December 9th 1992

Hispanic News

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County’s First Hispanic Assemblyman Takes Office

Joe Baca Takes Oath in Sacramento Ceremony

Joe Baca made history when he was sworn in on December 7th in Sacramento as the first Hispanic in the County of San Bernardino to represent the citizens of the new 62nd Assembly District, which primarily covers San Bernardino, Colton, Rialto, Loma Linda and portions of Fontana.

The swearing-in ceremony was witnessed by Assemblyman Baca’s family, wife Barbara, two sons and two daughters and other members of his immediate family.

Joe Baca with his wife Barbara at Capitol ceremonies December 7

This historical event was the climax of two previous election attempts by Assemblyman Baca in 1988 and 1990 when he ran against then Assemblyman Jerry Eaves who was sworn in on the same day as the new supervisor for the 5th Supervisorial District. Both campaigns were bitterly fought with charges continued on page 6.

Rebecca Gil-Hoggarth named Jerry Eaves’ District Field Representative

Rebecca Gil-Hoggarth

Jerry Eaves, sworn in as the newly-elected supervisor for the 5th Supervisorial District on December 7, announced the appointment of Rebecca DeAnda Gil-Hoggarth as district field representative.

Ms. Gil-Hoggarth received an AA Degree from Los Angeles Harbor College and attended USC, with a goal of majoring in political science and public relations, however, her final educational phase was curtailed due to illness in the family.

Actively involved in the political field for many years, Ms. Gil-Hoggarth worked as administrative assistant for former Assemblyman Eaves for seven years. She previously worked as case supervisor for Congressman Glenn Anderson from Long Beach.

Ms. Gil-Hoggarth's political background begin in 1968 and has included working on presidential, gubernatorial, state senate and assembly elections, as well as supervisoral, councilmanic and school district campaigns. Her experience has been at every level of political campaigning, with main emphasis in media coordination.

Actively involved during her student days, she was ASB President of Los Angeles Harbor College, a member of Outstanding College Minority Students Scholarship recipient.

Voted Las Fiestas Patrias Queen in Wilmington, she was also Miss Amvets Post 36 and designated Outstanding Young by the Los Angeles Youth Advisory Council.

Ms. Gil-Hoggarth is a member of Kiwanis club of Greater San Bernardino, Survive Food Bank and Kids Against Crime and guest writer of the Inland Empire Hispanic News.
I want to respond to Robert Hernandez' letter in your November 25, 1992 issue. While I empathize with Mr. Hernandez' obvious anguish over his brother's loss to Jerry Eaves in the recent Fifth District Supervisorial race, he needs to come to terms with his loss and try to see the greater benefits to the community.

Yes, Latinos had a major influence on the outcome of local elections this year. The majority of the voters showed greater confidence in Jerry than they did Ralph. That's American Politics! That's the democratic process in action. Unfortunately, Ralph misjudged the integrity and intellect of the Chicano/Latino community. Perhaps he took us for granted - that we would make electoral decisions based on emotions and/or myths? We are not a monolithic voting bloc. For the most part, we're independent, critical thinkers capable of making important decisions based on knowledge and facts.

While I do not purport to be a spokesperson for the Chicano community, I speak as an active member of "ARRIBA Y ADELANTE CON JERRY" supporters whose members include Latinos from all walks-of-life, ranging from peace officers, "salt-of-the-earth" wage earners, attorneys, business owners, educators, public servants, and elected officials, including a local senior State Senator. No, Mr. Hernandez, we are not afflicted with "envidia". We exercised and multi-lingual Mexicana who characterize of a bright, young, educated and multi-lingual Mexican who incites negative myths about our cultural heritage. "La Malinche" is a mythical characterization of a bright, young, educated and multi-lingual Mexican who befriended Cortez' Spaniards, and mitigated the conquest through her superb communication and conciliatory skills. To single-handedly attribute the downfall of our indigenous ancestors on one woman denies the historical truth of the Spanish invasion 500 years ago....LET'S GET REAL, Mr. Hernandez.

Chicanos as a whole have not yet attained the socio-economic parity that we deserve. This is a major public policy issue which needs to be addressed aggressively. To be sure, a search of the literature, and a review of statistical data shows us to be disproportionately lower level positions in the workforce. The challenges to local government officials are fierce. This region faces an 11.7 percent unemployment rate, loss of thousands of defense jobs, a deep economic recession and much more. It is incumbent upon all of us to work in union with our elected officials to formulate effective strategies to resolve these problems.

If we are to objectively measure the commitment of the candidate on the basis of his position on the issues of concern to the Latino-Chicano community, a comparative analysis will show that Jerry demonstrated that commitment. And that is why we supported our candidate. People want good government.

Again, I can understand Mr. Hernandez' disappointment. Let's establish intelligent dialogue. Feel free to give me a call and discuss ways we can help policy makers address our regional needs.

Sincerely,

(sigred)
Frances Vasquez

Frances Vasquez
Bakery's New Years Day Parade

Standard Office Systems: 27 yrs of Business & Community Service

Standard Office Systems (SOS), 1831
Commercemere West, San Bernardino is cel­
brating 27 years to the business of office
business and has earned the reputation for
services for its customers in Riverside/San
Bernardino counties and the Inland
Empire.

For Joe LaGreca, it has been a long stretch
of years for SOS. With vision, hard work
and determination, he started his garage
and den in 1965 and eventually developed
the company into one of the most outstanding
office service companies in the United States
with 75 employees. SOS serves all of San
Bernardino and Riverside Counties with its
Corporate headquarters in San Bernardino
and a branch office in Palm Desert.

SOS became a Minolta dealer in 1971,
which enhanced the company's leadership
in the area of advanced office equipment. Mr.
LaGreca, current SOS President, stated: "Our
growth has been based on the motto, 'Service
That Satisfies'." He points out that in early
1988 his company was one of two dealers out
of 330 that received Minolta's Service Man-
agement Excellence Award for maintaining
an "A" rating for five consecutive years.
SOS's entire staff is ready and willing to be
of assistance to current and potential custom-
erns.

Added awards received in recognition
of its service to customers in the B.E.D. Pro
Tech for Service Excellence Award and as a
long-standing member of the National Office
Machine Dealers Association. SOS has been
able to maintain one of the highest standards
of business ethics, customer awareness and
product training.

In a survey in 1992, Inland Empire Busi-
ess Journal ranked SOS as the second highest
in sales volume in the Inland Empire. Wifi

LaGreca is proud of SOS's 'dev-
development program for its professional staaf and
assurance of ongoing education on new tech-
nology, customer relations and communica-
tion skills. The advanced training facility
has, again, been recognized nationwide.

As an industry leader, and recognized for
his achievements, Mr. LaGreca has been
ero-N member as a member of Minolta's Honor
Council; he sits on the Board of the Copier
Dealers Association and Minolta's Dealer
Advisory Council.

SOS is also an active member of the B.E.D. Pro
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PART II

1900

Immigration and Turmoil
By Pauline Jaramillo

Mexican-Americans have the distinction of being the largest and one of the oldest Hispanic ethnic cultures residing in the United States. According to the 1988d census, as cited by Angela Carrasquillo in her book, Hispanic Children and Youth in the United States, "Mexican-Americans accounted for 62.3% of all Hispanic Americans (that year). Contrary to public perception (however), the majority are not immigrants. In 1980 only about one quarter were foreign-born."

Spaniards (and later Mexicans) settled and began developing the regions currently known as the American Southwest, several years before the first English colony was established in New England.

In 1846, influenced by the concept of "manifest destiny," the United States invaded Mexico's northern borders and declared war. Approximately two years later the war ended with the signing of the Treaty of Hidalgo, which delegated the western boundary between the two nations and established families in States Food Administration and chairmen of major relief bureaus in Europe, saved millions of civilians and Allied soldiers from starvation during World War I. He boosted agricultural production by lifting restrictions that clogged the immigrant labor flow from Mexico. Immigration between 1910 and 1920 increased by more than 300% over the previous decade, as thousands of Mexicans rushed to fill job vacancies left by enlisted men.

During World War I, "thousands of Mexican-Americans served valiantly in the Army and Navy where their record for voluntary enlistment was proportionately greater than that of any other ethnic group." As the "call to arms" echoed across the nation during World War I, a substantial number of Mexican-Americans responded. Matt Meier and Feliciano Rivera in their book, *Ill Fares the Land*, many were housed in barns, tents, abandoned slaughter houses and even straw stacks. They ate poorly, were overworked, paid extremely low wages, and were often cheated out of their earnings. Two common techniques used by farmers to retain a permanent labor force were salary advances and debts. In some instances migrant workers, who were housed in dormitory-style buildings, were locked in at night. Although Mexicans and Mexican-Americans are not the only minority group in the United States to have suffered abuse, the simple fact that the Southwest once belonged to Mexico adds a particular twist. Mexican sense of justice finds difficult to accept.

In a book titled, *The Hispanic in the United States*, Glenn and Duignan credit for jobs not only in urban areas, but in family and settled in preestablished 

conditions during the depression, many Anglo-Americans found themselves back where they found themselves working in plants, oil refineries, textile mills and, in some instances government officials weren't particularly eager to differentiate between Mexican nationals and Mexican-American citizens. In other instances, Mexican parents with American-born children chose to take them rather than sever the family. While all this was taking place, Herbert Hoover, who a decade before had wooed the Mexican immigrants to United States, now sat in the Oval Office and like a lover-turned-enemy, encouraged their removal.

While Mexican labor was needed to boost the economy, Mexican immigrants were welcomed; once hired, they were paid subminimal wages, inadequately housed, segregated and discriminated against. During economically depressed times, when their labor was no longer needed, they were shipped across the border without any resources. Used, abused, betrayed and penniless they found themselves back where they started, perhaps worse -- due to their disillusionment.

Despite hostility, suspicion and discrimination in and out of the military, most remained strongly patriotic during the war. In 1921 returning veterans started an organization called "The Sons of America, which portrayed their contributions as "equal that of any other ethnic group."

Inspite of their proven loyalty through excellent service records and civilian support of the war effort, their patriotism was frequently questioned and in Southern Texas, many Anglo-Americans viewed them as enemies of the United States. Despite hostility, suspicion and discrimination in and out of the military, most remained strongly patriotic during the war. In 1921 returning veterans started an organization called the Sons of America, which portrayed their contributions as greater than that of any other ethnic group.

As the prosperity of the 1920's gave way to the economic deterioration of the 1930's, the entire nation was greatly affected and most especially Mexican-Americans. They often found themselves competing unfairly with Anglo for jobs not only in urban areas, but in rural settings as well. During the lowest point of the depression, according to Meier and Rivera, they were denied even low-pay, backbreaking agricultural work as a result of prices falling below production costs and the large number of Anglo-Americans in competition for the remaining jobs.

Franklin D. Roosevelt's federal relief programs, although providing some assistance to all, were overall less helpful to them than to the rest of the nation's poor. The reasons ranged from Mexican-American pride and reluctance to seek public assistance, to their inability to meet state residency regulations as a result of their migrant status.

Conditions during the depression fueled racial hatred to an all time high. Anti-Mexican feelings were prevalent and expressed blatantly throughout the southwest by various means, including stating "No Mexicans or Dogs Allowed."

As the economic crisis continued, the government became more desperate, which resulted in an action that equals, if not surpasses, the infamy of the Japanese-American relocation during World War II. Nearly half a million Mexican and American citizens of Mexican descent were deported. According to recent studies, approximately half of them were American citizens!

Apart from the ethical impropriety, the violation of civil rights involved in the procedures were outrageous. In some instances government officials weren't particularly eager to differentiate between Mexican nationals and Mexican-American citizens. In other instances, Mexican parents with American-born children chose to take them rather than sever the family. While all this was taking place, Herbert Hoover, who a decade before had wooed the Mexican immigrants to United States, now sat in the Oval Office and like a lover-turned-enemy, encouraged their removal.

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Even though deportation weakened and in some cases severed social and family ties, for the most part Mexican-Americans drew strength and courage from each other. Whenever possible they migrated to the United States with their nuclear or extended family and settled in preestablished Mexican-American communities or established their own "compound colonies" did more than reinforce Mexican culture and society, they

Continued on next page

THE HISPANIC

Wednesday, December 9, 1992

HISPANICS: A Perspective on their Contributions to the development of the North American Southwest, it is essential to comprehend, through a brief historical overview, the process of growth each region underwent. The economic, social and political systems which were established as each location was settled, eventually gave way to new forms under Anglo-American dominance. However, the family structure, rooted in centuries of existence, was the institution which remained intact and enabled Hispanics to foster despite decades of abuse, deprivation and discrimination. (Part 1 and 2 will focus on the history of the Spanish-Mexican period and part 3 on both history and family.)
Development of the American Southwest

contribute to the building of strong community cohesiveness and social organization. Albert Camarillo in his book, *Chicanos in California*, tells his readers that Mexicans organized mutualistic (mutual aid societies) almost everywhere they settled, for the purpose of providing sick and death benefits; social, patriotic, and cultural activities; protection of civil rights; and help in adjusting to life in the United States. C.C. Teague, who was associated with the Federal Farm Labor Board, is given credit for the following statement, "it is doubtful if laborers of this class of any other nationality take care of their own personal circumstances and finally by implementing our successes in ways that benefit society as a whole."

In 1927, several mutualistas in Southern California joined together to form the first welfare labor union and by 1934, according to McWilliams, *Mexican in the United States*, "...in the Southwest". The family was in many respects a miniature version of society. However, because of their role as primary care-takers, family members established a unique bond with one another and were able to fulfill needs on a more personal and profound level. The family was responsible for supplying physical and emotional necessities (food, shelter, clothing, health care, security, etc.) as well as basic education and moral training.

The family unit consisted not only of children and parents -- grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins often lived in the same household. Thus close contact with a number of older relatives provided variety and made role modeling a powerful tool for learning. Children acquired survival, occupational and artistic skills, language, morals, etiquette, etc. and became familiar with Mexican history and folklore.

The celebration of life cycle rituals (birth, marriage and death) as well as cultural and religious festivities, was an essential feature of the Mexican-American family and their social structure. The commemoration of life cycle rituals announced to the community the individual(s) transition from one role to another and helped the person(s) involved to adjust. Cultural and religious festivities drew the society together and forged lasting bonds.

As a result of several factors, including family and social cohesiveness, juvenile delinquency among Mexican-Americans was not very prolific during this time period. Emory Bogardus in his book, *The Mexican in the United States*, mentions that 13.5% of the youth incarcerated in Los Angeles County in March, 1934 were Mexican or Mexican-American (compared to over 40% in 1991). From an early age on, children were indoctrinated with the importance of family honor and respect for elders. Rebellious youths were considered malcriados (badly brought up) and were seen as a negative influence by the colonia as well as their peers.

Like most immigrants from other cultures, the majority of Mexicans who came to the United States were laborers, however a significant number were artists, educators, engineers, lawyers etc., who made valuable and lasting contributions in their respective fields. The labor class contributed to the economic well-being of the United States, "as much by their labor, as by their willingness to work for subminmal wages and as consumers. When they became financially stable, many established business ranging from theaters to food markets, and formed mutual aid societies and social clubs in their neighborhoods. The active participation of Mexican-Americans during wartime, as enlisted men and civilian volunteers, is impressive. (Throughout the war history of the United States, there have been numerous Congressional Medal of Honor winners as well as recipients of the Distinguished Service Cross, and the Silver and Bronze Star for valor and courage in battle.) But perhaps the greatest contributions is yet to be appreciated -- the enrichment of both cultures by being exposed to each other's diversity. Above and beyond their contributions, however, Mexican-Americans desire to be accepted and appreciated for who they are. They resist assimilation as a form of defiance against a nation who justifies its efforts to "Americanize" them by viewing them as needy and inferior.

The signs denying admittance to people of Mexican descent, were physically removed several decades ago -- we must now remove them mentally as well. ©1992, Pauline Jaramillo

**About the Author**

Pauline Jaramillo was born in the Southern part of New Mexico and is proud of her family's ancestry which has been traced to Galicia, Spain. As early settlers of New Mexico, the Jaramillo's have contributed to the growth and development of that part of the state since the mid-sixteenth century. Ms. Jaramillo has a B.A. in Psychology from Cal State, San Bernardino and is currently doing research work for a class on ethnic studies. As an avid writer, she has written numerous articles and short stories which have been published in various magazines. "Racial equality," Ms. Jaramillo states, "must begin with each of us realizing our worth and potential as human beings. We must continue by seeking ways to improve our personal circumstances and finally by implementing our successes in ways that benefit society as a whole."

**Bibliography**

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The third and final part of this series will appear in the next issue of the *Inland Empire Hispanic News*. 

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*Inland Empire Hispanic News* Wednesday, December 9, 1992
When Cliff Neff was in high school, he scarcely knew his principal's name or saw the man on campus. Having to talk to the principal usually was a sign of being in trouble.

'Times have changed,' Neff learned November 10 after spending a day with Principal Rick Dischinger at Colton High School. Dischinger is a familiar figure on the school grounds and students enjoy talking to him.

"Everywhere we went, kids came up to us and said 'Hi, Mr. D.' or 'Hey, Mr. D. how's it going?"' Neff said. "I was pleasantly surprised by their friendliness."

Neff, who is the owner of Computer Systems Professionals in Colton, was among 17 business representatives who had equally positive experiences with students and staff members during the district's first annual Principal for a Day program.

Officials from 17 community businesses were paired with principals from 17 schools in a program designed to increase awareness of the challenges and successes of public education. The event was developed by the Education Committee with members of the district and the Colton, Grand Terrace and Bloomington Chambers of Commerce.

The visitors toured their assigned campus, had lunch in the cafeteria, talked to staff and students, listened to lessons and attended school programs.

Several business leaders complemented the principals on their leadership skills.

"John Lyons really has a handle on that school," said Gene Carlstrom of TerraLoma Realty and a member of the Grand Terrace City Council, who visited Lincoln Elementary. "I say organization that would be the envy of any businessman here. All I could see was commitment and teachers working hard."

Graciano Gomez, editor of the Inland Empire Hispanic News, praised Wilson Elementary's principal. "Mr. Chilton is running a good school. The teachers are committed. They want the kids to learn," he said.

Elise Chan, vice president of Spectrotype, helped Principal Charlotte Naugle teach a class at Zimmerman Elementary for a teacher who went home ill.

"I really underestimated the children," she said. "I thought they would need discipline. I was amazed at how well they did the reading. A lot of future leaders will come from Zimmerman School."
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THE COMMON FUND: "A Common Door of Opportunity"

By Leonardo A. Gaymerae

When Victor Munoz opened the office door to The Common Fund located in the Centennial Plaza in Redlands it proved one thing, students who need part-time work and who are willing to go out and knock on any door, may find a surprising world of opportunity waiting on them on the other side.

Victor Munoz graduated from Redlands High School in June of 1992, and is now a student at Crafton Hills College. Not unlike many young college students he needed a job and went looking for a clerical position. Perhaps it takes a bit of luck and a pinch of timing. For Victor the timing was perfect.

Mr. Dan Wingard, who is Vice President for the Western Regional offices of The Common Fund, had been recently informed by his home office in Fairfield Connecticut that a minority internship might be implemented to serve the community. Wingard affirmed that he had long felt what was needed, was to expose young students coming out of high school to future possibilities in the world of finance for their own career development. He added: "... and in particular when it comes to the minority community, I think one of the biggest problems is that these children have not been exposed to Wall Street, wouldn't have the slightest idea what a large office in L.A. looks like, or a major Wall Street investment firm located here in the west, would not know its life style, would not have the feel for first, or people with large sums of money, and therefore with these aspirations as a career would never occur to them at all. Not because they are not bright, not because they're not able, but only because they have never been exposed, not even to the idea!"

According to Mr. Wingard, it barely had been two weeks since he had given permission by the home office when Victor Munoz came with his resume looking for work. "Victor was serious and impressed us immediately," offered Mr. Wingard. Victor was hired as an intern and would work a minimum of 10 hours a week.

As an intern, the young man will be exposed to the world of investments and the workings of The Common Fund. The Common Fund manages the operating cash and endowments exclusively for educational institutions.

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The Redlands office of The Common Fund manages approximately 160 accounts in the western region and manages a billion and a half dollars of assets. The total nation-wide assets management for The Common Fund is $14 billion dollars.

Victor Munoz is a native of Coli, Columbia. The bridge for Victor's migration to the United States was his grandparents who immigrated to the U.S. thirty years ago. Victor's early educational education was in the parochial schools of Coli. His father owns printing plants and is also a publisher in Columbia. Victor was brought to the United States by his mother who divorced her husband. Victor's mother is a respiratory therapist for the Loma Linda Medical Center. Young Victor considered these odds, Castillo is, today, a very lucky man. Just four weeks after learning he had a fatal blood disease, a potential marrow donor was located. After a series of tests were performed on both donor and patient, Castillo received his second chance at life via a bone marrow transplant.

"The transplant operation took three hours and I was in the hospital for two months," recalls Castillo. They had to put me in isolation for 21 days and I started saying 'I can't take this anymore.' Then, I became determined to whip what I had."

Now well on the road to recovery, Castillo vividly recalls his reactions upon learning that his bone marrow of a 24-year-old woman named Joan could possibly save his life if his body did not reject her tissue or carry any other post transplantation complications. "When the match call came from the hospital, I was so excited. I knew the Blessed Mother and Jesus had come through for us," said Castillo, a devout Roman Catholic. "I say us because when you have a serious illness, it involves your whole family," he continues.

"It was hard for me to believe that there was someone out there willing to give my husband a second chance," noted Castillo's wife, Maria, who was by his side daily throughout his illness and recovery.

Now retired from his Rockwell International position, Castillo assists the Blood Bank of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties' Marrow Donor Program with efforts to recruit potential marrow donors. "I try to inform people just how much marrow donors are needed, especially within the minority community," says Castillo. "There are so many people waiting (for a marrow transplant). I feel very blessed."

Each year, approximately 12,000 people in the United States are diagnosed with a fatal blood disease, such as leukemia, for which a marrow transplant can be a cure. Marrow is a jelly-like substance found inside the largest bones of the body. The chances of identifying a match between unrelated people ranges from one in 100 to one in a million, depending upon an individual's tissue type. With marrow transplantation, patients have a 30 to 50 percent chance of being cured.

Unfortunately, only about 30 percent of all patients seeking marrow donors receive them because patients need a donor with an identical tissue match. However, the availability of donors from different racial backgrounds greatly expands the capabilities of finding the right match.

Since 1987, the Blood Bank of San Bernardino and Riverside Counties has participated in the National Marrow Donor Program, a nation-wide registry of individuals interested in saving lives by donating bone marrow. To become a marrow volunteer, individuals must be between 18 to 55 years of age, have general good health and be free of asthma, diabetes, cancer or heart disease. Also, possible donors can not be excessively overweight or be in a high risk category for AIDS or hepatitis. A simple blood test is all that is needed to join the Blood Bank's Marrow Donor Program.

Since tissue type antigens are inherited, the likelihood of matching another person is best within a patient's own ethnic group. Funding is available to test persons with Asian, Black, Hispanic and Native American backgrounds.

Since volunteers from these ethnic backgrounds groups only represent 15 percent of all registry participants, patients from these ethnic origins often are not equally successful in finding matched donors.

To learn more about the Blood Bank's Marrow Donor Program, community residents are invited to participate in the Blood Bank's "Salute to Hispanic Donors" event on Tuesday, December 15. Visit the Blood Bank's San Bernardino Donor Center between 8 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. or stop by the High Desert, Ontario or Riverside Donor Centers from 11 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. to learn why it's important for Hispanics and individuals representing other ethnic backgrounds to become marrow donors. Complimentary Mexican pastries will be provided. For additional information on the Blood Bank's Marrow Donor Program, call 1-800-4484.

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