

## DAY BY DAY STORY OF 1973 GALLO STRIKE

June 26 Gallo employees, covered under United Farm Worker contract since 1967, receive following letter as they board busses to go to work: "Today we received notice that the Teamsters Union represents a majority of our ranch employees. We are scheduling an immediate meeting with Teamster representatives." The letter is signed by E. & J. Gallo.

UFW members Feliciano Urrutia of the Ranch Committee and Rudolfo Gonzales are fired for protesting the letter. Workers meeting in the evening vote to strike.

June 27 A majority of the Livingston ranch and all the Fresno ranch go on strike. Jose Villasaiez, UFW Ranch Committee Secretary is arrested for trespassing at Livingston.

June 28 Teamster director James Smith says, "We are not going to go to any Mickey Mouse elections of any nature." He admits he has not yet shown Gallo executives the actual proof of a claimed majority of workers for the Teamsters.

Robert J. (Bob) Gallo admits to Modesto Bee that a company bus going to pick up workers at the main labor camp is forced to leave empty.

June 30 Up to 100 farmworkers begin a 24 hour vigil at St. Stanislaus Catholic Church, the Gallo family church, at Modesto in support of an election. Sixty bed down for the night on the sidewalk.

A Merced County Sheriffs spokesman says the Gallo firm is asking local merchants to refer workers to the ranch.

July 3 R.J. Gallo refuses elections in a conversation with a delegation of priests and nuns from Modesto and Stockton led by Sister Joyce Higgins of St. Marys Parish in Stockton, but agrees to a count of authorization cards.

July 5 Gallo company tells Modesto Bee they are "verifying signatures" turned in by Teamsters.

July 6 Although the priests and nuns hold authorization cards for UFW representation from 173 of the 222 Gallo workers on the April 18 payroll, R.J. Gallo refuses to acknowledge a telegram from Sister Higgins or answer her phone calls.

He announces he will begin negotiating "right away" with the Teamsters. He claims to have verified 138 signatures turned in by the Teamsters. UFW representative Pam Whalen comments, "I would like to see those petitions, I have no belief that they signed them."

July 7 Over 100 picket Gallo estate in protest.

July 9 Four year contract signed with Teamsters Union by Gallo. Jim Smith claims contract is ratified by the workers.

July 10 Cesar Chavez charges Gallo had already decided to sign with the Teamsters before the UFW struck. He says, "The Teamsters Union no more represents the workers than a man in the moon... We're telling Gallo right now that we're going to take him on."

July 11 119 Gallo strikers sign ½ page ad in the Modesto Bee in English, Spanish and Portuguese saying: "WE THE UNDERSIGNED ARE ALL GALLO STRIKERS. WE ARE MAKING A PUBLIC PLEA TO ASK FOR FREE ELECTIONS FOR THE WORKERS OF E. & J. GALLO RANCH IN LIVINGTON..."

July 18 Gallo serves "notice to quit" on 70 permanent Gallo employees and 400 children in Gallo housing. They are given three days to move. Workers decide to stay.

July 28 Supporters from Modesto bring food and money to the workers at the labor camp.

July 30 UFW attorneys file motions to suppress the evictions of 54 families in Livingston and Snelling courts. California Rural Legal Assistance represents 39 of the families. Gallo attorney John Whiting refuses request by UFW and CRLA for an extension.

August 7 Gallo files eviction suit in Merced Superior Court charging 101 named people and 107 unnamed people have conspired with another 500 unnamed people to remain in housing through the grape season.

August 8 Merced County Sheriff comes to Gallo Labor Camp 2 to evict Rogelio Ramirez, his pregnant wife and a small daughter from cabin 8. He is met by 60 workers with flags. Jose Villasaiez, Secretary of the United Farm Worker Ranch Committee says, "We're not here because we want to go to jail. We're here because we want to stay here." Ramirez escapes eviction by moving next door.

August 10 Gallo renews eviction attempt in Livingston courtroom, overflowing with farmworkers.

August 14 Union files injunction suit against evictions. UFW announces vigil on steps of Merced County Courthouse during eviction hearings.

August 15 150 farmworkers join Cesar Chavez at Merced Court. Only 58 can get in courtroom. Gallo drops the suit. Robert J. Gallo admits that the suit would have asked "the Sheriff to move them all out at once immediately."

August 29 60 farmworkers arrested for trespassing. 31 UFW members, including more than a dozen women and some children, brought to Merced County jail in vans. 29 others booked in County Civil Defense building. 100 UFW members gather at Merced County Courthouse chanting, "Viva La Huelga."

August 30 Most farmworkers remain in jail. Superior Court Judge Donald Fretz issues order restricting UFW pickets to 10 feet apart and the opposite side of the road.

September 2 46 farmworkers still in jail. Livingston Justice Court Judge Walter Lane sets bail from \$50.00 for trespassing to \$300.00 for failure to disperse. He refuses to release them on own recognizance. The prisoners have signed a pact not to post bail until all are released.

September 3 Farmworkers remain in jail. 10 women refuse to be released until all are released. Merced County Sheriffs deputies and officers from Los Banos and the city of Merced enforce court order keeping pickets 10 feet apart, no loudspeakers and pickets to remain on opposite side of roadway.

September 4 46 remain in jail for seventh day. UFW attorney Peter Haberfield prepares to file suit against Gallo for contaminated water in labor camp. Modesto Bee reports Martin Gingich, supervising sanitarian for the Merced County Health Department, says camp residents are to boil water 10 minutes before drinking.

September 5 Farmworkers remain in jail for 8th day. In a courtroom packed with farmworkers, Merced Superior Court Judge Donald Fretz refuses to sign temporary order to have labor camp water chlorinated, plugged toilets freed and sewage tanks emptied. UFW Vice-President Dolores Huerta holds press conference in park across the street. She recalls that before UFW came to Gallo in 1967, some workers were making 77¢ an hour.

September 6 All day hearings held in Merced on arrested farmworkers. 100 farmworkers jam courtroom corridors with 50 more outside. They chant "Viva La Huelga". 27 men and 10 women are freed under own recognizance after 9 days in jail.

September 9 A Modesto Bee estimate of 400 to 500 supporters, mostly from San Francisco Bay Area, picket Livingston Ranch and Gallo home in Modesto. Included is a group of rank and file Teamsters.

September 12 Cesar Chavez visits Livingston to discuss with workers the possibility of ending strike in favor of boycott. He points out Gallo buys 85% of its grapes from other growers.

September Gallo strikers visit San Francisco Bay Area to push the boycott.

September 20 Merced Judge Donald Fretz says he will file permanent injunction  
September 24 limiting picketing.

Delegation of Gallo strikers goes to first constitutional convention of United Farm Workers of America at Fresno to seek support of the union for a nationwide boycott of Gallo wine. UFW members picket stores and markets selling Gallo wine in the Merced area.

September 28 Gallo workers go to La Paz, UFWA national headquarters, to discuss the boycott. They are later divided into three teams and they go to the San Francisco Bay Area, Los Angeles and San Diego.

"BOYCOTT GALLO"

OPEU:29