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HISPANIC NEWS

INLAND EMPIRE

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Volume 1, Number 15

Mexican Presidential Candidate Salinas de Gortari Meets With Chicano Leaders

Submitted by the
INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

Under the auspices of the Institute for Social Justice (ISJ) — IMPACTO -88, some three-hundred Latino influentials and leaders met with Mexico's PRI (Revolutionary Institutional Party) presidential candidate Carlos Salinas de Gortari last Friday, April 8, at the Fiesta Americana Hotel, in Tijuana, B.C., Mexico.

"The meeting was historically unprecedented considering the number, quality, and diversity of representation of Latinos from throughout the nation" stated Dr. Armando Navarro, IMPACTO-88 National Director.

Adding to the historical significance, was the participation of 800 Mexican leaders and dignitaries representing the PRI and the Mexican Government.

Even more impressive, was the commitment made by Salinas de Gortari to IMPACTO-88 recommendations. The candidate agreed that closer collaboration with the United States second largest minority could reap dividends for

MEXICANO-NORTEAMERICANA

TIJUANA, BAJA CALIFORNIA, MEXICO



From left to right: Mexican Govt. Rep. Geronimo Martinez, Cong. Esteban Torres, Candidate de Gortari, Congr. Albert Bustamante and Dr. Armando Navarro both countries.

"As Mexicans we observe with pride your community dynamism and vitality within the United States, your demographic growth, economic potential, social organization, political mobilization and your present cultural flowering",

he told the over one thousand person audience.

"As candidate of Mexico's majority party, I am not campaigning for (the votes of) citizens of another country, but as a Mexican, I propose a greater collaboration on problems, contacts between people, exchange programs, and actions in areas of common interest".

Among other things, Latino leaders told Salinas de Gortari that:

1.) Mexico should tap Chicanos strong desire to help. Political mechanisms and organizations under ISJ — IMPACTO-88 are in place, if Mexico

chooses to use them.

Navarro who chaired the "encuentro" (meeting) with Salinas de Gortari, asked him to observe how Israel takes advantage of the cultural, economic, and political relationship with the Jewish American community.

2.) Mexican consulates should staunchly defend undocumented migrants' human and civil rights in the United States, and encourage educational programs to battle adult illiteracy and help migrant children graduate.

3.) Mexico should consider the 45,000 businesses owned by Mexican Americans as bridges to the U.S. economy and consider requiring American companies operating in Mexico to give a percentage of their business to Chicano and Latino companies.

4.) Meanwhile, Salinas de Gortari discounted the idea of a common market between Mexico and the Chicano community to strengthen business ties, "given the enormous differences between our economic systems".

5.) Salinas de Gortari's major commitment came in the form of agreeing to the formation of a Joint Mixed Commission, if elected this coming July. The commission would be comprised of

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Jugando Limpio Con Los Inmigrantes

Por Dick Meister
Hispanic Link

Es ilegal, desde luego, el que los patrones discriminen contra cualquiera por motivo de sexo, raza o cualquier otra razón. También todas las personas tienen derecho, por lo menos, a la tarifa mínima de pago fijada por el gobierno federal, así como a las demás garantías de la Ley de Normas Esquematizadas de Trabajo.

Bueno, "casi" todo el mundo tiene derecho a un trato justo — quizás si con la excepción de los millones de trabajadores indocumentados de este país. Una demanda judicial que está siendo juzgada en Fresno, California, podría quitarles a ellos todos los derechos del

trabajo, basándose en que la nueva ley de inmigración lo exige.

Las leyes que detallan los derechos de los trabajadores no hacen distinción entre los trabajadores nativos y los inmigrantes. Pero, poco después de la promulgación de la ley de inmigración en la primavera última, un tribunal de distrito de Alabama dictaminó que la misma quedaría sin ningún efecto si se continuaba otorgando iguales derechos a los trabajadores indocumentados y así, en efecto, animándoles a continuar entrando en el país.

Pueda que sí. Pero los trabajadores indocumentados continuarán migrando, no obstante, en gran cantidad. Están demasiado desesperados por obtener empleos como para quedarse lejos; los

patrones están demasiado ansiosos de obtener mano de obra barata como para desdefiarlos, y las dependencias del gobierno están demasiado carentes de personal como para que puedan hacer mucho respecto.

Dados esos hechos de la vida, el negarse a garantizarles las protecciones que se garantizan a otros trabajadores significa estar de acuerdo con la explotación flagrante de los indocumentados.

En el caso de California, por ejemplo, el patrón alega que, debido a que una mujer a quien él se negó a contratar nuevamente después de que ella tomó licencia por maternidad, era una trabajadora indocumentada, ella no tenía

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Personal Profile



Samuel Duran

"Let's clean San Bernardino up."

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Margaret Martinez, long-time community activist and friend passed away April 9.

COMMUNITY SUFFERS A GREAT LOSS

By Graciano Gomez

On Saturday, April 9, 1988, Margaret Martinez suffered a massive stroke and passed away. She was buried on Wednesday, April 13, 1988.

Margaret was a lifetime resident of San Bernardino. She and her husband Henry would have been married forty years in September of this year.

They were the model couple, known for being inseparable, always attending church and participating in functions throughout the Inland Empire and state.

She was involved in numerous community organizations. One of the organizations, the Sociedad Protectora Femenil, was the beneficiary of her talents for many years.

Both husband and wife were active members of the American G.I. Forum, an organization she had been a member for 28 years. She held various positions at the local and state level.

Margaret's main interest was with the youth of our community. Many years of her life were devoted to the Annual G.I. Forum Queen's contest, coaching the young ladies and coordinating their activities. Her involvement in fundraising functions for scholarships were well-known.

Her "no-nonsense" and "let's get things done" attitude were her greatest talent for getting numerous projects completed. These attitudes,



coupled with her humanistic approach, were her assets.

The ability to get along with people, being employed at Norton Air Force Base for thirty-four years, and being related and/or acquainted with the majority of the families in the Westside of San Bernardino, expanded her knowledge and needs of the community.

Her lifetime goal was the betterment of our community, especially the Westside of our city. Margaret

was an outstanding leader in our community. It is impossible to measure the positive impact this friend had on each of us.

Our community needs more models like Margaret Martinez. She will be missed by all whose lives she touched.

In lieu of flowers, family members have requested donations be made in her name to: American G.I. Forum Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 408, San Bernardino, CA 92402.

Hispanic Link

By Herman Sillas

Latino and Latina FBI agents are in and about the Hispanic community these days, but their presence is not to break up any criminal conspiracy or bust any major dope ring. Nor is it to recruit bright, bilingual and bicultural candidates to join in the force.

These agents are there to gain support for their cause: They have a class action lawsuit against the Federal Bureau of Investigation, charging discrimination based on race, national origin and religion.

Matt Perez, who rose to become the highest-ranking Hispanic in the bureau during his 26 years of service—concluded he would have done better if he had not been Hispanic. His conclusion is based upon his experiences and assignments in the FBI and his observation of the career tracks of his non-Hispanic peers.

Most of the 363 Hispanic agents among the 9,200 sworn personnel in the FBI have agreed with him and joined the class action.

Perez filed his suit in January, 1987, in Texas. His case will come to trial in June of this year. He alleges that Hispanic agents are assigned to the most dangerous outposts and are confined to areas where Hispanics reside. He charges that Hispanic agents are forced to transfer more often than their peers and are not promoted into positions of responsibility.

"It is vicious circle," one of the agents who joined his suit complains. "They assign us to Spanish-speaking areas so that we can be used as under-

cover agents, and when we ask for promotions, they tell us they can't spare us because we are so valuable. Meanwhile, we continue to train others on their way up the ladder."

The lawsuit alleges further that because of the bilingual abilities of many of the Hispanic agents, they receive a heavier workload but no additional compensation. This additional work is not measured in their evaluations; instead, they are chided for not accomplishing other, more routine work. Consequently, they are not promoted.

The FBI now finds itself in a difficult situation. Besides the Latino class action, there is a recent charge filed by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. It found that a black agent, Donald Rochon, was subjected to "continual harassment and humiliation by his co-workers." The acts were committed by the same people who have the duty to investigate civil rights violations by others.

At recent congressional budget hearings, the FBI's new director, former federal judge William Sessions, was taken soundly to task for the bureau's affirmative action failures.

There and elsewhere, Sessions has declared that the bureau is committed to recruiting minorities and women. There is the rub. More than recruitment is needed. Hispanics do not want just to be scouts for the general any more. They want a chance to BE the general.

Hispanic agents have been meeting with other Hispanics throughout the nation to elicit support for the cause. The response has been positive, but not with-

Hispanics Investigate The F.B.I.

out fear. After being advised of the suit and listening to the pitch of Texas Attorney Joe Silva, one prospective donor responded, "Can I give it to you in cash?" Everyone laughed. They could identify with the man's concern.

One of the agents present said that he had joined the bureau because it was the best law enforcement agency in the world. He was sad to add that because of his experiences, he had advised his own son not to follow in his footsteps.

Most of the major Hispanic organizations contacted have committed to join in support of the Hispanic agents' efforts. They are in the process of raising the \$300,000 they feel they need to prepare and present their case.

Matt Perez views his involvement this way: "My career is over. There is nothing they can do to me that they haven't done already. This action is for those young persons who will follow me, so they can move up and some day become director."

That would be nice. But in the meantime, Director Sessions has some image-fixing to do. He must clear out the remnant of the bureau's Old Boy network and change an institutional mentality that dates back to the days of J. Edgar Hoover.

He must create opportunities for Hispanics that permit them to come out from undercover and make them proud enough so they want their sons and daughters to become FBI agents — maybe directors — someday.

(Herman Sillas is a California attorney and former United States Attorney)

The Inland Empire Hispanic News will publish any corrections regarding factual errors or misleading information.

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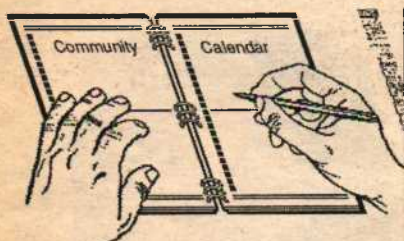
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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

April 22, 1988, Friday

"Tomas Rivera: a Multi-Dimensional Humanist"

The Tomás Rivera Conference
8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
University Club
The University of California,
Riverside

The Rivera Archives of more than 80,000 documents include the author's original manuscripts of novels, poetry, essays and literary criticism as well as public educational policy statements, correspondence and personal papers. The archives will be inaugurated in ceremonies at noon. Banquet, 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Cost for Banquet is \$10.

April 24, 1988 Sunday
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
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APRIL 30 Saturday
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School of Education California State University, San Bernardino,
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Dinner and Program-7:00-9:00 p.m.
Dance-9:00-1:00 a.m.
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Advance Reservations Required.
Reservation Deadline: April 22, 1988
For more information please contact:
Days: Marionela-887-7673
Evenings: Irene-25-3856
Sheila-886-8068/Carolyn-822-8597

Voices in the Crowd

What do you think of the movies "Milagro Beanfield War" and "Stand and Deliver"?



Hilda Quiroz, (originally from Yuma, Arizona) Riverside

"Milagro Beanfield War" gets into the character of the people. As a Mexican sitting there in the middle of the theater, I am conscious of the culture. "Milagro" gives you a sense of triumph. When one sees "Stand and Deliver" you can't help but think 'Where has this story been all this time'. Right now the time is right for these type of films. The money, the director and the audience is right.



Andrea Ramirez, Redlands

I liked the symbolism in "Milagro". Being a teacher, I enjoyed watching "Stand and Deliver". In that movie I liked the fact that the teacher believed in the kids, instilling in them that they could do it — in a world that tells them they can't. We need more movies that present role models. We need to see more Hispanic actors.



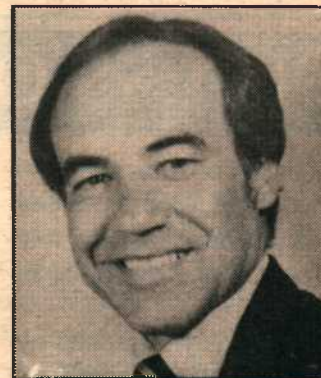
Jose M. Ramirez, Redlands

It's nice seeing Mexicans in a positive light in "Milagro". You usually see Mexicans killing each other.



Angel Delgado, Colton

I enjoyed "Stand and Deliver". I thought it was very realistic and inspiring. Hispanics need something to inspire them to have goals and later reach them.



Baca Receives Law Enforcement Endorsement

Joe Baca, Democratic candidate for the 66th Assembly District, has received the endorsement of the San Bernardino/Riverside Chapters of the Latino Peace Officers Association.

According to Joe Mujica, President, "...Baca has the credentials and has proven that he has a true grip on the problems of our communities, as it pertains to the concerns of this organization. His position of; Preventive programs for youth, stronger enforcement of Anti-

Continued on Page 9

Supporters of Fair Housing To Be Recognized

As we celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the Federal Fair Housing Law and April is Fair Housing Month, San Bernardino County's annual Fair Housing Awards Dinner will be held on Thursday, April 21, 1988 at Shandin Hills Golf Course Restaurant.

Those honored for their support of Fair Housing activities as demonstrated by substantive efforts in combating discrimination and expanding housing choices through affirmative programs and outreach efforts are:

George Lightner of Lightner Development, Art Townsend, Publisher of the Precinct Reporter, Jean Mosley, Norton AFB Housing Office, Tom Laurin, S.B. County Housing & Economic Development Division, and Walt Tuppence, Equal Opportunity Chairman of San Bernardino Valley Board of Realtors.

Also honored will be 25 students whose entries were judged as winners in the Fair Housing Poster Contest.

Continued on Page 9

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BUSINESS OF THE WEEK

Rita Arias owner of Arias Employment Unlimited Agency located at 444 N. Arrowhead Avenue, had two role models when she was growing up in San Bernardino.

"I was inspired as young child by Irene Hinojosa who owned a used car lot on 7th Street. She was from Mexico with very little education, could not speak English, yet she was successful because she worked hard. In fact, she later opened up a tortilla factory on 7th and Mount Vernon Avenue called Irene's Tortilleria," said Arias.

Charrita was another woman she admired from Charrita's Mexican Restaurant. "Charrita started catering way back then and made huge profits."

According to Arias, Charrita always found time to participate in the Lady of Guadalupe Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church on Fifth street.

"These ladies weren't afraid to work hard and they were able to reap the benefits from their work," said Arias.

Because she could not stand the thought of retirement, Arias decided to fulfill a lifelong dream — at a point in her life when some of her former classmates were retiring.

"I wanted to go into something I was familiar and comfortable with." Arias had previously worked for ten years at the San Bernardino County Community Services Department and before that for the San Bernardino Human Relations Department.

"I called a family meeting and told my husband and kids (two sons and a

daughter) I would be leaving my present job and would not be at home that much and I would need their support." Her husband Jesse has always been very supportive of her. "He always respects my wishes," she said.

Arias used her retirement money and opened up her employment service four years ago. Today she also has an office in Ontario at the Ontario Airport Center.

"That area really appealed to me so after a year and a half of being in business, I decided to open up an Ontario office."

Being a member of the California

Association of Personnel Consultants, she has noticed that there are only a handful of Hispanics in the business.

"I believe Hispanics should be everywhere, that is also one of the reasons I went into this business."

Arias Employment Unlimited Agency is the only Hispanic owned employment agency in the county. Arias offers permanent and temporary placement in management, administrative, technical, clerical, medical and industrial fields.

"As of April 1st all the fees will be paid by the employer," noted Arias.

Her office in San Bernardino is comprised of a receptionist, two consultants, a general consultant and a technical consultant. The latter helping place tech-



nical applicants such as engineers. In Ontario, where Arias normally works out of, there is a telemarketing representative and a counselor.

The agency is a California licensed agency. Having a general license, she is able to do all types of placements from modeling to domestic help.

"This is a very lucrative business. I believe this is the third fastest growing industry but it is very competitive. You can't be too shy or too aggressive.

"You have to have a strong will to do this business — it's tough, but there are tough Chicanos out there."

One of her most rewarding moments was when two Chicana girls came into her San Bernardino office and recognized her from a picture in the newspaper. "They were so happy that a Chicana owned a placement agency and I was equally happy to be able to help them."



ARIAS
EMPLOYMENT
UNLIMITED
AGENCY

Golden Girl
Temporaries

Inmigrantes, continuacion de Primera Pagina

derecho a entablarle pleito a él por discriminación, ni a adoptar ninguna otra medida legal para tratar de recobrar su empleo en la fábrica de tortillas de él en el Valle de San Joaquín, de California. El alega que ni siquiera importaba que la mujer, Alicia Castrejón, de 22 años de edad, hubiera solicitado la amnistía al amparo de la ley de inmigración y que de ese modo pudiera ser elegible para tener personalidad como trabajadora le-

galmente.

La Comisión para la Igualdad en las Oportunidades de Empleo del gobierno federal presentó la demanda contra el patrón de la Sra. Castrejón, pidiendo que se le restablezca con pago de sueldos atrasados.

La Comisión está ansiosa especialmente acerca del millón o cosa así de trabajadores inmigrantes que, como la Sra. Castrejón, aguardan la acción del gobierno en sus solicitudes para convertirse en residentes legales temporales.

Hay también un gran interés acerca de los dos o tres millones de otras personas

que pueden también ser elegibles para dar ese primer paso necesario hacia la situación de residentes permanentes, pero todavía no han presentado sus solicitudes.

A menos que los inmigrantes tengan derecho a litigar contra la discriminación por parte de los patrones en el entretanto, estos últimos estarán en libertad de explotarlos como lo deseen. Pueden continuar trabajando en este país, pero según interpretan la ley de inmigración el patrón de la Sra. Castrejón y el tribunal de Alabama, no tendrán personalidad legal a menos que —y hasta que— el gobierno los declare residentes legales.

Muchos de los trabajadores ni siquiera solicitarán la situación legal, especialmente los cientos de miles que han entrado al país después de que la ley entró en vigor, los cientos de miles que entrarán ilegalmente en el futuro.

Los patrones, en verdad, no van a desalentar la entrada de dichos trabajadores —especialmente no mientras se les niegue aún las protecciones firmes contra la discriminación patronal que procura para ellos la Comisión para la Igualdad en las Oportunidades de Empleo. Los patrones se enfrentan al riesgo teórico de multas y hasta cárcel por

contratar a trabajadores indocumentados, pero en el mejor de los casos el gobierno tendrá solamente a 1,600 agentes buscando a los infractores en toda la nación.

Evidentemente, la ley de la que se suponía que arreglara algunos de los problemas sean aún más graves. Empero, hay una salida de ese enredo.

Todo lo que necesitamos hacer es recordar que los derechos fundamentales de una persona no se derivan de consideraciones tan secundarias como su situación de residente legal o ilegal de un país.

Nuestros derechos más importantes proceden, mas bien, de nuestra situación como personas que merecen trato justo en todos los campos de la vida, por parte de los gobiernos y de los tribunales de justicia, de los patrones y de todo el mundo.

(Dick Meister, escritor de San Francisco, ha informado sobre asuntos laborales durante los 30 años últimos, en calidad de reportero y editor de periódicos y de transmisión electrónica.)

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Crime Tip: Elder Abuse



Sgt. Dan Hernandez
San Bernardino Police Dept.

An 86 year-old woman who has poor vision and hearing, lives with her 60 year-old daughter. The daughter locks her mother in the bedroom and occasion-

ally slaps her for wandering at night.

Joan, an 80 year-old widow, dying of cancer, is living with her son. Joan is being denied proper medical care because her son does not want to waste his income on hospital bills. Instead, the money goes to pay for the son's drug habit.

What do these scenarios have in common? They are all examples of **ELDER ABUSE**.

WHAT IS ELDER ABUSE?

It is the mistreatment or neglect of an elderly person, usually by a relative or other caregiver.

Elder Abuse may include:

- Physical violence-bruises-old and new, hair missing, cuts and unexplained injuries.

- Financial-possible indicators may

include — unusual activity in bank accounts, changes in a will or property against his/her will.

- Neglect-failing to provide necessary food, clothing, medical care and shelter.

- Mental-threats, harassment, intimidation and fear.

WHO ARE THE VICTIMS?

- Frequently female, more often women than men.

- Often 75 or over in age.

- Dependent relies on the abuser for basic needs.

- Possibly suffering from medical or physical impairment.

- Elder abuse happens more often than

you might imagine. For all too many elders, violence by a female member is a cruel and constant part of their daily life.

It is a silent cry because, while child and spousal abuse has dramatically drawn attention and judicial concern, elder abuse is virtually unacknowledged. Although few child abuse and spousal cases are said to be reported, even fewer cases of elder abuse comes to the attention of the authorities.

IT'S EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY TO STOP ELDER ABUSE.

MAJOR EARTHQUAKE IN CALIFORNIA INEVITABLE

County Supervisor Barbara Riordan has called for the involvement of San Bernardino County residents in preparing this area for a major earthquake.

"Governments at the State, County, and city levels are working together to prepare Southern California for damaging earthquakes. To be totally prepared, however, each of our residents needs to be aware of potential hazards and to take basic earthquake preparedness measures," said Riordan, a member of the State Seismic Safety Commission.

Experts unanimously agree that a major earthquake is inevitable in California. During the last 1,200 years, it is estimated that at least eight major earthquakes have occurred along the southern San Andreas fault, spacing in time of approximately 140 years. The last such earthquake occurred in 1857 and statistics indicate that the probability of another major, devastating earthquake striking this region is more than 50 percent in the next 25 years.

Due to the failure of man-made structures, especially older, multistory unreinforced brick masonry buildings constructed before earthquake-resistant building codes were put into effect, the

loss of life and damage to property in a major earthquake could be substantial. Additionally, modern multistory buildings built as recently as the early 1970's may be subject to failure because they were not adequately designed or erected to meet current seismic standards.

Michael Guerin of the State Office of Emergency Service noted that even moderate earthquakes can cause great damage and destruction to a region. "The 5.9 magnitude Whittier Narrows earthquake caused an estimated \$358 million in damage. Damaging earthquakes occur on the average of every two years in California, so it is smart to take earthquake preparedness measures now and to know what to do before, during, and after a quake," said Guerin.

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Personal Profile: Samuel Duran

Chopping cotton in the hot New Mexican sun, Samuel Duran decided to join the United States Air Force, a decision that would eventually bring him to the Inland Empire.

Samuel (Sam) Duran, a native of Artesia, New Mexico, was approached by a friend to join the Air Force with him.

"I remember asking him what people in the Air Force did. My friend told me they flew airplanes, so I agreed," said Duran.

After basic training in San Antonio, Texas, he was sent to Africa and later to Viet Nam. After 24 years in the service, Duran retired from Marsh Air Force Base in Riverside.

"When I retired, I wanted to be a scouting executive, having been involved with scouting for so long." However, shortly after retiring, Duran was hired as operations coordinator for the California Conservation Corps' Training Academy in Murphys, California.

"People have a misconception of the C.C.C. as being a rehabilitation center. 'Why else would black, white and browns be working so well together' they usually say when they see us."

Actually the California Conservation Corps is a work ethic program with a dual mission: the employment and develop-

ment of young people, and the conservation and enhancement of the state's natural resources. To carry out this mission, the C.C.C. has established 17 residential centers throughout the state, as well as 30 nonresidential satellite locations and a training academy.

Duran's career with the C.C.C. has



seen him in many roles from Operations Coordinator of the Training Academy in Murphys to Center Director of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Center in San Diego before being named later named center director at the Escondido Center in Escondido.

He is currently Interim Area Manager for the San Bernardino Center located in Patton.

"I was asked to help start the center here which had been moved from Barstow. I wanted to come back to the

area because I knew the area and knew there were a lot of young people here."

Duran is active in the San Bernardino community through his involvement with local chapters of the Kiwanis Club, Toastmasters International, American GI Form and the Holy Rosary Parish Council and the Westside Beautification

He admires community leaders like Sam Catalano who try and clean up the area.

The C.C.C. is modeled after the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s, and grew out of the Ecology Corps established in 1971. In July 1976, legislation was passed which created the California Conservation Corps. It was renewed on a temporary basis until 1988 when Governor George Deukmejian made the C.C.C. a permanent state department. The California Conservation Corps has now surpassed the original C.C.C. in years of operation, and is the largest program of its kind in the country.

For youths that are interested in serving as corpsmembers there are only four requirements:

- Between the ages of 18 and 23
- Not on parole or probation
- California residents
- Willing to work hard

"We usually place corpsmembers in centers outside their area, which forces them to fend for themselves. They can't go home on the weekends with their dirty laundry."

Duran is looking for community people to serve on a board of directors for the local center. "We need directors to help give guidance to the center. I am hoping to attract business leaders, government people and educators."

Project.

"Back in San Diego there was a community beautification project known as 'I Love San Diego', I would like to see a program similar to that here."

Duran noted that people from all over come to San Bernardino because of the bases and it is embarrassing for them to see abandoned cars and mattresses on the side of the road. "If people could take more pride in their community and help upkeep it, San Bernardino would be a better place to live."

A Soldadera Died/Murio Una Soldadera

By Roberto Rodriguez

A "soldadera" died the other day. I wish I could weep but I can't. I barely knew her. The sorrow that I feel, I feel deep inside. And that sorrow is for the family, a family that grieves its beloved Nana.

She used to sit all day on the couch of a Los Angeles home I visit often. The television was always on — in Spanish or English — but I don't know if she ever paid any attention to it. Sometimes she used to sleep on the couch. She couldn't walk by herself anymore. Her body was fragile. Her mind was not altogether

crisp. But her eyes intrigued. They reflected the history that was written on her face. She was 88, they said, but the glint in her eyes still shined much life.

The day I first saw her, about half a year ago, they had brought her from Tijuana. She was a small woman, the color of the earth. I had heard so much about her from her granddaughter, my close friend Elsa. Elsa talked about the love the family had for their "soldadera" forebear. It was the middle of the night when they rushed her in, straight to her room. I didn't speak to her until the next day. Then, we talked of Emiliano Zapata, Pancho Villa and the Mexican

Revolution. I did most of the talking. She answered, but mostly with her eyes. She relived the Revolution.

When she died a few weeks ago, she left a world of television, freeways and smog. She was mourned by her daughters and sons, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, divided in two countries. The world her memories conjured up made more sense to her, I'm certain.

I remember her eyes as we sat together one night and watched Luis Valdez's "Corridos" on television. They lit up at the mention of Pancho Villa and the "soldaderas", the women who helped fight the Mexican Revolution. She

would point at the television set as the stories took her to a long-gone but still familiar past that included horses, guns, trains, songs and the virtue of a cause. Once she said that I reminded her of someone from the old country. I accepted that as the highest compliment she could offer me.

A few weeks before she died, her granddaughter and I told her about Panamanian lawyer/performer Ruben Blades, who had just been in Los Angeles.

"Ruben Blades?" she asked us. "Who is Ruben Blades?"

With Blades' music playing in the background, we talked to her in the lan-

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EEO m/f/h



L.-R. Angela Alvarado, Robby Rosa, Magali Garcia and Rodney Harvey star in "Salsa".

"SALSA"

Hollywood - In the last three months, the streets of Los Angeles turned into a gigantic dance place. Thousands of young people were enjoying the rhythm of the happiest music of the world. Cannon Films was filming a movie, "Salsa," under the direction of Boaz Davidson, and with the magnificent choreography of Kenny Ortega.

Very close to the "West Side Story" style, (the movie that made a sensation in the late sixties for its dances and the accurate message to the people at the time.) "Salsa" tells us the story of two good friends — Rico, a Latin boy who lives to dance Salsa at a night club in East

Los Angeles called, "La Luna," and Ken, an American who Rico has known since they were kids —and how their friendship is put to a test when Ken falls in love with Jennie, Rico's 16 year old sister.

But "Salsa" is not a tragic story, neither is it a story of prohibited love; It's about the dance, the rite that cures and cleanses the soul, and an interesting contest at "La Luna".

"Salsa" is a romantic fable of dreams and ambitions of the young Latin people. It shows us what life is in dance clubs, and the lessons that love can teach us...East Los Angeles style.



Palito Ortega volvió una vez mas a los escenarios de New York, y ésta vez como las anteriores, logró sónico éxito en el Felt Forum del Madison Square Garden de esta ciudad. En dicho espectáculo se reunieron aproximadamente 4,000 personas quienes disfrutaron de un super show de una hora al estilo de Palito Ortega, un artista que por mas de dos décadas ha jecjp ;;prar, reir y cantar a sus asiduos admiradores en toda

Latinoamérica.

En éste show del recuerdo, Palito interretó las viejas pero bonitas canciones que le dieron fama en los años 60's y que aun siguen escuchandose, y tambien obsequió a su kpúblicocon canciones actuales como: "Soy Latinoamericano" y otras, mismas que combinó con otras mas viejitas pero no bemos populares, como aquella de "Vestida de Novia," "La Felicidad" y

muchas otras que fueron todo un éxito en años pasados.

Palito Ortega se ha distinguido siempre por su don de gentes, su personalidad y versatilidad en el medio artístico, donde ha trabajado como actor, cantante, productore y director, y se puede decir que siempre con éxito.

Para la música y canciones de Palito, no hayt fronteras, no hay idiomas, pues en cualquier país, en cualquier idioma, sus canciones son bien aceptadas y se baila y se disfruta al compas de su musica...

María Conchita Alonso, bella, inteligente y despierta en cuanto al manejo de su carrera artistica, ha demostrado ser la cantante Latina mas popular tanto en el medio artistico Latino como en el Anglo, en el cual ha destacado grandemente debido a sus interpretaciones sensuales a la musica rock y a su continua intervención en el cine Americano.

María Conchita Alonso tambien ha intervenido en el video y ha hecho un buen trabajo, segun lo confirman los altos indices de ventas de todo material en cuestion de videos. María Conchita Alonsa ha filmado al lado de los mas populares actores del cine Americano, como: Tom Berenger con quien compartió creditos en la pelicula "Pancio en la Ciudad". Arnold Schwarzenegger, su compañero en "The Running Man", Sean Penn y otros mas que como ellos mismos afirman fueron afortunados en trabajar con María Conchita Alonso, la cantante de rock mas sensual del momento.

María Conchita Alonso, sigue triunfando con su mas reciente album, llamado Mframe, el cual coprodujo y el cual segun ella puede llegar a colocarse entre los mejores de la música rock. Sin embargo hay quien opina que dicho album contiene en su mayoria letras eróticas y que solo tendrá éxito entre los amantes de este genero de erotismo dentro de la música. Por lo pronto, éste album ha despertado las mas acaloradas polémicas y quizá por eso se está vendiendo bien. Pero de una o otra forma, lo unico que ha quedado en claro es que María Conchita Alonso, acapara la atencion con sus discos, peliculas y videos eróticos que a muchos gustan y a

muchos no, pero que se venden como pan caliente

Exitazo fué el que logró Manolo Muñoz en su reciente presentacion en conocido teatro del Este de Los Angeles,



en donde absequeió a su público con bellas canciones del recuerdo como: "Lupita Banana", "Llamarada" y algunos exitos mas, que lo dieron a conocer hace ya algunos años.

Manolo Muñoz, dueño de una magnifica voz y un talento sin igual, es sin duda alguna una de las mejores estrellas del rock, que ha sabido evolucionar de acuerdo a la epoca, cantando lo mismo una balada, rock, bolero o ranchera y siempre con la madures de un gran artista.



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Charlie's Dream of Medical Cure Becomes A Reality

By Sonia D.T. Rodriguez
Editor, Hispanic News

Journeying to a foreign land and leaving 11 children behind, Socorro Carlon Torres is a mother from Ahome, Sinoloa who is searching for treatment for her four-year-old son, Isaia.

Isaia is suffering from a congenital urological deformity. His pelvis was not fully developed at birth.

Torres and her son, "Charlie," were brought to the Inland Empire through the efforts of Christian Wings, a non-profit organization which operates a clinic in Las Mochis. (Isaia's five sisters and six brothers nicknamed him "Charlie.") Torres heard about the clinic though people in her village and took her son in.

"I checked him for a sore throat, which he had, and then was told by the interpreter that the mother wanted me to check him down there," said John A. Krueger, a registered nurse and Christian Wings pilot.

Krueger immediately called Dr. Edward C. Jacobs from Mexico who told him that he could help the boy. Jacobs is pediatric urologist on staff at San Bernardino Community Hospital.

Two weeks later, mother and son flew with Christian Wings into Redlands Municipal Airport.

Drs. Jacobs and Alvaro Bolivar, also on staff at S.B.C.H., performed the reconstructive surgery which took about five and a half hours on March 28.

"The child will probably be around for a couple of weeks and then after a year, we will try a second operation on Charlie," said Jacobs.

"I have never left my children's side,"

said a worried Torres in Spanish. "But I traveled here with the hopes that my son will be treated."

Torres' children range in age from one to 24.

"My husband and my 12-year-old daughter are caring for the children right now," she said.

She sent a letter to her family to in-

form them of Charlie's operation. "Hopefully by now they know how well he is doing," said Torres.

Charlie and his mom are staying with Joe and Mary Jimenez in Redlands.

Torres had attempted to seek medical assistance for Charlie when he was just an infant, but her efforts were unsuccessful. After a sixteen hour bus ride into Guadalajara, the doctor who was going to treat Charlie was killed. Torres was forced to return home with her infant.

Charlie is recovering in Redlands at the Jimenez home in Redlands. He hopes to visit Disneyland before he leaves. He will return in six months for a follow-up exam.



L.V.N. Nancy De La Torre plays with Charlie before his surgery at San Bernardino Community Hospital



Te deseamos salud y felicidad, Charlie !

Ethnic Program Studies at Cal State to be Revitalized

A revitalized Ethnic Studies Program is being launched this spring at Cal State, San Bernardino in an effort to address the academic interests of ethnic minority students.

Eight courses, encompassing a variety of disciplines from art to sociology, are being offered during the spring quarter, noted Dr. Aubrey Bonnett, dean of the School of Social and Behavioral Sciences. He will be teaching his first class at Cal State, "Black Social Stratification," which is included among "African Societies," "Mexican Art," "History of Mexico," "Aspects of Chicano Culture," "Minority Politics" and "Racial and Cultural Minorities" in the new Eth-

nic Studies Program. Classes begin April 4.

"Over the past couple of years some (minority) students have claimed that there are no courses and faculty at Cal State to meet their needs,"

Bonnett stated. "It is a continuous problem to which we're very committed (to addressing). We are expanding the range of courses and developing a cadre of faculty throughout the university who can administer to the felt needs of minority students."

The topics in Cal State's Ethnic Stud-

ies Program transcend groups and races "to place equal emphasis on all ethnic groups," explained Dr. Brij Khare, political science professor and director of ethnic studies. "In the past the program focused mostly on history. We have offered courses in Black and Chicano politics which have had to be cancelled (due to lack of interest)."

The Ethnic Studies curriculum, developed by a committee of faculty and students, involves disciplines from each of the university's five schools.

"The first major test (of interest) will come with these spring offerings," added Bonnett, who sees the revitalized program as a foundation for evolving pro-

grams. "Right now I couldn't make a case for (separate) Afro-American or Hispanic studies.

Cal State's revitalized Ethnic Studies Program is an outgrowth of the infusion of cross-cultural subject matter into the general education curriculum, with the ultimate goal of preparing all students for life in a multicultural society, stated Bonnett.

"As American moves toward a more independent world and multinational corporations, there is an apparent need for global understanding," he commented.

Heritage Pageant Tickets Go On Sale

Tickets for the 10th Annual Mexican American Heritage Pageant are now on sale at the following locations: Dejavu Beauty Salon, 2151 North Sierra Way, San Bernardino; El Chicano/Colton Courier, 333 E. Valley, Colton; Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, 972 N. Mt. Vernon, San Bernardino; Mitla's Restaurant, 602 N. Mt. Vernon, San Bernardino; Monge's Bridal Plaza, 1258 West 5th Street, and San Bernardino Valley College, Public Information Office, 701 S. Mt. Vernon Avenue, San Bernardino. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children.

Produced and directed by James Es-

pinoza, the play "Colores De Mi Pueblo" will be presented at San Bernardino Valley College on the following dates and times: Friday, April 22, at 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, April 23, 2:00 p.m. matinee and 8:00 p.m.; and Sunday, April 24, at 7:00 p.m. The program depicts the rich and colorful culture and historical background of the Hispanic people and provides an exciting theatrical production of wholesome entertainment for audiences of all ages.

For further information, please call (714) 888-6511, extension 172.

Congressman George Brown Listens to You !

FIELD OFFICE DAY
Saturday, April 23, 1988
11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Boys and Girls Club of San Bernardino
1180 West Ninth Street, San Bernardino
(between Mt. Vernon Ave. & L Street)

Please come and meet with Congressman George Brown to discuss issues that are important to you. Congressman Brown and members of his staff will be there to listen and assist you with federal matters. If you cannot attend feel free to contact Congressman Brown at 2256 Rayburn Building, Washington, D.C. 20515

Colton Office: 657 La Cadena Dr., 825-2472. Hours M-F, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.



Marielena Garcia
Extension Information Specialist
San Bernardino County
Agricultural Cooperative Extension

Las Mamografias Salvan La Vida De Muchas Mujeres

Se calcula que en el Sur de California aproximadamente 35,000 mujeres harán una de las decisiones más importantes de su vida, respondiendo al proyecto de mamografías de bajo costo patrocinado por la Asociación Americana del Cáncer.

Una mamografía (rayos X en los senos) es una forma sencilla, segura y efectiva para detectar el cáncer en los senos y si se hace a tiempo, salva la vida de muchas mujeres.

Este año, como 42,000 mujeres morirán en este país víctimas de cáncer en los senos. Estas muertes pueden ser evitadas ya que si el cáncer en los senos es diagnosticado a tiempo, el 95 por ciento de estos casos son curables. Estas

estadísticas serían diferentes si las mujeres siguieramos las recomendaciones de la Sociedad del Cáncer, examinándose uno mismo los senos cada mes y tomándose una mamografía.

Para probar la efectividad de la mamografía, la Sociedad Americana y más de 100 entidades médicas del Sur de California llevarán a cabo el Programa de Mamografías de Bajo Costo, durante el mes de Abril.

El procedimiento de una mamografía es sencillo y puede detectar tumores cancerosos aunque estén muy pequeños y que a tiempo, el 95 de los casos son curables. Una mamografía usualmente cuesta hasta como \$250.00 dólares. Durante este proyecto de Abril las

mujeres elegibles tendrán la oportunidad de que se les tome una mamografía por sólo \$50.00.

El proyecto de mamografías a bajo costo será para mujeres de 35 años o más de edad, y que nunca hayan tenido problemas de cáncer o síntomas de cáncer en sus senos. Este programa sólo estará disponible llamando entre el 4 de Abril al 29 de Abril, de Lunes a Viernes de 8 a.m. a 6 p.m. y el número para llamar es gratis al 1-800-522-4526. Si es necesario pregunte por una persona bilingüe.

Una vez más, recuerde que una mamografía a tiempo pudiera salvarle la vida. No espere y llame.

Taking Control Of Your Life

There is no guarantee that eating the right foods will prevent any specific type cancer. What the studies do show is some foods appear to either inhibit or promote the growth of cancer cells.

A group of vegetables that appear to be beneficial for us belongs to the mustard family — called cruciferous. Their

flowers have four leaves in the pattern of a cross. Members of this family of plants are: broccoli, brussels sprouts, all cabbages, horseradish, kale, kohlrabi, mustard greens, rutabagas, turnips and watercress. These vegetables seem to reduce the risk of gastro-intestinal and respiratory cancer because of their chemical makeup.

Many of these vegetables are a deep green, indicating a source of vitamin A. There appears to be a connection between vitamin A and risk of throat and lung cancer.

Vitamin C is also present in the mustard family and is thought to be a protec-

tor against esophagus and stomach cancers. Vitamin C also inhibits the development of nitrosamine in the stomach.

A decade or so ago, there was a reduction in the amount of nitrite used in curing meats such as sausage and bacon. In countries where large amounts of smoked and nitrite-cured foods are eaten, throat and stomach cancer are more prevalent.

Diets high in fat seem to be associated with breast, colon and prostate cancer. Trimming the fat from lean meat, fish and skinned poultry and using low-fat dairy products can help reduce the diet fat.

For those who enjoy relaxing with alcoholic drinks, there is a risk of liver cancer. The liver detoxifies the harmful chemicals we consume in small amounts daily. It is the body's chemical clearinghouse, and excessive alcohol overloads the system.

A diet for maximum health is yet to be defined. There is accumulating evidence that the typical American diet—high in sugar, salt and fat—needs to be modified with more vegetables, fruit and whole-grained products for a healthier life.

Plastic Wrap Microwave Safe

Consumers have expressed concern as to whether covering food with plastic wrap for heating in a microwave oven is harmful to humans. According to Food Technologist George York, University of California, Davis, there is NO evidence that plastic wrap heated on food presents a hazard in home food preparation.

Most microwave manufacturers sug-

gest leaving a vent for the steam to escape when food is plastic wrapped. Foods high in fats and sugars tend to become very hot when microwaved so arrange the plastic wrap so it doesn't touch the food.

For More Information Contact: Mary K. Marshall-Home Economist (714) 387-2171.

BACA Endorsed

Continued from Page 3

Drug Laws, a stronger emphasis on drunk drivers, and preventive programs to eliminate dropouts which hurt our communities is sound...."

Baca is a leader that gets things done. His public service record is impeccable. Integrity and leadership are his other strong attributes, cited Mujica.

Fair Housing Advocates Honored

Continued from Page 3

Judge Patrick Morris, S.B. County Juvenile Court is the guest speaker.

A special award will be presented to Mr. Ralph Lewis for his contribution to the Fair Housing Scholarship Fund, and S.B. Educators, Bernice Stansbury, Curtis Intermediate School, Pat Nunley, Golden Valley Middle School, and Robert Reynolds, Sequoia Junior High School in Fontana. The dinner is open to the public. For more information call 884-8056.



City of San Bernardino General Plan Revision Program

As part of the General Plan Revision Program a series of meetings are scheduled before the Mayor and Council to receive public input and approve an Interim Policy Document. The following meetings have been scheduled to achieve this.

Friday	4-22-88	Presentation of Alternatives	9 a.m. - Noon
Monday	4-25-88	•Hospitality Lane Area •Inland Center Area •Central Business District	9 a.m. - Noon
Tuesday	4-26-88	•Valley College Area •Rialto Bench Area •Westside Area	5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Wednesday	5-04-88	•Norton Area •North Central San Bernardino	9 a.m. - Noon
Friday	5-06-88	•Highland Area of the City •Del Rosa Area	9 a.m. - Noon
Thursday	5-12-88	•University Area	5p.m. - 9 p.m.
Wednesday	5-18-88	Final Public Hearing	5 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Monday	5-23-88	Final Council Deliberation and Approval of Interim Policy Document	9 a.m. - Noon

These meetings will be held in the City Hall, Council Chambers, 300 North "D" St., San Bernardino, CA 92418.

**Everyone is encouraged to come
and participate.**

Mini- Deportivos: Por Jesse Sepulveda

El Equipo de fútbol Italiano ha quedado a sólo un paso de su clasificación al mundial de Seúl en Septiembre proximo, al derrotar al fuerte equipo Olandes el pasado 13 de Abril, en un partido que segun los expertos lucio bien pero mereció un mejor resultado para los Olandeses quienes a travez del partido se fueron opacando hasta caer 3 goles a 0 ante los Italianos, quienes demostraron buena sincronizacion entre sus jugadores y sobre todo un empuje continuo que los llebó al triunfo poniendolos en la puerta a la clasificación al mundial.

Italia practicamente dominó el partido, y ahora se encuentra entre los equipos con mas posibilidades de clasificar a los Juegos Olimpicos de 1988 en Seúl, pues lo unico que tendría que hacer es adjudicarse un triunfo mas contra el debil quipo de Islandia.

Segun estiman los expertos, Italia ya tiene asegurada su clasificación al mundial, en el cual 16 equipos disputaran la supremasia en el fútbol mundial.

Y ya que hablamos sobre el fútbol Italiano, les diremos que ante la decisión de la Federación Italiana de fútbol, de permitir que los clubs deportivos de fútbol de primera division con-

traten a un maximo de 3 jugadores extranjeros en el próximo año, créo una inmediata reacción entre los jugadores miembros del sindicato de futbolistas Italianos, que se oponen a dicha medida.

Segun los futbolistas Italianos, si la Federación permitiera ésto, ellos tendrían menos oportunidades de ser incluidos en los planes de los equipos de Italia, ya que los jugadores extranjeros ocuparían sus lugares, desplazandolos y dejandolos sin oportunidades.

Segun los planes de la Federación, los equipos de segunda division, también se tendrean que ajustar a las nuevas disposiciones y tendrían que ajustar a las nuevas disposiciones y tendrían que contratar solo 2 jugadores extranjeros por club. Esto ha hecho que los sindicatos de futbolistas se unan y anemazaron con ir a la huelga si la federación no cambia esta disposición.

El sindicato de futbolistas estimó que una huelga seria fatal para el fútbol Italiano y para los empresarios que promueben este tipo de eventos deportivos, pues se perderían millones si una huelga llegara a estallar. Tremenda controversia y polemica es la que se ha creado al rededor de la pelea de campeonato pluma Jr. que se realizó el pasado 27 de Febrero entre el ex-campeón pluma Jr. el Do-

minican Julio Gervacio y piñango, actual campeón quien supuestamente se encontraba drogado cuando se efectuó dicha pelea.

En esta disputa se encuentra la comisión de box de Puerto Rico que suspendió a Piñango, y ha insistido ante la AMB para que ésta vez despoje de su titulo a Piñango, ya que como dijéramos, supuestamente se encontraba drogado, segun exámenes realizados despues de la pelea.

La AMB, segun sus propias declaraciones, asegura que no hay razón para despojar del titulo al campeón Piñango, ya que los exámenes no se realizaron correctamente de acuerdo a los reglamentos de dicho organismo.

Ante la determinacion de la AMB de no quitarle el titulo a Piñango, y no aplicar ninguna sanción a este, la empresa que representa al ex-campeón, llebo el caso hasta los tribunales de

Puerto Rico en busca de una investigación del caso.



Celebración Del Mes De Amnistia

Sabado, 30 de Abril de 1988

La Plazita Park

Esquina De 7th y Mt. Vernon

11:00 a.m. -- 3:00 p.m.

San Bernardino

Grupos Musicales

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Annual Citizen's Award Ceremony Planned For June 1

Each year the City of Colton's Human Services Department honors those residents whose dedication and commitment as a Human Services volunteer or outstanding achievement in athletic endeavors or team competition has contributed to the betterment of the community. This years Citizen's Award night is planned for Wednesday, June 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Cham-

bers.

Colton residents are invited to nominate a local citizen for their contributions to the community as a volunteer or athlete. Nomination forms may be obtained at the Hutton Center, 660 Colton Avenue or by calling 370-5086. The deadline for submitting citizen nomination award forms is May 6, 1988.

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Former Los Angeles Raider Coach Tom Flores addresses the Third Annual Latino Peace Officers Association's Award Dinner held April 15.



Newly installed Gents officers are left to right: Frank Rodriguez, Emilio Flores, Pete Ramos, Joe Rodriguez, Luis Bravo, Robert Hernandez, and Santos Favela substituting for Richard Amador.



Photograph by Joe Lopez

Assemblyman Gerald Eaves presents proclamation to members of the Gabe Castorena Family during renaming ceremonies of the Inland Empire Hispanic Democratic Club. Also present were: Senator Ruben Ayala, Councilwoman Connie Cisneros and Colton Mayor Frank Gonzales.



Nancy Payan of San Bernardino was crowned the 28th Queen of the American GI Forum San Bernardino Chapter on April 9.

Encuentro

Continued from Front Page

representatives from both the private and public sectors of Mexico and Chicanos from the United States.

Senator Bob Martinez of Colorado, explained during his presentation on bilateral relations, that the commission would collaborate on areas of mutual interest, such as promotion of business and economic development, education, cultural affairs, and immigration.

A total of 14 presentations were made by IMPACTO-88 speakers.

The presentors were: Texas Congressman Albert Bustamante, Chairman Hispanic Congressional Caucus; California Congressman Esteban Torres; Colorado Senator Bob Martinez; New Mexico former Lt. Governor Roberto Mondragon; Sergio Bañuelos, Chairman Western States U.S. Hispanic Chamber; Ruben Jauregui, Chairman Latino Business Association; Dr. Julian Nava, former U.S. Ambassador to Mexico; Bea Molina, State/National President of MAPA; Tony Bonilla, former National President of LULAC; Adriana Simons, Regional

Director of Migrant Education; Richard Yñiquez, actor and President of NO-SOTROS; Leticia Quezada, School board member Los Angeles Unified School District; Juan Rodriguez, student leader, Cal. State Northridge; Dr. Juan Gomez-Quinonez, professor UCLA.

Navarro further commented IMPACTO-88 has and is prepared to continue to accelerate the process of "acercamiento", to bring about a closer, more cooperative, and amicable relationship between the U.S. and Mexico via the participation of IMPACTO-88.

For purposes of avoiding getting involved in the internal politics of Mexico (i.e. Presidential Elections) IMPACTO-88 will seek to establish an "encuentro" with the other Mexican Presidential candidates and their representatives, on a mutually agreed weekend, sometime before the Mexican Presidential elections in July.

"Because of limited resources, time, and its intense commitment to the California primary in June, it is humanly impossible for IMPACTO-88 to replicate the intensity and mobilization of the "encuentro" with Salinas. One must remember, there are a total of six presidential candidates seeking the Mexican Presidency" concluded Navarro.

Soldadera

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guage she understood. She knew nothing of New York or Salsa or the Grammy Awards.

"Ruben Blades," we told her, "is the Pancho Villa of Panama, without a horse."

I thought she would appreciate the comparison. In Los Angeles, she was a "soldadera" without her horse.

She was buried in Tijuana, another small piece of Mexico's history wrapped in its earth. High atop the cemetery, with powerful, cold winds blowing, she was laid to rest.

Her daughters wept. Her daughters' daughters wept. And so did their daughters. She had nurtured them all.

I watched the 21-year-old and 22-year-old hold up their trembling mother. I looked at the faces of grieving great-grandchildren. They were crying, even though they were far too young to know the meaning of the word "soldadera". Their Nana had died, giving them reason enough.

Back in Los Angeles, the 21-year-old

now questions her own faith. She had quit school; now she talks of going back.

The 22-year-old is the pillar of her family. She works every day, every night. She wears a uniform. In the days of Pancho Villa, she would have put on a different one. She, too, is a "soldadera" without a horse. She has her battles to fight.

The great-grandchildren will one become "soldaderas", also. They will have to fight in revolutions, hopefully, but life will have other struggles for them, requiring the same courage and strength their Nana drew on.

Now they are separated from the cross on their Nana's grave by a national border. But heritage is cultural, not political. A fence presents no obstacle.

(Roberto Rodriguez is the publisher of "Americas 2001," a national bilingual magazine published in Los Angeles.)