

HOW MUCH CAN A MAN GIVE?

On a stormy winter day four years ago, Manuel Rivera and his family arrived in Delano. This was before the word "huelga" had become a part of the English language. This was when, if you were cheated, robbed, or insulted, the most you could do was to go to work somewhere else and have it happen again.

Rivera could not look into the future. He could not know that he would nearly be required to give his life for the cause he believed in.

But he could see a black, hopeless future for his children and for other people's children, unless things were made to change.

And Rivera became one of Cesar Chavez's first members at a time when Cesar Chavez had nothing to offer but an idea.

We have seen where the idea has taken all of us, like a great wave, into the future. And we shall see more before it is over.

Now we see where fate has taken Manuel Rivera. At this writing, he is still alive-by some miracle- after being crushed beneath a 9000 lb. truck.

If it were an accident we would ask only for your prayers and for your help for Rivera and his family.

But we know that it was not an accident. We know that it was a deliberate, criminal assault committed in the presence of dozens of helpless strikers, in front of the eyes of two policemen, who did nothing either before or after the criminal tragedy occurred.

The driver of the truck was hired by the ranchers against whom we struggle. And in another sense the police are hired by these same growers and the law is at their command.

So our fight is not only against a few power-hungry ruthless ranchers. It is against the whole system that they control.

Thus we ask you for your prayers and your help for Manuel and his family.

And we say that just as Manuel Rivera could not be killed beneath the wheels of a 9,000 lb. truck, neither can our struggle for justice be silenced by any power that is brought against us.

So we ask for your prayers and aid for the cause for which Manuel Rivera has nearly died.

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Photos by Emmon Clark
Photos by George Ballis, Jon Lewis
Ernest Lowe, Dick Prosten, & E. M.

3 THE UGLY FACE OF DELANO

You are a journalist, a reporter, and because of that you know the value of a friendly face, the value of a smile, the value of a good start to the day. You had gotten up early this morning, optimistic, wishing to create something, to write something agreeable. Maybe because the smile of a young girl lifted your spirits, a child's curious glance gave you a pleasant feeling, because the dawn was beautiful, whatever the reason, you are in a good mood. So you thought you were going to have a good day. But suddenly there is a total change. Suddenly there is the Ugly Face of the Police of

Delano. And the day loses its poetry and becomes gloomy and depressing.

Someone came to the office and said that at the picket line, there was some action. You were sent to see what was happening. And soon you are standing at the corner of Glenwood and Third, your blood boiling, feeling the urge to smash a cop, to yell, to cry, to risk being hit by their clubs or guns, to become a martyr and in that way



THE TRAGEDY

Manuel Rivera, aged 52 and the father of seven children (his wife is expecting the eighth child soon) was almost killed last Saturday while walking the picket line in Delano. He and over 100 other strikers were picketing the grape packing shed of Irving Goldberg. A truck full of Goldberg's Scab Grapes approached the picket line, driven by Mr. Shey, a shipper for Goldberg, and not even employed as a truck driver. Shey did not slow down as he approached the picket line, but smashed directly into the crowd. One striker was hit in the shoulder, and a young girl barely escaped, but Manuel Rivera was not quick enough, and fell beneath the wheels and was almost crushed to death by the truck. The truck finally stopped and Rivera was rescued, and rushed to the hospital. He suffered multiple fractures of the pelvis and extreme shock. He is only now beginning slow recovery. Police watched the accident but did nothing to prevent the tragedy or arrest Shey.

Picture Above:
Manuel Rivera can be seen on the left, still under the truck, as a Delano cop pushes back horrified strikers.