

YHR 7.10.98

## Deputies called in orchard pay dispute

MALAGA (AP) — Sheriff's deputies were called Thursday to escort a group of pickers from a cherry orchard in a pay dispute with the owner.

About 40 workers quit their jobs because they wanted better pay, but refused to leave the property, Chelan County Sheriff Inspector Mike Harum said.

"Because they aren't employed there anymore, they have no legal right to be on the property," Harum said.

After being escorted off the property, about 10 miles southeast of Wenatchee, the workers stood on county right of way alongside the orchard as a protest, Harum said.

Guadalupe Gamboa, director of the state chapter of the United Farmworkers of America, said the employees were threatened after they asked that their pay be raised from \$4 to \$5 per box of cherries picked.

Harum said the pickers came to work at the orchard about four days ago. They were staying in the orchard's state-certified labor camp.