

Macario

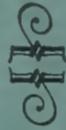


Vol. 12

LAREDO, TEXAS, OCTOBER, 1945

No. 4

AMERICAN



Staff Sgt. Macario Garcia of Sugarland,
wearer of the Congressional Medal of Honor

This Issue Is Sponsored By Council No. 60 of Houston, Texas

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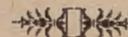
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LAREDO, TEXAS

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EDITOR OF LULAC NEWS

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS PERTAINING TO
LULAC NEWS

— TO —

STAR CASTILLO

1809 FARRAGUT ST.

LAREDO, TEXAS

VOL. 12

OCTOBER, 1945

No. 4

Editorial

"We do not serve Mexicans here." "You will have to get out as no Mexicans are allowed." "Your uniform and service ribbons mean nothing here. We still do not allow Mexicans."

These, and many other stronger worded ones, are the embarrassing and humiliating retorts given our returning veteran of Latin American descent and their families. They may all be worded differently, and whereas, some are toned with hate and loathness while others are toned with sympathy and remorse, still the implication remains that these so-called "Mexicans" are considered unworthy of equality, regardless of birth-right or service. This situation is ironic indeed, in view of the fact that these same "Mexicans"

have just finished helping this country to defeat countries to the east and west who would impose upon the world a superior people, a superior culture.

Why this hate, this prejudice, this tendency to discriminate against a people whose only fault seems to be that they are heirs of a culture older than any known "American Culture;" to find themselves a part of a land and people they have helped to build and to defend; to find themselves a part of a minority group whose acquired passive nature keeps them from boldly demanding those rights and privileges which are rightfully theirs. Can it be the result of difference in race, nationality, language, loyalty, intelligence or ability?

There is no difference in race. Latin Americans or so-called "Mexicans", are Caucasian or white. There are only three races, the Caucasian, the Negroid, and the Mongoloid. Racial Characteristics places the Latin American among the white. Who dares contradict nature. There is no difference in nationality. These "Mexicans" were born and bred in this country and are just as Americans as Jones or Smith. In fact, the ancestors of these "Mexicans" were here before those of Jones or Smith decided to take up abode. Difference in language? No. These "Mexicans" speak English. Accented perhaps, in some cases, but English all over the United States seems to be accented. That these "Mexicans" can speak Spanish is not a detriment; it is an asset. After all, there are not too many people in this country who can boast a knowledge of the most widely spoken languages in the world. Difference in loyalty? How can that be when all revere the same stars and stripes; when they don the same service uniforms for the same principles? Difference in intelligence and ability? Impossible. For every profession and category of work, from menial labor to the most scientific and technical matter, there is a qualified group of "Mexicans". All they need is the opportunity minus the discrimination and jealousy.

We could go on and on naming erroneously imagined differences to be used as a basis for this hate and find each one false. This condition is not a case of difference; it is a case of Ignorance. Yes, ignorance. Odd indeed to find this banal state of mind in a country of such enlightenment and progress. But then, ignorance is like a disease that is contagious, but which is contagious only for those who wish to suffer from it. Ignorance, bigotry, prejudice, and intolerance all down through the centuries have tried to crush intelligence with cruelty, reason with brutality, and spirituality with madness. This quartet of ban-

50¢

Discurso del Sr. Lic. Juan J. Herrera en las Fiestas Patrias del 16 de septiembre, 1945 en el Coliseo de Houston, Texas.

12-1 de.

Sr. Maestro de Ceremonias, Sr. Consul de Méjico, Miembros de la Armada Victoriosa de los Estados Unidos de América, Distinguidos Visitantes de honor, Respetable concurrencia:

Es motivo de íntima satisfacción para mí, presenciar en estos momentos la verificación de la escena más solemne de mi vida. El comité me ha otorgado el honor de hacer la presentación de un joven mejicano, que hace pocos años vino a un pueblito cerca de Houston. Nacido en Villa Castaño, Coahuila, Méjico, acompañado de sus padres y hermanos vinieron a este país a trabajar y hacer su vida honradamente, como es característico en nuestra raza. Pasaron los años y vemos a este joven sirviendo en las fuerzas armadas de los Estados Unidos, UN SOLDADO RAZO. Había respondido al llamado de defender la causa de las Democracias, que en ese tiempo los países Totalitarios querían destruir y que su madre Patria, Méjico, había sido una de las primeras naciones que pudo ver que la libertad de los pueblos estaba en peligro.

Este joven no se distinguió en su entrenamiento, obedeció las órdenes como un buen soldado y luego lo mandaron a tierras que nunca había conocido, tierras que había ganado el enemigo Nazi, enemigo terrible y sagaz.

Este día hace un año, el día 16 de septiembre de 1944, este joven se encontraba avanzando en contra de la línea Siegfried en la frontera de Alemania, y se lanzó sobre una ametralladora enemiga, la cual puso fuera de combate salvando sus compañeros. Por esto le fué dada la condecoración de la Estrella de Bronze. Pero la historia esperaba hasta el día 27 de noviembre del mismo año para enseñar el mérito y el gran heroísmo de éste galán joven mejicano.

A las once de la mañana de este memorable día, avanzaba su compañía sobre terreno plano y casi sin protección natural. El enemigo le dió la bien venida con una batería de ametralladoras, perdiendo la vida 15 de sus camaradas. Toda la compañía quedó inmóvil y los oficiales por lo pronto no sabían que hacer. En estos momentos que el escalofrío de la muerte los arropaba, el soldado Razo, el joven MEJICANO, MACARIO GARCIA de Sugarland, Texas, se lanzó sobre el enemigo destruyendo el nido de ametralladoras y cuatro soldados enemigos que los protegían, Macario

García fué herido y regresó con sus compañeros a recibir atención médica. Entonces abrió fuego otra ametralladora por otro lado y a pesar de estar mal herido y habiendo ya arregado su vida varias veces, otra vez se lanzó sobre el enemigo y los derrotó nuevamente.

Por ese gran ejemplo de valor y heroísmo, Macario García fué elevado a sargento y ace pocos días, como Uds. la saben, el Presidente Truman, de esta República, le presentó con la medalla Congrecional de Honor, la condecoración más alta que se le puede dar a una persona en este país.

Ahora con todo gusto y respeto tengo el honor de presentarles a el joven SARGENTO MACARIO GARCIA.

EDITORIAL

alities constitutes the curse of the world. Ignorance is the parent of the other three.

Yes, ignorance broods hate and all its resultant actions of jealousy, misunderstanding, erroneous opinions, and premeditated feelings of discord and confusion. In this particular case of unjustified failure to forment a fraternal feeling between two groups of Americans, it is an ignorance of facts that poisons the atmosphere. An ignorance of the cultural contributions of Americans of Latin American descent to the still young American Culture; an ignorance of the blood, sweat, and efforts given to this country for its betterment; an ignorance of the sufferings withstood and the lives given to preserve this country free and independent through its various periods of strife and conflict; and finally, an ignorance of a sense of appreciation for a long, profitable, and loyal association with a group of Americans whose voice cries out in desperate supplication:

"We have proved ourselves true and loyal Americans by every trial and test that has confronted us; now give us social, political, and economic equality and the opportunity to practice and enjoy that equality. We ask for it not as a favor, but as a delegated right guaranteed by our Constitution, and as a reward for faithful service."

Houston's Two-way Trade Policy

By T. L. Evans, Manager Foreign Trade Department, Houston Chamber of Commerce, and Secretary Foreign Trade Association of Houston.



Recent Photograph of Houston's Skyline. This is your meeting place for the 1946 Annual LULAC Convention.

Being firm believers in two-way trade policy, Houston business interests are constantly and actively encouraging and engaging in importing as well as exporting to the other Americas.

If we expect to develop increasing export trade, we must also import merchandise from our neighboring countries.

We are now importing many commodities from Latin America, and as the months come and go this trade, judging by the cargoes already arriving at the Port of Houston, will increase in volume, just as the exporting will continue growing in magnitude. This is as it should be, an interchange of trade between the United States and the other Americas, and is in strict accord with the policy of Houston business interests.

During the war there was no shipping service to Latin America from our Port because of the

government's requirements for shipping to certain other ports for war purposes. But now that the war is ended steamship lines which previous to the war were operating to the Latin Americas are re-establishing the service. It is hoped that within the near future all of Latin America will be served from our port.

The Western coast of South America is now being served from the Port of Houston and the Eastern Coast will soon have service resumed. Also arrangements have been made to serve the Northern Coast of South America and the West Indies.

It is anticipated that service will soon be resumed to Mexico and Central America.

We have rail lines serving Mexico, and during the war, traffic over the railroads was substantially increased. When completed a great in-

A MILLION LULACS

By G. J. GARZA, Gov. District 3

A Million Lulacs, and an annual income of Two Million Dollars! A pipe dream? A delirious uttering? No, neither one, but, on the contrary, a sane and sagacious objective which can, and, under present tendencies, must be a concrete and living reality. Everything points to the necessity of this enormous expansion, and every indication points to the assurance of success in such an undertaking. To understand the possibilities of such a gigantic step in expansion, let us look at the circumstances that warrant the expansion, and then at the factors that insure success.

What are the circumstances that warrant this expansion? First, we have a Latin American population of several million in this country whose lot, comparatively speaking, has not kept pace with the social, political, and economic advancement of the other Americans. This can be attributed to the fact that we Latin Americans have assumed a passive nature that is contrary to our heritage and our American way of life, and an individuality that defeats our unity of purpose.

Second, conditions, situations, and circumstances affecting us Latin Americans have not improved inspite of all that has been tried. The reason is that we have not been able to present a unified front that will enable us to demand our rightful share of Americanism.

Third, there is no organization in this country, with the exception of the Lulac, who will take the lead for Americans of Latin American descent, and labor unwaveringly, unselfishly, and judiciously for the rights of Latin Americans as worthy citizens of this country.

And fourth, there is an element within this country that out of its ignorance broods hate, strife, and disunity. It will take a gigantic union of purpose, of people, and of money to dispel this ignorance and to battle propagantists' distribution of malicious discord and ill will.

Such then are the conditions warranting expansion of the work of Lulac. What are the factors assuring success of expansion? Foremost

among these is the fact that the League of United American Citizens has demonstrated to all people its undying faith in bringing about a state of congeniality among Anglo and Latin Americans; its ever alert and jealous watchfulness for any and all acts contrary to, and all acts in favor of, the welfare of Latin Americans; its undaunted spirit and tenacity with which it tackles all problems affecting Latin Americans, whether they be favorable to, or against the welfare of the whole group; and its unwavering adherence to the principles of true Americanism while allowing a feeling of eclecticism towards cultures affecting Americanism.

Then, too, Americans of Latin American descent, after years and years of uncharted and unguided drifting toward what they believed would be a harmonious intercourse; after years of individual struggle to rise above a sort of pre-determined state; after years of faithful hope for better understanding; and after numberless attempts to prove their worthiness as Americans, have come to realize the uselessness of unplanned and unguided individual efforts, and are ready to unite under an unselfish organization for guidance out of this chaotic and incomprehensive state.

Finally, we have within the ranks of Lulac, sincere and far-sighted men and women who have come to realize the great job that lies ahead, and who have also been able to see the great dawn that will engulf this country when that job is successfully done. They are unselfish and undaunted volunteers working for a cause they believe is righteous and just, and the only reward they expect is the satisfaction of assuring the welfare of Latin Americans today, and that of generations to come. They have worked for years, amid jeers, insults, and unsavory circumstances with only their sense of duty and their high principles to guide and to back them. Today, even though their road is smoother, and they enjoy the goodwill of all democracy-loving people, they are working harder and more diligently to bring to a climax the reward of their untiring efforts. These untiring efforts are bearing fruit in the great

number of things they have accomplished to improve the lot of Latin Americans, and in the great number of persons who have united themselves under the protective shield of Lulac.

Councils have sprung up throughout the Southwest like magic, and existing councils have doubled and trebled their membership. It is our ambition that wherever a Latin American lives in this country there shall exist the Lulac, and whatever his problem may be, Lulac will be there to assist in solving it. Every Latin American a potential Lulac! With that thought in mind; with our aggregation of unselfish workers; with our principles to guide us; with our faith in humanity; with our inherent persevering characteristic; and with our zeal and vigor to achieve success in bringing about the general welfare of a group of worthy Americans, our goal of a million Lulacs is within our reach.

You, as a Lulac and a firm believer in all that it stand for, have a solemn duty to do all in your power to assure the success of this endeavor. Let the outstanding thought and objective of every member of this organization for the ensuing year be:

A MILLION LULACS IN 1946!

HOUSTON'S TWO-WAY TRADE—(Cont.)

ternational highway will extend all the way from the United States to Panama, increasing the trade and social ties between the Americas.

Houston has taken the lead in promoting the good neighbor policy, featuring its activity in this direction by establishing Pan-American Week, instead of limiting the observance to a single day. During the week special programs are presented to various groups in Houston, including civic clubs and business and industrial organizations, also in the public schools, and through these programs the importance of friendly relations and good will being permanently maintained is stressed.

Another medium through which the good neighbor policy is encouraged is the exchange of students of the different Americas. Each year some students from Latin American countries appear on the Pan-American Week program, and point out the importance of the lessons that the students of the respective Americas learn in the class rooms and through associations in the other

Americas. These lessons, as mentioned by the students, will result in strengthening the ties of friendship and in assisting in the development of the resources in the different countries, and, as a result of this good will, understanding and application of practical lessons, in increased interchange of trade.

Attendance each summer by a group of students from the University of Houston at the University of Mexico, and educational visits to different communities and sections of that country, is also a helpful activity in the good will program.

Football games between teams of Mexico and the United States are also contributing to the good will policy's growing success. Several years ago it was my privilege to take a football team from Reagan High School, Houston, to Mexico City for a football game there, and recently a game was played at Houston between a team from Mexico and Stephen F. Austin school of Houston, being won by the Mexican youths.

We are interested in promoting and maintaining friendly relations between the respective Americas, and in this connection we are now planning a special train trip by a large group of our citizens to Mexico. The trip will be conducted as soon as necessary equipment is available. Similar trips are planned to Central and South America.

In addition to water and rail transportation and scheduled improvement in highway traffic, the air transportation service between the United States and the Latin Americas is receiving special attention. We are busily at work on plans for additional air service. At present air traffic from Houston goes to all of the other Americas.

Several months ago the Houston Chamber of Commerce through its Foreign Trade department issued a folder entirely in Spanish for distribution in the other Americas. Copies were sent to shippers, Chambers of Commerce and others in the Latin Americas. All told, there were 5000 copies. In the folder we devoted special attention to the facilities offered by the Houston Port for trade development between Houston and the other Americas.

Splendid results of our efforts toward trade and cultural relations with our neighbors in the other Americas are being shown, and with our good will policy, which is receiving constant and sincere attention, there is every reason to forecast increasing interest in the promotion and maintenance of friendly relations between the respective countries.

AROUND THE LULAC SHIELD

EL PASO COUNCIL No. 132

El Paso Council in the largest City on the Texas-Mexican border is now really aware of the potential possibilities that are in store for them in the realm of LULAC. This Council is headed by a real active livewire in the person of Bro. A. Alvarez, a dynamic personality and a man of positive action.

El Paso Council made a substantial increase in their membership during a recent membership drive and another one will be made on the first of the year. We know they have the material and the spirit which will make El Paso one of the most outstanding councils of our League.

We also wish to mention a hotly contested election which is being held by that Council to elect their officers for 1946. A well organized campaign is being waged and no stones are being left unturned to make of LULAC a streamlined organization. **MAY THE BEST GROUP WIN AND MAY LULAC DERIVE MOST OF THE BENEFITS.**

FORT STOCKTON COUNCIL No. 62

We have been receiving some very encouraging NEWS from Bro. M. R. Gonzales of Ft. Stockton. This Council has just appointed a reporter and we will be keeping other Councils for the League posted on the activities of this small but very active group of Lulackers. They are planning on increasing their membership between now and June 1946, at which time they plan a full delegation for the Houston Convention. Brother Gonzales, LULAC appreciates your efforts and be assured that the Supreme Council will always cooperate with you on all matters concerning LULAC.

HARLINGEN COUNCIL No. 32

The present General Officers have always had a warm spot for Harlingen Council No. 32. Perhaps it is because it was in Harlingen back in 1935 when the Laredo Delegation won the LULAC Convention for Laredo. We know Harlingen has always had real leaders in their community. The fact remains that Harlingen has been a leader in the Rio Grande Valley.

Word has reached us that the Pres. General is appointing Bro. G. S. Vallejo as District Governor of that District No. 1 and Bro. D. R. Flores as

District Organizer. We personally know of the activities and of the dynamic spirit of both Bro. Vallejo and Bro. Flores and we cannot but expect that they will certainly do some good work for LULAC in that territory. We, who know the Valley Country, know they need LULAC and LULAC certainly needs the Valley. The main reason is that a large percentage of our people live in the Magic Valley of the Rio Grande and the gospel of LULAC should be carried to every corner of the Valley territory.

We congratulate Bro. Vallejo and Bro. Flores and wish them every success, because we know they are men of action and LULAC will have these key men where they are needed most.

BAYTOWN COUNCIL No. 73

Professor Antonio Banuelos	President
Jesse M. Gonzales	Vice President
Ernest Garcia	Secretary
Adelardo Armijo	Asst. Secretary
Anastacio Guerra	Treasurer
Remigio Garcia	Chaplain
Victor Molina	Guard

Baytown Council No. 73 has been considered a strong sentry around the Houston District. We are glad that they are back in LULAC. On Oct. 10th. a group of 45 men met in Baytown and re-organized. Present were J. J. Herrera, Fernando Salas, Martin Martinez, of Houston, and Sr. Mireles of Monterrey, Mexico. The above officers were elected and they will be installed in the near future. Congratulations, BAYTOWN and HOUSTON!!!

LOS ANGELES COUNCIL No. 125

Bro. William Trujillo tells us that their council is now ready to be installed. He further says "In Southern California we have a large number of Latin American people and with the cooperation of the different Councils throughout the state, and the cooperation of the General Officers, we should be one of the largest councils of LULAC in the United States. Regional Organizer for California, Mr. William Wheat was present at our meeting and he was very pleased at the enthusiasm our group displayed." The General Officers are behind you, LOS ANGELES, follows this year's slogan—EVERY AMERICAN CITIZEN OF LATIN EXTRACTION, A LULAC.

AROUND THE LULAC SHIELD—(Cont.)

AUSTIN COUNCIL No. 85

We understand that the Austin Council will play host to the Members of the Supreme Council and the District Governors and District Organizers who will meet in the City of Austin on November 25.

James D. Baskin, Austin contact representative for the veterans' administration, Tuesday night told the LULACS that an additional problem faced many Latin American veterans—the lack of educational background which would enable them to take full advantage of benefits offered under the GI bill of rights.

Baskin spoke before a group of 50 LULACS and their guests at the LULAC Hall, 1007 East Sixth street, at 8:30 p. m.

"Many Latin Americans have only fifth or sixth grade education, and therefore they are unable to go to college under the GI bill of rights," Baskin said.

The best course for such veterans to follow would be to learn a trade, either through apprenticeship or formal training, Baskin emphasized.

In this respect, the veterans' committee of the LULACS can "do a lot of good," Baskin said.

Often the best results are obtained when veterans are assisted by their own people—such as the Masons helping Masons and the Baptists helping Baptists—in addition to government aid, Baskin said.

Following the meeting, Baskin praised the group's veterans' committee.

"It has an opportunity to do a splendid job for Latin American veterans, and it is taking the right approach," he added.

The committee is headed by A. Munguia, Jr., and includes Dr. George I. Sanchez, G. A. Martins,

and three veterans, Arthur Garza, Alfred Orozco and Herbert Acevedo.

ALBUQUERQUE COUNCILS No. 17 and 34

At a recent joint meeting of the Albuquerque Mens and Ladies councils, Regional Governor for New Mexico, Tom Sena, outlined his plans for reorganization of the dormant New Mexico Councils. According to reports, Bro. Sena will have practically all dormant councils reactivated before the end of the year.

Mrs. Emma Gabaldon reminded those present that joint meetings were to be held on the third Thursday of the month.

The following members were appointed to serve in a committee to solicit ads for the publication of Lulac News for the month of November; Mrs. Dan Baca, Chairman, Mrs. E. D. Chavez, Mrs. Apodaca, Mrs. Emma Chavez, D. B. Baca, G. A. Contreras, E. D. Chavez, and F. T. Martinez.

WINSLOW COUNCIL No. 140

At regular meeting of the Winslow Council Bro. Victor Candelaria of P. O. Box 1136 was appointed as reporter for Lulac News. Bro. Rubi advises that he expects to have Flagstaff, Holbrook, St. Johns and possibly several more councils in northern Arizona, in the very near future.

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Messages from The President General



ARNULFO A. ZAMORA
Laredo, Texas

MEETING OF THE SUPREME COUNCIL:

By virtue of the authority in me vested I hereby call a meeting of the Supreme Council at the City of Austin, on November 25, 1945. This will be the second meeting of the Supreme Council during this administration. The following tentative plans will become effective pending word to be received from the Austin Council. The meeting will be held on a Sunday. We are to meet at 10 o'clock in the morning and will hold a session until 2 p. m. The same schedule as that followed in Laredo, will be in order.

The purpose of the Meeting will be to review the work done in the last three months and to map our work for the next three months. We have now finished selecting all of the District Governors and District Organizers. A special invitation is hereby issued to all of them. It will be the purpose of this meeting to have all District Governors and District Organizers to meet with the Regional Governors and the President General at which time their work will be outlined to them.

Any Council or any individual having any problems to bring before the Supreme Council should

be sent to the President General prior to the meeting date. All pending matters will be the first order of business in the meeting with the hope of closing all unfinished matters.

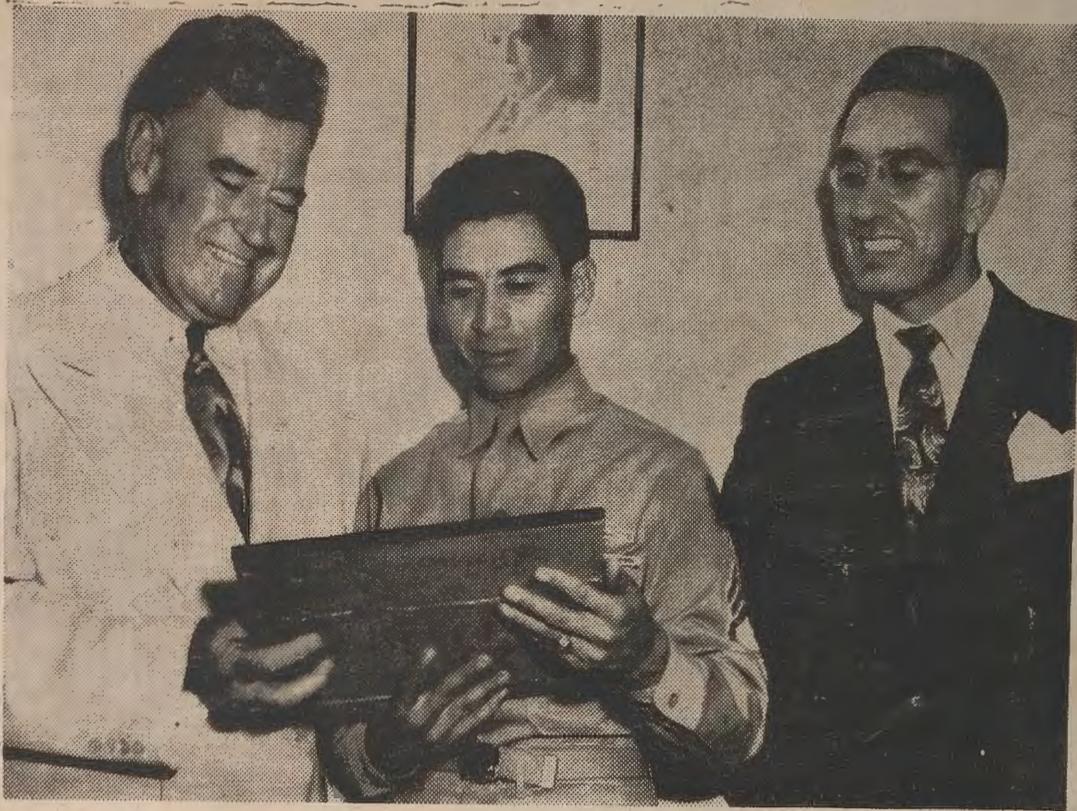
FURTHER APPOINTMENTS:

The President General has appointed G. S. Vallejo of Harlingen as District Governor for District Number 1. He has also appointed D. R. Flores also of Harlingen as District Organizer for District No. 1. With these two hard working men at the head of District One, plenty of action should result. These two men will see Luis Cabaza at Weslaco, Conrado Lozano at San Benito, J. M. Chapa at Edinburg, Jacinto Gonzales at Edcouch, Jesus Gonzales at Falfurrias, and C. C. Garza at Raymondville.

LULAC NEWS:

This issue is being sponsored by Houston Council No. 60. We want to congratulate the boys from Houston for the splendid work which they have done against big odds. The City of Houston is the Largest in the State of Texas. It is very difficult for a hand-full of men to cover the whole City with Lulac work, attend to the re-organiza-

Medal of Honor Winner Guest of Lulacs



SUGAR LAND HERO—Staff Sgt. Macario Garcia of Sugar Land, wearer of the congressional medal of honor, was honored by the Houston council of the League of United Latin American Citizens Thursday night at the civil courthouse. Reading the citation, left to right, are: Robert E. Smith, chairman of the Good Neighbor commission in Texas; Sergeant Garcia, and John J. Herrera, vice president of the council.

Sgt. Macario Garcia of Sugarland, Texas who was recently awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor by President Harry S. Truman was a guest of honor at the Lulacs Meeting of September 13th. The entire Membership paid homage to this brave youth who was born in Mexico and came to this country as a boy.

Among the speakers at the Meeting were R. E. Smith, Chairman of the Texas Good Neighbor Commission who praised Sgt. Garcia for his bravery in risking his life for his country and his comrades in arms and John J. Herrera who read the citation of the President of the United States in Confering the Medal to the young Hero and introducing Sgt. Garcia to the assembly.

The intrepid Sargeant made a short speech in which he thanked the Lulacs for their great work in teaching our people the value of organization and co-operation in peace and in war.

On September 15th, Sgt. Garcia was the Guest of Honor at the Mexican Celebration in his home town of Sgarland. There he met many of his old friends of his farming days prior to going into the service. The entire Latin American population of Sugarland turned out to do honor to their friend

and neighbor who won the Nation's highest award.

On September 16th, in the Coliseum at Houston, Texas, Sgt. Garcia was honored as were the heroes of the Mexican Independence of 1810. Over Seven Thousand people attended the fiesta where the program included folk-song, typical dances intermingled with speeches. Main speaker of the evening was Sr. Rafael Moreno, President of the Federacion de Sociedades Mexicanas who gave a brief talk on Mexican History and our struggle for Independence from 1810 through 1821 when the emancipation was finally consummated after three hundred years of European Oppression. Mr. Robert E. Smith spoke on the progress of the Good Neighbor Committee in Texas. Mr. Vincent Mendiola, representing the Lulacs of Houston used as a theme, the Latin Americans of Houston and their contribution toward winning the War. Sgt. Macario Garcia was introduced by John J. Herrera, Vice President of Houston Lulac Council No. 60 and enumerated the deeds of "Valor" for which the youth was decorated. Sgt. Garcia responded with a short speech of thanks in behalf of himself and his parents and spoke of his comrades who had fallen in battle

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Meeting of the Supreme Council in Laredo, Texas on July 27, 1945. Picture taken in Lulac Hall at Laredo. From left to right: Manuel G. Vela, Treasurer General of Laredo; Max Garcia, Inspector General of San Antonio; Joe Garza, Organizer General of Corpus Christi; A. P. Sanchez, Trustee of San Antonio; Arnulfo A. Zamora, President General of Laredo; Francisco J. Flores, Secretary General of Laredo; Leopoldo P. Botello,, Trustee of Laredo; Star Castillo, Director of Publicity of Laredo; and Manuel C. Gonzales, Regional Governor for Texas, of San Antonio.



and would never return to their loved ones and his wish that never again, would our future generations be faced with another war.

After the ceremony the attendants were rewarded with a dance that lasted till 1 a. m. and it was one of the best behaved crowds, and better organized celebrations we have seen in many years.



MESSAGES FROM THE PRES. GEN.—(Cont.)

tion of surrounding Councils, and still have time to sponsor an issue of LULAC NEWS!! More power to you, Council No. 60.

The next issue of LULAC NEWS will be under the care of the two Albuquerque Councils. According to reports reaching this office it is expected that the New Mexico Issue to be one of the best published to date. We have not heard from Corpus Christi about their issue but it will be coming soon. Lets get busy Corpus Christi, your issue will be in December. We are glad to report that

Winslow, Arizona, has acknowledged that they will take care of the January number. We have just written El Paso asking them to take care of February and Austin for the March number. Harlingen will be ready for April, thus leaving the California Councils to take care of the May and June Numbers.

NEW COUNCILS:

Just received a letter from J. J. Romero advising us that Santa Fe Council No. 32, has been re-activated. Congratulations SANTA FE. Lets hear more from you. FLASH!!! Baytown Council No. 73 has just come back into the fold. Just received a Letter from Professor Banuelos advising me that Baytown is ready to go to town. The Houston Boys have been working overtime. The Professor promised the General Officers that Baytown would be ready before the boys come back and he has kept his word. William Trujillo, tells me that Los Angeles will soon be the largest Council in the League.

Aims and Purposes of the League of United Latin American Citizens

The aims and purposes of this Organization as amended at El Paso on June 24, 1944.

1. To develop within the members of our race the best, purest, and most perfect type of a true and loyal citizen of the United States of America.

2. To eradicate from our body political intents and tendencies to establish discrimination among our fellow-citizens on account of race, religion, or social position as being contrary to the true spirit of Democracy, our Constitution and Laws.

3. To use all the legal means at our command to the end that all citizens in our country may enjoy equal rights, the equal protection of the laws of the land and equal opportunities and privileges.

4. The acquisition of the English language, which is the official language of our country, being necessary for the enjoyment of our rights and privileges, we declare it to be official language of this Organization, and we pledge ourselves to learn, and speak, and teach same to our children.

5. To define with absolute and unmistakable clearness our unquestionable loyalty to the ideals, principles and citizenship of the United States of America.

6. We solemnly declare once and for all to maintain a sincere and respectful reverence for our racial origin of which we are proud.

7. By all lawful means at our command, we shall assist in the education and guidance of Latin-Americans and we shall protect and defend their lives and interests whenever necessary. We shall oppose any tendency to separate our children in the schools of this Country.

8. Each of us considers himself with equal responsibilities in our Organization, to which we voluntarily swear subordination and obedience.

9. We shall create a fund for mutual protection, for the defense of those of us who may be unjustly prosecuted and for the education and culture of our people.

10. This organization is not a political club, but as citizens we shall participate in all local, State and National political contests. However, in doing so, we shall ever bear in mind the general welfare of our people, and we shall disregard and abjure once and for all any personal obligation which is not in harmony with these principles.

11. With our vote and influence we shall endeavor to place in public office men who show by their deeds, respect and consideration for our people.

12. We shall select as our leaders those among us who demonstrate, by their integrity and culture,

that they are capable of guiding and directing us properly.

13. We shall maintain publicity means for the diffusion of these principles and for the expansion and consolidation of this Organization.

14. We shall pay our poll tax and urge all our fellow-citizens to do likewise, in order that we may enjoy our rights fully.

15. We shall diffuse our ideals by means of the press, lectures and pamphlets.

16. We shall oppose any radical and violent demonstration which may tend to create conflicts and disturb the peace and tranquility of our Country.

17. We shall have mutual respect for our religious views and we shall never refer to them in our Institution.

18. We shall endeavor to secure equal representation for our people on juries and in the administration of Governmental affairs.

19. We shall denounce every act of peonage and mistreatment as well as the employment of our minor children of scholastic age.

20. We shall resist and attack energetically all machinations tending to prevent our social and political unification.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

This Amendment to the Constitution has not been submitted to the local Councils for approval or rejection, but will be submitted for their consideration in the near future.

Having read your code and program and believing in the betterment of our people, I hereby apply for membership in the League of United Latin American Citizens.

Name.....

Address.....

Mail this coupon to Francisco J. Flores, Sames Moore Bldg., Laredo, Texas. He will give you further information and direct you to Lulac Headquarters in your city.

JOE P. CASTILLO,
Member of Council No. 60.

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LAREDO — TWO CENTURIES OF PROGRESS

By Seb. S. Wilcox

(Continued from last month)

The Colonists had been successful, and the Republic of Texas was an independent nation. Her resources were scarce, and she had few troops and no money to extend her claim to the strip of land between the Nueces River and the Rio Grande which was in dispute, although Texas claimed all the lands from the Sabine to the Rio Grande. Laredo, situated along the southern edge of this strip, remained under the direction of the government of Mexico.

A considerable trade was soon established between the Mexican border points and San Antonio, the traders bringing into San Antonio such articles as beans, leather, piloncillo, shoes and saddles, which they exchanged for calico, tobacco, American hardware, and other commodities. This gave rise to freebooting on the part of the lawless element, who began to operate in this "no man's land" between the two rivers. A band of these robbers was headed by Captain Agaton Quiñones, who made his headquarters in Laredo. The Texas Spy companies and later the Ranger force combated this element all along the disputed strip between the Nueces and the Rio Grande, but it was a large section of country to cover.

During the early spring of 1837, "Deaf" Smith, with a spy company of twenty men, left his camp on the Medina near San Antonio, "with the intention of raising the flag of independence on the spire of the church" at Laredo. On the 16th of March he arrived at the old San Ygnacio ranch on the Arroyo Chacon, about five miles northeast of Laredo. The following day he was attacked by a superior force of Mexican cavalry from the Laredo garrison, and a brisk battle ensued. After about forty-five minutes the Mexican cavalry withdrew, and later "Deaf" Smith returned to San Antonio without entering Laredo.

A few years later Captain Jack Hays and his forces came into Laredo, captured some horses, intimidated the local garrison, and withdrew to the outskirts of the town. The next day he returned the horses, stating that he had not taken them with the purpose of carrying them off, but merely to let the lawless element know that the Texans would retaliate for any raids or robberies committed.

The central government of Mexico afforded little protection to Laredo during this period. Al-

calde Don Bacilio Benavides continued his efforts to secure relief against the Indians raids on his town, but was repeatedly rebuked for his efforts. Evidently he became discouraged in his efforts to secure assistance from the central government of Mexico, and he must have felt somewhat like Don Ildefonso Ramon, the old Alcalde who had asked if Laredo was considered "an integral part of Mexico," for when, in the closing days of 1838, the Federalists in northern Mexico undertook to establish the Republic of the Rio Grande and overthrow the Centralists, Don Bacilio Benavides cast his lot with the Federalists and fought their battles in Northern Mexico.

The Federalists were contending for the Mexican Constitution of 1824, and on January 5, 1839, the officials and citizens of Laredo gathered in the office of Don Jose Maria Ramon, the justice of the peace, to consider an official proclamation advocating the return to the Federal system of government. After some discussion, the consensus of the meeting was to join with the Federalists, and resolutions were passed reading in part thus:

"As the present administration does not merit our confidence, . . . this town will continue in the future to act under the Constitution of the year 1824, . . . as the only thing that can save the town under the present circumstances. . . . We who subscribe hereto swear to uphold by all means the aforesaid Federal Constitution and integrity of our territory."

This was a brave move on the part of the citizens, but was the unanimous voice of the people. The Justice in reporting the resolution to the political chief of the department of the North of Tamaulipas, said: "I am unable to explain the joy that these inhabitants showed at the moment of voting in behalf of such a laudable measure, the demonstrations of happiness evinced a complete satisfaction, when the hurrahs and acclamations followed each other without interruption for the space of eight hours."

Laredo was launched in another revolution, and became an important point in the political affairs of the new movement—although most of the directing of the government was made from the field, the officials being pursued all over northern Mexico. The Federalists perfected their organization at Guerrero, and Laredo was selected

as the capital of the Republic of the Rio Grande. Jesus Cardenas was elected president. One of his main allies was Colonel Antonio Zapata, about the bravest man of his time, and an intrepid Indian fighter. Zapata county was named in his honor. Many Americans threw their lot with the Federalists, and distinguished themselves by their fighting spirit.

Laredo felt the first real effects of the revolution in July, 1840, when Colonel S. W. Jordan with fifty Americans and about one hundred Mexicans under Colonel Lopez, marched on Laredo, reaching there the night of the 25th. They hitched their horses near the town and moved silently into the place, secreting themselves in the weeds and bushes along the river bank, within one hundred yards of the public square. About dawn an old woman going to the river for water discovered them and sounded the alarm. The Americans rushed for the Plaza, Jordan entering at one point, Price coming up at another. The garrison, taken by surprise, became panic stricken and fled, only a few resisting the invaders. The advent of the Federalist army was received with joy by the officials, their sympathies having been in that direction as is shown by the resolution of the year previous.

The tide of war flowed back and forth across Laredo, the town sometimes being under one force and then the other. There were traitors in the Federalist ranks, informing the Centralists of each move made by the former. It was thus that Colonel Antonio Zapata, the most courageous of all the Federalist officers, was trapped by General Arista at Morelos, and, being offered his life if he would turn to the Centralists, he refused. He was promptly courtmartialled and executed. His head was cut off, placed in a cask of brandy, and brought by General Ampudia down the river through Laredo, with an escort of some four or five hundred men, carried to Guerrero and placed on a pole opposite his residence and kept there in full view of his wife and family for three days.

The Federalists failed in their attempt, Don Bacilio Benavides attributing the failure to the tardiness of action on the part of the Federalists, and especially to their not organizing promptly a Federal government to order and direct affairs of the proposed Republic.

For one short decade Texas followed her own destiny as an independent republic, and then in 1845 took her place in the galaxy of the States of our glorious republic. War with Mexico followed almost immediately. General Zachry Taylor entered Mexico at the head of the United States

troops, and soon occupied a position around Monterrey.

In the spring of 1846 Captain Addison Gillespie, at the head of a troop of Texas Rangers, was the first to fly Old Glory over Laredo. He had moved by way of Laredo from San Antonio to join with General Taylor in Mexico, remaining at Laredo only a short time.

In October, 1846, General Mirabeau Buonaparte Lamar was commissioned by General Taylor to recruit a company and take position at Laredo. Lamar arrived in Laredo on November 8, 1846. About the time he arrived overland, the steamboat **Major Brown**, under the command of Captan Mark Sterling, steamed up the Rio Grande and anchored under the bluff in front of Laredo. It was two years before there was sufficient water to make the return trip. Lamar and his soldiers were received kindly by the inhabitants, and quarters were obtained for his men in the buildings surrounding the Plaza. In his report to General Taylor, Lamar gave a gloomy picture of the conditions of the town. He said: "Laredo is very little more than a heap of ruins. There is scarcely a comfortable home in the place. The desolation was the effect of the most unprecedented rains which fell in 1842, from which it has never revived. . . . It is an isolated town, much exposed to the ravages of the Indians and has suffered greatly from that source, seven hundred of its inhabitants have been killed within the last twenty years. . . . Among the inhabitants an epidemic has prevailed to an alarming extent, attended with great mortality. . . . I considered the circumstances as justifying a permission which I gave for the public medicines to be used among the citizens."

Friendly relations with the Texans were established, and during December a complete census of the town was made. This report showed a population of 1,891 people. Soon after his arrival, Lamar was joined by Lieutenant Hamilton P. Bee, later to become famous as a general in the Confederate Army.

General Lamar began at once to bring the territory surrounding Laredo under control of the United States. On July 3, 1847, Lamar ordered an election for two justices of the peace, a constable and a county commissioner, the election to be held on July 13, 1847. Thus was held the first election in Laredo under the authorities of Texas. Forty votes were cast, and Agustin Soto and L. T. Tucker were elected justices of the peace, and Tomas Flores as county commissioner. The jurisdiction of Laredo at that time was included in the territory of Nueces County.

Having set up an organized government under the laws of Texas on the east side of the Rio Grande, Lamar proceeded to bring the territory on the west bank under the laws of Mexico, and on September 15, 1847, reposing confidence in the ability of Don Andres Martinez, the alcalde in charge when he arrived, he issued an order which reads: "The laws of Mexico will prevail on the western side of the Rio Grande. Mr. Andres Martinez is appointed alcalde and all resistance to his authority will be regarded as rebellion and treated accordingly." The sister city of Nuevo Laredo was thus started on its course as an independent municipality, with its own corporate government.

The next step was to organize a county government. On January 28, 1848, the legislature of Texas created the new county of Webb. It received the name from Judge James Webb who had served under Lamar, the second president of the Republic of Texas, first in the capacity of attorney general and later as secretary of state. The next day, January 29, 1848, the legislature passed an act incorporating the city of Laredo, providing for the election of officials and for the government of the city.

The Republic of Texas had passed into history. The State of Texas had established her jurisdiction along the Rio Grande. Laredo then became an actual part of the State of Texas. Many of the soldiers who came to Laredo with Lamar remained and made the town their home. Fort McIntosh was established in 1849, and has been maintained with adequate buildings for a cavalry post, and is an important military point on the border. American law and institutions were introduced, and the city began its upward climb. The census of 1860 showed a population of 1,258.

Then in 1861 the rumblings of war again disturbed the peace of the border. The Southern States seceded from the Union, and the Confederate States of America became a separate nation. The Stars and Bars floated over Laredo. The border section became of vital importance to the Confederacy. The staple crop of the south was cotton. The ports of the Confederacy were blockaded. The only outlet for the cotton crop was the Mexican border. A great trade sprang up on the border, and Laredo enjoyed her share. Laredo was intensely southern in her sympathies. Many native sons of our town enlisted in the cause. A border regiment was organized, many of the companies were composed of those of Mexican extraction. Colonel Santos Benavides, a native of Laredo, headed the regiment, and made his headquarters at Laredo, in charge of the Line of the

Rio Grande. This brought many people into the place and business increased. At one time Colonel Benavides had five thousand bales of cotton belonging to the Confederacy stored in the Plaza. Then, after the four long years of fruitless struggle, came the Reconstruction period, which extended from the close of the Civil War to about the year 1876. Laredo was spared many of the trials of this period, as well as the frequent raids of the lawless bands which operated in the border section. Colonel Benavides, and his two brothers, Captains Refugio and Cristobal Benavides, had gained much experience during the war in fighting in the brush country, and it was through their efforts to suppress this lawless element that our city was saved from the ravages of these attacks.

Laredo prospered, and by 1880 had almost trippled in population since the beginning of the fratricidal conflict. The decade of 1880-1890 was a most prosperous one for Laredo. The city awoke to her possibilities, and prosperity began to knock at her door. In 1881 the Texas Mexican Railroad extended to Laredo from Corpus Christi, and the National Railways of Mexico established the general shops of that system at Laredo, where hundreds of men were employed. In the latter part of the same year the International & Great Northern Railroad entered Laredo from San Antonio, making this the "Gateway to Mexico" from the United States to the southern Republic. Most of the shipments to Mexico then began to pass through Laredo, adding to its commercial prestige. Prior to the building of these two railroads, Laredo was served by stage-coach and ox cart from the outer world.

The establishment of the general shops of the Mexican National Railway system and the I. & G. N. coming in from the North, caused a great demand for city lots. The Laredo Improvement Company was organized and additions were opened up to the east of the city proper, known as the "Heights" addition. This company advertised the advantages of the territory, and interested northern capital to invest here. About this time the coal mines at Minera, a few miles northwest of Laredo, became valuable, and mainly to transport the coal the Rio Grande & Eagle Pass Railway was built in 1882. The export and import trade and general trading with Mexico became an important factor in the commercial life of Laredo, and American families in large numbers began to pour into the city with the entrance of the railroads and the opening of the coal mines. Laredo was growing by leaps and bounds, the old stone and adobe buildings began to give way to modern structures, and Laredo had its first large brick

building erected in 1882, the old two-story county court house.

The necessity for a better means of communication with the sister city across the Rio Grande became apparent. The primitive ferry was too slow to meet the modern demands, and in 1889 the Laredo Bridge Company secured a franchise from the city and concessions from both the United States and Mexico, and a steel bridge was built connecting the two cities. This bridge served the two cities for many years. In 1921 it was destroyed by fire, and in 1922 the present reinforced concrete bridge was erected. It was opened to traffic on the 22nd of February, while the city was holding its annual Washington's birthday celebration. Governor Pat M. Neff of Texas was the principal speaker on this occasion, and the Governor of the neighboring Mexican state was present.

Progress seemed to favor Laredo in the year 1889, and the city felt the need of better local transportation than the old coach. Nothing seemed too good for the progressive spirit of her citizens, so an electric street railway system was built, the first of its kind west of the Mississippi river.

Cattle, sheep and goats were the main products of the surrounding territory, and the wool industry was the principal money making factor. This was the "boom" decade of Laredo. Between 1880 and 1890 the population was increased from 3,521 to 11,319—more than tripled in ten years. This great "boom" broke, as most of them do, but Laredo did not remain stationary. During the next ten years a steady growth brought the population up to 13,429, and Laredo entered the present century with bright prospects for the future.

The year 1910 started with a population of 14,855. By 1920 the city almost doubled the population, and the census of that year showed 22,710 inhabitants. This was the farm produce period of our history. The Rio Grande afforded an abundance of water for irrigation. Soon farms dotted the entire river front, and today the Bermuda onion industry of this district amounts to over a million dollars a year. Besides the Bermuda onions, from one thousand to twelve hundred or more carloads of other vegetables are shipped annually to market.

During this decade Laredo, with all the patriotic spirit she had shown in the past, performed her share of work and sent her contingent of soldiers to fight in World War I. Large numbers of troops were stationed at Laredo and they were

cared for with the customary hospitality for which Laredo has always been known. At the close of this first world war, Laredo again took up her work of civic betterment.

In about 1921 oil was discovered near Laredo, and a new impetus was given the town. Refineries were established in and near Laredo, and the population of the town increased rapidly. To meet this demand, a great building boom began and has since continued, resulting in the construction of numerous handsome and modern buildings, both residential and business. The entire downtown section and the main traffic arteries to the city were paved with concrete and bitulithic topping. To accomodate the traveling public, two modern hotels were erected, the Hamilton being a twelve story structure and the Plaza an eight story building, both modern in every particular. The increased business soon caused the Plaza to add two stories to that building, and numerous tourist courts were dotted along the main highways of the city.

The census of 1930 showed Laredo with a population of 32,618, while the whole county listed a total of 42,128. During this decade Laredo moved steadily along, adding new buildings and increased population. The 1940 census enumerated 39,274 people residing in the city of Laredo, with a population of 45,916 in the entire county.

The year of 1940 opened with an enthusiasm for a greater Laredo, and the prospects for the city looked bright. Then the rosy future was darkened by the clouds hovering over Europe, and in December, 1941, our country entered World War II. Laredo immediately became a center of military training. The Laredo Army Air Field was opened to the northeast of the city, where thousands of men were taught the art of flying and fighting from the air. Fort McIntosh was fully garrisoned. Thousands of civilian employees came to Laredo to work on the construction of the air field and assist as clerical help in the operation of the military establishments here. Large numbers of Federal officers and employees were stationed at Laredo to handle the increased volume of business of these departments. This additional population, added to the regular citizens of Laredo, served to stimulate business and today Laredo is as busy as any of the larger cities of our country.

The old patriotic fighting spirit of those early pioneers of the town was still strong within the breasts of the youth of our section, and World War II found Laredo at the forefront in supplying soldiers for our armed forces. Laredo and Webb

County furnished near four thousand men and women for the service, the vast majority of whom were of Latin ancestry, many of whom distinguished themselves for bravery in the battles for democracy.

Yet with all its modern improvements and growth, the Laredo of today retains more of its old Spanish customs, native atmosphere and environment than any other town on the border, and is one of the nicest, cleanest and most progressive of the Texas towns along the Rio Grande. In this quiet town we find Americans of Mexican Extraction, nationals of Mexico, and peoples of Anglo-Saxon stock living peacefully and progressively together, mingling in business and socially. Unlike many other towns in our great state there has never been any race distinction; there is no segregation of races in our schools, theaters, restaurants or public places. The children grow up together, learning to appreciate the customs, habits and language of each other, and as a consequence they are bi-lingual, and have a better feeling and easier relationship toward each other. The general attitude of the town is friendly, and as a result of this close association, Laredo is known as "The Friendly City."

The business houses and various manufacturing plants of Laredo are owned and conducted by those of both Anglo Saxon and Mexican origin, covering every line of industry adaptable to the locality. The clerks in the retail stores are for the most part of Mexican ancestry. In the offices the stenographers and clerical help are perhaps nearly equally divided between the two races. Among the professional men of the city are many prominent architects, lawyers and doctors of Mexican extraction and bearing Mexican names. In the trades, those of the Latin race form a great majority. The laboring class is composed almost entirely of those of Mexican extraction.

As a specific example of what an American of Mexican extraction can hope for here on the border at Laredo, one may take the owner of one of the largest manufacturing establishments of Laredo. This Mexican American came to Laredo as an immigrant boy from Mexico, his native country. He attended school at Laredo, selling papers on the street to pay his living expenses. After some experience as a salesman, he became an importer of Mexican products and built up a business covering the whole United States. He then turned his attention to the manufacture of straw hats, and now ships his goods to all parts of the world. This man is now a director in one of our banks, promi-

ent in all civic affairs, and has served as president of the local Rotary Club and Chamber of Commerce. A finer, more wide awake citizen would be hard to find, and it is such citizens as he that binds the two races so closely and harmoniously in the social, political and business life of Laredo.

Today Laredo stands proudly on the banks of the Rio Grande, forming the "Gateway to Mexico." With the determined spirit of her citizenship, Laredo has in the past been able to overcome all obstacles, and is still going forward with the same indomitable will that was displayed by its founder, the old Spaniard, Don Tomas Sanchez de la Barrera y Gallardo.

THE END

LULAC CODE

Respect your citizenship and preserve it; honor your country, maintain its tradition in the spirit of its citizens, and embody yourself into its culture and civilization;

Love the men of your race, be proud of your origin and maintain it immaculate, respect your glorious past and help to defend the rights of your own people.

Learn how to fulfill your duties before you learn how to claim your rights; educate and make yourself worthy, and stand high in the light of your own deeds; you must always be loyal and courageous;

Filled with optimism make yourself sociable, upright, judicious, and above all things be sober and collected in your habits, cautious in your actions and sparing in your speech.

Believe in God, love Humanity and rely upon the framework of human progress, slow and sound, unequivocal and firm;

Study the past of your own, and of the country to which you owe your allegiance, learn how to master with purity the most essential languages—English and Spanish;

Always be honorable and high minded, learn how to be self-reliant upon your own qualification and resources;

In war serve your country, in peace your convictions; discern, investigate, meditate and think, study, at all times be honest and generous.

Let your firmest purpose be that of helping to see that each new generation of your own shall be of a youth more efficient and capable and in this let your own children be included.

MANUEL S. FLORES, Member Council No. 60

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