

That was in 1929, the first strike I was involved in. I didn't know how strikes were run at that time so I was afraid to go on strike with the people that went on strike. So I left that job and went to California in 1930 to work in the fields. Let me tell you it is not an easy job, and besides at that time my hand was not well enough so I had to work with my left hand.

Anyway, in my travel working in the fields I began to see minority workers being discriminated against in pay, being discriminated against in employment chances and not having any kind of a right at all. This of course amazes me because while I was in the Philippines we heard and read about the kind of government that this country had and the kind of system that the United States has in a lot of things that are beneficial to its citizenship. But I found out differently; that if you are in a minority group, you don't have any kind of a chance to help yourself.

So from year to year I traveled all over the State trying to get a job that I could make money on. In the meantime I had forgotten about going to school. I never made enough money, and whatever money I made from one job was not even enough for me to live on until I got to the next job.

I learned also that other farmworkers have the same kind of problem. I began to learn the causes of the problems of the farmworkers. I learned that if you do not have any kind of an organization, if you have any complaint, your complaint is going to be heard in one ear and it passes through the other ear. Like if you said to your employer that you wanted some cold water while you are working for him during the hot season, he was going to tell you that you must bring your own jug, he has no time to bring any water to you.

In 1948 I was in the asparagus fields in Stockton and we had a strike there. We pulled a strike to have a union of the asparagus workers. We had not been on strike 3 days and the growers were able to recruit bracero workers to take our jobs. So what happened to us, we were left walking on the picket lines being harassed by the sheriff and in a lot of instances being run off the road by the growers themselves. We were on strike for 3 months. We ran out of money so we went some place else.

In 1949 the same thing happened. We did not get any kind of support then from the labor movement, from anybody as a matter of fact, so our strikes at that time in trying to organize were not successful.

In September of 1965, when we started our strike in Delano, the workers, I would imagine especially the Filipinos, were so mad at their employers that they were willing to go on strike again even if they had to lose everything that they had because of the fear that they are getting older, they have been here in this country for a number of years and they have not got anything to show for their labor, so what have they got to lose?

So in 1965 we went on strike without any money, without any kind of financial assistance that we could be sure of, and the very first few days that we were on strike we were allowed to stay in the camps of the growers. Why they let us stay in the camps at that time we don't know but probably because they felt that if we stayed in the camp that they would be able to convince us to go back to work. They figured that in a week's time we would all get hungry and be begging