on the west end of the property where the parties took place. Sadly the creek flooded and ruined the files in the basement. Before we left La Paz Verne researched some large printing equipment for Cesar and they built a new corrugated steel building which they used for a print shop and also the legal department after the flood. It now houses the legal department (2000). In 1997 we volunteered two weeks in La Paz where we cleaned up the flooded mess in the West End Building and did some grower company research for them.

When we arrived at La Paz we promised to stay a year and leave it open-ended whether we'd stay longer. There were a lot of stories when we arrived at La Paz of volunteers being fired without any redress and it happened while we were there and afterwards decided to leave after two years. We went back to Palo Alto and fixed up our house and sold it and moved to Oregon. There were more firings after we left. While in La Paz I took two classes in pottery and Verne in Solar Heating at Bakersfield Community College. We had some money to invest and decided to buy a farm for Bob to farm. We flew up to McMinnville when they found 100 acres and a farm house for us to live in and a spot for Verne to build a solar house. Before we left Palo Alto we went to Mexico, joined Karen Schlossman (whom we had met on the UFW staff) in Mexico City but had great difficulty connecting with Karen. We had the name of the street where she was staying but found there were 13 streets with the same name. A miracle we got together!. From Mexico City we drove on the Independencia Route thru San Migeul Allende'. A wonderful trip.

Mass at La Paz was held every Sunday morning. Ken Irrgang presided. Verne played piano. I used to marvel how quiet the little Hispanic kids sat during the service while one of the little Anglo kids used to run around the room and crawl under the communion table.

One of the scary things which happened we didn't witness. One of Cesar's life guard's room was next to ours and one night he returned after guarding Cesar in the middle of the night and according to Lupe, had a gun and was planning to kill himself. She wrestled the gun away from him.

One of the men on staff who always handled the equipment for simultaneous translation going on at a meeting and other audio equipment lived previously at the Catholic order house in Sheridan, OR before the property was sold to Scientology. He later came to visit us after we moved to Oregon.

At least one of the Latino farmworker women was very suspicious of these Anglos including Verne and me, and only as we were leaving did she tell us she had misjudged us. We were suspicious that Cesar didn't trust us either. He fired an awful lot of staffers during those two years. One of the men who left or was fired, Glibert Padilla, told us we were on a list to be fired eventually. This was hard to take when so many gave so freely to the union to be treated this way. We'll never forget his firing of Chris Hartmire, former executive director of NFWM, after the years and years he'd given to the union. Several other people like ourselves assigned to work for the UFW were paid by NFWM the standard \$10/week and room and board augmented by food stamps except those with families. They received more. We understand that staff of the UFW are now receiving salaries more nearly like other unions.

There was a scheme perpetrated by the growers to get three farm worker organizers arrested in Salinas during the lettuce field strike. This was during the gas shortage period in the '70's. People were carrying a can of gas in their car in case they ran out. These three guys supposedly were carrying material to make a bomb. They had a can and a rag in their trunk. A team of us were sent to Watsonville from La Paz to do scientific random sampling managed by a professional company. The hope was to get "a change of venue" because it was not possible to get a fair trial for these three in hostile Salinas and Monterey County. We spent a whole week calling people to no avail. The judge ruled against "a change of venue." The three had to serve 90 days in jail. One of them is married to Marion Steeg who was a negotiator for the UFW. Chava Bustamente has gone on to successful organizing janitors in SIEU. Marion is an organizer for the Public Employers Union.

This was a wonderful chapter of our lives. We had a chance like few others have had to see this wonderful union from the inside besides getting to know Cesar personally. One of the wonderful benefits has been that innumerable young people were trained to do union organizing and have gone on to do significant organizing for other unions. Guadalupe Gamboa is now the president of the UFW of Washington State. Cipriano Ferrel was the first president of PCUN. Jim Drake has been organizing woodcutters in the south, etc.

Besides getting to know Cesar as a friend it is sad to visit his grave and realize he is gone. He is buried in his rose garden Verne and I tended while we lived at La Paz. The union got special permission to bury him there. It is a humble grave outlined with cedar shakes.

A cross at the head with a rosary hanging on it. In front of it is a little blue glass with a candle inside. On 12/4/2000 at the NFWM Board Meeting we lit candles, only a few because the wind was blowing so hard. We had a ceremony in which we dedicated ourselves to continue to work for farm worker justice. We visited his office left just the way he left it. Hanging on a shelf along with his books is an infamous short-handled hoe outlawed about the time we lived in Palo Alto. This connects my story about the farm worker ministry to my father as I am sure he must have used this torturous instrument supposedly telling the grower that his workers were working. I'm sure that using the hoe made my father's legs ache to his dying day. I'm thankful over and over for the courage and dedication of the farm workers who have given their lives that we might eat the fruit of their labor every day of our lives.

TWENTY-THREE "NEHRU"-STYLE SHIRTS

In 1978 Verne and I were working for the United Farm Workers at their headquarters in Keene, CA. Keene is between Bakersfield and Tehachapi. Cesar's staff was conducting a training school for union organizers. It was 4 days before they were to have a graduation exercise on Saturday afternoon. On Wednesday evening we arrived at the gate at the entrance to the property (we had been out of the area when Verne was doing some research in the S.F. Bay Area at a Computer Fair to help the union decide what kind of computer to buy.) As we entered the gate I was told that Cesar wanted to see me first thing next morning. Cesar knew I could sew, I had shortened many of the men's new pants and had a sewing machine. Instead of Cesar, Ramona Olgeen told me that Cesar wanted me to commandeer all the women in the community who had a sewing machine to make a "Nehru"-style shirt for each of the 23 graduates to wear at the ceremony on Saturday. Cesar had asked his wife Helen if it was possible. "Si se puede", sure it can be done. Little did he know what a challenge that was--- Material, patterns, sewing machines.

I headed the 30 miles down to Bakersfield and found material in a yard goods store. I bought yards and yards of unbleached muslin which is beige color and also thread. I had a pattern-drafting class in my Home Economics training. So I bought two patterns. One was a pattern for the "stand-up collar" and shoulder and the other one for the lower part of the shirt. Of course I had to get them for small, medium, large, and extra large. I headed back up the hill to La Paz and commandeered all the help I could get and we set to work. First I had to superimpose a pattern from one pattern on the other one and draw and cut out a pattern we could use on butcher paper and then cut out all those shirts. The women had no knowledge of sewing from a pattern. They were used to just holding up a piece of material to a body and cutting around the shape and sewing it together. Each shirt was fitted to each person. What a time! I was working all night and 2 days and finished at 2 pm on Saturday. With the help of I don't remember how many wonderful women and their expertise and sewing machines we got the job done.

They held up the graduation for two hours while we finished. The graduates marched in wearing their shirts greeted by howls of delight. Like so many things that get accomplished by those dedicated, poor farm workers the cry is "Si se puede" and it gets done.

I told Cesar I'd never do that again. He had to give me more warning. Later they had an English School for union members so farmworkers could more easily talk to their bosses. I started to get ready to make shirts again. I taught some women how to make a pocket. The school fell through because Cesar got mad at what some workers said on a slide show they developed as a class project. He dissolved the school and fired all the teachers. Cesar had said many times, "The union is not La Paz or Cesar Chavez. The Union is the workers" But when said in the slide show it made him mad.

Postscript: I told Cesar "Don't ever do that to me again, I need time" Later I refused to do a similar job. They asked the Synanon folks who had assisted them in the past. I made a bet with Larry Tramutt of a steak dinner that they couldn't do it. They never did get all the shirts made. I remember seeing one of the men basting the hem in his shirt just minutes before the ceremony. I have never collected on the bet.

A REAL ITALIAN WEDDING & BANQUET

Larry and Annie Tramutt were living in the La Paz Community where we were. Larry was one of the Union (UFW) contract negotiators and lived with us in Palo Alto for 2 or 3 months while he was recovering from mononucleosis. Annie met Larry at our house. Annie did secretarial work at La Paz. They had 2 children but had never been legally married. So they decided to take care of it at La Paz. Larry changed his name from Tramutt to Tramattola to be more authentic Italian.

They wanted it to be truly an Italian Wedding. We had a community Catholic Priest who officiated. (He also conducted Mass every Sunday which we attended. Verne played for the hymn singing.) I helped Annie make her wedding dress and was a "maid of honor". Two things stand out about that day.

The ceremony was held in the big building at the northwest end of the property which was originally the children's building of the old Kern County T.B. Hospital. We had several parties there. Cesar and Helen loved to dance. The Italian Wedding was in one end of the building and the banquet in the other end.

It happened on a beautiful sunny day. The field between the main part of the compound and the large building on the west was covered with gorgeous flowers. The bride and attendants (including me) walked through the flowers from Annie's house and entered the building between a double line of Larry's male attendants. The two children participated, their 6-year old son was the ring bearer and their daughter was the flower girl.

The banquet was a major event of the day. Do-gooders often want to help destitute farm workers and all they can think of is collecting old clothes and food to give them, which is very demeaning and which they haven't asked for. (The National Farm Worker Ministry learned over 80 years ago this didn't change the terrible conditions they were coping with.) Some folks hadn't learned how to really help and loaded a bunch of used clothes on the UFW. One small warehouse was full of old clothes. Verne found some Navy midgy blouses, so he and 5 of his co-horts wore them and marched into the banquet as people were seated, holding up a tray of fruit in one hand over their shoulders and singing "Funiculi Funicula". In my 35 years of working in the Migrant Ministry this is the only time I've ever witnessed old clothes helping farm workers. Verne's crew brought down the house. Of course the wedding and banquet with a dance afterwards were great!.



Rosemary and Verne Cooperrider at UFW headquarters
of La Paz at Keene, CA

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