

Oregon Farmworker Union Signs First Contract

"We will win more contracts and have PCUN as our union," asserted Job Pozos Jr. on Cesar Chavez Day, Tuesday, March 31st. He spoke as a member of the negotiating committee as the Oregon farmworker union, Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste (PCUN, which is translated as Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United) and an organic grower signed the first collective bargaining agreement in the history of Oregon agriculture. This is only the second collective bargaining agreement between farmworkers and growers to be signed in the Pacific Northwest.

Workers representing the committee which negotiated the terms of the contract signed the two-year binding agreement along with Ramon Ramirez, the President of PCUN, and Scott Frost of Nature's Fountain Farm, a transitional 26-acre organic farm.

Ramon Ramirez, the President of Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste, eloquently stated; "When we embarked on this work over twenty years ago, we knew it would be long and difficult. Many of the rights and protections enjoyed by working people in this country are not afforded to the farmworkers.



Growers have resisted our efforts to bring about fair treatment and justice in the fields. In order to make collective bargaining a reality we have had to take our struggle to the fields, to the courts, to the legislature, to the media, to people of conscience, and lastly to the consumer."

Juanita Cox-Valdez, Director of the United Farm Workers of America, AFL-CIO, Centro 16 de septiembre in Texas, read a statement from UFW President Arturo Rodriguez which said, "PCUN's determined efforts mirror the UFW's 36-year struggle to bring a measure of dig-

nity and security for farm workers in our country. Announcement of this first collective bargaining agreement in Oregon is a milestone for both of our unions. We rejoice with our sisters and brothers in PCUN. Their victory is also our own."

Senator Ron Wyden, in a written statement of support, echoed the sentiments of the UFW. "In the future, I expect we will look back on today's agreement as a key moment from which both workers and growers began to progress toward a cooperative atmosphere to the benefit of themselves and indeed all of Oregon.



Hosting Opportunities in the Portland metro area

AFS, the American Field Service international student exchange program, has announced plans to expand hosting opportunities in the greater Portland area.

The goal is to provide 10 additional families in Portland, Beaverton, and Hillsboro with a chance to welcome a foreign exchange student into their homes for the coming school year. AFS currently hosts 20 students in the Portland Metro area.

The students are placed with host parents who have volunteered to make them a part of their families for the year. Host children participate in all family activities

and are treated as natural children during their stay.

Strong bonds are often formed and many host family relationships last a lifetime. Said on host mother, "Herman (our son from Paraguay) came into our lives with that first hug and has never left it. He'll be our son forever."

To support the expansion initiative, AFS is seeking a very special to help recruit host families. For information about hosting or helping to recruit host families for exchange students, call AFS at 241-1578. For information about going abroad with AFS, call 1-800-AFS-INFO.

Oregon Auto Insurance Rates Remain Well Below U.S. Average

Only 16 states had lower auto insurance premiums than Oregon in 1996.

According to the recent comparison released by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), the six-month combined average automobile insurance premium (includes liability, collision and comprehensive coverages) in Oregon for 1996 was \$660.76 versus the countrywide average of \$774.12.

"The 11.7 percent rise in auto crashes in Oregon in 1996 was tempered by the 12.5 percent rise

in registered vehicles and the 11 percent rise in licensed drivers," says Marianne Macina, CPCU, regional manager for the Western Insurance Information Service (WIIIS). "As the population growth levels off, we need to keep the number of automobile crashes down if we want to contain the rising cost of insurance."

"The automobile insurance industry in the U.S. has one of the lowest returns on equity (ROE) when compared with other profit making industries - only a six percent ROE in 1996," says Macina.

You are 2 months old. Your lungs are this tiny. You spend day after day around secondhand cigarette smoke. You breathe it in. You cough. You hack. You wheeze. Your lungs clog up with sticky fluid and thick mucous. You get bronchitis. Or

pneumonia. If you have asthma, it will likely get worse. All together, up to 300,000 babies end up getting sick every year. 15,000 of them could end up hospitalized. Simply from being exposed to cigarette smoke. A message from the people of Oregon.

Fabric Depot

THE LARGEST, MOST COMPLETE RETAIL FABRIC STORE IN THE WEST
March 31 through April 14, 1998

ALL PRINTS 30% OFF*

Includes • Calicoes • Home Dec (Drapery and Upholstery) • Special Occasion • Rayons • Children's Wear • Active Wear • Denims • Flannel Prints

ALL NOTIONS 30% OFF*

Includes • Thread • Zippers • Trims (Lace and Ribbons) • Dritz • Drapery Hardware • Buttons • Wrights Package Tape

50% OFF

ALL THESE PATTERNS

• McCall's • Simplicity • Vogue • Butterick • Burda

BE SURE TO CHECK OUR STORE FOR "MANAGER'S SPECIALS"

*Discounts do not apply to special purchase or previously discounted or marked down items. 3/31 thru 4/14/98



RETAIL HOURS:
MON-FRI 9:00am-9:00pm
SAT-SUN 9:00am-7pm
SUNDAY 10:00am-7pm
WHOLESALE HOURS:
MON-FRI 9:00am-5:00pm
SAT-SUN 9:00am-5pm
SUNDAY 11:00am-5pm

RETAIL-WHOLESALE
700 S.E. 122nd Ave.
Portland, OR
252-9530
Visit our website at
www.fabricdepot.com
1-800-392-3376