Victorville City Councilman Felix Diaz remembers the vow he made in 1946 to his closest friend, Manuel Casillas, and after 50 years, he is closest to fulfilling that vow.

"Manuel and I were like brothers," Diaz said. "He died on Okinawa and my promise to his memory and others from Victorville who died in foreign wars was to build a veterans memorial in order that a permanent place of honor would be seen by everyone who lives in the Victor Valley area and will remember those servicemen who gave the gift of life for us."

Since being elected to the Victorville City Council, Diaz has been able to have the city dedicate a city-owned piece of land at the southeast corner of Forrest and 7th Street (Old Highway 66), and will be named Old Town Victorville Veterans Memorial Park.

A committee of local veterans reviewed sketches from design proposals submitted by sculptors and selected the winning sketch of sculptor Ismael Rodriguez, co-owner of Heritage Bronze in Hesperia.

Continued on back page (with profiles on Diaz and Rodriguez)
830,000 Immigrants in California Could Lose Health Insurance

As many as 830,000 non-citizens immigrants living in California - primarily legal residents - would lose their medical coverage. Losing Medicaid eligibility could severely limit the health care for more than 12 months during their stay in the United States.

Restrictions the legislation would impose include:

- Threatening immigrants with deportation if they receive Medi-Cal for more than 12 months during their first five to seven years in the United States.

- Using the income of an immigrant's sponsor in calculating eligibility for Medi-Cal until an immigrant has been in the country and paid income tax for at least ten years or has become a citizen. Such a change would push the income of most immigrants well above eligibility guidelines.

Browne and his colleagues estimated that if the bill became law, the number of immigrants losing health coverage would be between 682,000 and 830,000, depending on the number of eligible immigrants who choose to become citizens.

An additional 92,000 elderly non-citizens would lose Medi-Cal coverage, leaving most with only inadequate Medicare coverage or no health insurance at all. This legislation could have a severe effect on the health and pocketbooks of everyone in California, not just immigrants, said Abel Valenzuela Jr., an assistant professor of urban planning at UCLA and a co-author of the study. When illnesses such as diabetes, high blood pressure and asthma go untreated, the strain on the emergency rooms that we all depend on for lifesaving treatment is immense.

Under current law, legal immigrants are eligible for Medi-Cal - California's version of Medicaid for low income children and mothers, non-elderly disabled people and elderly people - if they meet income and other requirements established by the state. Undocumented immigrants may obtain Medi-Cal only for emergency medical services and for prenatal care.

A House-Senate conference committee is considering two immigration reform bills that could severely limit the number of immigrants - both legal and illegal - who could qualify for Medi-Cal and other "means-tested" health programs.

The loss of health insurance - primarily affecting children and women - is a major concern for the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Public Health.

"Denying preventive health services to a large number of people would have predictable results," Brown said. "There will be more communicable disease, more problems for U.S. citizens. Babies born to immigrant mothers without the benefit of prenatal care and a greater strain on the emergency rooms that we all depend on for lifesaving treatment."

Current law, Brown said, would severely limit the health care for more than 12 months during their stay in the United States.

The next time you wonder why health care costs so much, think about where the money winds up. A lot winds up in the pockets of drug company chiefs who get paid millions of dollars a year. Bristol-Meyers Squibb and Abbott Laboratories have increased the price of 100 50mg Capoten pills from $73 in 1989 to $124 for the very same pills! The cause of the cost crisis in medicine is not the crisis in Medicare. The crisis in medicine is the healthcare industry's focus on drug profits instead of patient care. Half of America's seniors have incomes below $15,000 a year. For these older Americans, out-of-pocket health costs devour more than a quarter of their entire income. And there's not a lot of help available when the bills start piling up.

Medicare doesn't provide prescription drug coverage. Medicare offers no protection from the crushing financial burden of long term care, even though nursing home charges average more than $35,000 a year. After a lifetime of hard work and paying taxes, older Americans find it tougher and tougher to make ends meet when they get sick. Meanwhile, Congress threatens to cut Medicare for big new tax breaks for billionaires and millionaires — including the drug company executives and other health care profit makers.

Strengthen Medicare
What America really needs isn't tax breaks for billionaires, but a stronger Medicare and Medicaid, with new benefits to help cover the costs of prescription drugs and long term care. Instead of giving new tax breaks to insurance company executives and drug company CEO's, Congress should crack down on drug overcharges and bloated insurance premiums.

By Ron Pollack

Working Families for a Healthy America

Ron Pollack is executive director of Families USA, the national health care consumer group, which works to protect you against cervical and breast cancer by having a physical exam. Cancer of the cervix and cancer of the breast are almost 100% curable when found early.

A cancer screening clinic for women 45 years and over is offered by the San Bernardino County Public Health Department at the Public Health Clinical Services building, 799 E. Rialto Ave., San Bernardino, and at the Fontana Health Center, 17380 Arrow Blvd., Fontana. The clinic is staffed by female providers who provide services which include a physical assessment, breast exam and breast self-examination (BSE) instruction, and a complete pelvic exam, including a pap test. The cost for these services is $45.00 for new patients and $41.00 for returning patients. Medi-Cal and Medicare are accepted. Clinics are scheduled monthly. Call the San Bernardino Public Health at (909) 387-6240.
San Bernardino Confidential Management Association Announces Winners of First Scholarship Competition

Richard Moises Mendoza and Jacqueline M. Guerrero are the winners of the first scholarship competition sponsored by the San Bernardino Confidential Management Association. The colleges of their choice will receive a check for $750 for each of their tuition accounts. A presentation will be made at the City Council meeting on July 1. The scholarships are awarded to children of City of San Bernardino employees.

Richard, the recipient of the scholarship for an incoming freshman, is the son of Aurora (Library) and David Mendoza. Richard is the valedictorian of his graduating class at Colton high School. He is a National Merit finalist, an Advanced Placement Scholar with Honors, a National Hispanic Scholar and a 1996 Presidential Scholars Program Candidate. He is the National Honor Society/California Scholarship Foundation Chapter President and Academic Decathlon Team Captain.

He will attend Pomona College and plans to become an attorney or teach math on the college level.

Jacqueline, the recipient of the scholarship for an existing college student, is the daughter of George Guerrero (Police Department) and Susan Ibarra. Jacqueline is a premedical honor student at UCLA (University of California Los Angeles) and has just completed her freshman year. She was also a graduate of Colton High School where she was a member of the National Honor Society and received the Presidential Chancellors Organization Awards Scholarships.

The Chancellors Organization, a group of local volunteers, has once again awarded $2,500 in scholarships to local Latino high school seniors. The group's aim is to assist local Latino youth to aspire to higher education by providing annual scholarship awards. Five $500 scholarships were awarded this year. Recipients include: Claudia Quiroga, Cajon High School; Ronald Hareda, Colton High School; Armando Molina, Pacific High School; Ana Nunez, San Bernardino High School; and April Paramo, San Gorgonio High School.

Scholarships were awarded in conjunction with the San Bernardino Community Scholarship Association, San Bernardino City Unified School District.

Private donations may be sent to: Scholarship Awards, c/o Chancellors Organization, P.O. Box 5457, San Bernardino, CA 92412. Information regarding scholarships or the Chancellors Organization can be obtained by writing to the above address or calling 881-8226.

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Inland Empire Hispanic News

Mother, Daughter get College Degrees

Reprint from Mountain News, June 27, 1996

When Michele Jaramillo Briggs received a bachelor's degree Saturday morning at California State University, San Bernardino, her mother Pauline applauded her. But by Saturday afternoon, their roles reversed as Pauline secured a master's degree in psychology.

The event marked the Rimforest family's second shared graduation. Pauline having received a bachelor's degree the same day her son Paul, graduated from high school.

Yet the joy of these milestones did not come easily for this single parent and her offspring.

Paul Briggs graduated CSUSB June 1995 with a BA with a major in philosophy and a minor in math. He plans to go to graduate school now that Pauline has gotten her MA and will secure full time employment.

"I actually started college when Paul was in first grade and Michele wasn't even in school," said Pauline, who spent three years pursuing an associate's degree in behavioral studies from Northwest Nazarene College in Idaho. "Then I didn't go to school for seven years."

During those years Pauline worked as a substitute teacher while the children were in school.

"But I was always home when they were home. They were never latchkey kids," she said.

By the time her children reached junior high and high school, Pauline felt it was time to get back to her own studies and enrolled at Cal State, San Bernardino, receiving a bachelor's degree in 1998.

In 1993, she returned for a master's degree.

The shared college experience brought her already close family even tighter together, she said.

"It's helpful having your mom go to school with you," said Michele. "Mom's bilingual and so she helped me out in my Spanish class. She edited my work and helped me memorize words and work on speeches."

And Michele helped her mom, occasionally bringing home books from school or helping her with research.

"And Paul helped me in math," recalled Pauline. "Because it's really not my strong point, and he minored in math."

Scholarship and financial aide helped lift some of the monetary burden, but Michele still worked part time while attending school, and Pauline juggled class work, freelance writing and a rehabilitation counseling internship on the Rim High campus.

"The work was not your typical rehab work," explained Kay Niles, a special education instructor who worked with Taramillo during her internship. "She worked with kids that had varying degrees of disability. But she was a self-starter; Pauline saw something needed to be done and she did it."

Niles appreciated Pauline's bilingual skills when a boy from El Salvador joined the classroom. "I could communicate with him on a basic instructional level, showing him how to add or subtract. But she could help with the larger conceptual things - what he thought or felt about something."

Like mother, like daughter, Michele also has shown an eagerness to apply what she's learned, said Lake Arrowhead resident Dr. Norton Marks, who taught the university's Marketing 396 course Michele attended this past quarter.

"The class is a synthesizing class, bringing together everything learned so far in marketing," Marks said. "Michele did a major project, involving a 10 week study. She created a marketing plan for a grocery store planning to relocate and change its product mix. I can't tell you her grade as yet, but I'm sure she did well. She's a good student."

Michele may return for a master's degree in business administration in the fall, while Pauline is applying for a teaching position in human services at San Bernardino Valley College.

Having come a long way since her journey's start some 20 years ago, Pauline scoffs when friends say she's an amazing role model.

"I can say all I want about how strong I am and how much I can do but really, the credit belongs to God. He's been my mainstay."

On the human level, she adds being raised on a cattle ranch in New Mexico and having descended from Spanish conquistadors may have contributed to her determined spirit.

"And I think the phrase I can't should be removed from the vocabulary. To me it's an excuse for not even trying. To me it's I'll make an effort or I'll try something different...but I never start out with saying, I can't."

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Wednesday, July 10, 1996

Armando Navarro honored by Calif. Chicano News Media Association

The Inland Empire Chapter of the California Chicano News Media Association presented the Distinguished Achievement Award to Dr. Armando Navarro, Assistant Dean, UCR Ethnic Department, for his academic and community contribution to Chicano causes. The CCNMA held its 8th Annual Scholarship Dinner at UCR's University Club. Lalo Guerrero was guest entertainer for the evening.

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Latin American Women's League Fashion Show raises funds for Latino students

Latin American Women's League held their Annual Fund Raiser Fashion Show on Saturday, June 8, 1996 at the Cafe Madrid Harris Company in San Bernardino.

The Fashion Showing was presented by Harris' Joan Levitt for women of all ages.

The annual Fashion Show is one of the League's annual fund raisers for the purpose of raising scholarship monies for deserving Latino students.

This year the League awarded scholarships to: Rosa Inez Guzman, Jaime L. Puentez, Dawn Pryor, Stephen A. Zermeao, Denise Jorgenson, Roxanne Pena, Ryan Compos, and Hector Franco.

A group of Latino women met in November, 1960, in Fontana to discuss the feasibility of organizing a women's group. The LAWL was formed with the election of Soledad Valencia as president, Celia Martinez as secretary and Ernestine Nava as treasurer.

The newly-organized LAWL established the following goals: granting of scholarships to students of Latin descent; to promote the art, culture and expression among the members; development in leadership skills; stimulate and train in the art of public speaking; instill a spirit of cooperation and friendship; and pursuit to overcome intolerance and discrimination.

Throughout the last 35 years, the LAWL has granted over $50,000 in scholarships to Latino students.

Anyone wishing more information about the league should call Rene Bracamonte, Membership Chairman, at (909) 875-1754.
PeaceBuilders Wins Trip to Washington D.C.

Left to Right: Aurora Soriano, PeaceBuilders Director; Carolyn Hunter, Delta Airlines Inc. Rep.; Twilla Giddings, PeaceBuilders Asst. Coord.; Ashley Million - Winner, 9 years old; Cody Million, brother of winner; Cheryl Million, mother of winner; Diane E. Shott, Nuview Union Board President; Jim Ballard, Principal of Valley View Elem.

NUEVO, CA - June 20, 1996 - Ashley Million was stunned when she heard her name called as the winner of the PeaceBuilders Drawing to Washington D.C., sponsored by Delta Air Lines. She is one of 17,000 elementary school children throughout Riverside and San Bernardino counties that participated in the drawing.

Valley View elementary is a PeaceBuilders School. The PeaceBuilders Program takes a proactive approach to reducing youth violence. It is a school wide program that teaches children to PRAISE PEOPLE, GIVE UP PUT DOWNS, SEEK WISE ADULTS, NOTICE HURTS AND RIGHT WRONGS. The program is for children during their formative years (elementary school age), is reinforced in a school setting: requires parent and community participation.

Ashley's mother, Cheryl Million and her little brother, Cody, received four round trip tickets to Washington D.C. from Ms. Carolyn Hunter, representative of Delta Air Lines, Inc. They plan to use them late in August. "We're so excited," said Mrs. Million. "We've never been to Washington D.C." This is the third year that Delta Air Lines, Inc. has sponsored the PeaceBuilders Program with trips to different parts of the country. In order to enter the drawing, parents must sign and return the PeaceBuilders Pledge which is a promise to encourage their children and themselves to build peace in their homes, schools and in their communities.

"PeaceBuilders has made a difference in our school," said Mr. James Ballard, Principal at Valley View Elementary, "Our fights have dropped and its brought our staff and parents together."

PeaceBuilders was developed by Dr. Dennis Embry, a child psychologist, nationally recognized for his expertise in violence prevention and intervention programs. "It's not a one time event," says Aurora Soriano, Director of Inland Agency's PeaceBuilders Program, "It's an ongoing process of teaching children positive social and communication skills that will last a life time."

Latino IMPACT
From page 1

to further implement other prioritized projects."

The voter registration project was initiated at the beginning of July. The project has set a goal of registering 5,000 voters by October 7, which is the deadline for registration of voters prior to the general election in November.

Total funds generated at the July 13th event will be earmarked for the registration project.

Invited speakers for the event will be Congressman George Brown, 42nd Congressional District and Assemblyman Joe Baca, 62nd Assembly District. People's choice to attend the event may call for reservations at (909) 797-4396, (909) 824-3041 or (909) 381-6259.

PeaceBuilders Wins Trip to Washington D.C.

Sixteen-year-old mariachi sensation NYDIA ROJAS makes her solo debut on July 30 with the release of her groundbreaking first album, Nydia Rojas. A celebrated prodigy on the mariachi circuit, Nydia lends her vocal talent and stylistic finesse to a genre steeped in tradition, and endows it with contemporary verve.

Nydia's mentor, producer and director José Hernández (musical director of Mariachi Sol de México) led this musical evolution. From the opening track and first single, "No Me Amenaces" ("Don't Threaten Me") -- a mariachi standard written by the great Mexican composer José Alfredo Jimenez and rearranged with modern accoutrements to the closing cut, scores a mariachi first.

"It was an incredible experience taking a traditional music I love so much and giving it a modern twist," comments Nydia. "I hope the album will awaken an interest in this great Mexican tradition for people of all ages and backgrounds."

Nydia Rojas also features an original song composed by Nydia, "Si Sabes Agradecer" ("If You Know How to Appreciate"), as well a contemporary rendition of the traditional mariachi tune "Hay Unos Ojos" ("There Are Those Eyes"), sung as a duet with La Diferencia lead singer Ricardo Castillon.

A professional mariachi singer since the age of 10, Nydia Rojas has performed on major stages across the United States, Puerto Rico, and Mexico. Her solo debut performance at the Mariachi USA Festival in the Hollywood Bowl in June 1996 launched her promising career as a solo mariachi vocalist.

"Nydia represents the brightest possible prospect for the future of mariachi music," observes Arista/Latin Vice-President and General Manager Cameron Randle. "She is gifted beyond her years."

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Asking Questions May Save Your Life

(NAPS)—Taking just a few minutes to discuss prescriptions with your pharmacist before leaving the drugstore can help keep you and your family healthy.

Nine million Americans a year suffer adverse reactions to prescription drugs; reactions which might be avoided by asking the right questions.

Asking your pharmacist questions when you pick up a prescription will ensure that you are taking medicines safely and correctly so that they work most effectively.

Before you leave the pharmacy with a prescription the California State Board of Pharmacy suggests that you find out the answers to these questions:

Q: What is the name of the medication and what is it supposed to do?

Knowing how a drug works and how you should feel after taking it can help you better understand the medication and how it should be handled.

Q: What are the possible side effects caused by this medication and how should I handle them?

Ask your pharmacist for a list of the most common side effects. He or she may be able to advise you about ways you can alleviate these side effects.

Q: Will this new prescription work safely with other medications I currently take?

The combination of certain drugs can induce serious, even deadly, reactions. Make sure you tell your pharmacist all the medications you are taking or have taken recently.

Q: How and when do I take the medication and for how long? If I miss a dose, what should I do?

Certain medications require special routines. For example, one new diabetes drug must be taken with the first bite of each meal.

Are you one of the 96 percent of all patients who do not ask their pharmacists any questions when they receive a prescribed medication?

Patients taking a certain medication for osteoporosis must swallow their pills in the morning with a glass of water and cannot eat anything for a half hour afterward. Missing a dose may alter the effectiveness of some drugs.

Q: Are there any foods or drinks I should avoid while taking this medication?

Patients taking some medications need to follow a strict diet to avoid dangerous interactions. You may need to avoid alcohol while taking certain medications.

Be sure to tell your pharmacist if you are allergic to or have any problems with any medication and the names of all medications, prescription and non-prescription, that you are currently using and why you are taking them.

The California State Board of Pharmacy urges consumers to talk with their pharmacist about any problem medications that arise over time.

If you care about your health, learn more about your medicines. 

Next Issue

Hispanic News

Wednesday July 24, 1996

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Eaves promotes George Westcott
Continued from page 1

Prior to the appointment, Westcott was a volunteer in a field representative training program in the supervisor’s office and at a later date, promoted to a paid part-time field representative.

“During my training and working as a field representative, I was fortunate to have a mentor like Walt Padinski, who in my estimation, has a vast knowledge and experience in the public sector and a wide network. I learned a lot from Walt,” Westcott said.

In 1965, Westcott was employed by the Rialto Police Department as a patrol officer and promoted to detective and patrol sergeant in 1967. In 1974, he was promoted to lieutenant and to captain in 1977.

During his administrative tenure in the police department, Westcott was involved in research projects, proposal development, various police and youth program planning and served as administrator in various divisions. He retired in 1992 due to health problems.

In 1966, Westcott received a B.S. Degree from Chaffey College with a 3.7 GPA; a B.A. in Political Science and Urban Administration from Chaffey College in Victorville for 23 years before his retirement in 1993.

Mr. Diaz served as Victor Valley City Councilman in November 1992. Born in Hesperia, he received a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education from California State University, Los Angeles, in 1964, and a masters degree in education/counseling from Chapman College in 1971. Mr. Diaz was a counselor and coordinator of EOPS at Victor Valley College in Victorville for 23 years before his retirement in 1993.

Mr. Diaz served as Victor Valley College’s Ethnic Minority Program coordinator from 1971 until 1976. In addition to his experience at the college, he has also taught at Victor Valley Junior High and Adelante and George Air Force Base Elementary Schools. He is the founder/director of Alternatives, a gang/drug intervention program.

Mr. Diaz was a member of the Victor Valley High School District Board of Trustees for eight years, founder and member of Los Dorados Del Valle organization; a board member of the newly-formed Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; is a member of the Institute for Social Justice; sits on the Victor Valley Museum Board of Directors; and is a member of the Victorville Youth Accountability Board.

Veterans Memorial Planned for Victorville
Continued from page 1

The sketch by Rodriguez depicts a soldier, 20 percent larger than life, holding a M-16 rifle and plunged in the earth by the soldier’s right foot is an inverted M-1, its butt covered by a helmet-the symbol of a fallen buddy. The seven-foot base around the statue will have panels listing the names of the soldiers who died in battle and their honors and medals. “We were looking for sorrow and also for significance of our future, and the veterans liked that,” Diaz said.

The criteria for selecting who to honor, the committee and Diaz developed two criteria: the service members had fought in World War II, Korean War, Vietnam or Grenada, and had attended Victor Valley High School. “All of these men were homegrown youth and school mates,” Diaz stated.


The total cost of the veterans memorial will be $100,000. Donations of cement, pipe and other materials, and labor are currently being sought.

As an additional fund-raiser, Rodriguez will cast a limited edition of small-scale models of the statue, and will be available for $1,500.

Ismael Rodriguez
Short Profile

“Being a self-taught artist has not come easy,” remarks Ismael Rodriguez, “but with 20 years experience in bronze casting, I have developed my natural talent both as a painter as well as a sculptor.” With a bronze edition already sold out and several others halfway there, Rodriguez has devoted the past five years to the North American Big Horn Sheep Grand Slam Series which has already proven to be a big success.

Ismael spent five years as an apprentice with lathed sculptor and master craftsman, Cataldo Papaleo learning the art and skill of bronze casting. Now with Heritage Bronze, Inc., Ismael has developed his own sculptural technique through study and research.

Known for his pastels, acrylic paintings, color pencil drawings, and bronze sculptures, Ismael’s works are collected throughout the United States and abroad. His patience on bronze are admired by collectors and fellow artists alike.

Ismael’s various commissions include portraits of John Wayne and Roy Rodgers for Mr. and Mrs. West of Oklahoma, an Indian sculpture for Arrowhead Savings, a life-size bust of the late chairman of the board, Mentor Wray for Rios Hondo College in Whittier and jockey Laffitt Pincay on Shame for Pincay himself.

His award-winning works have been shown in numerous invitational art shows including the George Philips Memorial Show, the Palm Springs Art Show, the San Bernardino County Fair, Hesperia Fine Art Festival and a Show of American Art, Victorville.