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Veterans Committee Honors Our Servicemen

The Inland Empire Veterans Recognition Committee of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties, headed by Jules Carvahlo, was set up January 1, 1984. This organization seeks to honor a group that often goes unrecognized. Veterans organizations and the Government do recognize veterans principally to assure the veteran's right to education, housing and medical care. The Inland Empire Veterans Recognition Committee will endeavor to keep veterans in the forefront as community members, community leaders and as an honored group of our society.

Founders of the organization Steve Garcia, Jules Carvahlo and Ray Quinto decided veterans were not getting the appropriate recognition as an honored group in our society. "When you asked someone to describe a veteran, people would automatically think of someone in the V.A. hospital waiting to collect his pension check," said Quinto. On the contrary, Quinto pointed out that veterans are very productive members of our society.

"We're not an advocate group, there are enough of those," said Quinto. "We attempt to document services veterans

provide to the country."

The goals of the I.E.V.R.C. are: to identify and publicly recognize the efforts of veterans, worthy of recognition for contribution to the community; to promote a more positive image of veterans by fostering public awareness of veteran contributions to the community and country; to enhance the pride of all veterans and to thank them for their contribution to community and country and to distribute scholarship awards to worthy students who are the son or daughters of veterans.

On Flag Day the I.E.V.R.C. holds its annual Veterans Recognition Dinner where they formally recognize a veteran of the year. "We picked Flag Day because veterans were only remembered in November and forgotten the rest of the year," said Quinto. Last year the honorees were Ralph Ford of Rialto, Henry Martinez and Nathaniel Grant both from San Bernardino.



REMEMBER OUR VETERANS NOVEMBER 11

Neighbors Rebuilding Neighborhoods One a Time



S.B.N.H.S. President Jorge Gutierrez and Director Antolin Gomez show progress of In-fill Housing efforts

By SONIA D.T. RODRIGUEZ
Hispanic News Staff Writer

The San Bernardino Neighborhood Housing Services (NHS), Inc. located at 1296 N. Mt. Vernon Avenue, is a private non-profit corporation which was incorporated on March 10, 1981. The purposes of this corporation are to renew pride, to revitalize and to stimulate reinvestment in selected neighborhoods, through working with representatives of local government and financial institutions, and interested persons from the entire community.

NHS programs are established to develop programs within a targeted neighborhood to revitalize the area. A \$300,000 revolving loan fund has been set up to finance residential rehabilitation projects. The average loan is about \$15,000 for a six year term. So far NHS has made \$337,000 in rehabilitation and purchase loans in the target area, stated Antolin Gomez, the agency's executive

See NHS, Page 8

Jules Carvahlo
JULES CARVALHO



PERSONAL PROFILE

A peaceful, patriotic person
An advocate of people's welfare

Health

Hispanics and AIDS

Veterans

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El Escuadron 201
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What is a Country if not Its People

What is a Chicano?

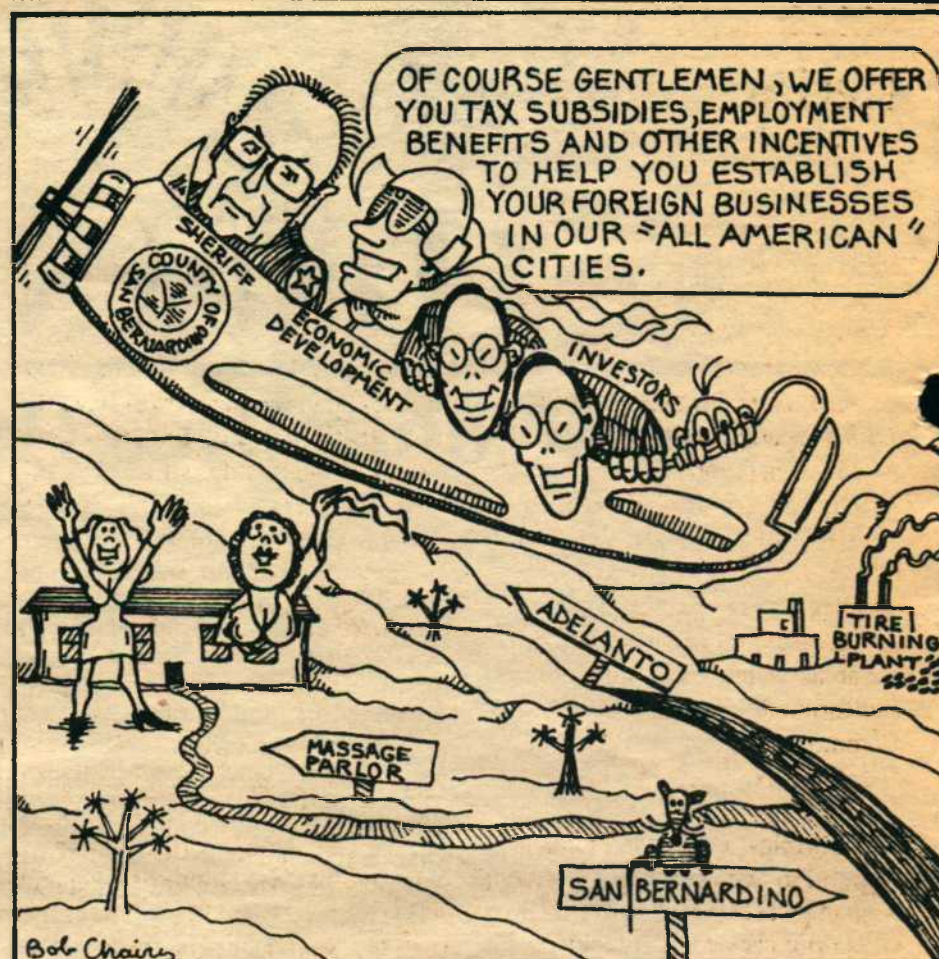
This term, itself, causes disagreement among those of us who herald from Mexican ancestry. Many see it as derogatory to themselves and the community, while others see it as a statement of pride and unique heritage. Yet nothing causes the non-Hispanic or non-"Chicano" more confusion than the lack of a clear definition of this term.

A former Consul de Mexico, Emerenciano Rodriguez, provided a slightly different perspective on the term that perhaps comes closer to the truth or at least closer to the origin of the truth. Self-admittedly, Consul Rodriguez came to this country biased in his thinking about Mexicanos who came to the United States, essentially abandoning their "patria" or country. There is no secret that Mexico suffers from an impoverished economy, high unemployment and political corruption. Yet to leave one's country is a high price to pay for a job, at least in the eyes of Mexicanos who still owe their allegiance to Mexico. Nonetheless, during the six years that Consul Rodriguez lived in this country and, specifically the Inland Empire, he came to under-

stand and love the descendants of Mexicanos who left their country for a better life. Even our "mocho" or slang Spanish did not keep him from learning that we maintained strong ties to our culture, language and heritage. The support given the Sinfonia Mexicana Concert by the Hispanic community, was a clear example of the pride and love many of us still have for Mexico, a pride and love instilled in us by our parents and grandparents, long past.

What is a country if not its people. Do we need political boundaries, language uniformity and geographic barriers to be considered a country? Cannot our heritage stay with us while we mesh in our new surroundings? Can we not be accepted for what we are - immigrants in search of a better way of life?

I seem to recall that the forging of our nation was made possible by immigrants. It takes courage to leave the familiar and go in search of new horizons. A border crossing is no less threatening than an ocean voyage. That spirit of adventure and the desire to provide for our children a better way of life is America. I am proud to be an American of Mexican descent. Adios hermano.



Bob Chaires

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND LATINAS-THE SILENT SCREAM

The neighbor wants to believe that the screams from the house next door are nothing more than "roughhousing." The parish priest wants to accept that the women in the front pews are not victims of domestic violence. The co-worker wants to believe that the woman at the next desk really did fall down the stairs. The fortunate everywhere want to think that domestic violence is someone else's problem.

When I first started working with battered women, I, too, wanted to believe that I didn't know any women who were beaten by their husbands or lovers. As I got closer to the problem and the women themselves, I began to remember that when I was growing

In the years since working at a shelter and now having written the first bilingual book for battered Latinas, "Mejor Sola Que Mal Acompañada" (Better Alone Than in Bad Company), I frequently speak to people whose first reaction is disbelief. Now I almost expect a bad joke about women being beaten or raped when I walk into a television or radio studio for an interview. But reality stares me in the face.

Shelters are overcrowded, women are displaced, children witness horrors in their own homes. "Mejor Sola" was written because there is so little bilingual information written for Latinas and counselors in Spanish. The manuscript circulated among Latinas who were familiar with the problem. Most said that it was good for us to come to terms with this situation on a national basis because many Latinas were residents of battered women's shelters. Others felt that I was exposing our "dirty laundry" and I would be inviting the notion that Latinas are beaten more than other women. But as long as Latinas are seeking help from doctors, crisis centers and lawyers, we must advocate for them so that crisis intervention services are also bilingual and bicultural.

Domestic violence does not discriminate. It is found in wealthy and poor homes, in homes where there is the benefit of education and in homes where there is none. Domestic violence is everywhere. In the United States approximately one in every six couples experiences violence; each year, at least 1.8 million wives report that they are beaten by their husbands; many more remain silent. It is an under-reported crime.

The blame for this heinous offense is most often placed on the woman. "Women stay in an abusive home because they like it." "She wouldn't get beaten if she were a better housewife." "She wouldn't get beaten if she didn't talk back." "She wouldn't get beaten if she fought back."

Women stay because of economic dependence, because they have no place to go, because they have been socialized to feel shame for a crime they have not committed. They stay because of their children.

Women do not deserve to be beaten. No one, stranger or husband, has the right to kick, choke, shove, bite, slap or burn anyone. The ultimate question is, "Why does a man beat the person he is closest to, the person he is supposed to love the most, the mother of his children?" This problem does not disappear if we look away or try to blame unemployment, illiteracy or alcoholism.

The reasons for domestic violence are many and varied. One reason may be that the batterer cannot deal with emotional closeness, that he does not handle pressure and frustration well, that he does not have the verbal tools to work out a problem. Research has shown that 68% of men who beat their wives and 50% of battered women come from violent homes. We cannot afford to say it is none of our business. Our children may marry into it.

We must be willing to acknowledge that this all-too-common problem exists in our culture, in our society, in our own back yard. Ways of helping are to support the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, which has a Women of Color Task Force. We can assist our local shelters by donating money to support their bilingual services or give time volunteering on the 24-hour hot line; they almost always need Spanish-speaking counselors. Our first responsibility, however, is to call the police the next time we hear screams from the house next door.

(Myrna Zambrano is an author and a social worker in San Diego.)

Myrna Zambrano- Hispanic Link



Leer es Descubrir

Correction Notice Policy: The Inland Empire Hispanic News will correct all factual errors in its columns or clarify misleading information. Please call 381-6259

INLAND EMPIRE
HISPANIC NEWS

Wednesday, November 11, 1987

Vol. 1-No.4

The INLAND EMPIRE HISPANIC NEWS is a weekly publication (after January 1, 1988), owned and operated by the Hispanic Communication and Development Corporation. Send letters, articles and inquiries to 719 N. D' St., San Bernardino, CA 92401 and subscription requests to P.O. Box 1597, San Bernardino, CA 92401.

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Circulation

The INLAND EMPIRE HISPANIC NEWS is distributed free of charge to designated "free zones" within the city limits of San Bernardino, roughly coinciding with the geographic boundaries of the West Side. Its total circulation is 7,000 to include carrier and mail delivered pieces. Residents outside the free delivery zone may subscribe by calling or writing: (714) 381-6259 P.O. Box 1597, San Bernardino, CA 92401. Rates are \$15 per year, \$9 for six months, \$5 for three months.

Classified Advertisement

To place classified advertisement, visit offices from 8:30 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday or mail classified form with check or money order to 719 N. D' St. San Bernardino, CA 92401. Appointments for display advertising by calling (714) 381-6259.

Latinos Make up High Percentage of AIDS Cases

AIDS is not a disease limited to gay, white men. Hispanic men, women, and children now account for 14% of the AIDS cases. This means Hispanics are more likely than the non-Hispanic white population to be at risk.

As of April 13, 1987, there were 4,818 Hispanic adult and pediatric AIDS cases reported to the Centers for Disease Control. That represents 14% of all cases reported since 1981.

Ninety percent of the Hispanic AIDS cases have been reported in six areas: New York (2,485); California (775); Florida (304); the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico (315); New Jersey (264); and Texas (212).

Hispanic-focused programs for prevention and education have been Hispanic cases also involve intravenous drug use as a risk factor - 42%

slow to start. Allocation of funding by local, state, and federal governments has been criticized. There will probably be increasing criticism and calls for action in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York, and other jurisdictions.

Because the cost of treating AIDS is high, Hispanic patients will have difficulty obtaining care. Experts believe Hispanic patients do not receive an early diagnosis, and are less likely to participate in experimental programs for new drugs. Estimates of hospital and physician charges range from \$40,000 to \$100,000. The breakthrough AIDS drug, Retrovir (AZT) will cost \$7,000 to \$12,000 per patient per year.

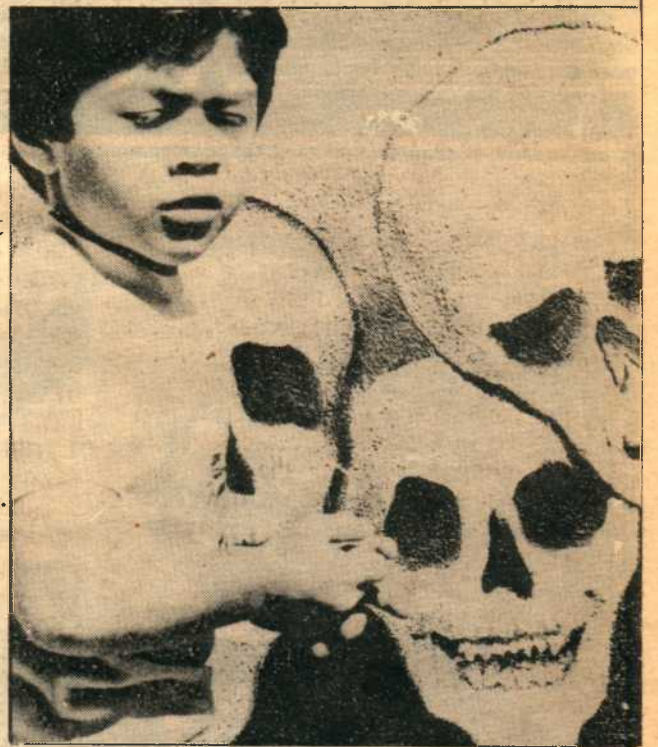
Approximately 70% of the cases are among Hispanics in the age range 20 to 39. Adult Hispanic men with AIDS are more likely to be heterosexual or bisexual than are adult non-Hispanic white men with AIDS - 47% compared to 20%. A greater proportion of the

for Hispanics compared to 13% for non-Hispanic whites.

Hispanic women account for 20% of all AIDS cases among women. Likewise, Hispanics account for 24% of all pediatric AIDS cases (children up to the age 13).

The U.S. government projects that there will be 270,000 AIDS cases by 1991. If Hispanics continue to represent 14% of the caseload, the toll would rise to 37,800 in our communities. However, the proportion of Hispanic cases may increase beyond 14% in the upcoming years.

For more information contact The National Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services Organizations, 1030-15th Street, N.W., Suite 1053,



Washington, D.C. 20005. You may reach them by calling (202) 371-2100.

EL SIDA Crece Entre la Comunidad Hispana

El SIDA no es una enfermedad limitada a los homosexuales blancos. Los hombres, mujeres y niños hispanos ocupan el 14% de casos del SIDA. Esto significa que es más común que los hispanos estén en riesgo de contraer el SIDA que el anglo.

En Abril 13, 1987, había 4818 hispanos adultos y niños reportados al Centro de Control del SIDA. Esto representa el 14% de todos los casos reportados desde 1981. El 90% de los casos hispanos han sido reportados en seis áreas: New York (2,485), California (775), Florida (304), Puerto Rico (315), New Jersey (264) y Texas (212).

El enfoque de programas y educación para los hispanos han sido lentos para empezar. La adjudicación de fondos locales, estatales y federales han sido criticados. Habrá probablemente más críticas y llamada para acción en Los Angeles, San Francisco, New York y otras jurisdicciones.

Por el costo del tratamiento del SIDA, que es muy alto se cree que los pacientes hispanos tienen problemas para obtener ayuda.

Los expertos creen que pacientes hispanos no reciben un diagnóstico temprano, son menos cooperativos para participar en programas experimentales para nuevas drogas. Los estimados de hospi-

tales y médicos fluctúan entre \$40,000 a \$100,000.

La nueva droga, Retrovir (AZT) costará 7,000 a \$12,000 por paciente por año.

Aproximadamente 70% de casos entre hispanos son entre las edades de 20 a 39. Los hombres adultos hispanos con SIDA son más probables de ser heterosexuales o bisexuales que adultos no hispanos. El anglo con SIDA ocupa el 47% comparado con el 20% de hispanos. Una gran proporción de casos hispanos también embuelben el uso de drogas intravenosas como un factor arriesgado con 42% de hispanos comparados con el 13% de no hispanos.

La mujer hispana cuenta con el 20% de todos los casos entre mujeres. Los niños hispanos ocupan el 24% de todos los casos pediátricos.

Las Agencias del gobierno creen que habrá 270,000 casos del SIDA para 1991. Si los hispanos siguen representando el 14%, el total subiría a 37,800 en nuestra comunidad. Sin embargo la proporción de casos hispanos puede subir más arriba del 14% en años venideros. Para más información pongase en contacto con The National Coalition of Hispanic Health and Human Services Organization en el 1030 15th Street, N.W., Suite 1053, Washington, D.C. 20005, o llamando al (202) 371-2100.

ANTICONCEPTIVOS: UN DILEMA MUNDIAL

Mientras que pueblos y gobiernos del mundo entero, estudian, trabajan y luchan por encontrar una solución al problema de la natalidad, el mundo sigue debatiéndose en este problema que cada vez parece ser peor, de acuerdo a las estadísticas.

Algunos gobiernos del mundo, se han declarado en contra de los métodos anticonceptivos modernos, ya que según varias opiniones, son perjudiciales al organismo de la mujer, y no producen los beneficios que de ellas se esperan, pero sin embargo, millones de mujeres los siguen usando como el medio anticonceptivo más práctico.

Aquí en los Estados Unidos, parece que ya se ha aceptado el aborto como

pronto solución a este problema, y últimamente se ha intensificado la campaña con este fin. Pero mientras que eso sucede aquí en los Estados Unidos, en Roma, el Papa Paulo sexto se pronunció en contra de cualquier forma de aborto, y dijo que la iglesia jamás aceptará el aborto como medio de detener el incremento de la población mundial, y abogó por la paternidad responsable como única solución.

Y así, en medio de polémicas entre los partidarios y reacios a los anticonceptivos, llegamos a un extremo tal de confusión, que no se sabe como proceder, llegado el caso. Pero quizá algo que ayudaría en buen grado, sería que si se usa anticon-

ceptivo, se use sólo bajo estrecha y responsable vigilancia médica y bajo ninguna excusa hacer exagerado su uso. Ahora bien, si se prefiere otro medio, sería sumamente beneficioso el pensar detenidamente en los resultados psicológicos y físicos que este traería con sí.

Quizá otra mediana solución que ayudaría a solucionar, o al menos a aliviar el desconcierto con tantas y tantas mujeres que sufren este problema, sería que los médicos antes de prescribir tal a cual anticonceptivo, o intervención quirúrgica, pusieran al tanto a sus pacientes de los riesgos y consecuencias que esto les podría traer, así si no se solucionaba el problema, al menos a sabien-

por Jesus Sepulveda

das se corría el riesgo.

La preocupación mundial por la superpoblación de la tierra, es por demás justificada, pero si Ud. no lo cree, le recordaremos que en nuestra América latina, nace un promedio de 2 niños por minuto, o sea un total de 2880 por día, que es una cosa increíble pero cierta, si hacemos notar que los rudimentarios y raquíticos medios de vida de nuestra gente latina, que percibe un salario para dos personas y tienen que alimentar a 4 o 6 hijos, de allí la tremenda miseria y desnutrición de los pueblos latino.

A TRADITION OF VALOR



ESCUADRON 201

By Rafael Da Veiga Carvajal

San Bernardino Public Library at the corner of 5th Street and Mt. Vernon Avenue, commemorates one of San Bernardino's Hispanic heroes, Air Force Sergeant Paul Villasenor.

Villasenor was inducted into the service June 19, 1943, during World War II, as a radio operator on a B-17 Flying Fortress. He flew 34 successful sorties against the enemy before being shot down over Hopsten, Germany on March 23, 1945. The whole crew was killed.

He was only 25 years old at the time of his death and he had demonstrated courage, devotion and determination during his short military career. For his meritorious achievements in action against the enemy, and for the supreme sacrifice in defense of his country, he was posthumously awarded a Silver Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal and Purple Heart.

Sgt. Villasenor was born in Deming, New Mexico on March 2, 1920 to Cesaro Villasenor and Nicanora Villasenor. His family moved to San Bernardino in 1933. He attended Mt. Vernon Elementary School, Alessandro Junior High School and graduated from San Bernardino High School in 1940.

In high school, Villasenor was active in campus organizations and was well liked by his peers. He proved himself a good student, according to the Villasenor Library Committee historian, Ralph Velasquez.

In 1966, when the Ninth Street Library Branch was built Paul Villasenor's name was chosen as the official name of the branch by a citizen's group. The selection was approved by the Mayor and the City Council. When that branch was moved to the present location, it was decided by a library committee to retain the name of the branch as the Paul Villasenor Branch Library.

Sgt. Villasenor's remains were brought back from overseas in 1949 and he rests in peace in Fort Rosecrans Cemetery, San Diego, California.

In 1943, in spite of Mexico's cautious politics the (war) situation started to change and forced the government of Avila Camacho to reconsider Mexico's original stand of no direct participation in the war. Prior to this time, the agreement had been for Mexico to provide only landing strips for American planes defending the Pacific Coast.

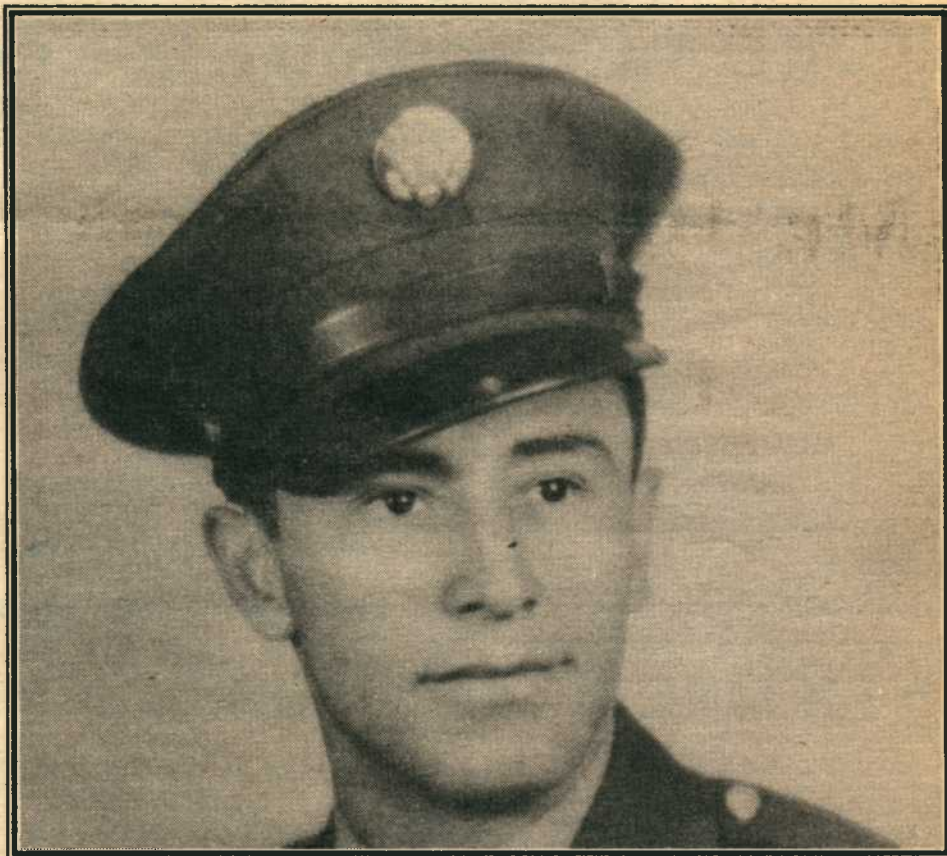
In addition, the military of Mexico were very interested in participating in direct combat duty. On September 17, 1943 at the conclusion of a session by the commission on Joint Defense of Mexico and North America the topic was introduced.

By December 1, the Mexican government was publically proclaiming their willingness to defend the Pacific Coast with "Mexican troops if the Allies ask us." The decision to start with an Air Force squadron was logical and expedient for both sides. It was much easier to mobilize 300 men instead of a whole division. Also, the Mexican Air Force were the ones who were anxious to participate in the war. In the first quarter of 1944, a Mexican Combat Air Squadron was formed, "Escuadron 201."

On June 21st, of that year, the chosen members of the squad boarded a train to Randolph Air Force Base, in Texas for further training on P-47's. In March, 1945, their training completed they received orders sending them to the Philippine Islands.

The "Escuadron 201" completed their tour of duty there when hostilities ended in November, 1945. With the end of the war, an important chapter was added to the relationship between Mexico and the United States, Mexico proved it could contribute to the defense of the Pacific Region and be a valuable ally.

Summary taken from "Historia De La Revolucion Mexicana, Vol. 19. "Mexico En La Segunda Guerra Mundial" by Blanca Torres Ramirez.



PAUL VILLASEÑOR

The Philip Marmolejo American Legion Post #650 in Redlands was formed in 1949. The post was named after the first Mexican American soldier from Redlands that was killed in World War II. Marmolejo was born in Crafton September 18, 1919, and was raised by his godparents in Redlands. In 1941 he volunteered helping to fill Redland's first Draft Board quota. He enlisted in the Army and served in the infantry division. He was killed in action January 19, 1943, and his remains are in Bakersfield. Someone once wrote that every action of Marmolejo was an inspiration to his fellow compatriots. First commander of the post was Oddie Martinez, current commander is Geno Mendez. The post was started by 25 members, all Mexican Americans, the post's current membership totals 325 and now includes members of all ethnic groups. Gilbert Rey, a founding member and past commander and historian, is working on a book which will cover the history of the post from its inception which should soon be published.



PHILIP MARMOLEJO

An Exclusive Interview with the Editor of *Americas 2001*

The Los Angeles-based *Americas 2001* began publishing last March, and has come out with four editions. The magazine, which presents its material in Spanish and English, was started by Roberto Rodriguez with a \$150,000 settlement he received from Los Angeles County. Rodriguez, 33, was awarded the judgement after winning a court case against the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in 1986. The case came out of a beating Rodriguez received at the hands of several deputies while he was shooting photographs on Whittier Boulevard in East Los Angeles for *Lowrider* magazine. At the time, which was 1984, Rodriguez was a writer and photographer for the San Jose-based *Lowrider*. "I was almost killed," he says of the incident. Following that episode, Rodriguez was charged with assault with a deadly weapon - his camera - and assault and battery on two officers. Rodriguez beat the charges, which he claimed were a smokescreen to hide the illegal behavior of the deputies, and later filed his successful suit against the sheriff's department. He wrote a book about the experience, *Assault with a Deadly Weapon*, which he is currently rewriting. Also, Rodriguez is talking with an agent and the book may be made into a movie, he says. Rodriguez, publisher of *Americas 2001*, spoke recently with Miguel Enrriquez, a Inland Empire-based writer.

Q: What is unique about *Americas 2001*?

A: The focus is debate. People view Latinos as small-minded, a fringe-group, a group on the periphery. But we're up on the world as anyone else. We are fully capable of debating any issue. Toxics, "Star Wars," the budget, people say they're not Latino issues. But we're taxpayers. We contribute to funds that go into the budget and go into Star Wars. We want to create a generation of people who want to participate in public opinion. Looking at our role in the future, we want to be participants and decision-makers. But you only do that by creating an awareness, that we are an integral part of society and have a right to voice an opinion.

Q: How have you done this?

A: In the premier issue, we had a debate about immigration between Howard Ezell of the immigration service and Antonia Hernandez of MALDEF. In Vol. 1, No. 1, we had a debate on bilingual education between Prof. Rudy Acuna and Assemblyman Hill of Whittier. The concept of debate in publishing, you don't have head-to-head debate at this level. People have criticized us for printing the views of someone like Hill who is against bilingual education. But it didn't bother us to put out his view. We see it as a sign of maturity. We might not accept those views, but we're not afraid for people to hear them. People already hear those views anyway. But what our community doesn't hear are views like that of Antonia Hernandez, so we're actually doing something different by exposing her views.

Q: Tell me about your experience at *Lowrider*.

A: I was a writer and photographer for the magazine from 1978 to 1981. The magazine was a phenomenon. It was a tiny magazine that may have been the most successful magazine ever. It sold 100,000 copies a month on the street - we're not talking about subscriptions. We had a phenomenal street response. There was a core of seven people. We did everything, write, take photos and we were involved in distribution and promotion. I traveled all over the country promoting the magazine.

Q: How did you get to *Lowrider*?

A: I was a teacher. In the summer of '78, I was supposed to teach summer school,

but Prop. 13 wiped that out. *Lowrider* had talked to me and because I knew L.A., they wanted me to help them. I worked for *La Gente* newspaper at UCLA in '76, and I'd been writing since '72. So I ended up helping them that summer. For me, it was like walking into another world. After that, I didn't want to go back into the classroom.

Q: What is your book, *Assault with a Deadly Weapon*, about?

A: It was of course about my pursuit of justice and my observations about the pattern of injustice throughout the Southwest. About the disrespect I saw in L.A. - no where were people treated as bad. On a scale of 1 to 100, 100 being the worse, in L.A. it was 100, in other places I visited, it was from 1-5. Here (in Los Angeles), it was a pattern, it was incredible. Mainly, it affects young people. People were stopped, grabbed from their cars, thrown against the wall, handcuffed, it was routine. It was opposite from the precept of law as we know it - innocent until proven guilty.

Q: What happened to *Lowrider*?

A: It just died out. Our community grew and the people running the magazine failed to see that. And many people associated *Lowrider* with the killings that occurred in the barrios. The new generation saw their older brothers get killed and didn't want that anymore. In '82, '83, '84, *Lowrider* was going straight down and by '86, no one was into it. I've heard that the magazine might start up again. But I believe we should throw a boycott on it. We don't need that anymore. If it contributed to the killings that occurred, we can't allow that. In my mind, it's good that it (*Lowrider*) died.

Q: Where do you see *Americas 2001* headed?

A: I don't want it to be parochial. We are part of society. What we have to do is bring about the confidence that a bilingual publication is viable. Our community is bilingual. In my mind, why can't we do that with a publication? We know what our community is like - we're just taking that risk.

SUBSCRIPTIONS to *Americas 2001* are \$18 for 12 issues. For information, write: 5315 E. Beverly Blvd., #2, Los Angeles, 90022. The magazine's telephone number is (213) 727-2046.

By Malaquias "Hollywood" O'Toole

California Onda Chicana Newsletter to Premier in Community

Santos Rodriguez, a weekend disc-jockey for KDIF Radio in Riverside will soon be sending thousands of people from the Southern California area a newsletter titled *The California Onda Chicana Newsletter*.

Rodriguez, originally from Weslaco Texas, had his own band, "Suave" until about a year ago. He is now a member of the Starlighters.

He developed his love for la Onda Chicana music in the South Texas Valley and has carried it with him throughout his life.

"We have to nourish la Onda Chicana because it is our music, its not from any other country but here," said Rodriguez who has a program on the weekends from 10 a.m. to noon where he features Onda Chicana.

Rodriguez will be mailing a newsletter to keep audiences informed of bands coming to the area to perform.

TROUBLEMAKER by Demetria Martinez

I want to be
a mango seed
that men trip over,
those innovators!
cradling print-outs
for the production
of pink liquid soap.

Once on a train
I complained to a man:
We should make bread
not pink liquid soap.
He said:
That's not the
American Way.
If we don't innovate
those Mexicans
would be in worse shape
than what they are today.

I want to be a mango seed
in the street
grow into a tree
towering in the tar
to stop dead all truck
full of pink

liquid soap.

Mother, father
there's no passing
the cup
I'm going to be a trouble-
maker
when I grow up.

Planning Ahead is a Must For Retirement

By Al Villegas

The Social Security System in the United States has been greatly maligned over the years and with good reason. Social Security's old age survivor, disability and health insurance benefits are the sacred cow that no politician can question. However, they are the constant target of complaints from every group in our society.

Persons receiving Social Security complain that it's less than they were led to expect. The employees who pay Social Security tax complain that the likelihood is that their tax burden will increase in future years. Employers complain their matching tax "contribution" are a tremendous cost to adding new employees, thereby increasing unemployment. People approaching retirement complain that the unfunded obligation of the Social Security system makes them worry about the likelihood of receiving their benefits at their retirement. And worst of all, all of these complaints are completely justified.

Social Security was conceived in the 1930's. The old age survivors benefit promised participants that contributions made during their working years, by themselves and by their employer, would be pooled into a special trust fund. When the employee retired, a monthly cash benefit would be paid to him to replace his lost earnings. The thought was to provide a "supplementary" benefit for retirement.

But what's happened? Currently the Social Security System old age survivor benefit is obligated to pay trillions of dollars in benefits while its "trust fund" is greatly under-funded. In fact, it does not have a fraction of the amount promised. Taxes collected from workers and employers today are quickly paid out to persons who are retired.

This means workers have to rely on the willingness of future tax-payers to impose larger and larger taxes on themselves in order to pay benefits for those approaching retirement. It's more like a chain letter than a trust fund since one generation must rely on the next to impose larger taxes for their retirement benefit.

Social Security is NOT a savings program. It has quickly become a system of redistributing income, where income is taken from the worker today in the form of taxes and paid out to one currently retired. Payments are not determined by the amount of contributions made, but rather on a number of other factors . . . payments or contributions are just one among many factors.

Benefits are not designed fairly. If a retiree of modest means decides to work to supplement his income, he or she is faced with a situation where for every additional dollar he earns he will

not only lose benefits but, could actually have to pay additional taxes. On the other hand, if a wealthy retiree receives a million dollars a year in dividend and interest he or she is entitled to his full Social Security benefits. This is unfair and benefits the rich at the expense of the poor.

All these objections would be insufficient to cause major concern on their own. However, since 1950 where we had 17 persons employed for everyone receiving the old age benefit . . . we are now entering into an era where there will only be two people for every retired. This is the most alarming aspect of Social Security. How will the next generation, the new workers beginning the 21st century, cope with such large Social Security taxes as will be required? Can Congress convince future generations to pay additional Social Security taxes, while at the same time trying to diminish the huge annual budget deficits and Congress' answer is more and greater taxation than that will be of at the cost of the national economy as a whole. All will suffer.

Social Security tax is now at 7.15% applied to earnings of up to \$43,800. That means an individual with an income of \$43,800 now pays \$3,131.70 to Social Security. This is matched by his or her employer for a total of \$6,263.40 in Social Security taxes. The tax rate is already scheduled to increase to 7.65% of income of up to \$49,269 by 1990. As the ratio of workers to retirees diminishes, can workers and employers pay 8% . . . 10% . . . 12% of this income to Social Security?

What does it all mean to you? First you must take immediate and systematic action to safeguard your financial security. Truly, Americans can no longer rely on the government to provide financial security. The only real security is that which one generates for oneself. We must as individuals contribute as much as possible into our retirement programs, whether that be an IRA . . . HR10 . . . 401K profit sharing . . . or any other retirement program. Unless you are willing to gamble with your future financial security. We as Hispanics especially must learn not just to live for today but, also to plan for tomorrow. You must, faced with all the information we have on the troubles of the Social Security System and the growing national debt, make provisions for your own security. I might add, that the competition with foreign markets and domestic companies, your retirement programs with your company is not as secured as it used to be.

If you simply save the same percentage of your income in private savings that you pay to Social Security, you would be amazed at how that figure will have grown by retirement age. If you are in your middle working years, your

savings could grow to a vastly greater amount than that which you will receive from Social Security. If you are approaching retirement you might wish to consider saving a larger percentage of your income.

The key is to save on a systematic basis. Put aside money with the same regularity that you pay your Social Security tax and your other bills. And lastly, remember the only true Social Security is when individuals in a society rely on their own initiative to take care of themselves. Nobody is going to look out for you but YOU!

Villegas is owner of Money Concepts. For more information call (714) 782-8888.



We've moved!

Hispanic News is now located at

719 N. D St.

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People in the News



Araceli Otero, has been named the new Consul at the Mexican Embassy replacing Emerenciano Rodriguez. Rodriguez has taken a post in Kenya Africa. Otero is a native of Mexico City and has 25 years of experience with the Mexican Embassy. Her first assignment was at the Mexican Embassy in Del Rio, Texas where she worked for 14 years before coming to San Bernardino. She has worked at the San Bernardino Mexican Embassy for 11 years. Otero resides in San Bernardino with her mother.



Gloria Macias Harrison, publisher of the Colton Courier, El Chicano, Rialto Record and Around Town served as Mistress of Ceremonies at the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund Reception on November 2. Held at the University of California at Riverside, the reception was sponsored by Anheuser-Busch Companies, Inc. Speakers for the event were Dr. Esteban Soriano, Director of Development, U.C.R., Roy Jasso, Manager of Corporate Relations, Anheuser-Busch Companies and Ernest Robles, executive director of the National Hispanic Scholarship Fund.

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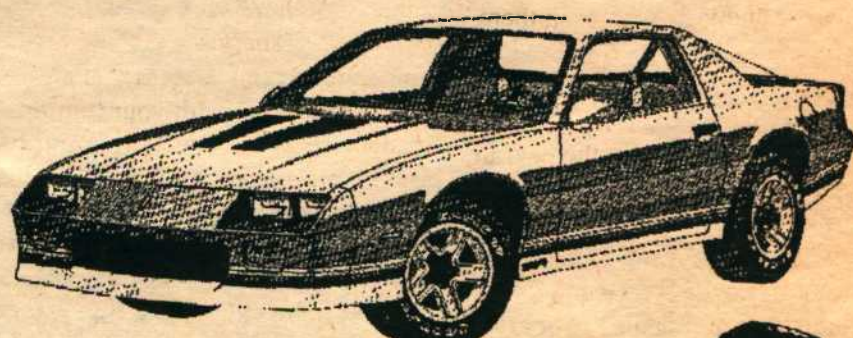
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Agradezco a HISPANIC NEWS la oportunidad de "despedirme", en mi lengua, de la comunidad.

Mi familia y yo nos hemos sentido distinguidos por un trato siempre cortés, fino y cordial de parte de toda la población. Tenemos en común seis años de historia familiar entrelazada con las historias de muchos de ustedes por razón de trabajo, pero sobre todo por razón de amistad, y llevamos sólo buenos recuerdos de nuestra estancia en esta región.

Al igual que mis saludos nunca fueron sólo saludos, quisiera, con esta despedida, dejar también un mensaje, con el derecho que me da ser más viejo que muchos de ustedes y la buena voluntad que siempre me han mostrado.

Se trata, en primer lugar, de conservar su idioma como vehículo de comunicación, de integración y de progreso. Ser bilingüe será la característica común de la humanidad en el mundo cada vez más empujado en que vivirán sus hijos.

Se trata, en segundo lugar, de aceptar de una vez por todas -despojándolo de toda connotación menos digna que pueda tener en las mentes de algunos- el término "chicano" como el calificativo más adecuado para designar a esta porción queridísima del México de afuera.

Se trata, finalmente, de que los chicanos del Inland Empire tomen conciencia del destino histórico que les ha tocado vivir precisamente por tener la doble responsabilidad de ser -al mismo tiempo- ciudadanos de este país y de sangre mexicana.

En la combinación armónica de estos dos integrantes de la personalidad chicana sabrán ustedes ser puentes de entendimiento. En ello radica su tremendo porvenir, beneficioso para ambos pueblos.

Quieran verlo así y así transmitirlo a sus hijos es mi deseo y mi mensaje de despedida.

San Bernardino, California, 21 de octubre de 1987.



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