



Emma Tenayuca was a Mexican American who was only 16 when she first became involved in community organizing. In 1938, at age 21, Emma was considered to be the most effective organizer for the National Workers' Alliance, and was therefore elected by the pecan-shellers workers to lead a strike, which she did by using her **freedom of assembly**. In less than two months, the pecan-shellers forced the owners to raise their pay, making the Pecan-Shellers' Strike one of the first significant victory in the Mexican-American struggle for political and economic equality in this country.