

# A Testimonial To John David Arnold

25 Years of Service to Arizona Farmworkers 1958-1983  
The Man

The neighborhood is very quiet  
There is only one light in sight  
A lonely man is dressing  
To leave in the middle of the night

He tip toes out of the house  
To keep from awakening his wife  
To face a long day ahead of him  
Because it is a lonely life

His neighbors don't understand  
What this man is trying to do  
He is carrying hope to the farmworkers  
Just like me and you

He climbed into a contraption  
Some people call a bus (La Tortuga)  
You couldn't read the writing on the sides  
Because of the dents and rust

As he started the engine  
The neighbors would curse and weep  
Because of the noise this bus made  
Would awaken them from their sleep

He drove this bus down the road  
To fields far away  
Looking for the poor farmworkers  
That he could help this day

The sun has just come up  
To shine on the dry hot field  
This man was parked and waiting  
To give these people a meal

He would talk with the farmworkers  
He would tell them that he cares  
He would tell them about his program  
Then offered them a prayer

Everyone seemed to know this man  
Because he was never late  
He was the their only hope  
Because this man was great

He received no thanks for his work  
When he was spreading good will  
They knew that money was available  
To help them pay their bills

The farmworkers toil all day  
For life was very hard  
But this person brought them peace  
Was a man of God

Most ministers work in big buildings  
When they talk about God  
But this great man holds his service  
In some farmer's yard

He tells them about his program  
Which is called Project PEP  
He tells them about the services  
And where they can get help

The morning is still young  
The sun is in the sky  
All the farmworkers are waiting  
To see the bus pass by

All of us would like to see  
A program that is well done  
To help make his dream come true  
To get the farmworkers out of the sun

The day has been long  
The sun is going down  
It has been fifteen hours  
Since this man left town

The President took office that day  
He said he would make a change  
He wanted to cut all the Social Services  
And he called our program a game

The people cried out in anger  
They wore black buttons to show  
How they felt about the cuts  
And they wanted the president to know

The man called a meeting  
And every one heard him say  
We will not give up the fight  
For this will be our day

Stand by this man dear Lord  
As he gives these people help  
Let him train all of us  
To represent Project PEP

Now that this bus is no longer here  
To carry people to help  
But I wish that all of us  
Could be like John of Project PEP

Fifteen years have passed  
Since this man started down that road  
Driving that old school bus  
Carrying a heavy load

All of us had faith in John  
When he called us that day  
To tell us we were out of funds  
And we would have to work without any pay

He worked very hard every day  
Making it seem like fun  
Waiting for DOL to say  
Project PEP is the one

By Sam McCoy  
Tolleson, Arizona 1983

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