

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

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EARLY HISTORY OF THE
LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS
IN CALIFORNIA
(1929-1957)
AND

GONZALO MENDEZ ET AL.

VS.

WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY ET AL.



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CHAIR OF CALIFORNIA LULAC HERITAGE COMMITTEE

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LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS, Early History of the League of United Latin American Citizens in California (1929–1957) and *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*

By

Margie de la Torre Aguirre

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LULAC has now attained eighty years representing the civil rights of Latinos by collectively addressing the multi-faceted needs of the Latino community.

LULAC is a great organization for the civil rights of Hispanics that is strengthened by members who continue to serve; who continue to dedicate themselves to its goals and who give time and resources to its endeavors. LULAC also remains immensely appreciative of the collaborative efforts maintained through sponsors and other civic groups all within a common purpose to uphold and to preserve the land of the free and of the brave.

Rosa Rosales, LULAC National President

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS, Early History of the League of United Latin American Citizens in California (1929–1957) and Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al. was accepted in its preliminary form by the LULAC National Board of Directors under LULAC President Hector M. Flores in 2004 at a meeting held in Los Angeles. As stipulated in the motion by the Board, the research project report was recommended for entry into the LULAC National Archives at Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin and other collections at colleges and universities and libraries and institutions of higher learning. In preliminary form the project report was presented to National LULAC for its 75th Anniversary National Convention, 1929-2004, San Antonio, Texas. Since first presented, extensive research was further done. The project report is now in complete form. Official copies are hereby presented by the author to Honorable LULAC National President Rosa Rosales and immediate and esteemed past LULAC National President Hector M. Flores, National Vice President for the Far West, Angel Luevano, and others of LULAC National Board of Directors, and additionally National Executive Director Brent A. Wilkes, and Argentina Luevano, California LULAC State Director.

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To my family, with all my love—

Thank you for your patience and loving support.

I couldn't have done this work without my husband Cory Anthony Aguirre Esq. I appreciate also the loving support of my children: my son, Sebastian Antonio Aguirre, a graduate of UCI who is close to my heart, has a keen mind and with whom I share my passion in the arts and music; and my daughter Corina Anne Aguirre who follows in her father's footsteps in the law but is special in my heart as well because she is kind and beautiful and bright like her brother.

*In memory of my parents,
Eleno Lopez de la Torre and Micaela M. de la Torre*

Because of the love and values that they shared with me and my twelve brothers and sisters, I have always been inspired. I remember them and am grateful that they allowed me to go to the University of California at Santa Barbara for now I share the same experience of my alma mater with my daughter and numerous members of my family who also received their college degree from UCSB. Most of all I share my experience of UC Santa Barbara with my husband in a very special way for it is there that we met as students. Education matters. My M.A. degree in Political Science from California State University, Fullerton provided me the opportunity to obtain further skills in research.

Margie de la Torre Aguirre

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LULAC PRAYER

*In tribute to the first President of the United States of America,
LULAC's official prayer is George Washington's prayer—*

“Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage, we humbly beseech Thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do Thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindred and tongues. Imbue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in Thy name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home and that, through obedience to Thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity fill our hearts with thankfulness; in the day of trouble suffer not our trust in Thee to fail, all of which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

LULAC CODE

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

Be proud of your origin and maintain it immaculate; respect your glorious past and help to defend the right of all the people. Learn how to discharge your duties before you learn how to assert your rights; educate and make yourself worthy, and stand high in the light of our your 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 action and sparing in your speech.

Believe in God, love humanity, and rely upon the framework of human progress, slow but sound, unequivocal and firm.

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

In war, serve your country; in peace, your convictions; discern, investigate, study, meditate and think; at all times be honest and generous. Let your firmest purpose be that of helping to see that each new generation shall be of a youth more efficient and capable, and in this let your own children be included.

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Note by author—

This research project was conducted because as an American Latina and a member of LULAC, I found it important to share the experiences of those who served LULAC, a great national civil rights organization and those who served in the cause to end the practice of discrimination and segregation of children whose national origin principally stemmed from the country of Mexico. It was difficult to undertake a study of this kind but not impossible. The way is always found when the journey is made in trust that the truth of God shall set you free.

Sí se puede!

*Margie de la Torre Aguirre,
Chair of California LULAC Heritage Committee*



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MISSION OF LULAC

The mission of the League of United Latin American Citizens is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of the Hispanic population of the United States.



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LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Early History

of the League of United Latin American Citizens in California

1929–1957

And

Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.

Americanism and the struggle to end discrimination and segregation of people of Mexican/Latin descent by a convergence of forces: the right elements for change.

ABSTRACT: A SUMMARY OF CONCLUSIONS AND DESCRIPTION OF WORK.

- (1) This LULAC project documents the ***history of the formation of LULAC councils in California, that is, a history of patriots with civil rights.*** Of significant importance within this history is the origins of notable councils the first in Sacramento (1933), and in Orange County the longest standing, Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 whose founders had a role in the organizing and ultimate success of the desegregation class action lawsuit, *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* (1946).
- (2) Previous works about LULAC and its role in the American Latino civil rights movement have offered simple explanations of LULAC as a patriotic and Hispanic middle class organization involved in issues pertaining to social and political affairs of U.S. Latinos. Because LULAC's history in California has been lacking and because LULAC's role in the lawsuit has not been examined, this research under *LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS* (*abbreviated title*) was conducted. In comparison to prior narratives, this compiled research of findings from a great amount of primary and relevant secondary sources contributes specifically verified information about ***how California LULAC councils of patriots with civil rights were organized and by whom they were organized and when they were organized and the exemplification of their civil rights activity.*** This comprehensive study covers the development of LULAC in California ending circa 1957, a year marked in LULAC history because never before had LULAC held its national convention in California.
- (3) In this project report, with respect to LULAC and the landmark lawsuit, conclusions are made that refute certain claims made known by seminal works frequently cited such as that by Carey McWilliams, *North From Mexico: The Spanish-Speaking People of the United States*. Reprint. [New York: Greenwood Press, 1968]. ***In contrast to contentions made by authors such as McWilliams, this original research reveals that the case was an organized occurrence inspired by the efforts of influential activist predecessors who responded to a greater call for action to combat discrimination and segregation further ignited by discriminatory school board letters sent only to families of children of Mexican descent residing in Orange County as shown by trial evidence. Multiple factors contributed to the***

uprising thus a timeline based on any one factor or a particular individual's oral history does not serve justice in conveying what happened in this case. Hence these funneled multiple factors provided the background of the case in a more comprehensive manner. Herein in light of the evidence all involved in contributing to the cause merit recognition.

- (4) The role of LULAC in Orange County in the formation and ultimate success of the class action, *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* 1946, is demonstrated in this study through the words and actions of founders of LULAC in Orange County supported by LULAC on a national level revealed by evidence shown in this report in numerous documentary sources and oral histories. Featured in this work are also of course the petitioners, the named plaintiff Gonzalo Méndez and co-plaintiffs, Thomas Estrada (in 2003 the only living father who served as plaintiff), William Guzman, Frank Palomino and Lorenzo Ramirez and spouses and all of the petitioners' fifteen plaintiff children who represented 5000 others similarly situated. Prior study of this landmark case has focused on brief summaries in published case reports, and oral histories that have yielded in some cases an outcome of non-ascertained assertions. **In contrast, this work consisted of interviews of leaders in the cause for social justice whose accounts or testimony were supported with documentation including the account given by the late Hector R. Tarango; greater review of transcripts of trial; greater review of relevant school board minutes and first time interviews of plaintiffs and or their families who provided their own supportive evidence. Transcripts of legal proceedings provided substantial information. Also important information about the plaintiffs and or LULAC was obtained by the oral histories of family members of the plaintiffs; examples are those contextualized by the late Felicitas Méndez in her 1975 in-depth interview by Alfredo H. Zúñiga (see pp. 18-24 which include excerpts); and by Virginia Guzman in interview by author (see pp. 80-82); and by Josefina Ramirez in interview by author (see pp. 71-75); and the words and action of the late civil rights leader Ignacio López editor of *EL Espectador* (see reproductions of this newspaper in documentary sources, and see also excerpt of interview by author of his wife Leonor Varela López).** The case of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* was filed and won by David C. Marcus of the Mexican consulate for multiple parties, a great *et al.* on behalf of 5,000 children of families of the many patriots with civil rights of Mexican or Latin descent as ruled in 1946 by the lower federal court in Los Angeles presiding judge, Honorable Paul J. McCormick and upheld with final judgment by the seven judges of the Ninth Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco in 1947.

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- (5) Interviews were held of the following LULAC members who provided collections of items that demonstrate their efforts to serve their respective communities as patriots with civil rights (listed alphabetically): *Alfred V. Aguirre and Julia Aguirre, Ray Aparicio, Mrs. Cruz Barrios, Manuel Esqueda, Mrs. Bill Gallardo, Nash Garcia and Mary Garcia, Hector Godinez and Mary Godinez (Interview, 1996), John O. Gonzales, Edward Gonzales and Madeline Gonzales, Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning, Mel Jurado and Rose Jurado, Tony Luna and Lucy Luna (Interview, 1996), Alex Maldonado, Joe O'Campo, Aileen Olivas, Manuel Marquez and Vera Marquez, David "Red" Ortiz, Ralph Perez, Rudy Rodriguez, Jess Saenz and Nellie Saenz, Hector R. Tarango and Rebecca Tarango, Carol Torres, Eliseo Vargas and others held during the years of 1996-2008.*
- (6) *LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS* (short title) is comprised of two parts. Part one consists of a narrative of the history of LULAC in California with extensive references to research material. Part two begins on page 101 and contains research materials of documentary sources, reproductions identified by detailed description that serve herein as pertinent evidence of facts and conclusions. As authorized under LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS, and for educational purposes, with permission by those who own copyright of various evidential items, reproductions for this project of pertinent data: court documents, school board minutes, LULAC newspaper articles, programs of events, certificates of recognition, other relevant documents and photos of plaintiffs, and of California LULAC participants in the cause of American civil rights for the people of Mexican and or Latin descent (Hispanic or Chicano), are thus included.
- (7) The author Margie de La Torre Aguirre has copyright 2009 of **LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS, Early History of the League of United Latin American Citizens (1929-1957 and Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.** Therefore permission is not given to anyone to reproduce it or any portion in any form including downloading from an online source. See the following website <<http://www.copyright.gov/title17/>> of U.S. Library of Congress Copyright Office for U.S. laws that cover regulations and violations of copyrighted material. The report will be available in the form of hard copy and educational online services, and website(s) of California LULAC under conditions of copyright. In the case of requests for hard copy a donation for reproduction cost is required. Interested parties are hereby asked to use the author's current email address for information and for making their request: MAreflections@aol.com or obtain information on the website for California LULAC, currently <<http://www.ca-lulac.org>>.



All for one and one for all

*The struggle for equality for all people in America is a continuous one.
For Latinos in California,
LULAC has provided that needed leadership.
People working together can do so much more than working individually.
Many of us have profited from that leadership,
be it school desegregation,
political leadership,
or social justice.*

*Cruz Reynoso (Justice, Supreme Court of California, retired)
Boochever and Bird
Professor of Law
School of Law
University of California*

PART I (NARRATIVE)

HISTORY OF PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

The struggle to end discrimination and segregation of people of Mexican/Latin descent in America played a part in the development of LULAC in California. Latinos in California in the first half of the twentieth century responded to challenges encountered by adhering to the premise within the aims and purposes of LULAC that the means for a betterment of life for themselves and their posterity is through education and ultimately American patriotism: citizenship and civic participation encompassing active involvement in the social, political, cultural and ethnically diverse American way of life. As a result, the League of United Latin American Citizens spread from its original founding in Texas to other states, and councils in California were formed. Jacob I. Rodriguez formed the first LULAC council in Sacramento, California in 1933, others followed (see councils listed, p. 55). LULAC is bound to continue its legacy as a civil rights champion for American Latinos because as the late Hector G. Godínez once commented “the fight for civil rights is one with no beginning and no end.” In reference to the role of LULAC in the school desegregation landmark lawsuit, *Gonzalo Méndez vs. Westminster School District of Orange County*, Mr. Hector Godínez also made this comment on September 6, 1996, “Our work and success on the *Mendez case* was what formed the Santa Ana LULAC Council.” (Interview: Hector G. Godínez, 1996, patriot with civil rights, WWII veteran, early member of LULAC Council No. 147, regional organizer for LULAC in California, past National LULAC Vice-President and past National LULAC President).

The embodiment of the ideals and spirit of LULAC developed as a construct of associations and connections built on trust transpired through a course of action that although in some cases exigent, took years to occur. Embryonic when first formed, organized groups developed into chartered councils. The legitimacy of a national institution such as LULAC is built upon the legacy of the efforts of its membership and its accomplishments. California LULAC councils formed because certain patriots with civil rights became actively involved in issues that affected them and their families. Political action for the purpose of ensuring civil rights in all aspects and in all circumstances is dependent upon legal protection. This course of action, contingent on the laws of America, is the foundation for groups or organizations made of councils of individuals who converge to protect themselves and their people from violation of their American civil rights. The members of LULAC accepted the truth expressed in the belief, we must remain forever *vigilant* of our freedom, a people free of maltreatment and negative restrictions as George Washington an American revolutionist and activist, and his predecessors in the American cause believed. The principle of organized groups explicitly stated is that with a greater support in numbers of people joined for one cause of social justice more can be accomplished; thus a people freely united can better defend themselves from antagonistic offenders of civil rights. American Latinos abide by this principle of liberty protected by the secured jurisdictional authority of American governmental laws; the history of LULAC demonstrates this point.

With respect to the class action lawsuit, it has been claimed that the plaintiffs of the desegregation case, *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* were simply Mexican, Mexican American, American citizens, Hispanic, Latino or Chicano parents and not activists who had help from their respective activist group. *The question that arises is when did these parents or simply individuals become actively involved and thus become activists for all who organize are activists.* From research the connections of people and their activity are made visible. Research suggests they knew, heard, and or followed the example of predecessors who had knowledge, skill, and experience for the empowerment of people of Mexican/Latin descent. Predecessors were involved in the civil rights movement prior to the

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highly acknowledged civil rights period of the 1960's and its incipient Chicano movement. Included in these earlier efforts are members of LULAC on the national and regional level.

Although LULAC is a non-governmental organization it is an advocate of civil liberties protected by the United States government and its laws and in some instances implemented by its departments and agencies. In the early 1940s the organization of LULAC interfaced with the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs OCIAA (Craig A. Kaplowitz, *LULAC: Mexican Americans, and National Policy* [Texas: Texas A&M University Press, 2005]). Gilbert G. González devotes a great portion of his work in *Chicano Education in the Era of Segregation* [Philadelphia: Balch Institute Press, 1990] to the governmental agency of Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American affairs whose name changed to the Office of Inter-American Affairs OIAA that he claims contributed to the shaping of educational policies for the Latino community, and Americanization programs that in certain respects were meant to assist persons of Mexican descent living in the United States. He identifies an overwhelming amount of evidence of the numerous OIAA sponsored projects of research studies, conferences, lectures and discussions and funding for Latino students such as fellowships etc. González points specifically to a study by Wilson Little, titled, "Spanish-Speaking Children in Inter-American Relations" that he claims "defined the first Conference on the Education of the Spanish-Speaking as an educational program to meet regional, national, and international concerns" (1990, p. 127).

The tangible link of LULAC and OCIAA and civil rights efforts in California is identified through the persons who were involved with OCIAA. The benefit of programs, grant monies and educational conferences sponsored by OCIAA, an agency that was formed after the Americanization programs of the 1920s and 1930s, has been outlined in the works of McWilliams (1949), Garcia (1989), González (1990) and others. George I. Sanchez who served as president of LULAC from 1941 to 1942, coordinated his own endeavors for civil rights with the efforts of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, a governmental agency then newly established by Franklin D. Roosevelt and headed by Nelson Rockefeller. Dr. Sanchez eventually held the position of educational consultant to the Office of Inter-American Affairs (González, 1990, p. 126). His formidable LULAC involvement dealt with the issue of discrimination and segregation in the schools.

Educational efforts of the government for an integration of the Latino in the Southwest converged with those of LULAC leaders whose purpose was to promote social equality and advancement of the American Latino through education. According to Richard A. Garcia in (*The Chicanos in America 1540-1974, A Chronology & Fact Book* [New York: Oceana Publications Inc., 1977], p. 10), "Carey McWilliams, commissioner of immigration and housing in California, Dr. George Sanchez of the University of Texas, C. J. Correan, a Chicano legislator in Arizona, and others submitted a plan for the improvement of Anglo-Hispano relations to the federal government. As a result of this action and a further survey of the conditions of the Southwest, the Spanish-Speaking Peoples Division was established as part of the office of Inter-American Affairs." The activity that stemmed from this special division of OCIAA melded with southern California civil rights activity in the early 1940s and set a political environment for change specifically with respect to the successful outcome of a landmark desegregation lawsuit in Orange County as pointed out by the historian Gilbert G. González (1990).

According to González the intercultural programs under OCIAA and earlier Americanization programs had an impact on the education of the Mexican and Mexican American. Gonzales explains however that Americanization programs were implemented as separate and distinct programs for the education of the Latino of Mexican descent as English classes, programs for minor-skilled vocations, hygiene, and educational classes for women oriented into domestic roles, in addition to ethnic programs of cultural heritage. These programs therefore maintained the status quo of segregation. A cultural transition toward assimilation into the mainstream of American society was ironically countered by the promotion of an identity that

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stemmed from Mexican heritage through these so termed Americanization programs of the 1920s and 1930s.

Inquiry centered upon a synthesized cultural identity of the people of Mexican or Latin descent living in the United States remained dependent upon the cultural mix of cultural elements of American, Mexican and or Latino influence co-related to how they were educated with respect to their particular civil rights leadership background. Political consciousness draws from these sources of identity. Cultural exchange when implemented in a segregated setting made for a deviation away from an imposed full-fledged American identity. Nonetheless, in view of research from this study, the course toward integration of the Latino people continued. But again ethnic identity explained simply as a measured course toward an American assimilation, in this instance characterized by that socially and politically demonstrated by Anglo Americans, fails because of the constant factor of ethnic and or race discrimination that continued to wreak havoc on the lives of the people of color no matter which generation they belonged to or place and date of immigrant status. The cause as social and political protest stemmed from the same reason, the maltreatment of people by others in some cases others that were in the same ethnic group. Blatant ethnic conflict elicited the need for organized groups that were called into action to overcome obstacles in the pursuit of happiness and prosperity. The better way for patriots with civil rights to proceed was to socially and politically organize individuals as they were with shared problems and shared goals into politically active groups or councils.

The people of mostly Mexican ancestry, citizens and or residents who were living in the United States, united as American patriots with civil rights. For the purpose of this report, it was found necessary to explain how this uniting effort occurred and how California LULAC was formed through such efforts. Predecessors made a difference. In the area of civil rights in education, the collaboration of efforts of leaders and groups and agencies that had an impact on desegregation is distinctly important. Gilbert González in numerous examples refers to the work of the Office of Inter-American Affairs and the work of Dr. George I. Sanchez who did substantial work in the area of education for Mexican Americans in research as an educator in New Mexico and Austin Texas. The work of George I. Sanchez was greatly acknowledged by Rodolfo Acuña in *Occupied America: A History of Chicanos*. 3rd edn. [New York: HarperCollinsPublishers, 1988]. Referring to Drs. George I. Sánchez and H. T. Manuel, Acuña states, "These early pioneers also called for bilingual education and an end to de jure and de facto segregation" (1988, p. 235). González provides an analysis of the impact of the work of this national LULAC leader on social research, in particular, intelligence testing. This kind of testing had not yet been shaped in a form that considered the differing backgrounds and cultural experiences of students. Sanchez's work addressed the issue of diversity in testing. González makes the point however that intelligence testing whether or not it takes into account the factor of cultural experience as advocated by Sanchez and others did not change the negative educational environment for Chicano children because testing itself resulted in the tracking of Chicano students into certain lower level classes. Chicano youngsters were segregated and placed into classes based on these tests. Segregation continued because of this problem.

The impact of social studies on the American Latino civil rights movement by social scientists who were activists such as George I Sanchez, Carey McWilliams Esq. and others mattered. In California, the segregation of Mexican American children who were compelled to attend public elementary schools according to arbitrary district boundaries created a majority of enrollment of children of Mexican descent in certain schools labeled Mexican schools. Unlawful segregation maintained Latinos in a different educational setting, thus apart from the Anglo educational experience. Prior to the lawsuit brought forth by Méndez et al. with the assistance of LULAC intercultural programs were held that promoted an understanding of different cultural backgrounds of the Latino and of other ethnic groups but these efforts did not completely eradicate racial discrimination and segregation. Stirred by the empowerment of cultural

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awareness and a strong ethnic identity that encompassed both the American and the Latino, American Latinos realized the need to do more to change the way children of Mexican or Latin descent were being educated. Gilbert González highlights the progressive work of Sanchez in many ways and positively aligns some of his work with the most positive efforts including those of OCIAA in its promotion of cultural awareness and integration of various ethnic groups. Different organizing efforts were conducted through various forums. No case study can present an entire history of them but studies bring into focus those relevant to the subject matter at hand.

Educational conferences sponsored by the Office of Inter-American Affairs in the early 1940s and its national LULAC constituency of individuals with influence provided an opportunity for Latinos to meet and to engage in dialogue in different locales throughout the Southwest and to organize and sponsor additional conferences, programs or seminars that dealt with the educational needs and the identity politics of the American Latino and other ethnic minority groups. OIAA collaborated with leaders of community groups, pastors of churches both Catholic and protestant and educators at college campuses who in turn collaborated efforts with high school teachers and clubs. For instance, various high school clubs became prominent organizations providing experience to developing college student leaders who then sponsored conferences initiating further efforts promoting a specific organization by the name of the Mexican American Movement. MAM comprised mainly of Mexican American educators and students sprung from its earlier affiliation with the YMCA (Young Men's Christian Association) and its California youth conferences. The slogan of *progress through education* developed from such educational efforts, a slogan that may have first come from the organizing of an institute at a Baptist Christian Center and a conference in Griffith Park in this case organized by young Mexican American girls as indicated in *The Mexican Voice* (Vol. 2 No. 4, September-October, 1939) edited by Felix Gutiérrez issued by the Mexican American Movement.

Additionally, church youth groups also engendered leadership skills. In Placentia for example, the Guadalupanos (name in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe) at St. Joseph's Catholic church had youth who were Mexican American as members who were also involved in various other groups such as MAM and who eventually became members of LULAC; thus the MAM and LULAC connection. Alfred Aguirre, and his brother Joe Aguirre, Ted Duran, and Leonel Magaña, became members of Placentia LULAC. Isadore Gonzalez and Manuel Villalobos at one time lived in Anaheim and were members of the Anaheim MAM council and they joined Santa Ana LULAC (Interview: Alfred Aguirre, 2002) (Interview: Joe Aguirre Sr., 2007) (*LULAC NEWS*) (*The Mexican Voice*).

In light of educational efforts in civil rights, and with respect to the landmark class action, particular identification of persons associated with the Office of Inter-American Affairs and persons associated with MAM and with LULAC is further delineated in this study and clarifies the following assertion introduced by Gilbert González in 1990 and further elaborated in his statement in *Labor and Community, Mexican Citrus Worker Villages in a Southern California County, 1900-1950* [Illinois: University of Illinois Press, 1994] p. 225:

What has not been studied is that the minority's civil rights campaign occurred during a national effort to promote voluntary integration. The state department's office of the inter-American affairs, directed by Nelson Rockefeller, focused on social reforms as a means to encourage Latin American solidarity with the war, and later cold war effort. Policy makers understood that the treatment of U.S. minorities at the hands of the majority would affect the United States ability to realize foreign policy objectives—especially in strategically critical regions of the world populated by people of color. The OIAA then directed a campaign in the Southwest to ameliorate Mexican and Anglo relations though stimulating voluntary school desegregation efforts at the local levels. That campaign

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undoubtedly affected the thinking of the judiciary; it had significant impact on many educators, and it provided a positive environment for those opposing segregation. Unfortunately the OIAA effected little significant desegregation action. It is probably true that the Mendez case was filed at a propitious time due to international factors.

González makes the point that it took legal action in wartime; during the time of need for international support; to make a difference in the course toward desegregation. But how the class action lawsuit was formed was not greatly determined and the review of litigation itself is not brought into his analysis. The connections of individuals, groups and agencies were depicted in his works with much more emphasis in his 1994 work but not to the extent that they are revealed in this study as shown in the following finding that indicates a stronger role of OIAA and the positive outcome of a desegregation lawsuit. With respect to the connection of the desegregation case and OIAA, from a review of transcripts of the trial of *Gonzalo Mendez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* a social scientist expert and witness for the plaintiffs, Marie H. Hughes testifies before Judge Paul McCormick that her study was a “collaborative effort of the Los Angeles County School Office and the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs” that showed that segregation had a negative impact on learning (*Méndez v Westminster*, Transcripts of legal proceedings, Wednesday July 11, 1945 testimony: Marie H. Hughes, pp. 701-702). The testimony of Hughes and that of another social scientist, Dr. Ralph L. Beals (Transcripts of testimony p. 660) had influence on the McCormick decision in 1946. If the practice of segregation had been decided by the court to not have a negative impact on children than segregation would not have been enjoined. Therefore, the contention of the defendant schools would have been supported. Segregation would then have been accepted as a legally sanctioned practice in the schools in Orange County California and California would then in due course would have changed its laws to allow in its mandate under the California Education Code in addition to the segregation of other minority groups, i.e., Indian and Asian, the segregation of those of Mexican or Latin descent.

Research studies such as that done by Marie H. Hughes co-sponsored by OCIAA provided necessary information for Judge McCormick to rule on the matter in favor of the plaintiffs who sought an end to segregation. If studies were not conducted and sponsored by schools and or governmental agencies developed by the efforts of persons such as LULACer George I. Sanchez, Carey McWilliams Esq. and others, the determination of the negative impact of segregation would not have been officially made. The research work of social scientists encompassing that of Sanchez and his collaborative work with OCIAA, and his leadership role in LULAC were integral components of a complex of civil rights activity for people of Mexican or Latin descent in the area of education. Intercultural and educational programs made possible the many cooperative efforts brought forth by organized groups that were non-governmentally initiated with those that were governmentally sponsored because of a campaign in support of the war effort. These programs and social studies that emanated from these programs did weigh in on the fight against discrimination and played a part in the outcome of civil rights leadership including that of LULAC. The connection of OCIAA, MAM (indirect support) and LULAC and the civil rights case in desegregation became more apparent with further scrutiny and is shown further below.

A portrayal of associations and of civil rights activity in education as done through this study expands upon the foundational work by Gilbert González but also offers information that presents a contrary view in few but nonetheless significant points made in his analysis. An illustration of how research presented a point of contrast with the view offered by González is shown in the following. Although tangible connections with predecessors who guided civil rights efforts in Orange County are given by González in his scholarly works, in his 1994 work

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González makes a distinction of civil rights activity based on specific differences in generations and gives emphasis to the self identified *new generation* of Mexican Americans rather than the portrayal of a continuum of civil rights efforts shared and passed on to the next generation. This kind of disconnection made in analysis can create unwarranted breaks in the overall historical analysis of LULAC an integral component of the American Latino civil rights movement. The results obtained from research, see for instance reproduced article of *LULAC NEWS* in documentary sources written about LULAC in Orange County in 1947 by Isadore I. Gonzales titled, “Odds and Ends Down California Way” indicate that this active and younger generation, the children of immigrants did learn how to organize from predecessors labeled in Gilbert Gonzalez’s work as the *old guard*, (Gonzalez, 1994 p. 176). Although some members of the old guard did not as citizens join LULAC some did. For instance, the father of LULACer Manuel Veiga Jr., (Manuel Veiga Jr. was the first president of the Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147), Manuel Veiga Sr., was an (1) immigrant from Spain (*Méndez v Westminster*, Transcripts of Testimony: Gonzalo Mendez, January 9, 1945 p. 449) and (2) a LULAC member (*LULAC NEWS*, Vol. 13, No. 16, December 13, 1946) and (3) a recognized leader (Interview: Virginia Guzman, 2002). Manuel Veiga Jr. had the advantage of being an active leader with an active father as a guiding example. The old guard was influential.

Vigilance in the protection of civil rights rests upon the shoulders of those aware of their political rights. In expressing and advocating civil rights for minority groups certain identifiable leaders made their presence known. It was highly recognized for instance in Orange County that there was this kind of leadership by predecessors (Interview: Felicitas Méndez by Alfredo Zúñiga, 1975). So when the school boards sent discriminatory letters that dictated the practice of discrimination to such a compounded degree an upheaval took place amongst the various active leaders in different school districts some whom were parents whose children were directly effected by discriminating policy based on national origin.

Generational demarcations that cut off historic chains eliminate from historiography recognition of the important passage of learning obtained from exemplary role modeling such as that provided by LULAC leaders. Sylvia Méndez of *Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* is an example of an active leader who most likely learned her leadership skills from her parents whom she says “were in LULACs and SPLA” and “In which they were active.” Sylvia Méndez, a representative plaintiff as a child along with fourteen other children of the school desegregation lawsuit (and 5000 similarly situated) has given special tribute to her parents who were both actively involved in the landmark lawsuit bearing the name of Gonzalo Méndez. She especially attributes her father as being as in the title of her article, “Gonzalo Mendez, First Chicano to Challenge Segregation” published in *El Quetzal* Vol. 1, No. 4 January 1977 reproduced in part two in documentary sources. It is now better known through the activist work of Sylvia and that of activist and producer of a documentary film about Sylvia’s family, Sandra Robbie, *Mendez vs. Westminster: Para Todos Los Niños/For All the Children* (Huntington Beach: KOCE-TV Foundation, 2002) that Sylvia and her siblings Gonzalo and Geronimo, “Jerome” were taken by their aunt, Soledad Méndez Vidaurri to the Westminster school for the purpose of enrolling them into the school chosen by their parents because it was an integrated school. The other school, Hoover school was a segregated school, known as the school where only Mexican children were enrolled. The Vidaurri children had a French last name and the Méndez a Mexican name and the children were also different in their complexion. The Vidaurri children were allowed to enroll but the Mendez children were not. Additionally, Alice Esperanza Méndez Vidaurri was light in complexion *guera* and was allowed to enroll into the integrated school, Sylvia her cousin was not, she was more *morena* as described in an article by Vicki L. Ruiz, “(Morena/o, Blanca/o, y Café con Leche)” (*The Practice of U.S. Women’s History: Narratives, Intersections, and Dialogues* edited by S. Jay Kleinberg, Eileen Boris & Vicki L. Ruiz [New Jersey: Rutgers University Press, 2007] p. 230). Discrimination of this kind, based

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on either a Spanish surname or physical characteristics, can come from outside of the particular ethnic group but it can also stem from prejudicial views within members of the same ethnic group. The conflict and discrimination based on national origin, the native versus the immigrant is an additional example. No matter the source this kind of prejudice has negative consequences for those injured in such manner for implications of discrimination have a detrimental effect especially on innocent children.

Parents who learn that their children have been victims of the venom of prejudice and who are empowered and not afraid to step forward and who have guidance from predecessors become imminently motivated to rightfully respond and to join the cause to battle against those who inflict harm due to harmful prejudicial views. According to Felicitas Méndez, Henry Rivera, a young man who picked up the produce at their farm--the Mendez had leased a farm from a Japanese family that was interned during WWII--referred them to the attorney, David C. Marcus. In a 1975 interview of Felicitas Méndez by Alfredo H. Zúñiga, Felicitas Méndez makes a statement about this referral and quotes Rivera as having told her husband: ““This attorney is very good with the Mexican people, he fights a lot of cases for them, so he told my husband ‘why don’t you go see him and talk to him and see what can be done.’”

The story of the Mendez children, *that is children of Mexican or Latin extraction were denied enrollment into integrated schools* is one that is shared by the many that were also denied enrollment because the schools modified policy that in effect ruled that they were not allowing the enrollment of any children of the families of Mexican descent into integrated schools even through an informal process of special admittance previously allowed through the transfer system. This directive was sent in the form of a letter only to them and not to the parents of Anglo children (*Méndez v Westminster*). Because of the impact of the directive issued in these form letters, these discriminated families throughout Orange County with the assistance of LULAC took cause with school administrators.

Although the experience of discrimination against the Méndez children has been told, it is important to include this account of the history of LULAC in California because of the finding of a significantly clarifying connection of Gonzalo and Felicitas to LULAC in the cause to fight discrimination and segregation. The connection and important role of the other plaintiff families and LULAC families involved in the formation and success of the class action will also be explained in a thorough and respective manner also because of research findings. These identified connections are considered in this analysis of findings with the understanding that multiple perspectives may on the surface conflict but deeper inquiry reveals how people were connected and came together for one cause nonetheless. Because a particular contingency of American Latino efforts for civil rights in education is identified by the experience of individuals who were actively involved in the cause to end segregation in their respective locales, their view is focused and perhaps limited to their localized sphere of involvement. For instance in the locality of Westminster, the perspective of the individual(s) of Westminster accordingly center their view(s) of how the case began and was won in what took place within their community. As a result of research and interviews, a conclusion made is that from the personal knowledge and experience or perceptions of the history of the case there are different assessments because different participants had the perspective from literally their own point of view, but one thing was in common. In one form or another those involved from different parts in Orange County had tangible links to the involvement of the founders of LULAC in California, particularly Orange County that was centered in Santa Ana but had contiguous and extended elements of involvement demonstrated either personally or in relation to others in other locales. In this light, the various perspectives of interviewees are presented herein.

The following excerpt of the September 10, 1975 interview of Felicitas Méndez by Mr. Alfredo H. Zúñiga that took place at her residence 1804 W. 3rd St. Santa Ana, California indicates as known to the interviewee the involvement and experience in the Latino community of Gonzalo

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and Felicitas Méndez and LULAC and others with the school case in Orange County California (indented italicized words indicate those of interviewee):

He [Gonzalo] went to the school district there first [Westminster] and after they saw that we had an attorney they would, they would take our children too, you know. He [the superintendent] said, 'well it's alright then you can bring them here to this school' but then we were already you know fighting for we

What was the name of the superintendent there at the school district?

I don't remember the name of the superintendent there in that district there, because, see the trouble with me was that I, I didn't uh, all I did was just encourage my husband to do things but I was working all the time. I worked real hard in the ranch you know I used to take care of everything. We had a lot of workers, we had about thirty workers and uh field workers and we had packers, packing house and all that, and I had to see to it, you know, and cooking for the children, taking care of a family it was pretty hard for me, you know. So he, [Gonzalo] he was the one that did all the running around, you know, and

Was there any help from the community like uh was there some kind of community organization that was helping back up your husband?

Well at that time there wasn't anything that would help us because uh everywhere that we would talk everything seemed negative, because uh the people was afraid to get involved at that time you know everybody was afraid to get involved. Everybody thought that uh, that if you, that nothing was possible no matter what you did, so we uh.

Like you couldn't fight the system.

Huh?

Like you just couldn't fight the system.

Yeah right. So everywhere you talked there was, everybody would say, 'We-e-ell it's pretty hard' and 'I don't think that anything can be done.' But then we uh kept on talking to the people, in Westminster especially, and organizing them and asking them well lets form uh like a club you know and uh get everybody together and we can discuss these things and, and talk about it, and see what we can do and with the help of the lawyer and all that, and then uh, then we formed this little club we used to call it the 'Fathers of Mexican American Children' you know, and uh, we formed this little club and we started getting together there in a place in Westminster, in a house, you know, and we made it like you know we had secretaries and president and, and all that, and then we'd discuss it and lot of people finally turned to it, you know, they said 'Well it's a good thing,' you know, 'let's keep it up.' Only thing it was that at that time the people didn't earn very much money to live and they, they weren't just about to, to quit their work to be going up and down and then if they missed work they'd fire them because, you know, things weren't, not that good.

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Were there people involved from, from Santa Ana also?

Yeah there was a few people here from Orange County.

My father-in-law,

Uh huh.

Used to tell me that he was involved with that group.

Yeah, see because uh, my husband [Gonzalo Méndez] had belonged to the LULACs before, you know, and we were involved in this, you know, with the LULACs and, and uh so he knew mostly the people that, you know, more intelligent people here and, and he talked to different friends of ours that we had in here [Santa Ana] and he used to come around and I used to stay in the ranch and work and he was the one that used to come interview the people, you know, who more or less we thought that would be, you know, for it like uh, uh Guillermo what's his name, [William Guzman] he was, he was interested in that because by that he had small children too, you know, and different people that wanted to better their, their standard of living, you know, they didn't want to be living like that, but there was, seems like there was nothing for them to do but just accept the way they were treated, you know.

Like the family of Natividad Garcia was already integrated into I think Willard School.

Uh hum.

The children were not going here to uh to Fremont because he had taken it, on him, on himself, to go, to go down and argue his case with the superintendent of schools here in Santa Ana and I guess his, his argument was that he wanted them to go to a desegregated school so, so there wouldn't be any problems I think with them being accepted.

Uh hum.

So they were some of the few that were accepted into these

Well,

Integrated schools.

You take like my husband, and uh three or four more boys from Westminster were allowed when they grew up, they were allowed to go to that other school where integrated, you know, they were segregated over there, because they considered them that their IQ was higher than the other children so it was just a few of them you know, that they, they, I think it was three or four that used to go to that other school. But then, I guess the system changed completely to the worst you know instead of allowing a few over there they, they just didn't allow any at all you know they just wanted to send all of them to that school to the sixth-grade, you know, and uh that's when uh like when we went to, when we started fighting for that they wanted all our children to go over there and then uh they

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said that we don't belong even though we didn't we really didn't belong in that school we belong in the other school according to districts, you know, but they because they were Méndez they wanted to send them all to that other school.

Determined by the results of this study essentially a review of transcripts of trial of this case carefully examined; and school board minutes and review of the 1975 interview of Felicitas Méndez by Alfredo H. Zúñiga and interviews of others directly involved as revealed also in excerpts; the central reason for the great uprising by Mexican families is the occurrence of the reception of letters about changes in the school system that no longer permitted enrollment of children of Mexican descent in integrated schools and the portrayal of evidence of this occurrence in court by attorney David C. Marcus for the plaintiffs in the landmark lawsuit. As Felicitas Méndez explained *the system changed completely to the worst you know instead of allowing a few over there they, they just didn't allow any at all.* School districts used to allow some or few children of Mexican descent into integrated schools on a transfer basis that enabled these exceptions. In the early forties, in Orange County, California, the transfer system was used in this way to the extent that complaints were made known to school boards that too many Mexicans were being allowed into integrated schools. For instance, the minutes of the Santa Ana school board indicate this conflict as “the Mexican problem.” In response, in the fall of 1944 the school districts sent letters to only Mexican families that no longer children were allowed to go to schools outside of the arbitrarily set school district boundaries, boundaries that made for Mexican schools that were not in the proximity of where the families actually resided. Thus *families against their will* were compelled to send their children further to the location of the segregated schools, known as the Mexican schools in districts so designed as explained by Judge Frances Muñoz March 15, 2003 at the Reception in Honor of Champions for Civil Rights in Education, to the plaintiff families of the landmark case and to the LULAC families that helped them, held by California LULAC Heritage Committee and Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County.

Various groups formed in different communities of Orange County including Westminster and Santa Ana and Garden Grove and El Modena and other communities that did not end up serving as named representative families on the complaint against school districts. More than the families of the above mentioned school districts protested, but attorney David C. Marcus rightfully limited the defendant schools districts hoping to end the matter with the worst case, that of the Garden Grove school district under Superintendent James L. Kent, known by his thesis to hold views of racial prejudice.

Kent's views are revealed in transcripts of the case, *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* and in the following excerpt of the 1975 interview of Felicitas Méndez by Alfredo H. Zúñiga for in this excerpt she also reveals the actions of attorney David C. Marcus in exposing his views (indented italicized words indicate those of interviewee):

Going back to the Westminster case, este (uh), was your husband pretty confident that, that he was going to win that case?

Yes, because the lawyer told us we was going to win because in this first place, see this lawyer is a pretty smart lawyer and at that age, you know, he had a bright mind at that time, and he was willing to, to work for it, that was the case, that the lawyer was willing to work for it because he went through everything he went through all Orange County, he went through all the school districts he went to see the superintendents of the schools that's where he found that book, where that, this Kent had wrote that book that said that the Mexican people in, that was his own book his way of thinking of the Mexican people.

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That's when he was working for his master's he wrote a thesis.

That's what, that was the way he, he thought, the Mexicans were.

And his thesis was on, on why Mexicans should be segregated.

Uh huh, uh huh, why Mexicans should be segregated, uh hum.

And this, then he was the superintendent of schools in?

The superintendent of El Modena [Garden Grove] I think and all that.

What was his name?

Kent.

Kent. What was his first name?

I don't remember his first name. See that's, that's the trouble with my memory, that it's so bad and lot of things that I didn't pay attention to because he [Gonzalo] was the one who was

Yeah, it's a master thesis that was written way back in 1939, I think.

I think so, somewhere around there.

I think from SC or one of these universities.

And he uh, he wrote that the Mexican people were in his view, point of view the way he saw it was that the Mexican people should be segregated not even segregated in a barrio like that just in a, in a big-o corral like pigs and live like in a pig-pen, because pen because that's the way, they, he saw them. They didn't have no more intelligence than a pig, to him and he, he gave that to Marcus and Marcus says, 'well we got this case won,' that's when he said 'this case is won' because this is not supposed to, nobody even though they think, they're not supposed to put it down on paper, you know, what they think of other race. And so we were, the lawyer just, I guess he saw that we were determined and we had the money to start with.

You were backing up your husband one hundred percent?

Oh, yes, uh huh.

Role modeling from parents and from inspirational leaders is something that is part of the legacy of families that cannot be severed by critical analysis of generational differences that are not deemed essential factors in the fight for social justice and in the continuum of the American Latino civil rights movement. Therefore in any account of the families of generations of leaders such as the Mendez family, the legacy of LULAC leaders such as Gonzalo Méndez ascribed as such by his wife Felicitas Gomez Méndez cannot be denied. LULAC continues in the struggle to end discrimination and in fair appraisal, LULAC does not take full credit for filing or for success

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of the lawsuit but it shares in the credit for no individual or organization can take full credit including one that developed in Westminster as contextualized by Felicitas Méndez. LULAC defined here with supportive evidence in documented sources shown in this report as the founders of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 with the designated name of Latin American Voters League or Latin American Voters Counsel or simply LAO, which stands for Latin American organization does take credit for its strong role of leadership in organizing and representing the people involved some whom were the representative plaintiffs and or witnesses, and in financially supporting litigation costs as a chartered LULAC council. Therefore as exemplified in this case and as shown in this report, the contextualized legacy of the influence of LULAC and its accomplishments in civil rights in this landmark case is confirmed.

González makes an inquiry about the activism of Latinos when making an analysis of the political empowerment of persons in Orange County, especially that of Hector Tarango, a founder of LULAC Council No. 147 who was involved in the case based on his interview as he indicates in his published work in 1994. Gonzalez distinguishes between the politics and identity of Mexican immigrants from that of their children. His distinction in separating generations was found to have insignificant bearing on the progression and outcome of civil rights activity from the perspective that families of immigrants identified through this study are presented as carrying further the social cause of the political struggle for civil rights of Latinos that began with earlier efforts of their predecessors or in quite a few cases ancestors. As determined by this study, Mr. Tarango's father of Mexican lineage was a close friend of Mr. William H. Wheat, the LULAC regional organizer for California in the mid-forties (*LULAC NEWS*, 1945). The Wheat and the Tarango family visited each other since Hector was a young boy in Los Angeles and the friendship continued when the Tarango family moved to Orange County as Mr. Tarango recalled in his interview in 2002. Wheat was the son of an Irish immigrant who married a Mexican woman (Interview: Joe Cruz, grandson of William H. Wheat, 2007). Mr. Tarango learned his civic involvement from his father and from his Baptist church affiliation and also from Mr. William Wheat who was also of the Baptist denomination (Interview: Hector R. Tarango, 2002). Thus, he was not self-empowered by his own generation nor was he a returning WWII veteran. Hector Tarango served in the California National Guard in Santa Ana and so did others under his command that were active in the community group (Interview: Hector R. Tarango, 2002). Discrimination was the principle cause for the political activism of American Latinos because violations of civil rights had been occurring and had been dealt with by predecessors since as Hector Godinez stated as if there was no recognizable beginning or end for it. But discrimination was definitely augmented by the discriminatory school board letters. It is this analysis from review of transcripts of the trial that ascertains the cause for protest of such a large scale as a class action.

Activism crosses generations. A micro separation or distinction of cultural differences among generations in an overall macro analysis serves little or no purpose in explaining political activism by Latinos. This point is made clear further by using two fields of study. From an anthropological viewpoint the simple linguistic distinction between the immigrant parent in this example the Spanish-speaking parent and the English and/or Spanish speaking child is an important one. In the field of political science, political activism is viewed from a different perspective. Both the parent and child no matter at what age are of the same family unit, and regardless of their varying individual English language skills they as members of a family belong to the same Latino community affected by the same problem of discrimination. Discrimination because of national origin identified by a Spanish surname and other physical characteristics occurs despite being categorized as members of the white race, despite being American born, despite the use of the English language and despite a devotion to the country shown by family members who served in the military during WWII as indicated by the actions of defendants and

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therein proof in the suit *Méndez et al vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al*, 1946.

Discrimination based on national origin was so prevalent that one principal of a school in El Modena, Orange County believed that the *Negro* (children) had more rights to attend the school under his administration than Mexican American children because the *Negro* according to history is more deserving of having more rights. Mr. Lorenzo Ramirez a plaintiff in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* believed he had the right(s) to enroll his sons, Ignacio, Jose and Silverio into Roosevelt Elementary School in El Modena but was unable to do so because of the school policy that changed since he himself had attended the school when it used to be for all children and was named Lincoln. In El Modena at the time of the trial, there were two elementary schools one Roosevelt that denied enrollment of his children of Mexican descent and the other Lincoln school, the school known as the *Mexican school*. The school principal believed that the *Negro* had more right to attend the Roosevelt school than the children of Mexican descent. In his testimony July 6, 1945, (Transcripts: p. 282) Lorenzo Ramirez testifies about his conversation with Mr. Harold Hammersten, (Superintendent of school district in El Modena):

And he says, 'Well, let me tell you one thing. I tell you why a Negro is supposed to have a better rights. Because he was brought here during slavery days, and that was just the truth, and that is the reason I think they should have a better rights.'

And, of course, I just told him that I should have the rights, and thanks the Lord, we live in a country that everybody was equal, and at the same time that I wanted my kids, or my youngsters, to go among the rest of them, and march through up until the end of the war like the boys be marching right along. And he didn't say anything no more, but we just separated.

Lorenzo Ramirez, Plaintiff

The people whose civil rights were violated needed the kind of elements of empowerment that reflect the aims and purposes of LULAC to combat discriminatory views such held by Harold Hammersten. (Other pertinent background information of Lorenzo Ramirez and links between him and Manuel Veiga Jr. and others involved with LULAC and the case was researched and further revealed in a later part of this narrative).

Americanization efforts, desegregation efforts, English instruction, civic participation, citizenship classes, voter registration, assistance of veterans and scholarship fundraising for Mexican American youth, and most importantly, organizing for civil rights comprised the fundamental activity of LULAC in California prior to 1957. This activity is explained as involving the efforts of parents and students and organized community groups, some affiliated with churches of different denominations.

There are many examples of family members some of whom were members of LULAC that served as role model leaders who were parents or grandparents or simply Latino elders in the fight for social justice. Pictorial presentations of generations of Mexican American families of barrios in California such as that by Yolanda Alvarez, "Fire in the Morning" show in photographs the history of Latinos as does this study. The activism of adult children of immigrants stemmed not necessarily from the fact that they were relatively young, spoke in English nor did it necessarily stem from a dramatic awakening of a need for civil rights from having served in WWII for many leaders did serve in the military and are identified as American war heroes hence they are highly recognized; but many leaders did not serve and as a result of this study they too

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are highly recognized for their active leadership in the social cause to fight discrimination. It is also true that activists who did serve in the military may have learned their leadership in activism from their predecessors as well, as indicated by the many whose background was examined in this study. Researchers studying the impact of WWII have strongly advocated a common view that the political consciousness of returning veterans of the great generation is the reason for the beginning of the civil rights movement by Latinos. But when the families of active Latinos are reviewed this generalized contention has questionable basis because there is a historical and tangible connection of activity that precedes the period of WWII. This will be evidenced through out this report. This study reveals many connections of persons, groups, and agencies. Others will inevitably identify further connections of leaders and predecessors as they individually reveal their legacies in their own works or as other researchers discover.

Findings from this study clarify other contentions made by González in reference to the formation of LULAC in California and the role of LULAC in the class action. González in his 1990 work (p. 14) cites *Mendez v. Westminster* as “one of the major desegregation court cases in U.S. legal history.” González goes on to state, “The Chicano struggle to overcome segregation in schools has had a long history, and as Guadalupe San Miguel has recently shown, the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) was at the forefront of that struggle. Because this organization remained limited to Texas until the 1940s, its efforts resulted in a number of court cases that unfortunately had no major effect on segregation until the 1960s and 1970s when the Chicano movement made its impact felt” (1990, p.15). González specifically dates the active involvement of LULAC in the following statement, “The board (Santa Ana School Board, a school district sued in the 1946 case) knew that it could no longer sustain segregation nor tokenism against the organized protestations of the community and court rulings. Shortly before the appellate court ruled, the Santa Ana LAO formed a League of United Latin American Citizens chapter, acting as an umbrella organization in the desegregation struggle throughout the county” (1990, p. 55). To clarify the account given by González, the following supported facts are presented here. Original research conducted for LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS indicates that LULAC was in the forefront in civil rights battles but the timeline of involvement precedes that offered by Gilbert González. LULAC was already active in parts of California since the thirties. The first council formed in Sacramento in 1933 and was followed by councils in Los Angeles and in San Bernardino as revealed in the account of councils provided further below and in primary source material in documentary sources of this report. An instance presented here is the following account of when one LULAC council was formed. Patriots with civil rights in Los Angeles formed a LULAC council chartered in 1937 (see article, “LA Organizes LULAC Council,” as printed in *LULAC NEWS*, Vol. 4, No. 7, October, 1937 reproduced in documentary sources). This Los Angeles LULAC Council No. 125 headed by Felix W. Montoya is conducting classes in Americanization, English, and history and government in the 1940s (see article by Felix W. Montoya, “Citizen Education in East Los Angeles,” as printed in the *LULAC NEWS* in February, 1943 and reproduced in documentary sources). There were other Los Angeles councils identified with different council numbers that formed and will be specifically identified as well.

John O. Gonzales, a past national 1st Vice-President General of LULAC (title used in 1946 for National Vice-President of LULAC) provided the following information in his (video-taped) interview in 2003. Mr. Gonzales as 1st vice-president General of LULAC takes a contingency of about eight LULAC members from Los Angeles when he and William H. Wheat install the Santa Ana chapter (1946) with Manuel Veiga Jr. as president. Mr. Gonzales states that he joined LULAC to promote education and because of discrimination in labor and politics. Mr. Gonzales states that the Santa Ana community group was already an organized community group and that he simply provided them with pins and a charter. In his video taped interview held July 28, 2003, John Gonzales clearly and firmly states:

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I'm sure that Manuel Veiga and that group started the school case. They got Marcus, they went to Marcus and when I found out about it why we naturally started working on the school case raising money for it and what not.

*John O. Gonzales
LULAC 1st Vice-President General, 1946*

John O. Gonzales, a LULAC member from Phoenix Arizona initiated a new and different Los Angeles council when he came to California. He came to California (circa 1939 early 1940s) and worked in a shipyard (Los Angeles Harbor, Terminal Island). He began this council because the other known Los Angeles council(s) had gone dormant although individual LULAC leaders like himself and Floyd Apodaca and William Wheat were still actively involved. This entirely new council in Los Angeles was formed soon after he came to California. The following account explains the formation of this Los Angeles council. In the *LULAC NEWS* of July 1946 Vol. 13, No. 1, p. 9 & 11, he is representing his council Los Angeles Council No. 125, Santa Ana Council No. 147 and Alhambra Council No. 137 as recorded in the Minutes of Seventeenth National Assembly of the League of United Latin American Citizens held in the City of Houston, Texas, June 15th and 16th, 1946. According to John Gonzales, (Interview: 2003) the way that he began his new Los Angeles LULAC Council was that he first conferred with a man by the name of Cuellar and they then start the council with John Gonzales as president and in this council are the following members: Cuellar (a man from Texas), Manuel Ochoa (realtor), Ibarra (accountant), Cruz (dentist), Solis (Lawyer) and two members (who have titles of being organizers as indicated in various issues of *LULAC NEWS* in 1945), and William H. Wheat and Floyd Apodaca. John Gonzales recalled that Manuel Veiga Jr. was a member in the beginning years of the council. The same Manuel Veiga Jr. who started the Santa Ana chapter. Veiga Funeral Home was located 116 West 17th Street in Santa Ana.

The members of the Los Angeles council held middle-class positions and had the means to contribute to a fund that John Gonzales established for the lawsuit. They had no women in his council. According to John Gonzales, Manuel Veiga as president of the Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 took him to see Marcus, the attorney for the case. John Gonzales wrote the article, "Calling All LULACS" to bring national attention to the Orange County school case in an effort to collect funds for litigation. He states in his article in *LULAC NEWS* Vol. 13, No. 16, December 16, 1946, p.11:

Since March 2, 1945 when this action was filed in the U.S. Dist. Court for the Southern Dist. of California and up to the present time there has been expended by council for plaintiff's, (Us-Appellees in present appeal) a total of approximately \$800.00, this sum represents costs exclusive of services of Counsel. This sum has been paid by contributions from various persons and groups and has been gathered almost entirely through the efforts of Brother Lulacs, members of Council 147 of Santa Ana, California.

According to John Gonzales the funds raised specifically for the appeal were raised locally. He states in his interview "Just what we raised from Los Angeles and Orange County." John Gonzales also said his Los Angeles council gave its "treasury" for the lawsuit.

In the interview of John Gonzales held July 28, 2003 in his home in Dana Point, Ed Morga, past LULAC National President (1977) and Vicki L. Ruiz, professor of History at University of California Irvine with Margie Aguirre (author behind the camera) present Mr. John O. Gonzales with awards from regionally elected officials: Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez,

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State Senator Joe Dunn and State Assemblyman Lou Correa for being a champion for civil rights in education. (John Gonzales had been previously honored without his presence at an event that had been held on March 15, 2003, by California LULAC Heritage Committee and Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County. Mr. Gonzales had not yet been located and so he was not present to personally receive his share of awards given to patriots with civil rights. The Certificates of special recognition were given to all honorees that were plaintiffs of the lawsuit represented in person by actual plaintiff(s) or family representative(s) and the representatives of LULAC that helped in its success. Respectful credit was given to all of these patriots with civil rights).

In making the presentations to John Gonzales on July 28, 2003, the distinguished Past National LULAC President Ed Morga made remarks of how John O. Gonzales *energized* the movement and he states: “*It is a great honor for me to present to you these memorializations of recognition.*” The certificate of recognition given by State Senator Joseph L. Dunne states: *In honor of your inspirational support to a cause that changed history.* The congressional recognition certificate from Loretta Sanchez states:

‘I join with the community in recognizing your accomplishments in the 1945-1947 Mendez [et al.] vs. Westminster School District of Orange County [et al.] California federal court case. Your accomplishments will forever benefit all students of this great nation.’

Vicki L. Ruiz, professor of History at the University of California Irvine, makes the following statement as a tribute to John O. Gonzales:

*We are here today to honor Mr. Gonzales for his efforts in **Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.** His efforts with LULAC to secure the legal talent necessary to bring the case to court and to galvanize the National LULAC to support the case financially was instrumental. We particularly recognize his December of 1946 of **LULAC NEWS** article ‘Calling All LULACs’ which eloquently attests to the conditions of segregation and the efforts of LULAC to bring legal redress to the situation. His words today about the importance of education are as important in 2003 (and now) as they were when they were written in December of 1946.*

For the full text of the article “Calling All LULACs” see a reproduction in documentary sources of this report.

In his interview, John Gonzales refers to those in Santa Ana to identify when the group under the same influence and leadership of Manuel Veiga began to be a LULAC active group. According to Mr. Hector R. Tarango a member of Latin American organization, LAO, the Santa group is the same group installed as the Santa Ana LULAC council (Interview: Hector R. Tarango, 2002). This assertion has validity because the community group in Santa Ana started to form in 1943 led by the same persons, Manuel Veiga Jr., Cruz Barrios and Hector R. Tarango. The community group represented the nucleus of LULAC in its development in Orange County. Mr. Gonzalo Méndez was said to have been in this group. This group is referred as the LULACs (Interview: Felicitas Méndez by Alfredo H. Zúñiga, 1975). This group made up of individuals mainly from Santa Ana but also representative of different barrios in Orange County was formally chartered on June 9, 1946. The identification of this group as an *informal Latin American organization* is a generic ethnic label provided by Hector R. Tarango as he stated in his interview with the author (Interview, 2002) that was abbreviated to LAO in the 1985 work by Mary Lisbeth Haas from her interview of Mr. Tarango and in the work based on interviews of Hector Tarango by Gilbert G. González as reported in his work of 1990 and 1994. Therefore, the

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2002 interview of Hector R. Tarango by the author provided a clarified account of the LAO term by Mr. Hector Tarango himself. (Mr. Tarango was present and received all the awards presented in March of 2003 to those honored as champions for civil rights in education by LULAC represented by the California LULAC Heritage Committee, chair Margie Aguirre, and National LULAC Vice-President for Women Mrs. Vera Marquez and by HBA of Orange County, President Fabio R. Cabezas, Esq.). The continuum of civil rights work by the founders of LULAC Orange County and hence of LULAC in California is portrayed by the identification of the activity done by Mr. Gonzales, Mr. Veiga, Mr. Barrios, Mr. Tarango and others including Gonzalo Méndez.

Appropriate timelines are important. When research is focused upon the continuum of the American Latino civil rights movement and development of its integral part, namely LULAC in California, it is important to note: *LAO is the informal Latin American organization that is a chapter of LULAC being led by the same leaders who used different names for this same community group until chartered. Classifications and definitions of groups matter because if groups are not appropriately identified history is not properly recorded.* This updated account is made here from the information provided by Mr. Hector R. Tarango, a principle source because he was a leader of this group as he called it Latin American organization and a charter member of Santa Ana Council No. 147 (charter secretary) in interviews of him held by the author intermittently through the years of 2002-2005 and by supportive documentation of the group named differently in other accounts that serve as hard evidence. The clarification of this labeling of this group has not been made by other research and as a result the tracking of LULAC efforts has been offset. Hence, the account of the continuum of LULAC and its particular extension into California has not been appropriately identified prior to this LULAC study nor has the role of LULAC in the lawsuit.

The following words of Hector R. Tarango taken from a video-taped interview of him by the author in December, 2002 is pertinent:

My name is Hector Tarango, T A R A N G O. I am one of the past presidents of Chapter 147 of LULAC back in the 40s and 50s. I am now no longer a member of LULAC but I still have fond memories of it when I was active with them. We were one of the leading organizations that brought the case against the school systems and sponsored the families that fought for the desegregation of the schools in Orange County.

Hector R. Tarango

Leading member of the Latin American organization with names of Latin American Voters League and Latin American Voters Counsel and as such founding member and Secretary of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147, 1946, National Trustee of LULAC 1947 and President of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 in 1949 and LULAC photographer.

LULAC's history appeared to have been falling through the cracks in recent scholarly research because of the usage of different names for the informal Latin American organization. Other names for this group are clearly identified below, but one example of the use of name of this group as LAO and as such not identified as connected to LULAC will suffice to understand the failure of researchers to recognize LULAC efforts. For instance, Matt Garcia in his work, *A World of Its Own: Race, Labor, and Citrus in the Making of Greater Los Angeles, 1900-1975*. (North Carolina: University of North Carolina Press, 2001) mentions LAO, as one-post WWII

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grass root organization in explaining the regional Mexican American civil rights movement in a part of California known as the citrus belt but does not identify this LAO group with LULAC at all. In his 2001 work, on p. 227 Matt Garcia makes the following statement (his footnote 16 indicates reference to Gilbert Gonzales's *Labor and Community*, 1994):

The correlation between the creation of post-World War II grassroots political organizations such as the Community Service Organization (CSO), the Unity Leagues, and the Latin American Organization (LAO) and the return of veterans from the war cannot be understated. In the brief period between 1945 and 1950, Mexican Americans, through these groups, helped Mexican candidates get elected to local and regional government bodies, desegregated schools in Southern California with the *Mendez v. Westminster* case, and registered numerous Mexican American voters.¹⁶

According to Hector Tarango, this same LAO embryonic LULAC group is also the same documented group referred to in transcripts of legal proceedings and in school board meetings and in other accounts by different names, that is League of Latin American Voters, Latin American Voters League, Latin American Voters Counsel and also in a newspaper *El Inspectador* and *LULAC NEWS* as League of United Latin American Citizens Santa Ana Council No. 147 further identified in various portions of this report. Whether it is identified as a Council, chapter or previously informal group it is LULAC in development in Orange County California.

Civil rights activity in the battle against discrimination and segregation continued to occur because of the negative element of discrimination and segregation based on national origin and because of the ramification of intelligence testing that resulted in placing Latino youngsters into subordinate classes. Noted here also is the failing to fully integrate the Latino through Americanization. These negative factors did not disembark LULAC but instead elicited additional efforts of its emissaries to fight for civil rights in education for a better social, economic and political standing of American Latinos who made their home in California. LULAC took advantage of the social and political structure as defined by governmental programs set up by a convergence of efforts on a national level as exemplified by the coordinated efforts of OCIAA and LULAC and also the municipal level as demonstrated by the activity of the Los Angeles LULAC council and others that worked within the educational and political system that attempted to change the status of the segregated Latino. Cooperative measures by LULAC filled in the gap for the need for English classes, history classes, and government classes such as those offered by LULAC councils that served to educate Mexicans and Mexican Americans in many ways. The volunteers of LULAC councils provided human resources for services because of the need for tutoring the families of Mexican immigrants and Mexican Americans. The fact that some Mexican Americans could speak English and had gone to school and had children who could also speak in English and had been living in the United States, perhaps for generations, and perhaps had some or many family members serving as soldiers who fought for different reasons in different wars, does not preclude the fact that there was a need to serve those who did not have that kind of background. Attitudes towards the foreign born and the Spanish-speaking community positive or negative did not disengage LULAC an organization comprised of Latin American citizens from the American Latino civil rights movement because this organization continued to serve both the native and the foreign born whether or not it took positions on the issue of the *bracero*/worker program or the immigrant as many have previously noted and commented.

The cultural and or more importantly the educational experience that comes with speaking in the English language, the language of the majority of the country did partially assist the English speaking Latino minority to adjust to different aspects of life in American civil society but in analyzing activism it is not an isolated factor. Activism that matters may have many

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elements: background of persons, language, associations or connections, socio-economic factors and methods or means for overall political empowerment. For instance, Latino parents, some educated in integrated schools and many in segregated schools, and their children alike had the need to learn to communicate and interact in different forms to strive for social equality in education. Educators and community volunteers served as the manpower or womanpower for the instruction of Latinos in English, citizenship classes and to learn how to register to vote and so on. This effort by LULAC to educate the people in community based classes offered in school locations open to the public and more importantly to the parents of Mexican American children served a purpose for this educational activity was part of organizing efforts to politicize Latinos. The goal was to improve upon the Latino's usage of the English language, to inform the people of the rights that come with citizenship and with voting and that enable the Latino to protect his civil rights so that Latinos may better defend themselves in the political and social order. Political consciousness deepened in this fashion. Ethnic identity studies may consider enumerations of how many and how often Latinos were patriotic to a country other than the United States, for instance the extent of patriotic events such as the well organized with well dressed dignitaries and participants who attended the Mexican Independence Day celebrations, *Fiestas Patrias*, but this data is less meaningful when the battle of civil rights is pertinent to all Latinos the recent immigrant and the descendant all of whom were affected by reprehensible discrimination.

The civil rights activity of voter registration was important to LULACers. John O. Gonzales was personally committed to registering Latinos to vote. He was proud of this LULAC activity. John O. Gonzales recalled how he and his associates in LULAC were involved in electing Ed Roybal as a member of the Los Angeles City council. He personally would tell prospective voters that your one-vote matters as he stated in his 2003 videotaped interview:

You're rich, I'm a poor man; I am equal to you in that respect. There are more poor people than rich people and if you register them to vote you're going to win.

The democratic act of voting symbolizes American patriotism displayed by Americans of Mexican descent who at their council meetings recited the pledge of allegiance, listened to or sang the national anthem and recited George Washington's prayer as an invocation, played a part in the efforts of LULAC now aligned with a new bloc of empowered Latino voters. Now leading in community affairs they personally and publicly demonstrated to others their own social and political progression as the relatively few Latino integrated members of American society. Some LULAC members had working class jobs and some members had employment in business or had small businesses of their own. In particular cases, (Interview: David "Red" Ortiz, 2008) (Interview: Alfred V. Aguirre, 2002), the once young orange pickers in Orange County California became the American Latinos specially dressed for LULAC functions such as glamorous benefit dances at Harmony Hall in Santa Ana, California, led by Ralph Perez and others improving upon their lot in life while wearing fancy clothes and fancy shoes dancing to the music of famous bands; selecting LULAC queens; and handing out more scholarships to young Latinos and Latinas than ever before.

Education of the Latino was vital in the attempts to reach the goal of integration and assimilation of the vast numbers of Mexicans, some represented imported labor during the war years, so that as educated Mexican, Mexican American or Latino Americans, this sector of American society could best contribute to the functioning of the nation as a whole. LULAC was supportive of groups that organized for the purpose of addressing disputes in labor because of the need to protect jobs for the American Latino but were much more active in the area of civic participation than for example in citrus labor movements. Desegregation efforts of the 1940s in education were not combatively violent political protests but were nonetheless actively organized protests in the social and political landscape of the American Latino civil rights movement. They

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represent different measures of protecting civil rights in education as compared to efforts to unionize to improve conditions in labor that at times required such measures as major strikes and boycotts, a field of study not delved in here but in other works such as those by Gilbert G. González, Vicki L. Ruiz, David Gutiérrez, Matt Garcia, and others.

A great deal of positive things came out of the educational efforts of OCIAA and its connection to LULAC's endeavors to serve the needs of the Latino community as depicted in the work by authors such as Carey McWilliams, Mario T. Garcia, David Gutiérrez, and Benjamin Márquez. McWilliams acknowledges the work of George I. Sanchez and the fact that he served as president of LULAC. González makes the connection of OCIAA with California and other states and provides an in depth critical account of Americanization, and OCIAA but certain tangible links with LULAC and its derivative civil rights activity in California in education did not appropriately surface in his work because again the separation of members of LAO as a distinct group fails to appropriately account for the antecedent LULAC efforts and guidance and the fact that these were the same persons all along who were the actively involved patriots with civil rights, the founders of LULAC in its development in California. Craig A. Kaplowitz writing years later (1995) connects OCIAA with LULAC but does not make the connection of the OCIAA specifically with efforts of LULAC in California and prior to 1957.

Authors of American Latino history (Chicano Studies) have brought into focus the distinction of social and political organizations that serve the needs of different classes of people specifically the non-English speaking, (El Congreso Nacional del Pueblo de Habla Española) that also formed to meet the needs of the foreign born or the immigrant (Garcia, 1989, 1994). The conflict in attempting to represent both the needs of certain segments of the Latino population such as the foreign born (mainly born across the south of the U.S. border) and those that are born in the land governed by the United States (fenced in boundaries of America) has been addressed by David Gutiérrez (1995). However, researchers have not contributed specific explanations of who were the particular and named organizers of LULAC in California and how they formed councils, and how they conducted their efforts in civil rights and what in fact was their role in a landmark civil rights case in education.

Past research has not provided illustrations of specific LULAC efforts in civil rights as done here with a compendium of documents. As conveyed by other researchers, mainly those mentioned above the following efforts of LULAC coalesced with those of other groups and governmental agencies. The Mexican American Movement, MAM that evolved from the (YMCA) and Catholic Youth Organization CYO and its conferences for youth at college campuses supported by Catholic priests and protestant ministers yielded potential LULAC members (Interview: Gualberto Valadez, 2003). In this manner, there is a connection between these efforts and those of LULAC. The tangible links to members of LULAC and MAM are identified and presented in this study. There is also a connection with tangible links to the Unity Leagues with LULAC, Fred Ross and the American Council of Race Relations, although LULAC members of the Santa Ana Council and the El Modena council in the political climate of red-baiting and the interference of the Associated Farmers of Orange County and the Roman Catholic Church did not become fully engaged within these respective structured efforts (Interview: Ralph Perez, 2003) (Interview: Alex Maldonado, 2003) (Interview: Hector R. Tarango, 2003) (Interview: John O. Gonzales, 2003) (Garcia, 1994, p. 174). John O. Gonzales stated in his (2003) interview, "Fred Ross was sort of a person *non-grata* in LULAC (the view of Fred Ross since then changed as acknowledged by Mr. Gonzales himself in his interview). Manuel Veiga knew him well and advised me about Ross. He thought Ross was a terrible communist." According to John Gonzalez LULAC "predates" the work of Cesar Chavez because in particular it predates the voting registration drives of the Community Service Organization CSO in California, an organization that began with the efforts of Fred Ross and Cesar Chavez. All of these efforts are significant and more so all fall within the continuum of the American Latino civil

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rights movement. LULAC nonetheless had the particular assistance, during the years of 1946 and 1947 of Fred Ross as indicated in his relationship to Mr. Hector Tarango and desegregation efforts in Orange County a fact later further explained.

In another instance, prior research has not led to the discovery of the connection of Ignacio Lutero López with the activity of LULAC and the Orange County school case. Although a significant amount of scholarly work (Mario T. Garcia, 1989, David G. Gutiérrez, 1996, Matt Garcia, 2001) has been made about the editor and publisher of *El Espectador*, primarily through research of FBI records and of the Ignacio Lutero López Collection at Stanford University provided in 1976 by his wife Leanor Varela López after his death (b.1908–d.1973), none have conveyed what *El Espectador* reported about LULAC and its role in the landmark case inclusive of the role of Ignacio López himself. A specific review of issues of certain years of *El Espectador* that were within the scope of this study; and an interview of Leonor Varela López in 2008 was conducted for this research. Mrs. Ignacio López offers insight into the character of her husband and his relationship with LULAC as she states in her interview in Spanish translated here in English:

My husband fought for the civil rights of Mexicans and against discrimination his entire life. His heroes were Abraham Lincoln a self educated man who became President of the United States and the Mexican leader Benito Juárez, who left his home in his youth to study with a priest and who did great things. Because he was also an inspiration to Ignacio we traveled to Mexico to track his life story. Ignacio was protestant and his father was also named Ignacio Lopez, a protestant minister. And I am a Catholic and that never changed. We met in the campaign for Younger in 1964 when Eduardo Quevedo asked me to help and Ignacio was already working in the campaign, within months we married in Las Vegas. I was working as a bi-lingual aide at Pasadena City College. Nine years later, the day before Ignacio had his fatal heart attack, we finished our packing and made arrangements for our belongings to be sent to Washington where we planned to live for a few years. Ignacio always said that people were afraid and so he committed himself to civil rights work. Ignacio was a friend of LULAC. He previously may have been a member, for they shared the same ideas.

The words of Ignacio López inspired many. For instance, Ignacio López spoke and made an significant impression at the first Annual Mexican-American Youth Conference of 150 delegates from the vicinity held at San Bernardino Junior College on December 5, 1943 as reported by the editor of the *Mexican Voice* Felix Guitierrez, Summer Issue, 1944 who quotes him:

*‘The words segregation and discrimination have been worn thin. They have given our Mexican-American youth an under-dog complex. You have no reason to have an underdog psychology.’ With these words Ignacio Lopez went on to enumerate the history of Mexico and the contributions Mexicans have made to the world, past and present. His address was titled *Our Responsibilities*.*

In contrast to contentions made by authors such as researcher of multi-ethnic groups and legal counselor Carey McWilliams, this research reveals that the school desegregation case, that had final judgment in 1947 and that was reinforced by the legislature in a bill to end segregation in public schools in California signed in 1947 by Governor Earl Warren, was an organized occurrence that transpired also because of the inspiring efforts of activist predecessors and their

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correlation to LULAC leaders involved in the American Latino civil rights movement prior to 1957 as explained in the following points.

Civil rights activity during the formative period of LULAC in Orange County beginning in 1943 indicates that others in addition to Gonzalo Méndez, *who had had enough*, contributed to the empowerment of Mexican and Mexican American families in the assertion of their civil rights and in the formation of the lawsuit as revealed by the following: (Haas, 1985) (Garcia, 1989) (González, 1990) (Gonzalo Méndez testimony, July 9, 1945 in *Mendez v. Westminster*, a case filed March 2, 1945 and decided by Judge Paul McCormick, March 21, 1946, (Westminster School Board Minutes, September 19, 1944) (*LULAC NEWS*, various issues) (Interview: Felicitas Méndez, 1975 by Alfredo H. Zúñiga). During the formative years of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147, that is Orange County LULAC as represented by LAO, the informal Latin American Organization referred to as such by Hector R. Tarango, but also referred to as Latin American Voters League (Testimony of Gonzalo Méndez in *Méndez v Westminster* and as Latin American Voters Counsel, (Westminster School Board Minutes, September 19, 1944), the struggle for civil rights was also led by the leaders of the group Manuel Veiga Jr. Cruz Barrios, Hector Tarango, Isadore Gonzales and others. This effort is combined with that of litigants of former civil rights cases. A case in point is the guiding voice of Ignacio López.

In California, the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs also played a role in the movement for civil rights by Latinos through the specific efforts of Ignacio L. López who worked for this governmental agency in the early 1940s. López was involved in numerous Mexican and Mexican American community civil rights battles against discrimination and segregation in the San Gabriel Valley, the Pomona Valley in San Bernardino County since the thirties as reported by Enrique M. López (1986) and Mario T. Garcia (1989) and as found in review of his newspaper, *El Espectador*. In Orange County, Latinos read about these efforts and those of others informing themselves of political issues in such newspapers as *El Espectador* published and edited by Ignacio López from 1933-1960 (America Rodriguez, 1999). (Beatriz Lopez acts as Director of *El Espectador* during the war years. Beatriz as identified by Leonor V. López was Ignacio López's first wife). Latinos also heard by radio the commentaries of Ignacio López, a protestant like his father, minister at one time of *El Buen Pastor* (The Good Shepherd) church in Pomona and his guests on a religious radio program sponsored by the Catholic Church as reported in *El Espectador*.

In the quest for civil rights in education and in civil rights in general, the presence of persons concerned about issues such as the negative affect of discrimination matter in determining solutions to problems. Activists have been shown to make their presence known and voice their views at different meetings or events in some manner. This physical presence is important because if there are not any representatives from parties involved then matters are considered differently; issues are then subject to be dealt with arbitrarily by those in positions of power; therefore the outcome may significantly vary in degree of fairness. This symbolic voice of the people does make a difference in political situations that affect the civil rights of Latinos. For instance, Ignacio López was a formidable civil rights activist and leader. As a representative of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, March 14, 1943, he is present along with others including representatives of the Mexican Consulate at a meeting chaired by Mr. Clore Warne at a Conference for the Defense of Mexican-American for the Sleepy Lagoon case. [Minutes Conference Citizens' Committee for the Defense of Mexican-American Youth held March 14, 1943, Belmont Studios 122 ½ South Vermont, Los Angeles] Sleepy Lagoon Defense Committee Records (Collection 107). Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA. In this example, the presence of Mexican consuls also mattered. Additionally in another example, Ignacio López attends the Coordinating Council for Latin-American youth [sic] of Los Angeles (whose first president was Eduardo Quevedo) for its third anniversary on Sunday October 7, 1945 at the Edison building in Los Angeles along with others

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including LULACer Ernest Orfilia, (an attorney and president of Los Angeles LULAC Council No. 77 in 1940) to speak about postwar planning. In this example, the presence of the LULAC representative also mattered. A notable speaker at this event was State Attorney General Robert Kenny (who submits the amicus curiae in support of the Méndez case in its appeal in 1946). The presence of the State Attorney General also mattered. It matters that persons participate in civic affairs. This last example was taken from an article "Prominent Group Holds Congress, in a publication of MAM titled *Foreward*, ed. Felix Gutierrez, Vol. 1 No. 1 Sunday, October 28, 1945 as in *Supreme Council of the Mexican-American Movement Papers* (Box MAM 2, Folder 01) Urban Archives Center at Oviatt Library at California State University, Northridge.

LULAC's guest speaker at a LULAC special fundraising event named *Mexico en Fantasia*, held in 1946 for the Orange County school case was Ignacio López (see copy of program of event courtesy of Mr. Alex Maldonado in documentary sources). This event as reported by López in *El Espectador* in his article, "El Caso de Segregacion En Orange County Toma Proporciones Nacionales" November 15, 1946 Vol. XII No. 42 p.1 and p. 5 (see both pages in documentary sources) and as reported in an interview in 2003 by Alex Maldonado a founder of LULAC Council No. 147 a member of the committee to organize the event, was in support of the Méndez case for costs of court and lawyer (Interview: Alex Maldonado, 2008). As translated from excerpts of the article in *El Espectador* p. 1 written by Ignacio López:

The appellate school segregation case is now transferred to San Francisco and three judges, Stern, Matthews and Orr explained the lack of a decision because they prefer that the nine judges of the appellate court of the fifth district [sic] convene for a hearing so that together they can study the case because no matter the decision it will affect millions of children, not only of Mexican origin but also of other ethnic origins and races across the country.

As translated from excerpts of the article in *El Espectador* p. 5 written by Ignacio López:

From Santa Ana, Manuel Veiga president of Council No. 147 of the LULACs informs us members of the organization plan to attend the hearing when it is held in San Francisco at their own cost. Other than Manuel Veiga Jr., others that plan to go to San Francisco are Isodoro Gonzalez, Cruz Barrios, and Alex Liebanos Hector Tarango and others.

To help with costs of the lawyer and the court members of Council 147 will have an entertainment program, Friday the twenty second day of the month at Santa Ana High School Auditorium. Elisa Garcia Lopez, artist in film and theater will present a theatrical show titled, *Mexico en Fantasia*. The public is invited from the Pomona Valley and San Bernardino.

(See, *El Espectador* as reproduced by permission from Mrs. Ignacio López for LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS in documentary sources and see program of this event as reproduced by permission by Mr. Alex Maldonado also in documentary sources).

Ignacio López an activist publisher and his Spanish language newspaper were well known in the Latino community as reported by Alex Maldonado and others. The expressed and active leadership of Ignacio López is made evident by his publication. "Its main function was to educate barrio residents in matters central to their political, social, and economic well-being. It helped to instill pride in being Mexicano/Chicano and created a certain amount of consciousness within the Chicano community" as stated by Enrique M. López, in his article, "Community Resistance to Injustice and Inequality: Ontario, California, 1937-1947," *Aztlán* (Fall 1986: Vol.

17, No. 2, p. 27). The following quote of Ignacio López taken from *El Espectador* of Feb. 17, 1937 as reproduced in Mario T. Garcia's book, *Mexican Americans, Leaders, Ideology & Identity, 1930-1960*, [New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989] p. 83 reflects the purpose of his work and his writing: "*El Espectador is not a combative newspaper, but it is vigilant about reason and justice.*"

Not only did Ignacio López inform the American Latino community, especially those of Mexican ancestry of the need to assert themselves as a people with civil rights, he was also personally involved in securing them these liberties. López was a patriot with civil rights and a defender of social justice who led or collaborated with other active Latino leaders. Because of injustice and maltreatment, Latinos were compelled to take legal action requiring legal resources made available by the Mexican Consulate through its affiliated legal counsel. Ignacio López had held positions in the Office of War Information and Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs and was the publisher and editor of *El Espectador* when he was a plaintiff in a lawsuit in 1943. Information about him is offered by Stanford University in [Biographical Note] *El Espectador*: weekly Spanish language newspaper, M0255, Dept. of Special Collections, Stanford University Libraries, Stanford, Calif.

David C. Marcus an activist civil rights attorney affiliated with the Mexican Consulate, filed in 1943, and won in 1944 the lawsuit *López et al. v. Seccombe et al.* to end discrimination and segregation at the San Bernardino Municipal Plunge in Perris Hill Park on behalf Ignacio L. López, American citizen of Mexican descent, Reverend R.N. Nuñez, American citizen of Mexican descent, a Catholic priest and pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe church in San Bernardino and Eugenio Nogueras, (incorrectly spelled Nogueros in case record) American citizen of Latin descent (Puerto Rico) publisher of *El Sol de San Bernardino*, Virginia Prado, American citizen of Mexican descent, a student and Rafael Muñoz, American citizen of Mexican descent, a student and 8,000 similarly situated (*López v. Seccombe*) (Garcia, 1989, pg. 88). In this lawsuit, American Latinos sue the Mayor, W.C. Seccombe, the city council, and the chief of police, and the superintendent of city parks of the City of San Bernardino, and others for violations in a public park of constitutional rights of persons of Mexican or Latin descent based on national origin. This case decided by Judge Leon Yankwich was cited as precedent for *Méndez v. Westminster* as determined by Judge Denman of the Ninth Circuit of U.S. Court of Appeals in his concurring opinion in *Westminster et al vs. Gonzalo Méndez et al.* 1947).

López writes in *El Espectador* Vol. XIII, No. 17, p. 1, May 16, 1947, about a letter to Governor Earl Warren by Judge Denman who asks for the enforcement of the court decisions citing both cases in the letter as revealed in a speech given in San Bernardino by Drew Pearson, a columnist for the *Washington Post*. López gives acknowledgement for the success of decision in the Perris hill park to a Mexican American Defense Committee. In this same article, p. 2 he mentions that the noted "editors referred to in the public park case were himself, editor of *El Espectador*, Eugenio Nogueras, editor of *El Sol* of San Bernardino whom he says was in charge of the Mexican American Defense Committee and the beloved Catholic priest Reverend J.R. Nuñez from Our Lady of Guadalupe church in San Bernardino." López propounded and manifested in words and in action the challenging call for political and legal action: Mexican Americans have to meet the challenge of discrimination and fight for their own dignity.

The inspirational action of Ignacio L. López who served the nation in WWII in the Office of War Information as Senior Cultural Officer Foreign Language Division under Alan Cranston, and as the Director of the Division for the Spanish Speaking People of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, (West Coast Rep. Washington, D.C. as well as the editor and publisher of *El Espectador*, an influential Spanish Language newspaper thus also contributes to the advancement of the American Latino civil rights movement and to the efforts of LULAC. He served as a speaker, and a writer and promoter and sponsor of LULAC events.

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Analysis of combined efforts reveals the connections and forms the narrative of the civil rights efforts led by LULAC emissaries. During the formative period of LULAC in Orange County, California, civil rights efforts were also led by George I. Sanchez, (President of LULAC 1941-1942), a strong advocate for desegregation who conducted extensive research on the subject and who was a consultant to the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American affairs. Sanchez was a person in the forefront of the struggle for civil rights through educational conferences that he co-sponsored that dealt with issues confronting the Mexican American student. Seminars were held in various locations in the Southwestern United States including Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. During this period conferences offered an opportunity for Chicanos to organize and to host speakers from different organizations such as the American Council for Race Relations, the President's Committee for Fair Employment Practices (later, FEPC), the Mexican American Movement, MAM and the Congress for the Spanish Speaking People (EL Congreso) led by Luisa Moreno (and Josefina Fierro de Bright (Garcia, 1989). LULAC's national conventions provided major opportunities for the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs to disseminate information to improve race relations for the purpose of unity and to assimilate minorities into a productive labor force during the war years (Kaplowitz, (2005). All of the above civil rights efforts were connected in some form or another by the support of the 1941-1945 Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs OCIAA, established under Franklin Delano Roosevelt, appointed Coordinator Nelson Rockefeller and its derivative Division for the Spanish Speaking People created by the efforts of Carey McWilliams, George I. Sanchez and others (McWilliams, 1949, pp. 237-238).

The *Sleepy Lagoon Case* and the *Zuit Suit Riots* of the early 1940s had social and political impact on the activism of Mexican Americans in the country and of course in southern California. The campaign to defend the civil rights of Latinos was augmented by the battles against discrimination and police brutality led by civil rights leaders including the Mexican American Defense Committee chaired at one point by Carey McWilliams with Ignacio Lopez as a member in 1944 (Matt Garcia, 2001) and other notable Latino community leaders (Mario T. Garcia, 1994). The Mexican Consulate provided moral support (McWilliams, 1949).

In 1945, politically aware Latino patriots with civil rights in Orange County filed a class action *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*, represented by legal counsel and activist lawyer David C. Marcus, an employee of the Mexican Consulate. There is not readily apparent a formal defense committee such as that led by Carey McWilliams in the Sleepy Lagoon case nevertheless, plaintiffs had help in organizing and in fundraising from the founders of LULAC. In examining the events prior to the lawsuit being filed, this assistance became clearly evident. The group of founders of LULAC in Orange County met under various names including informally as Latin American organization, LAO, League of Latin American Voters League and Latin American Voters Counsel as stated before (Interview: Hector R. Tarango, 2002). All of these different names used by members of this group in different settings and circumstances does not negate the fact that it was the same group of leaders including Gonzalo Méndez who is said to have been active with the LULACs (Interview: Felicitas Méndez by Alfredo H. Zúñiga, 1975) (Sylvia Méndez, "Gonzalo Mendez, First Chicano to Challenge Segregation" as in *El Quetzal*, eds. Larry Labrado et al. November, 1977 (same article written by Sylvia Méndez but without photographs once distributed in 1996 and given to author by The Hispanic Heritage Committee under Mimi Lozano Holtzman). Sylvia Méndez also states in her article, "My father asked the Chicano organizations to help him but they did not want to get directly involved although they did tell him he was doing a good job." Sylvia Méndez in another publication is quoted: "My father wasn't an activist, he was just a man who wanted to do what was right" (as in *A Family Changes History: Méndez v Westminster* edited by Marjorie De Martino [University of California Irvine, Division of Student Services, Office of the Vice Chancellor–Manuel Gomez Ph.D., 1998] p. 4). But as this study shows and in support of earlier

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statements her father was an activist. He was a patriot with civil rights. In *Sylvia Mendez: City of Santa Ana*, an oral history, interview by Richard Heinemeyer April 2001, Oral History Program of California State University, Fullerton, Sylvia states on p. 4 “My father approached a Latin American association to request their assistance in our efforts. They turned him down, and my mother said it is the first time she ever saw my father cry. Later they did join him but it wasn’t the association that hired the lawyer, it was my parents.” Careful analysis of the founders of LULAC done as a result of information taken from primary sources some of them provided for the reader in this report in documentary sources, i.e., school board minutes and transcripts of legal proceedings and *LULAC NEWS* articles, and oral histories of persons who were involved and who had first hand knowledge including that of Felicitas Méndez in her 1975 interview by Alfredo H. Zúñiga, reveal that they did help in the matter and they did help him and others (in the beginning and not later as in Westminster school board minutes, September 19, 1945) in different ways and for that reason *they are also* responsible for the case being organized and filed and won not because they hired the lawyer. This fact is verified in articles provided in documentary sources of this report. The account of this fact is what has been obscure to other researchers for LULAC did form from this association or group in Orange County in this manner.

The same LULAC group met at some time at Prado’s Barbershop at 429 W. 4th St. in Santa Ana (address shown in *ACCION* ed. Francisco Moreno, Saturday, April 22 of 1944, p. 4 (as in California Newspaper Collection, UCI Special Collections and Archives) (Interview: Tony Luna, chaplain and charter member of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 held in 1996). Simply put this group was a politically active group that went through the same process of development in forming as a LULAC council as others, for a group of individuals meet when its members are concerned with at least one issue. The central issue in this case was discrimination by segregation. Voter registration, veteran’s assistance and civic involvement with Boys Scouts of America and the sponsorship of youth sports clubs and many other examples of collaboration with community groups and educators were also reason to become involved.

According to Hector Tarango, Mendez volunteered to be a representative plaintiff in the issue of discrimination at the schools at one of the earlier gatherings prior to the case being filed but did not relay to the group the specific details of the story involving his sister (Interview: Hector R. Tarango, 2002). Mr. Tarango reported when asked about Méndez and the reason why Gonzalo Méndez was involved was that *he was one of the men in the group who wanted to fight discrimination and segregation in the schools since the group began in 1943*. As viewed by Tarango and others (Interviews: Tarango, Godinez, Maldonado, Perez), Méndez was a man concerned with Mexican and Mexican American political affairs who made his views known to others. Gonzalo and Felicitas Méndez had owned a café where they sold food and wine and beer in Santa Ana, named the Arizona Café before leasing a farm as revealed by Felicitas Méndez in her interview in 1975 by Alfredo H. Zúñiga). Gonzalo Méndez leased the farm of a Japanese family who was interned in a concentration camp during WWII for growing crops such as asparagus, and other vegetables as reported by his wife Felicitas in her interview by Gilbert Gonzales (Gonzales, 1990, p. 149) (Interview: Felicitas Méndez, 1975 by Alfredo H. Zúñiga). The Méndez had afterwards another café again in Santa Ana where Mr. Méndez debated different sorts of issues with others (Interview: Maldonado, 2003). The Leaders of the group that formed in 1943 as further defined below consulted David C. Marcus who had an office in Los Angeles before the case was filed (Interview(s): Hector R. Tarango, held in 2002-2005). This fact is not to disclaim in any form the assertion that Gonzalo Méndez learned of the civil rights attorney from someone else (Henry Rivera) as conveyed by Gonzalez (1990) and in the 1975 interview of Felicitas Méndez by Alfredo H. Zúñiga. This one fact does not exclude the other from also being true.

After Gonzalo Méndez volunteered to be a representative plaintiff along with others and after his affairs were settled with respect to the legal case he did not continue being as actively

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involved with the issue of desegregation (Interview: Ralph Perez, 2002). Nonetheless, the group of people whose purpose was to fight segregation did exist, did contribute to organizing the case for great reason and did persevere. This group of founders of LULAC in Orange County who were engaged in the battle to fight discrimination were also registering people to vote or training other Latinos how to register to vote so that they could vote for better Latino representation in such positions of power as those who represent the needs of school children, the school boards. These LULAC members later joined by Fred Ross in 1946 (a person further identified below) continue to pressure the Santa Ana School Board as the representatives of Mexican Americans who demand integration and reject segregation as indicated in the Santa Ana School Board Minutes of 1943-1947. Once they began in 1943 they continued to serve the Latino community as Santa Ana LULAC and their desegregation fight for civil rights in the 1940s has since been inspiring to others and other councils. They later help lead other desegregation efforts in Placentia.

As determined by this study inspiring activism took place. This finding is contrary to claims made by Carey McWilliams in his seminal work, *North From Mexico: The Spanish-Speaking People of the Southwest* (Original work published in 1949 [New York: Greenwood Press, 1968] p. 283). McWilliams claimed that the filing of the Mendez case was not *inspired*. Findings as further revealed and examined below are also contrary to McWilliams' claim that the case was filed simply because *Gonzalo Méndez had had enough*. Carey McWilliams, a lawyer, provided invaluable leadership for civil rights for Mexican Americans as the chair of the *Sleepy Lagoon Defense Committee* in Los Angeles for a case that began in 1942, the case where multiple young Latinos were wrongfully charged and convicted for the murder of one as well as civil rights leadership in dealing with the *Zoot Suit Riots*. McWilliams was also a writer who wrote about social science research that indicated that in general segregation is harmful to people of different ethnic groups and that the courts have to address this issue and eliminate the legal sanction for it as in his article, "Race Discrimination and the Law," *National Federation for Constitutional Liberties*, October, 1945 (article first printed in *Science & Society*, Volume IX, Number 1, Winter 1945). McWilliams states, "In addition to challenging legal discrimination in the courts, lawyers and social scientists should explore the possibilities of a direct legislative attack." It appears that at the time the focus of McWilliams rests on what lawyers and social scientists and the courts and legislation can do to end discrimination and not on what political activists can do or did for the school case. As mentioned above an important factor, perhaps the most important factor that had influence on the decision by Judge McCormick was the expert witness testimony that declared that segregation was detrimental to a child's ability to learn and to progress in school because of the need for social contact in learning and using the English language.

Nevertheless, it appears that McWilliams was not involved nor did he have first hand experience in the Orange County school case itself that began to take shape in 1943. His particular knowledge of the persons or groups involved in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* as research suggests is apparently not extensive. He may have attended the hearings in Los Angeles, may have contributed to the brief by ACLU and been present in the appellate court in San Francisco, but it does not appear that he conducted any further background research on the case such as interviews of all plaintiffs rather than one if at all. He may have been busy with enquiry of other matters. His brief summarized account in *North From Mexico* of the Orange County lawsuit filed in 1945 and decided in 1946, with final judgment in 1947 provides an overstatement of the part that one plaintiff had in the case and misappropriates by a severe understatement of the part of any other plaintiffs or does not explain the formation of the LULAC group that was involved in the formation and success of the legal case. Gilbert Gonzalez in his work in 1990 begins the inquiry about the formation of the lawsuit and expands upon it with new insights in his 1994 work in which he gives acknowledgement to

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the community group referred to as LAO reinforcing the fact that LAO formed a chapter of LULAC. However further findings from this study indicate a stronger connection of the activity of LAO that is embryonic LULAC that helped organize the lawsuit as evidenced for instance by the information provided in the audiotape of the 1975 Felicitas Méndez interview by Alfredo H. Zúñiga. Additionally, testimony of Gonzalo Mendez and the minutes of the Westminster School Board meeting of September 19, 1944 are cross reference material that serve as substantial evidence of the role of LULAC founders, namely Manuel Veiga Jr., Cruz Barrios and Hector R. Tarango. Apparently, McWilliams did not consider this material because if he had he could not deny this history. This important part of LULAC history in the sense of how LULAC came to be in Orange County California matters to those who gave their time, demonstrating their commitment to the cause of desegregation of the schools and the fight against discrimination of people of Mexican descent.

The lack of recognition of LULAC, and its inspiring efforts and the inspiring efforts of others in the formation of the landmark case in the research work of McWilliams and other research is unfortunate. In general, however, the significance of the work of Carey McWilliams remains extant for it reveals extensively the plight of Mexican-Americans for civil rights in historiography that is not in question here. W. Henry Cooke, in his article, "The segregation of Mexican-American School Children in Southern California" in *School and Society*. Vol. 67 (June 1948) pp. 417-421 did interpret the legal case and the involvement of LULAC. On page 419, he states: "A few parents and an organized group of Mexican-Americans, called the LULACS, initiated the action and supported it to try to clear up certain glaring malpractices in these four districts." The year of this article is 1948 and therefore simply a year after the final judgment on the case. The book *North From Mexico* was written by Carey McWilliams during the same period of time as the article written by Cooke and has been read by more people, and more students because of its greater content and distribution of its publication. However, the explanation with respect to the Mendez case and the involvement of active groups that was given by McWilliams was found lacking by evidence found in primary and secondary sources.

Findings from research further examined throughout this report indicate the inspirational influence of leaders on the formation of the school desegregation case. Other than the inspirational leader, Ignacio López and others of earlier cases or situations, and the influence of LULAC, most prominent as example here is the inspired activism and leadership of the other important lead plaintiffs and activists also portrayed in this report, Lorenzo Ramirez, Frank Palomino, William Guzman and Thomas Estrada, and others who also *had had enough*. And in another form of influence, it is also important to note that evidence provided at the trial of acts of discrimination most importantly the changes in school policy that disallowed transfers or enrollment of children into integrated schools also represent an explanation of stimulus for the multiple parties who sought changes in local school policy.

Overt discrimination against many American Latinos united many from local barrios in Orange County who were actively involved in one form or another and thus they converged. The local civil rights case became part of a national cause for American civil rights for persons of Mexican or Latin extraction that began since the protection of the rights under the status of granted citizenship provided in the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo were mitigated as conveyed in the work of Martha Menchaca, "The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo and the Racialization of the Mexican Population" (as in *The Elusive Quest for Equality* [Cambridge, MA: Harvard Law Review, 1999] pp. 3-30). Mexican Americans as other minority ethnic groups have had to fight for their civil rights, the basis of struggle for LULAC whose members were citizens of the United States of America. The civil rights movement of American Latinos was greatly strengthened by the California school desegregation case of 1946 because the decision was affirmed in 1947 and hence other activists were further inspired. The McCormick decision in Mendez et al. case, upheld by the appellate court strengthened the cause of civil rights for other ethnic groups also

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already in existence that dramatically progressed with the landmark case of *Brown v. Board of Education*, 1954.

Research from multiple sources substantially supports the argument that the case for ending segregation was won because of a progressive American Latino civil rights movement encompassing the efforts of established LULAC and members of the developing LULAC council in California during the period under review who were actively combating segregation as conveyed here and by Haas (1985). Local Hispanic media, augmented during this period by research activity in colleges and universities and conferences and programs sponsored by governmental programs conveyed that discrimination and segregation was detrimental toward strengthening the nation as a democracy as did the work of Carey McWilliams. Centered on this subject, research for this report follows in certain ways the Latino, Mexican American or Chicano studies approach of works of Francisco Balderrama (1982), Guadalupe San Miguel (1987), Mary Lisbeth Haas (1985), Mario T. Garcia (1989), Gilbert G. Gonzalez (1990), Benjamin Márquez (1993), David G. Gutiérrez (1995), and Vicki L. Ruiz (foundational research in Chicana/Chicano history) in many works and now Matt Garcia (2001). Altogether that kind of research explores the role of advocacy of various civil rights groups including in some instances the role of the Mexican Consulate and Comisión Honorífica, and the integration of the Latino by the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs (1941-1945). The connection of this agency headed by Nelson Rockefeller under Franklin D. Roosevelt with activists in the fight for civil rights in Orange County further delineates LULAC's history in civil rights particularly in California; a finding that is further defined by the results of original research conducted for this particular LULAC project.

In the early half of the twentieth century ways to inculcate democratic ideals for an integration of the American Latino into the mainstream of society were advocated even though in practical terms integration was not accepted in certain social and educational settings. American foreign policy under the administrations of Woodrow Wilson and later Franklin Delano Roosevelt called for the U.S. government to sponsor agencies for the purpose of the promotion of race and cultural relations in the domestic and international scene because formed groups might present the possibility of the formation of subversive groups. Americanization programs that dealt with a certain kind of instruction not that high on the scale of academics because it was more so based on vocational skills and domestic skills, and English classes presented social and cultural opportunities for a convergence of efforts for the purpose of having Latino citizens and non-citizens function in a proposed hygienically cooperative and lawful manner. In Placentia the Americanization program was held at the site of the segregated Chapman Hill elementary school (Interview: Alfred V. Aguirre, 2002). However, the occurrence of social stratification of ethnic groups that stemmed from racist and prejudicial views held by many Anglo Americans, took place despite these on the home-front democratic efforts. Latino groups that formed functioned in a moderately independent manner converging with these pluralistic governmental efforts necessary for their survival as a result of red-baiting (Mario T. Garcia, 1989). Civic groups and organized labor groups were formed for the sake of social justice for Latinos and in some instances were formed with the assistance of leadership by progressively minded Anglo Americans such as attorney and writer Carey McWilliams. These groups of individuals including individuals associated with LULAC were held up to the test of American loyalty (Garcia, 1989) See letter from Associated Farmers of Orange County Inc. to LULAC in documentary sources that sanctions LULAC but shows that other individuals and organization were denounced and charged with practicing communism.

Security issues were pertinent and most imperative during the two world wars. Surveillance of Latinos by the Federal Bureau of Investigations was the kind of measure taken to preserve the United States of America during WWII (Garcia, 1989). In Latino communities, LULAC was at the forefront of advocating a Latino political, social and cultural presence that

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consistently demonstrated patriotism in service to country abroad and at home. Latino veterans took part in the formation of LULAC councils; notable examples are the Santa Ana LULAC Council, the El Modena LULAC Council and the Placentia LULAC Council. Latino and Latina veterans and non-veterans served their countrymen and women in the battle for civil liberties. But the practice of discrimination went on; and LULAC took its place in the fight to overcome it.

Social studies have been conducted about this history of Latinos and presented through American history courses and the curriculums of subsequent Chicano studies hard fought for by Mexican American or Chicano activists (the author was instrumental in obtaining a Chicana course at her alma mater, UCSB in 1975). New research however does lend a hand in the examination of the history of the American Latino and LULAC. Works although seminal may have for whatever reason omitted or have failed to take into account vital evidence of certain significant activity of civil rights for Latinos. Other works fail to appropriately present civil rights activity by offering too little in numerous superficial accounts. The quantity and quality of material makes a distinct difference. Approach also matters. Political and legal efforts without explanation simply categorized in timelines by the date of certain events specify particular activity in the social cause. But without analysis much is left for speculation and false conclusions. Although timelines provided in brief reviews of lawsuits list for example, the date of a case, the name(s) of petitioner(s), the lead plaintiff, or plaintiffs, the amicus curiae and the defendant(s), the opposing party or parties within their respective synopsis they also fail to explain the role of the advocate, the activist who may have offered significant leadership, representation, assistance and inspiration to those who filed and testified. More than a synopsis of the case, transcripts of a trial or hearings of the case do offer more substantial information. Witness accounts however require even further investigation of people involved, people that perhaps were mentioned as active leaders by those who testify as the case in hand. The complete view of a case encompasses a review of all court records of it but as determined by research of this case and its place within the history of LULAC further examination of other reliable and veritable sources of information; cross reference material i.e. school board minutes, government records and other records in addition to limited in depth published accounts, and oral histories was warranted.

Summaries in case reports although reliable for certain factual information fail to provide in full view the American Latino movement of social and political activism. Works with a myopic view do the same. Numerous and microscopic portrayals of the Latino story of Gonzalo and Felicitas Méndez and the recounted episode involving Soledad Vidaurri present this kind of singularly extracted and illuminated account, leaving under the mat the stories of almost all others involved including the organizers of LULAC. Even Carey McWilliams a great historian of Mexican and Mexican Americans failed to explain fully the active role of inspirational leaders of the founders of LULAC in California and of other important leaders in the social cause for civil rights of American Latinos as evident as a result of much review and again as portrayed by the following words about the Orange County school desegregation case. In the words of Carey McWilliams (1949, p. 283), “The filing of this precedent-shattering case was in no sense ‘inspired.’ Outside organizations provided valuable assistance in handling the trial and the appeal, but the case had been filed simply because Gonzalo Méndez had ‘had enough.’”

McWilliams provides a reason why the case was filed, the claim that the case was filed because of an exasperated individual. This theoretical explanation made not so long after the case was over is what is at question. His words appear to be written for the ages, but this one shovel of discourse didn’t add up when further examined through the use of records. The stifled voices of those who were involved began to be heard when the evidence surfaced about the formation of the case, the filing of the case and support of the case. These others whose need is to be properly recognized and appropriately memorialized as shown in statements made by their descendants warranted specialized research of the matter and thus this study. Additionally, instead of relying

upon secondary sources, that stem from a source such as the account given by Carry McWilliams, whose summation of the contribution of supportive organizations confines an explanation to the mere words of *valuable assistance* although in his statement he does recognize them for assisting in handling of the trial and the appeal and rightfully should because recognition is truly merited for this valuable assistance was provided. But the emergence of the lawsuit needed more investigation for information was submerged and almost lost in the purported tale of the case of one angry plaintiff.

Hector R. Tarango once a founder of LULAC in Orange County California lived long enough to tell his first hand knowledge of how he was at that meeting when the petition was made to the Westminster school board by Manuel Veiga Jr. and Cruz Barrios representing Gonzalo Méndez, Felicitas Méndez and the "Hoover School Mexican Colony" in September of 1944, how they consulted the lawyer and how the case was filed and how LULAC was formed and involved through the entire period of the matter: before the case was filed and even beyond its appeal. His date of involvement and of others is certainly not after it was filed and won. This fact must also be brought to light. Research in this report is based on additional sources of information (see documentary sources) that are more inclusive and thus more revealing of the leadership work of others that were so called *outside organizations*, as well as of patriot with civil rights Gonzalo Méndez of Mexico and his wife Felicitas Méndez of Puerto Rico because they are also presented here not in theoretical terms but by their actions and their associations including their *Fathers of Mexican American Children* (Interview: Felicitas Méndez by Alfredo H. Zúñiga, 1975) named *Asociacion de Padres de Ninos [sic] Mexico-Americanos* (Gilbert Gonzales, 1990, p. 152) (*Méndez v Westminster*, 1946).

This case from review of research was not outside the realm of the American Latino civil rights movement, it was not an isolated incident that occurred because of the immediate passion and political and legal action of one man, but the reasoned passion and the course of political and legal action of many within an environment of distress, an upheaval involving numerous patriots with civil rights who unite under one social cause. To uphold an explanation that is so categorically and absolutely dismissive of inspirational influence as McWilliams asserted in his writing about the Orange County school desegregation case is to deny research a different outcome for he apparently failed to scrutinize the origins of it. To relegate others as marginal supportive actors, as he and others may have done in the past, as followers who are patronizingly characterized as immediately leading subsequent desegregation efforts upon the *heels* of one frustrated person no matter how *sore*, (the word *sore* appears in testimony of Gonzalo Méndez and Mrs. Méndez as in *Méndez v Westminster*, 1946), misses the point in examining an event from the perspective that a great social cause may have had many inspiring leaders in its development rather than after its occurrence. An injustice of cutting off the legacy of others including other plaintiffs is iniquitous as portrayed by the words of a descendant of one of the lead plaintiffs of the landmark case, "my grandfather struggled with the story about Mendez, and the Mendez case as it is called, he always used to say "*Who do they think we are, the stupid ones who did nothing.*" The daughter of another plaintiff in the landmark lawsuit remarked, "When will they honor my father and my mother?" The research task was great. How can their story, the story of co-plaintiffs in a landmark case, also be told and included in Chicano Studies and in American history. This report offers contrary information to the assertion that the case was filed for no other reason than Gonzalo Méndez had enough and because as he said he was *sore* (*Méndez v Westminster*) that is interpreted as befitting another stereotypical role of the passionate and intemperate Latino who incongruently as he says did not want his children to grow up with *hatred in their hearts* (as in McWilliams, 1968, p. 281).

Gonzalo Méndez veritably had reason to file, but he had help in taking legal action. He appears from his testimony to be a reasonable man and an articulate person who was fluent in English and who presented his arguments in a reasoned manner. He and others alike had gone

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through the process in seeking remedy of social injustice towards their children as he did for Sylvia, Gonzalo Jr. and Geronimo “Jerome.” Co-plaintiffs and patriots with civil rights, including William Guzman who represented his son “Billy” and Frank Palomino who represented his two school age children, Arthur and Sally, and Lorenzo Ramirez an educated and inspirational leader in his own right who knew and collaborated with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, Ezequiel Padilla, (see copy of portion of front page of *El Politico* in documentary sources) and who filed on behalf of three school age sons, Ignacio, José and Silvino “Jimmy” and Thomas Estrada who filed on behalf of six school age children, Clara, Roberto, Francisco, Syria, Daniel and Evelina, had reason to file as well. They had reason to fight for themselves and their families and thus their story is historic and an inspiring story of patriots with civil rights that is consequently also inspiring to others. Their actions in bringing the case through the courts were not disruptive protests but organized efforts with meaningful outcomes, as were lest, we forget, those actions of others, those patriots with civil rights who had organized and gone to court before them in similar fashion, in some cases earlier than the 1940s and also *Alvarez v. Lemon Grove* 1931 in San Diego County (as in article “Mendez v Westminster School District: How it affected Brown v Board of Education” by Honorable Frederick P. Aguirre, 2005).

American Latinos had experience in legal affairs. They had sought legal counsel and had already obtained legal counsel and the fact of this precedence is what has not been scrutinized. For this kind of historical account was not taken into consideration by the observations of Carey McWilliams in his statements about the Mendez case or by Christopher Arriola who incorrectly states that Gonzalo Méndez and a group of veterans filed the case and at its heels there arose the efforts of community leagues or groups as quoted specifically in research material presented below. As further explained below the plaintiffs were not veterans of WWII, and moreover, the founders of LULAC in Orange County were already involved. Experience in leadership or legal affairs is not taken into account by the explanations by Ruth D. Tuck for Latino political power was found lacking in her observations also further outlined below. Research however, suggests that the wheels of seeking justice were already in motion.

Illustrative of inspired and informed and experienced leadership include the following historical facts of the matter but are not limited to the following points summarized here:

(1) Information was greatly disseminated about how and whether or not to defend yourselves against discrimination, serving as examples are the work of Carey McWilliams himself, Mexican American leaders and others involved in protecting the rights of those involved in the *Sleepy Lagoon* case and *Zoot Suit Riots* and the inspirational case filed in 1943 by the inspirational activist leader Ignacio Lutero Lopez and his co-plaintiffs in *Lopez v Seccombe* that was also made known and that was represented by and won by the inspirational and activist lawyer David C. Marcus in 1944.

(2) Also, illustrative of organized efforts to fight discrimination are the efforts of the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs. Ignacio Lopez also worked for this agency (*Lopez v. Seccombe*, 1944). An educator named George I. Sanchez (President of LULAC in 1941-1942) who did substantial work about segregation in education, collaborated with this agency in numerous ways (Gonzales, 1990). This agency participated in the national convention of LULAC in Albuquerque New Mexico in 1942 (Kaplowitz, 2005). According to Hector Tarango, LULAC council No. 147 was first organized as LAO in 1943 because Ramon Prado also a member of the informal LAO, (embryonic LULAC) had learned of LULAC stemming from New Mexico (Haas, 1985) (Interview: Hector R. Tarango, 2002). (In 1947, Hector Tarango, Manuel Veiga Jr., Cruz Barrios and Isadore Gonzales attend the national LULAC convention in Santa Fe, New Mexico as delegates, see photo in documentary sources). Information was dispersed.

(3) The work of David C. Marcus himself an activist lawyer and inspiring leader who represented the Mexican community was also inspirational. Marcus was a man educated in New Mexico. According to his words in the transcripts of the case, Albuquerque was his hometown

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and he was an employee of the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles (*Mendez v. Westminster*, 1946). His law degree was from USC, (See documentary sources). Judge Paul McCormick, an astutely fair judge was a USC graduate (information obtained from Tom Tomlinson, former Dean of Law School at USC in a phone conversation). Marcus was an attorney who practiced law in southern California, who was affiliated with the Mexican consulate and who had been under attack in Los Angeles as early as the 1930s for his passionate defense of civil rights (Balderrama, 1982) (see photo with caption in documentary sources).

(4) Previous activist efforts had already taken place as revealed in Santa Ana School Board Minutes (Gonzales, 1990). For example, according to the research and review of school board minutes by Gilbert Gonzales the following information was taken from his (1990) work: in October of 1943 activists Mrs. Frank Garcia and Mrs. Leonides Sanchez first appear without counsel before the Santa Ana School Board, then followed in 1944 the activists efforts revealed by the appearance of legal counsel Charles Martin obtained and utilized by actively involved William Guzman and Virginia Guzman and other activists including Mr. and Mrs. Frank Garcia, Mr. and Mrs. Leonides Sanchez and Mr. Fuentes and Mr. Reyes before the school board in Santa Ana during the month of October of 1944 (Gonzales, 1990).

(5) The leadership of the LULACs in Santa Ana and their co-involvement in the case as revealed by Felicitas Méndez in her interview by Alfredo H. Zúñiga in 1975 demonstrated inspiration. These activist leaders consulted David C. Marcus in because they were fighting segregation and registering voters. These activists were led by Manuel Veiga Jr. and Cruz Barrios and Hector R. Tarango whom Gonzalo Méndez was in association and who appeared before the school board of Westminster on his behalf and on the behalf of other complainants prior to the case being filed, prior to the trial and the appeal (see reproduced pages of transcripts in documentary sources).

(6) The fact itself that others other than Gonzalo Méndez served in 1945 as lead plaintiffs, William Guzman, Thomas Estrada, Lorenzo Ramirez and Frank Palomino a founder of LULAC (Minutes in Manuel Veiga's handwriting (elected president), shown as originally typed by Hector R. Tarango, (elected secretary) of meeting to formalize the group as LULAC of May 8, 1946) demonstrates inspiration and leadership of these individuals.

(7) The fundraising activity to pay for litigation costs and to disseminate information about the case by founders of LULAC (*LULAC NEWS* and other sources, including articles reproduced from *El Espectador*) (Interviews of LULAC founders and members) is another illustration of the commitment to lead in an inspiring cause.

A wider source of information and a more in depth view did net more interpretive material about the involvement of these inspiring leaders in this case and updates research on this matter in certain respects so that others will not be remiss in their conclusions that have not taken into account these other and perhaps more substantial historical facts. In this light those who have been satisfied with the unsubstantiated conclusion that one although mislabeled as a *non-activist* parent allegedly did it all may have a second look and engage in a different dialogue and different review of the overall activism of patriots with civil rights who now present themselves in history without being left in the dust.

Prior research has not been indicative of the development and formation of councils and the tangible links to the lawsuit, *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* The following summary portrays research material that was instructional. This research is indicative of the specificity of the role of the Latin American Organization, a LULAC embryonic group abbreviated as LAO (Haas, 1985) that critically validates the argument that there was a concerted effort. Other connections of the founders of LULAC with previous efforts were identified that validate the argument that the case was inspired are indicated by connections between LULAC, Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs, plaintiffs, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Mexico Ezequiel Padilla and his relation to Lorenzo Ramirez a plaintiff in the

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case representing El Modena and the Mexican Consulate (attorney David C. Marcus). Instructional of course was the interview of Felicitas Méndez in 1975 by Alfredo H. Zúñiga. Review of the work about school segregation by George I. Sanchez, a past national president of LULAC who collaborated with the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs in holding educational conferences was also informative. Review of the transcripts of testimony in the Méndez case of researcher and educator Marie Hughes who testified she had conducted studies about the detrimental effects of segregation that were sponsored by the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs and the Office of the Superintendent of Schools, Los Angeles brought this to light. Also review of a fundraising program *Mexico en Fantasia*, to benefit the education of children of Mexican extraction and specifically to cover litigation costs of the case (*Interview: Maldonado, 2003 who served on the organizing committee*) sponsored by LULAC as printed by the Mexican American Movement (MAM), was informative for the guest speaker was Ignacio López of *López v. Seccombe*, the former Spanish speaking Director for the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs who also worked for the War Department and the editor and publisher of *El Espectador*. Review of the case filed in 1943 *López v. Seccombe*, 1944 was informative. Review of the publication, *El Espectador* was informative. Review of the *LULAC NEWS* was significantly important because a substantial amount of the content of numerous editions is evidential about the formation of LULAC chapters, about the school desegregation case and the fundraising for it. *El Espectador* [sic], a Latino news publication co-sponsored an edition of the *LULAC NEWS* in 1946 (*see documentary sources*). Review of the appeal of the Mendez et al. case, in *Westminster School District of Orange County et al. vs. Gonzalo Mendez et al.*, was also evidentiary of tangible links. Judge Denman's concurring opinion established that *López v Seccombe*, a case that claimed discrimination by segregation because of the national origin particularly of persons of Mexican or Latin decided in 1944 by Judge Leon Yankwich had precedence in adjudicating the appeal of the McCormick decision of *Mendez v. Westminster* 1946, when the appellate court ruled to uphold it in 1947.

In examining the civil rights activity of LULAC, the connection to Ignacio López and his civil rights activity was made evident. Researchers have noted the forward written by Ignacio López in the work of anthropologist Ruth Tuck, *Not With The Fist: Mexican Americans in a Southwest City* [New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1946]. It has been noted that Ignacio López and Ruth Tuck were friends (Matt Garcia, 2001). To portray research points about LULAC and Ignacio López, a review of Tuck's work was found useful. A substantial critique of Tuck's work by major Latino writers in Chicano historiography was found lacking. In looking to find what kind of analysis would convey such a critique thus made here contemporary political theory was considered. Briefly, theory based on the view of the postmodernist [*A New Handbook of Political Science* edited by Robert E. Goodin and Hans-dieter Klingemann, 1996] would negate as subject (matter) the focus of study on the singular group of Latinos, the Mexican or Mexican American by denying the significant relevance of a modern perspective such as one that conveys that identified Latino activists had the knowledge and the *political will* to represent themselves in leadership roles. The non-categorical and deconstruction of the subject of the particular study of Chicanos or Latinos negates historical research of the embodied relationship of a progressive leader such as Ignacio López and the active leadership of Latinos in California identified by their respective names, and labeled California LULAC. Thus postmodernist theory although popular political theory is instrumentally non-conclusive for a pragmatic study of this kind because this study is about real people, real individuals, identified by name when possible, who form groups to carry out their common mission to defend their civil rights. Other political research theory is useful in explaining events. The manner that this study was conducted is thus presented by this contrast of different kinds of political theories to the extent that they are relevant and is shown by analysis of points made through out this project report in a varied application of theory and practice formulated from documented evidence.

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American Latinos in California were actively involved in civil rights and LULAC was in fact active in California. Wrongfully portrayed in other past accounts patriots with civil rights of Mexican Latin descent were deemed apathetic, minimally skilled, and powerless whose children as determined by intelligence testing indicate the inferiority of their race. Then anthropologist Ruth D. Tuck in her work *Not With The Fist* [New York: Harcourt, Brace and company, 1946] made her observations of Mexican Americans known by offering peculiar insights about their social and cultural characteristics and their habits interjecting throughout her text her newly acquired Spanish vocabulary. Perhaps by this new account, the Mexican American would be seen in a different light. Ignacio López writes in the foreword an astutely balanced commentary (as in Tuck, 1946, p. viii-ix):

We Mexican-Americans will recognize it for the truth that it is. Some of us may rise in defensive disclaimers of our faults, but it seems to me that the author could have hit us much harder on matters like timid leadership, class snobbery, an ineffectual press, and the role of the consulates. It would have been useful to us.

This statement indicates that López was forever challenging not only himself but also his fellow Americans of Mexican ancestry to rise and stand up for themselves. In the following statement (quote of Ignacio López taken from the foreword p. ix in Ruth D. Tuck, *Not With The Fist*, 1946) Ignacio López offers a profound critique of the maltreatment of the Mexican, the Mexican-American, and/or the Latino:

And the author could have been harsher with the dominant community. The conflict between Anglo and Hispanic groups in the Southwest is not as much the working of unconscious forces as she makes it seem. There is deliberated action and premeditated cruelty.

López does not fail to sharply point out the blame and the challenge to overcome faults of the Mexican Americans as conveyed above. But Tuck has a different emphasis in her entire narrative. And it is her narrative particularly about the political activism of Mexican Americans or rather the failed political activism of Mexican Americans that is in question here and not her observations from her sociological or anthropological viewpoint. Ignacio Lopez in the forward of her book forecasted the *defensive disclaimers* of his people that hereby will be made as a result of this study, LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS, for he himself is an example of an accomplished activist. The following critique made here by the author recognizing the advantageous historical view, illustrates this point. In Tuck's standpoint, the people of Mexican descent living in the United States in the symbolic town of *Descanso* have not done much to help themselves. All the while that Tuck denies Latinos in descriptive detail the full powerful punch of political action she depicts them as a people that opt not to use the thrust of a fist for power for they are a people whose exercise of their political power is limited almost non-existent and who dwell within the political sphere of influence of the dominant Anglo American group. The practice of power confined within their political sphere of influence is seemingly portrayed as almost quixotic. Subjugated and living as they do in their relatively powerless position they fail to fully empower themselves and hence make the change for social and political justice. Nonetheless they live here amongst fellow Americans, and because they dwell in the same land, Anglo Americans must take note of them despite their lack of true American grit. The sentiment that appears is one given in the recent turmoil of a world war. Tuck in her 1946 work seems to say fear not for these people are not warmongering invaders of American territory who have the power to change the American landscape although their *life histories provide new vistas of*

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potentialities on the matter of minority and race relations. In her introduction she asks, “Why does one feel at home in certain situations and vaguely ill at ease in others?” (Tuck, p. 14). On the other hand, Americans can breathe more easily. It appears that Hitler and fascism has been defeated and perhaps so have all of our other world enemies except those deemed so by red baiting. In a serious assessment all that remains for fellow Americans to deal with are now these people of Mexican descent that live here in America. Lets take a survey and give an account of these people for some have lived here for many generations and some for she reassuringly claims not many are transplanted people of Mexican ancestry who stem from a good neighboring country but who do try to emulate us in certain cultural ways. And for this reason they are a people whom she beckons deserve social study and acknowledgement of their provincial existence.

In review of Tuck’s work, and in contrast to her perspective and incongruently as forewarned by an exemplary civil rights leader Ignacio López, the disclaimers of the lack of significant Mexican American political action must be introduced here for the amount of significant activism has surfaced in various accounts and more will surface as indicated in this report. The distinction of this new research from these past accounts of a lack of spirited activism is revealed within the framework of political analysis. Much historical analysis has been based on the division of political thought of activists: those who fought in the social struggle as representing Mexican Americans, or *Americans* as some in LULAC emphasize as portrayed by the statement cited of Jake Rodríguez in (Gutiérrez, 1996) and in the articles by Jacob Rodriguez himself the first LULACer in Sacramento California that can be seen in documentary sources, from those who fought to represent the foreign born or the immigrant (Garcia, 1989) (Gutiérrez, 1995). The framework of analysis in this report formed from the results of research is based on the perspective of combined efforts that were made and were successful and now others can by this LULAC history in civil rights, now recount.

The following illustrates the combined efforts took place unrecognized in Tuck’s town of Descanso. Ironically, research from this study finds that successful political efforts with significant impact took place in *Descanso*, (San Bernardino California was the place written about in the 1940s by Ruth Tuck as conveyed by Vicki L. Ruiz in her article, “‘Star Struck’: Acculturation, Adolescence and the Mexican-American Woman, 1920-1950” (reproduced in ed. David G. Gutiérrez, *Between Two Worlds: Mexican Immigrants in the United States* [Willmington, DE: Scholarly Resources Inc., 1996] p. 138). López filed along with co-plaintiffs a lawsuit against the Mayor (Seccombe) of San Bernardino and his city council and Chief of Police (*López v Seccombe*). And won in 1944. And this case and the work of Lopez are examples of successful political activism to change the circumstances of segregation and were inspirational to the activism of the founders of LULAC in Orange County.

The founders of LULAC Council No. 147 provided leadership in educating Mexican families of their civil rights and how to proceed in dealing with the political power structure in the educational system and the legal support system as provided by the Mexican Consulate and its attorney David C. Marcus; a defender of Mexican families in different civil rights cases. As reported by interviewees, active Latino groups were well aware of their “Mexican lawyer who was not Mexican.” Support by the Mexican Consulate is well supported by the research and documentation included in *Documentary Sources* of this report. The Mexican Consulate did not as an entity file the lawsuit but it provided the legal resources for others to do so. Its role was not in the political forefront of the politics of a social cause, but nonetheless, as a service agency with organized institutional support services it provided a backbone of legal and social support. Contrary to Tuck’s contention of the noncontributing Mexican consulate to the cause of social justice for American Latinos, as an employee of the Mexican Consulate legal counselor David C. Marcus provided outstanding service for the Mexican people and hence their American offspring. Marcus represented López and co-plaintiffs in the San Bernardino case.

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Ruth Tuck's observations in *Not With The Fist* (1946) about Mexican Americans in the Southwest in the fictitiously named city of *Descanso*, defines the social characteristics of a person who holds the title of *Mexican Consul* as ineffective figures. However, Tuck fails to present the point, in her poignant critique of Latinos as those who should be acknowledged as Americans of Latin descent but nevertheless are not representative of American patriots with a full voice in political affairs, that under the Mexican consulate and its respective consuls, the *Comisión Honorífica*, sponsors and organizers of *fiestas patrias* (for the Mexican national holiday), the organizing of these public events engendered leadership experience for young Latinos who joined LULAC. They in turn organized their own civic affairs and in this manner they themselves become active leaders. The voice of the Latino community did resonate in many ways in American history and so the voice of LULAC began to be heard. LULACers were either personally involved with these fiestas or were the children who were raised by their organizers as oral histories and articles in documentary sources indicate.

The Mexican consulate did well in incorporating the legal services of David C. Marcus, for LULAC and the Mexican and Mexican American community was well served by this great lawyer (*Méndez v Westminster*). As mentioned above a previous successful class action on behalf of 8000, for the civil rights of citizens in using public facilities in a city park (Perris Hill) in San Bernardino, was also filed by David C. Marcus for the people of Mexican or Latin descent, *López v Seccombe*, 1944. Knowledge of this lawsuit and of David Marcus and of Ignacio Lopez aided the Latino community. Ignacio López was an early leader in the Mexican American Movement, MAM that formed in 1942 by Bert Corona and others (Mario T. Garcia, 1989). Ignacio Lopez, a patriot with civil rights was an influential writer, editor, publisher and leader and an activist along with Eduardo Quevedo in the San Gabriel Valley (Garcia, 1989). His education including that from Chaffey College, Pomona College and from the University of California helped him in his speaking and writing skills and thus to organize the Latino/Mexicano community and Mexican American students in forming unity leagues (Garcia, 1989). Lopez an activist prevailed in his endeavors and inspired other Latino activists to fight and to prevail in their own social justice battles as evidence reveals (Enrique López, 1986).

Tuck's *wreath* of indictment of failed activism on the part of Mexicans and Mexican Americans placed *upon the ashes of a local LULAC chapter* (1946, p.162) was removed by perpetual efforts on the part of LULAC to form councils with leaders male and female, some of whom lead in the fight for civil rights in school desegregation, particularly in the fight to win a school case lawsuit. The fact that LULAC continued to evolve, developing new councils and resurrecting others, counters her account.

In all, Ruth Tuck's conclusion in her 1946 book is the same as echoed through various portrayals; the Mexican or Latino community didn't do much for civil rights. Moreover, in this work she maintains the underlying message that they should have and could have. Her work is cited over and over again. The information in this report counters some of her points on politics for she casts LULAC as well as all Latinos as ineffectual. The subjects of her study appear to be people who have elbowed their way into American society but yet remain disconnected from the Anglo American who maintains the power. Nonetheless they exist and should be taken into view as Americans of Mexican descent. None however (not counting the New Mexican colonists) are profiled in the category of pioneers of towns for they simply arrived at a resting place, a transitional locale that enigmatically serves as home for not one but two or three generations of their offspring. With *no ill intentions*, they live in their *colonias* relatively impervious to aggressive political action a people without genuine representation in leadership roles, grateful of their country rejecting any claims for taking back their lands; satisfied with their lot in life and dependent on offspring that seek and obtain better employment opportunities thereby assimilating into the cultural aspects of life as Americans of Latin descent. With better paying jobs, young women are thus deemed able to have the better things in life including artificial accessories that

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suit them and make them and their lives appealing. But the LULAC women as told by one of her interviewees, all became pregnant and politically inactive. So the story of the lack of politically energized LULAC women who may serve as role models for others goes on. However, further information revealed in this study indicates that women in LULAC despite the extrapolated incidents of childbearing that kept those in Descanso from participating in political and civic affairs did have a part in the American Latino civil rights movement for other LULAC councils flourished in other locales and these serve also as examples of active leadership.

Tuck's portrayal of the person who serves as the representative Mexican consul whose social but powerless behavior reflects unwarranted self-pride is satirical and unsubstantiated but nonetheless resonates throughout her mostly deflating commentary. No wonder the Chicano movement had real cause to protest and to fight for genuine Chicano Studies. Her work is both a provocation and testament for the need for research and hence validates the need for Latino and Chicano activism. Accounts like this one written before those of Chicano historiography do not depict Latino patriots with civil rights as informed, active, and educated citizens. In the least account, Latinos had the kind of education that reflects the political knowledge gained from reading newspaper accounts in English and in Spanish; the means for becoming knowledgeable of current political events that give cause for empowerment and consequently for political leadership. And we cannot discount the infamous radio announcers such as Ted Duran whose broadcast was in Corona. Studies have not been made about these aspects of Latino culture that encompasses political action. Moreover, those living in Descanso are not portrayed of having their own brave and articulate speakers who initiated their own battles to overcome the obstacles presented by discrimination against them because they are a people of Mexican or Latin descent. This tale of Descanso with its wreath for a dead LULAC council is what is still read in works that cite this book as reference for depictions of the lack of Latino political prowess and failure of Latino political movements and of LULAC.

To some extent even now research under the subject of LULAC and civil rights is meager. The published accounts portray the simple generalizations of the middle class Mexican American who assimilates, works within the social and political system and that has had the ear of presidents before Nixon, and is now compelled to incorporate the Mexican identity because of bulging immigration into its bureaucratic politics nevertheless still remains powerless in civil rights activity: the new myth presented as the overwhelmingly complex challenges for the Mexican American and for LULAC (Kaplowitz, 2005). As analyzed by Craig Kaplowitz, national policy change requires a different kind of political clout and LULAC has to adjust to this challenge for LULAC's influence has relatively weakened. After reading the dimmed account of LULAC efforts as depicted by Kaplowitz the following question arises. If access to policy-making is now lessened, what other means does LULAC have to effectively change governmental policy in order to respond to the needs of the American Latino community? The organization of LULAC has been severely criticized by many as it has been by Benjamin Márquez, whose disregard of LULAC accomplishments as demonstrated in his conclusions written in *The Evolution of LULAC* [Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 1993] p.109 is unequaled when compared to others. The appropriate response as determined by research of LULAC is that LULAC's different avenues for leadership enable it to wage different political civil rights battles. When necessary LULAC has taken to the streets, in grass roots organizing, the way it began in Texas with its flying squadrons of leaders with a political message of empowerment who infiltrated towns with heavy Latino populations; the way it also developed in California (in Placentia the LULAC flying squadron arrived also in a vehicle, a hearse from McDougal funeral services carrying incongruently many energized leaders). LULAC civil rights leaders were organizing and conducting voter registration drives and leading various campaigns for social justice, a fact now overlooked by high-end analysis. With a different kind of political analysis, the following portrayal of the Latino community led or supported by LULAC is certainly

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representative of the awakened giant still groaning in the midst of multitudes of vocal Mexican and Latino immigrants now having marched in the smoggy sweltering heat on the streets of bigger towns such as Los Angeles calling for civil rights through immigration reform raising high the national flags of their kinship and the American flag and holding up the many paid for signs mixed with the not commercially produced.

Should one study further, there is bound to be discovered as does this study, genuine American Latino heroic leaders and their successful stories of how so many organized and showed their strength as a united people in a social cause and how LULACers marched along with them in support of a great civil rights effort as they appeared before school boards asking for social equality in education, moving forward through the courts in the 1940s in California. This historic portrayal is also a part of the American Latino civil rights movement the other side of the story of the ongoing struggle all the way through the courts now conveyed in the accounts in later years because of efforts of the funding of key civil rights efforts. For example the development of MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense Fund) first organized and led by the efforts of LULAC in Texas, namely Pete Tijerina, the first executive director who had been the State Civil Rights Chairman for the League of United Latin American Citizens has led to civil rights victories. Information provided in "To Have Our Own Lawyers Fight Our Own Cases": The Origins of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund by *History Matters: The U.S. Survey Course on the Web*, found in [<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/>] October 5, 2008, information from original source: [Oral History courtesy of *U.S. Latinos & Latinas and World War II Oral History Project*, University of Texas, Austin. Interview with Pete Tijerina, League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, December 2, 2000, in San Antonio, Texas, by Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez and Maro Robbins]. The Mexican American Legal Defense Fund was first funded in 1968 by monies from the Ford Foundation and modeled after NACCP. Mario Obledo, Esq, served as counsel (Kaplowitz, 2005, p. 131). Mario Obledo became LULAC National President in 1983 and served for two terms [<http://www.LULAC.org>] October 5, 2008.

Looking in the past, LULAC a national civil rights organization has financially sponsored many programs funded by various sources including those from significant corporate sponsors because it is also a Latino community service organization with non-profit status. All of these facts eventually do unfold and are brought to light as those shown herein and that thus forecast a different future of LULAC based on its success in leading the American Latino civil rights movement.

Analysis of the legacy of LULAC leadership identified as individuals representing a small percentage of persons in California does not necessarily minimize the significant work conducted by few major political players. For instance, the relatively few founders of LULAC in Orange County did remarkable civil rights work especially in desegregation. Many others have followed in their footsteps. This work is an apologist of LULAC activism prior to 1957 that specifically covers its fight for civil rights in California encompassing its history and its struggle for civil rights for Latinos in education. It is revisionist by result rather than intent for new research provides new results. This conclusion when metaphorically defined is best expressed in the following manner: the world is not flat as once it was claimed to be. Study of activism about other particular struggles such as the labor movement is another great field of study in itself and authors have made major inroads on this subject, but this subject and these studies are outside the scope of this study.

A different analysis, termed class struggle analysis that is based on economic and political conditions as reflected by the dichotomy of the exploited poor worker versus the advantaged wealthy owner of the means of production was also not appropriate to this study on civil rights activity. A Marxian analysis that asserts that the economic conditions alone created an upsurge of protest is also found insufficient when the element of an educated and inspired and

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informed leadership, an educated and experienced elite, not necessarily by economic wealth, was also a contributing element in this case of the social struggle to end discrimination and segregation. Analysis that the middle class created from those who have progressed socially and economically that LULAC presumptively represents does not fully represent the matter at hand. Analysis of the political action of Latinos on the basis of their national origin and not merely on their economic class is what does in conjunction with the operative formation of LULAC in California.

The known view of LULAC as a patriotic middle class organization that is both seen as its strength and its weakness also fails to account for the full spectrum of LULAC and its efforts. LULAC endeavors are occasionally melded by government programs and more importantly elicited by the inherent politics of ethnic identity as brought forth by organized leadership and formidable grass roots organizing aimed to resolve issues for Latinos in all facets of life, including those of the new immigrant who struggles to survive and also hopes to attain the American dream. The duel between two worlds of identity; the acculturated Latino into American mainstream born through generations of time and the not so acculturated Latino but nationalistic towards Latin American countries of origin (Gutiérrez, 1995) serves no purpose when American Latinos as a whole defend themselves against social injustice through the work of organizations such as LULAC. To contrast LULAC as a political organization that simply represents the segment of Latinos that are middle class with those that are not curtails the depth of study and focus of LULAC whose laborers served Latinos of different sectors; LULAC has often supported bilingual education; LULAC members provided English instruction for Spanish-speaking immigrants. Concentrated study on a particular aspect in a single dimensional manner misses the full gamut and essence of the multi-dimensional organization of LULAC not only in its exact evolution but dynamic entity and force. As note takers of history we can make certain conclusions but we cannot conclude that we have seen all what LULAC has done or failed to do for LULAC remains actively engaged in the civil rights of American Latinos; the American Latino civil rights movement continues. In this light, individuals become activists when they organize and from 1929 to 1957, LULAC in California was formed by the organized action of many individuals who did many things because they organized, and yet failed to do some things nonetheless their effort took place.

World War II and the social impact of returning veterans on the active role of the Latino community is also deficient as a complete explanation specifically with respect to the legal case because lead plaintiffs were not veterans including Mr. Gonzalo Méndez, a man born in Chihuahua, Mexico, a naturalized citizen with an education in integrated schools (González, 1990) (*Méndez v Westminster*, 1946). It did not appear that the inspirational Ignacio López was a veteran but did advocate a great deal for Latino veterans. Ignacio López was also a man born in Mexico in the state of Jalisco (Interview: Mrs. Ignacio López, 2008). He was also a naturalized citizen. Ignacio López was highly educated and a lead plaintiff as mentioned before of a prior precedent case, *López v. Seccombe* for the Mendez case that was also represented by David C. Marcus as described by Judge Denman in his concurring opinion in *Westminster et al. vs Gonzalo Méndez et al.*, 1947. Ignacio L. López was an inspirational figure for many Latino causes including those led by LULAC.

Omission of important research material when making conclusions, although unintentional, is not inconsequential. Because an important and historical activity did not surface or come to light, the legacy of leaders within Latino families is overlooked. In this light, education of American Latino children with respect to their heritage is deficient when this information about other leaders is unavailable and also when the role that the largest Hispanic organization had in the making of California history is found lacking in research material and in curricula. Research of LULAC has not been definitive in how LULAC formed in California nor its leadership in a landmark desegregation lawsuit and other desegregation efforts of the 1940s. A

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clearer historical perspective is essential and must be placed in plain view, with actual and hard evidence that altogether eliminates skepticism of findings and conclusions thereof. The history of LULAC shows American Latino leaders while forming LULAC councils converged with numerous efforts to help the social cause of Latinos; for instance, councils formed because their organizers were involved in the desegregation of schools in California.

This work which is confined to certain years of early California LULAC history adds to the few previous works that also have made efforts to define what LULAC has done or not done for a clear and accurate portrayal of an American organization that spread to California to serve the people of Mexican and Latin descent of *all classes*. LULAC aimed to give a voice to all through the voices of those who volunteer to serve in this civil rights organization even if they were not citizens who could not join LULAC as members (Gutiérrez, 1995). Its civil rights history demonstrates the ability of an organization to converge efforts with different kinds of effective social and political action. Its civil rights history is also illustrative of its leading role in the cause for the American Latino: a cause as defined by the citizenry of the American Latino native and the immigrant whose ancestry stems from Hispanic or Latin American countries as well. Further research will inevitably bring forth new insight.

People of Hispanic or Latin descent faced many challenges that manifested in different ways in the 1940s. A social admixture of people of diverse ethnic backgrounds of either, the white majority or the colored minority yet in one American domain presented a complex hierarchical, social and political structure. How people relate and interact in different settings weighed in on issues of barriers for social mobility for Latinos. MAM contributed to LULAC by the fact that some of its leaders became LULAC leaders. The slogan, *progress through education* of the Mexican American Movement (MAM) (1942-1950) was an ideal shared by members of this organization with LULAC. MAM and its popular slogan also transpired within the larger scale Latino movement for civil rights. Education however, was the means but not the end to making social progress for the value of life experience outside of the classroom environment augmented the value of education provided by schools. Political experience brought forth by LULAC, the largest national organization for civil rights was vital to confront and overcome challenges that hindered the betterment of American Latinos in California. A more activist approach was necessary, one that had been voiced and acted upon by men like Ignacio Lutero López, a bilingual newspaper editor and publisher that began his work before 1940 in the 1930s. The course outlined by desegregation efforts brings into focus the organized activity of American Latinos. The influence of this kind of leader had impact on the organized leadership of LULAC as seen through the work of John O. Gonzales a Los Angeles LULAC member in the early 1940s who was a prior LULAC member in Phoenix Arizona. Mr. Gonzales, studied law and his words, when writing about the Orange County California school case, in his article, (see in documentary sources, "Calling All LULACS") *we have only to blame but ourselves* when referring to the continuance of discrimination of the children of Mexican or Latin descent are an echo to those given by Mr. López.

Organized leadership was deemed essential. Voter registration drives were needed to provide citizens the opportunity to elect fair representatives. Experienced leaders and public speakers for school board meetings and for the organizing of fundraising events were needed. Money was needed to assist with the matter of the freedom of an equal American education for children of Mexican, Hispanic or Latin ancestry. Experienced legal counsel was imminently needed. All of these were provided. The social explanation of the activism that occurred, clarifies that active efforts against discrimination and for civil rights won out in many instances, as based on the above and supported below.

California LULAC fought the struggle for civil rights in the following ways. Stressing the importance of education LULAC fought for better standards and opportunities for the education of Latino children through legal means and by raising funds for the granting of scholarships to

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many youth. Seeking equality in labor, LULAC advocated for better paying jobs for Latinos. In a quest for better housing LULAC leaders informed themselves and others of discriminatory practices in purchasing property. Protecting and maintaining voting rights LULAC conducted voter registration drives for better representation and sought to secure fair school board elections with fair school board candidates. In a quest for better living conditions LULAC leaders led the struggle to have city lights, paved streets and drinking fountains; and in general LULAC patriots with civil rights fought for the overall social and economic betterment of Latinos.

Numerous organizers since LULAC was first introduced in California in Sacramento in 1933 made the presence and work of LULAC visible and are identified below in the narrative part of this report. In part two, as depicted in documentary sources, are copies obtained or collected from various sources of documents and photographs about these organizers and the formation of these numerous early California LULAC councils and their significant involvement in civil rights. In June 1957, the first national convention of LULAC convened in California, is hosted by Placentia LULAC Council No. 174 and is held in Anaheim at the Disneyland Hotel. The convention prompted the start of numerous LULAC councils in California.

Tangible links of how people associate provided the key to understanding and explaining the involvement of LULAC founders and members in a social cause. LULAC founders in Orange County California shared their knowledge and experience in forming the class action lawsuit *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* (1946) that preceded the landmark case of *Brown v Board of Education* (1954). Major illustrations of LULAC's leadership in the struggle for social justice, most importantly in the realm of education and scholarship fundraising, are substantially presented. These illustrations are evidentiary of the role of founders of LULAC in Orange County California who instilled a political and civil rights consciousness in Latino parents and/or groups of Latino parents other than named plaintiffs some of whom were veterans of World War II against the kind of Anglo American prejudice that elicited the discriminatory practice of school segregation in the education of children of Mexican or Latin descent.

In an interview, February, 15, 2003, Hector R. Tarango, a founder of LULAC in Orange County, California, and a patriot with civil rights who was involved in the formation of the Orange County school case, reveals the origins of the class action lawsuit:

“We—formally of Latin American Voters League and founders of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147—organized the class action lawsuit after we, Manuel Veiga Jr., myself and Cruz Barrios and another person with us consulted David Marcus (attorney for plaintiffs who was affiliated with the Mexican Consulate). Mendez volunteered to be a representative plaintiff.”

California LULAC founders, specifically patriots with civil rights of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147, helped organize the class action lawsuit of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* and because they helped to organized it, LULAC founders are also responsible for its being filed on March 2, 1945 by David C. Marcus an attorney affiliated with the Mexican Consulate on behalf of Gonzalo Méndez (wife Felicitas) and children, Sylvia, Gonzalo, Geronimo, and William Guzman, (wife Virginia) and son Billy, Frank Palomino, a LULACer, (wife Irene) and children, Arthur and Sally, and Thomas Estrada (wife Mary Louise) and children Clara, Roberto, Francisco, Syria, Daniel, Evelina, and Lorenzo Ramirez (wife Josefina) and children Ignacio, Silverio, and Jose and 5000 similarly situated. The founders of LULAC in Orange County as shown specifically in documentation included in this report, helped lead the way to the courts of justice in the beginning of the formation of the case and were also *instrumental* in its eventual success in the time of its appeal. The encapsulated story of the family of lead plaintiff Gonzalo Mendez, a patriot with civil rights, and a sampling of

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LULAC's role is depicted in the documentary titled, "*Mendez vs. Westminster: For All the Children/Para Todos Los Niños*" by Sandra Robbie as produced for KOCE-TV Foundation, 2002 that includes a sampling of LULAC's role. The following is a quote taken from the transcripts of the legal proceedings on July 10, 1945 p. 468-469. Felicitas Méndez testified: "We always tell our childrens they are Americans, and I feel I am American myself, and so is my husband, and we thought that they shouldn't be segregated like that, they shouldn't be treated the way they are. So we thought we were doing the right thing and just asking for the right thing, to put our childrens together with the rest of the childrens there."

Information about the other four plaintiff families: William Guzman, Thomas Estrada, Frank Palomino and Lorenzo Ramirez, patriots with civil rights in their own right, is significantly and substantially revealed in LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS because these plaintiff families are equally important to co-plaintiff Gonzalo Méndez and family and were not featured in Robbie's work, an award winning documentary. The omission of their history is something that this LULAC project also attempts to reconcile. The areas represented in the lawsuit are Westminster, Santa Ana, El Modena and Garden Grove. After this case was won, LULAC continued to provide leadership and support to other desegregation efforts in Orange County California that were further determined by this study and demonstrated by LULAC efforts in Placentia, California.

Research has not presented the Mexican Americans involved in LULAC in a manner that fully represents with primary source material in hand and in full view their inspirational efforts to win the social cause for justice. Therefore, this study is an effort toward that end.

FORMATION OF LULAC COUNCILS IN CALIFORNIA

LULAC, a national civil rights organization, was established in 1929 in Corpus Christi, Texas (Ben Garza, first president) and then spread to other southwestern states, including New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado and California and later to others. The LULAC motto is *All for one, and one for all*. Research revealed that LULAC councils of patriots with civil rights expanded into California in 1933 via the work of a member of San Antonio, Texas LULAC Council No. 2 named Jacob I. Rodriguez who moved to Sacramento, California in December 1932. In 1933, Rodriguez is conducting LULAC work as noted in the *LULAC NEWS* of that year. Jacob I. Rodriguez writes an article while living in Sacramento, dated February 1933, titled, "The Spirit of LULAC" and declares *the spirit of LULAC is the spirit of democracy*. He further advocates, *fall in line behind the glorious banner of LULAC that organization of real Americans*. After a few years of residing in California, Mr. Jacob Rodriguez returns to San Antonio, Texas where he continued to serve LULAC as a dedicated founder and life-long member.

Following the formation of Sacramento Council (No. 61) other pioneer LULAC councils were formed. Patriots with civil rights organized a LULAC council in Los Angeles in 1937 (number unknown) under M.R. Gameros, the California Organizer for LULAC who is elected as its first council president. Gameros had assistance in organizing this council by special organizers Henry A. Guion and Theodore A. Chacon. Accounts in *LULAC NEWS* of other existing councils in Los Angeles are the following: in 1939, Los Angeles LULAC Men's Council No. 75 and Los Angeles LULAC Council No. 77. Los Angeles LULAC Council No. 77 is also indicated as existing in 1940 (President Ernest R. Orfila). In the early 1940's, Los Angeles LULAC Council No. 125 is noted in 1943, and is reorganizing in 1945 and is then listed in 1946 as Los Angeles LULAC Council No. 130 (President William Trujillo). As recorded in 1947, Los Angeles LULAC Council No. 125 is noted as represented by both Ernesto Cruz and Marco Ignacio M. Infante. In 1947, Los Angeles LULAC Council No. 154 was organized and led by John O. Gonzales--determined by interview and correspondence collection of Alex Maldonado. In 1950, a Los Angeles LULAC council is noted in *LULAC NEWS* as represented by Jess D. Soto. In

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Alhambra, in 1945, Alhambra LULAC Council No. 137 is noted as represented by William H. Wheat, the Regional Organizer for California and George W. Ramirez, the Regional Governor for California. In San Bernardino, in 1943, the following councils are noted: San Bernardino LULAC Council No. 108 and San Bernardino LULAC Council No. 135 (President Roderick Flores). Prior to 1950, councils were formed in Orange County; and in Bakersfield (President Chris D. Perez, 1950); and in Richmond (President Raul Martinez, 1950). The first LULAC councils formed in Orange County were: in 1946, Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 (President Manuel Veiga Jr.); in 1949, El Modena LULAC Council No. 179 (President Alex Maldonado); in 1950, Placentia LULAC Council No. 174 (President Jack Gomez); and in 1954, Stanton LULAC Council No. 245 (President Victor Zuniga). These councils soon led the way for others. LULAC councils of patriots with civil rights were also formed in Corona, La Habra, Buena Park, Fullerton, San Ysidro, San Diego, Paramount and Sylmar and Anaheim. Hence many have been formed.

The founders of California councils organized themselves with the assistance and guidance from LULAC on the national level whose leaders specifically appointed LULAC organizers for California's patriots with civil rights. LULAC organizers passed on the spirit of LULAC and manifested Americanism through generations of families as demonstrated in this report through friendships and associations. Again as an example, the family of founder of LULAC in Orange County Hector R. Tarango had a close family friendship with the family of LULAC regional organizer William H. Wheat in Los Angeles that continued when the Tarango family, originally from Clifton Arizona, left Los Angeles to move to Orange County. Hector Tarango's father and William H. Wheat were close friends. William H. Wheat, half Irish and half Mexican and from Texas, his father born in Ireland then came to Tennessee then Texas, passed on his knowledge of LULAC to Californians. It is William H. Wheat a person involved in law enforcement, (according to grandson Joe Cruz, possibly F.B.I.), while living in San Gabriel a member of Alhambra LULAC Council No. 137, that officially organizes LULAC in Orange County and installs the Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 on June 9, 1946. Prior to this installation of officers, Wheat held informative meetings about LULAC at Ramon Prado's Barbershop on 4th street in Santa Ana (Interview: Tony Luna, 1996). John O. Gonzales came to California from Phoenix Arizona where he was a member of LULAC. John O. Gonzales is present at the installation ceremony of the Santa Ana LULAC Council as 1st Vice-President General of LULAC on the national level and an organizer in California and a Los Angeles council member. Mr. John O. Gonzales, a law student who attended Los Angeles University College of Law, 1942-1944 wrote many articles. Please see in *LULAC NEWS*, an article of his "Calling All LULACS" advocating support for the Orange County school desegregation case in Documentary Sources, part two of this report. Mr. John O. Gonzales further organized other councils as California regional governor a position today recognized as state director.

LULAC council founders demonstrated their leadership skills, their knowledge and experience learned from predecessors through civic participation. In Orange County for example, the parents of certain LULAC founders--community leaders themselves--imparted knowledge and experience in organizing heritage events such as the Mexican *Fiestas Patrias*. Such events were co-sponsored by *Comisión Honorífica* a commission of the Mexican Consulate. These public events featured public speakers, parades, educational and cultural entertainment such as dances, poetry, music, both Mexican and American, beauty pageants, and Mexican historical and oratorical performances. These ethnic events were sanctioned and partly joined in by respective local officials and civic leaders from the Anglo American community. Additionally, although less in extent, LULAC leaders were indirectly supportive of efforts of activists who were involved in the civil rights of citrus workers who organized themselves as local labor movements. Moreover, LULAC as a civic organization contributed to the success of other American civic groups as well. LULAC was actively and visibly engaged in community efforts of the American Cancer Society, the American Red Cross, the Olympic Fund, the Boy Scouts of America and many more.

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A significant marking point of civic participation of LULAC founders in the formation of the Orange County school case is briefly summarized here in the following. At the Westminster Elementary School Board Meeting of September 19, 1944, patriot with civil rights, Mr. Cruz Barrios, a founder of LULAC in Orange County, California, asks the board ***“that the schools be united.”*** His words and his presence and the words and presence of another patriot with civil rights and founder of LULAC in Orange County, Manuel Veiga Jr. are recalled by fellow patriot with civil rights Gonzalo Méndez as recorded in his sworn testimony of July 9, 1945 before Judge Paul McCormick. Mendez testified that Manuel Veiga Jr. stated (at this same meeting of Westminster Elementary School Board of Trustees of September, 1944) that ***“the Mexican people. . . are not as dumb as lots of people thought they were.”*** (See Documentary Sources in this report for Gonzalo Méndez testimony under oath, July 9, 1945 as reproduced from transcripts of Méndez v Westminster, 1946 personally obtained by author at National Archives and Records Administration, (Pacific Region), Laguna Niguel, California). The facts attest that American Latino patriots with civil rights and founders of LULAC in Orange County, no matter under what formal or informal ethnic group name they fell under, Cruz G. Barrios and Manuel Veiga Jr. and Hector R. Tarango of “Latin American Voters League” as Méndez testifies or of the “Latin American Voters Counsel as they are referred to in the Minutes of the Westminster Elementary School Board of Trustees of September, 1944 or Latin American Organization, LAO in other research, Hass, (1985) (Matt Garcia, 2001) were there co-leading the cause before the school board in the beginning of the formation of the class action lawsuit. In his interview in December, 2002 Mr. Hector R. Tarango additionally explained that Marcus advised them to do what was necessary because before legal action is taken administrative remedy must be sought. The Minutes of the Westminster Elementary School Board of Trustees, September 19, 1944 as taken by the secretary, Louis Conrady, have a misspelling of Tarango and he is incorrectly named “Diago.” Without Tarango's explanation, no account of his actual participation was made.

The research findings of Carey McWilliams, *North From Mexico* originally published in 1949, (reprint, 1968), and other of his works and those of others including past works of Gilbert G. Gonzales (1990) (1994) do not indicate these important facts about the leadership of LULAC founders. It appears that what is lacking is careful and significant scrutiny of transcripts of the trial held in 1945 or review of minutes of the Westminster school board of 1944 and 1945 with respect to testimony of Gonzalo Méndez and his referral to Manuel Veiga Jr. and Mr. Cruz Barrios and the third person, Mr. Tarango. McWilliams a writer, and attorney who received his law degree from USC in 1927 was a person dedicated to social causes but in his works he does not state whether or not he was present at school board meetings in Orange County for an additional account.

Gilbert G. González Ph.D. *Chicano Education in the Era of Segregation* (1990) offers years later a careful study of the Santa Ana school board minutes and material from his major interview of Felicitas Méndez, whose husband Gonzalo Méndez, along with others volunteered to be lead plaintiffs. In his 1994 book, he offers a detailed analysis that is well worth reading for it serves as foundational material about this subject matter but in this work he does not specifically connect the plaintiffs themselves with the activist work of the founders of LULAC who were in deed LAO. He does not offer any information about how many were employed by or connected with Manuel Veiga Jr. or does not refer to what the transcripts say about him and Barrios and the third person (Tarango). He does not indicate that LAO is the Latin American Voters League or the Latin American Voters Counsel and that it is the nucleus of this group with different names that is an embryonic LULAC Council later chartered and numbered 147. Mr. Tarango was truly a person who could identify this group because of his activity as a member of it. Mr. Frank Palomino was involved in the beginning of the case and becomes a plaintiff and is part of this group (Interview: Hector Tarango 2002) (Minutes of May 8th transcribed by Tarango). The earlier work of Hass (1985) does include a basic interview of Hector Tarango, but Hass fails to

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make the point in her dissertation *Barrios of Santa Ana: Community, Class, and Urbanization, 1850-1947* that in 1943 the efforts of an informal activist group, Latin American Organization (LAO) were led specifically by LULAC founders, Manuel Veiga Jr., Hector R. Tarango and Cruz G. Barrios that Gonzalez (1990) (1994) does in his study. Mr. Hector R. Tarango (now deceased) provided numerous interviews for LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS.

Mr. Hector Tarango was present as a leader and witness and therefore had personal knowledge of what was said and done for the formation of the case. Because Mr. Tarango participated in the struggle to end discrimination against the Mexican people and is a founder of LULAC in Orange County, he is a credible witness of the origins of the class action lawsuit and the formation of LULAC. Moreover his overall perspective of the history of LULAC in California is valid and noteworthy. He further served LULAC as a national officer in the position of Trustee in 1947 and various positions after. (*LULAC NEWS*, Vol. 14, No. 2, August, 1947). (See Documentary Sources in this report for sworn statement by Hector Tarango as handwritten by him on a copy of the Minutes of the Westminster Elementary School Board of September 19, 1944 (obtained at the offices of Westminster School District) attesting to the fact that he was present, his name is Tarango not “Diago” and he was also a member of Latin American Voters League, or Counsel and as such co-founded LULAC in Orange County, California, with its first council, Santa Ana Council No. 147).

According to Hector R. Tarango, “Gonzalo Mendez was willing to volunteer to be a representative plaintiff because he was disturbed by what happened to his family.” Mr. Tarango stated in another interview in 2003, “We weren’t afraid.” [Hector Godinez recalled Tarango’s bravado when LULAC members were harassed by officers as revealed in the work by Moises Sandoval, *Our Legacy the First Fifty Years* (Washington D.C.: League of United Latin American Citizens, 1979)]. Furthermore, in interviews in 2002 and 2003, Hector R. Tarango emphatically declared, “We helped organize the lawsuit before the case was filed, all the way to the end, including the appeal.” Mr. Tarango never once accepted the notion that LULAC didn’t help in organizing the case in the beginning or another explanation that LULAC helped only at the time of the appeal; after it was chartered for his experience and evidence to back it confirm his statements.

Because founders of LULAC helped organized the lawsuit they are also responsible for it being filed although Gonzalo Méndez primarily contributed to the initial hiring of the attorney David C. Marcus. The cost of the lawsuit was shared at various points in the duration of the case. Mrs. William Guzman stated that she thought: “We all pitched in.” (Interview: Virginia Guzman, 2003). This assertion is supported by LULAC founders and members interviewed, and further demonstrated in documented evidence provided in part two of this report. The assertion is thus made here that Mr. Gonzalo Méndez did not pay for all litigation costs even though he might have had the means to do so as may have been previously implied by others (*Gonzales, 1990*) (Robin Harder and Manuel N. Gómez, p. 8 “Separate and Unequal: *Méndez v. Westminster* and Desegregation in California Schools” *A Family changes History: Méndez v. Westminster*, edited by Majorie De Martino, 1998) (*Mendez vs. Westminster: For All the Children/Para Todos Los Niños* by Robbie/KOCE-TV, 2002).

Patriots with civil rights and founders of LULAC in Orange County: Manuel Veiga Jr. a World War II veteran inspired by his father Manuel Veiga Sr. also a founder of LULAC in Orange County California, the owners of Veiga Funeral Home; Cruz Barrios, a Santa Ana merchant (Barrios Market; Hector R. Tarango, an officer in the California National Guard; and others; were key leaders in uniting the various actively involved leaders from different areas in Orange County to bring them together for one cause to defend the rights of the people of Mexican or Latin descent. The consciousness of political issues of civil rights and legal rights was raised by these leaders and shared with others including Gonzalo Méndez who personally knew them and had knowledge of their experience in leading the fight for equality and justice and for that

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reason referred to them to represent him and his wife Felicitas and others of their contingency of parents whose families were being discriminated against in the Orange County area of Westminster as he testified in July of 1945.

The lawsuit was filed under a principle of law in civil procedure, that a class action would resolve the same claims raised by multiple parties in these four school districts of Orange County. Consequently this case was not one single lawsuit first filed by Gonzalo and Felicitas Méndez on behalf of their children for the benefit of all children and then later joined in by further efforts of Gonzalo Méndez in bringing forth to the court subsequent lawsuits by other plaintiff families. All plaintiff families were joint parties and all filed together in one large complaint with five fathers as named plaintiffs: Gonzalo Méndez, William Guzman, Frank Palomino, Thomas Estrada, Lorenzo Ramirez representing each of their children: fifteen children were named as plaintiffs and 5,000 un-named children similarly situated. Fighting discrimination was in deed a great cause that required more than one agitated force to challenge and overcome this serious and extreme maltreatment of Mexican families.

In the hearing, David Marcus made the argument before Judge Paul McCormick and to opposing County Counsel that the court begin proceedings first with the representative school district in Garden Grove rather than the school district in Westminster or the other school districts; El Modena; and Santa Ana; because as Marcus alleged the most severe discriminatory practices under the hand of Superintendent of Garden Grove Elementary School District of Orange County, James L. Kent, would settle the matter immediately and thus would require less court time. The representative plaintiff and resident of Garden Grove was Frank Palomino a founder of LULAC Council No. 147 and father of Arthur and Sally Palomino, children who were plaintiffs in the lawsuit. (See Documentary Sources for a copy of the minutes of a Meeting of fourteen persons held at Veiga Funeral Home, May 8, 1946 to form a chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens in Santa Ana for record of Frank Palomino of Garden Grove as co-founder of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147). (The handwritten original in Manuel Veiga's handwriting and the original minutes as typed by Tarango are shown in hands of Hector Tarango in photograph taken by author at one of his interviews as seen in documentary sources).

At issue in the trial was discrimination based on national origin by school districts that acted under the color of authority or jurisdiction of the State. Unjust discrimination by the segregation of children of Mexican ancestry was a violation of the civil rights of American Latino children and therefore was enjoined by the court under American laws, respectively the due process clause and equal protection clause of the Fourteen Amendment of the Constitution of the United States and pertinent California law. Marcus presented evidence of the school system practice of segregation that substantially supported his claim that only Mexican parents received letters from school districts denying their children the right to transfer and or enroll in certain schools. Witnesses, that were brought forth, provided additional testimony of discrimination because of inherent segregation practices in school board policies of enrollment that created separate schools for Mexicans (*Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* 1946, transcripts of trial stored in National Archives and Records Administration, (Pacific Region), Laguna Niguel).

However, enrollment of one hundred percent Mexicans in a school is not necessarily unjust discrimination. Within the political landscape of the good neighbor policy and its derivative pan-Americanism, the migration of people from Mexico and other Latin American countries continued in spite of the occurrence of heavy repatriation of Mexicans in the thirties and a second world war. The overriding hard evidence or proof of unjust discrimination by segregation consisted of those letters, limiting the enrollment of the children of Mexican families to certain schools sent by school officials to only these Mexican families as Marcus presented and not to other families of other ethnic groups that would have included, Anglo American, Jewish American or African American families. The complaint, filed by five non-veteran fathers of

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Mexican descent, on behalf of their respective fifteen children and 5,000 similarly situated who were of Mexican/Latin descent, and that proceeded through the courts of justice, was not based on a multi-ethnic cause of action that required relief for multi-ethnic groups, but a cause of action for relief for the class of children of Mexican/Latin descent--American Latino children. The children of Mexican descent were mandated to attend public schools under California law, yet they were not allowed to attend integrated schools with Anglo-American children. The class action did have however amici curiae from other ethnic groups.

The complaint was not brought forth as cause of action for a class action for the school children of Chinese, Indian, Mongolian or Japanese ethnic groups whom were considered excluded from protection from violations of civil rights because California laws, specifically under the *California Education Code*, then allowed segregation in the education of the children of these ethnic groups. Relief from the court in this particular legal case was therefore not sought for them. The allowance of segregation of these children was later outlawed by the State of California because their segregation was also unjust discrimination (See article by Ignacio López in *El Espectador* reprinted in Documentary Sources). The point here is that, the school case itself, although a class action, had no bearing on the segregation or then internment of Japanese or Japanese American families in Orange County. The internment of a particular Japanese American family who leased property to Gonzalo Méndez may have temporarily provided an opportunity for income for the Gonzalo Méndez family but not necessarily the payment of all litigation cost as claimed but refuted by evidence of other sources of funding. Nor did litigation of the Orange County California school case and consequent ruling directly or specifically effect African American families whose children already attended integrated schools in defendant school districts and spoke only in the English language; nor Jewish American families whose children also attended integrated schools because they also were not designated as having a specific problem in speaking in English; a problem that school officials alleged deemed the children of Latin descent as inferior in their capacity to learn and to progress in schools.

Additionally, the school case was neither primarily or solely litigated upon the allegation and evidence of the denial of enrollment into an Anglo American school of Sylvia, Gonzalo Jr., Geronimo, children of lead plaintiff Gonzalo Mendez, for in this matter, one example was necessary but not necessarily sufficient as proof of the practice of segregation and most importantly unjust discrimination by all four school districts. And of course, the letters that served as hard evidence of segregation and school statistics that showed the disparity of enrollment in terms of ethnic composition also weighed in on the judicial matter. Judge McCormick accepted to hear the case and heard substantial testimony of many complainants and that of social scientists as expert witnesses of how Spanish-speaking children learn the English language and learn in schools through informal contact and English immersion. Segregation would not provide American Latino children the opportunity to learn and to progress in school. Experts testified that segregation of the children of Mexican or Latin descent does cause them to feel inferior and negate their opportunity to learn. The court thus concluded that integration provides instead the positive outcome of social equality in education.

The discriminatory segregation of school children of Mexican/Latin descent of the Caucasian race as authorized by four school districts was found to be a violation of the civil rights of the estimated 5000 children of Mexican/Latin descent, and was consequently, enjoined by the court. However, enforcement of the ruling became another obstacle to overcome. Measures taken by the four school districts for a transition to compliance were easier done in one case than in another. More challenging was the fact that the ruling had no binding on school districts elsewhere, other than those specified in Orange County. In sum, the case ruling did not settle the issue of discrimination and segregation for all the children and is not cited in *Brown v Board of Education*, 1954, although tangible links have been found. Pressure placed on school boards prior to the lawsuit did in one instance eliminate the segregation of the children of Japanese

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descent as indicated in the minutes of the Westminster Elementary School Board meeting of January 10, 1945. And hence, because of the actual lawsuit, pressure placed on school boards threatened with further legal action did have influence upon decisions to desegregate schools that were within the administration and jurisdiction of other school districts.

Segregation of children did not entirely end in 1946. The struggle to end discrimination and segregation continued; pressure on school authorities and school boards continued. However one major legal battle was won and LULAC founders had a significant role in determining this landmark victory for the people of Mexican/Latin descent because they helped to organize the plaintiffs, witnesses, and pay for legal costs and because they followed the sought advice of attorney David C. Marcus, affiliated with the Mexican Consulate, in doing so.

The formation of the lawsuit begins in the early 1940s. Amicus curiae was filed by other groups at the time of filing of the case to aid the Judge and Judges in their consideration of the matter by providing other information, including a joint *Brief of the National Lawyers Guild and American Civil Liberties Union*, filed October 1, 1945 and notably later for the appeal, *Motion and Brief for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People As Amicus Curiae* filed October 2, 1946. Others also filed amicus curiae but also were not parties and therefore not entitled to relief by the court. Points of all amicus curiae are provided further below as they were filed for the complaint and after for the appeal. Points are also made further below for both decisions that are identified here simply by dates of legal proceedings. Decision by Judge Paul McCormick, U.S. Federal District Court in Los Angeles was granted to the plaintiffs, as petitioners, March 21, 1946, and against the school districts that were defendants, or respondents, who appealed the case March 30, 1946. The decision of the lower court was upheld April 14, 1947 by appellate judges of the Ninth Circuit of the U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

In sum, the class action lawsuit, *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* was the result of a *concerted effort* of mainly and most notably Mexican and Mexican American and or Latino plaintiff families, LULAC founders and members and *not only* the firm resolve of Gonzalo, who was Mexican and a naturalized American citizen, a lead plaintiff and a trial witness, and or his wife Felicitas Méndez who was Puerto Rican and an American citizen, a trial witness but not a named plaintiff, as has been *commonly* accepted. As a result of this study, the account of the founders of LULAC in Orange County, California, with respect to their work in this class action lawsuit is consistent with the discovered sequence of events and documentation of their efforts. Any repudiation of these facts is therefore refuted.

Great historic events provide exceptional opportunities to examine and to bring to light the human condition. Historical insight of human endeavor reveals the human spirit: hope that promises a better tomorrow and that persists without end. It is often the case that to have great change there must be great forces to alter and to bring about a sense of peaceful equilibrium to an otherwise unstable social environment: an environment wrought with social and political antagonism; unwarranted fear created by the perception of the unaccepted other. The birth of LULAC brought forth the strength in numbers to combat this type of antagonism for negatively perceived cultural differences create class distinctions among people. LULAC councils were formed in California beginning in 1933. Documentation of the formation of these councils and information on the lawsuit is presented under the section of the report titled *Documentary Sources I-V*.

Compiled evidentiary data does portray a people willing to organize themselves and others in order to have social justice; an equal social standing among their fellow citizens and/or residents in California. It is they whom we can view as the leaders of the cause to fight discrimination against the people of Mexican or Latin descent in light of evidence found. For example, in the early forties, in Orange County California, the view that people with a different type of surname or that people with knowledge and/or use of another language, or that people who hold a different lineage, ancestry, or national origin, (darker in complexion who may belong

to a different race) are to be seen as dirty, inferior in social appearance and in intelligence, presented the “Mexican problem” set to be handled in a different manner. It is this perception of negatively viewed differences that led school authorities of the 1940’s in Orange County California to violate the civil rights of children of Mexican Ancestry (*Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*). Specifically, Mexican children were wrongfully perceived to fit into these negative categorical descriptions hence they required segregation from other children who were either considered White American or English speaking pupils of the Anglo Saxon race and whom were deemed to have the right characteristics to learn and to progress in schools. Because of segregation, children of people of Mexican or Latin extraction did not share the same opportunity and educational benefits as Anglo American children; they did not receive their equal right to an equal American education under the principle of *social equality*, a principle now defined as *Educational Equity* in *California Education Code, Chapter 2*, and defended in *Article 3, Prohibition of Discrimination*.

Research into the formation of LULAC councils in California led to the role of LULAC in the 1946 California landmark case of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* and into a deeper inquiry of what happened in this case. **How people are associated provides the key in understanding and explaining the involvement of LULAC founders and members in a social cause. Hence, the depiction of the development of LULAC in California is historically interwoven and highlighted with the account of this lawsuit.** Although the focus of other investigative research has been on lead plaintiff Gonzalo Méndez and his wife Felicitas of *Méndez v Westminster*, a different approach to examining the historical background of this case was warranted for a more comprehensive and therefore a more complete view of the extensively large class action lawsuit listed purposefully in full title throughout this study as *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* Part of this study in its purpose was to present an un-biased view of history through actual verification of LULAC’s history in California.

Detailed research in this LULAC project report is comprised of the following: information obtained by interviews with persons who were involved in this case intermittently conducted in various months and years; historical documents such as minutes of school boards; court documents including original complaint; and transcripts of the testimony of witnesses before Judge Paul J. McCormick found and obtained from the National Archives and Records Administration, (Pacific Region), Laguna Niguel; and other court documents including copies of appeal; findings; conclusions of the court; and decision by appellate judges of the Ninth Judicial Circuit of U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals obtained from National Archives and Records Administration (Pacific Region) San Bruno, California, birth and death records at both Orange County Records Office and the County of Los Angeles Hall of Records; historical data at the Orange County Planning Department Office; the tracking of plaintiff families and others involved and their oral histories and documents and information obtained directly from them and finally information from *LULAC NEWS* of National LULAC and local LULAC publications and other Latino publications of the time.

Findings from this research revealed a great amount of evidence of a convergence of forces that equaled the right elements for change, a better American way of living for Latinos in California, the mission of LULAC. Particularly in the case of the lawsuit, this change in history was from discrimination and segregation of people of Mexican or Latin extraction from others, to an end of the administrative policies of four school districts in Orange County in the State of California that were in effect discriminatory by *regulations, customs, usages and practices* as ruled by Judge Paul McCormick in his decision in 1946. The facts clearly reveal that this change occurred because of a unifying common cause and a consolidated and effective result; the court decision in 1946 upheld in 1947. The credit goes to all: not only those who hail from Westminster but also to those whose life was centered in other areas and cities of Orange County, California.

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And credit also extends to those in the judicial system whose work for social justice was outside of Orange County but still in California, namely Los Angeles and San Francisco. Other desegregation efforts have tangible links to this landmark case organized by LULAC founders. Efforts of Unified Veterans and Citizens of Placentia, Atwood and La Jolla, and their connection to LULAC serve as an example and are further explained and revealed below.

In sum, from a historic and legal perspective, the right elements for change either purposely directed or inadvertently created came to the forefront as they converged in the early 1940's. As revealed in the study of the formation of LULAC in California and the class action lawsuit these elements for change consisted of the following: (1) the need to change the discriminatory conditions themselves, (2) the legal structure of the judicial system in place: attorney for the plaintiffs David C. Marcus and his affiliation with the Mexican Consulate and prior litigation (*Lopez v Seccombe*, 1944); and at the time of the appeal of this case, David Marcus joined by support counsel William Strong; the Southern Division District Judge Paul J. McCormick; and the seven appellate judges of the Ninth Judicial Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals; amicus curiae by American Civil Liberties Union, and the National Lawyers Guild in 1945 and in 1946, NAACP, and others and finally (3) the people willing and able to organize themselves with the assistance of community leaders such as the founders and members of LULAC and some support from the Roman Catholic Church, the Mexican Consulate and some although much less support from other organizations such as the Mexican American Movement (M.A.M.) and the connections to the governmental agency OIAA that had at one time a consultant, LULACer George I. Sanchez and a representative agent Ignacio L. López both civil rights leaders.

DISCRIMINATORY CONDITIONS: THE "MEXICAN PROBLEM" AND THE SEGREGATION OF CHILDREN

Mexican children who were able to speak in the English language were denied the opportunity to learn American ideals and democratic principles as other children because they were segregated from others who were identified as English speaking pupils. Their ability to learn and to progress in their knowledge of the American way of life was hindered. They did not share the same fundamental right to "life, liberty or to property" as protected by the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution due process of law and equal protection of civil rights. Consequently *suspect classification* by acts of discrimination because of *national origin* met the criteria for civil action by complainants who did not have *social equality* defined as *educational equity* in the *California Education Code*. They were discriminated against by school officials who implemented school policies that did not allow them to enroll in the same schools as others who were mainly white or Anglo American children (some instances African American) whose ability to speak English was not in question. School officials created these discriminatory policies because of complaints by the parents of White children and some others that too many Mexican children were being allowed via a transfer system into non-integrated schools. The "Mexican problem" which was categorically explained by school officials who defended their discriminatory practice as having been caused by exacerbated crowded conditions is explained as the result of broadly pronounced and overwhelming prejudice against the people of Mexican descent. Latinos of primarily of Mexican descent consequently went before the school boards to remedy segregation in the schools ("Mexican Problem," Santa Ana School Board, Minutes, 1940's) (Westminster Elementary School Board of Trustees, Minutes, 1944 and 1945) (Placentia Unified School District Board of Trustees, Minutes, 1946-1949).

The clamor first initiated by Anglo Americans who pressured schools authorities to do something about the "Mexican problem" climaxed when Mexican and Mexican Americans applied their own pressure and went before school boards demanding that their children be allowed to attend the better and closer school(s). **Mrs. Virginia Guzman testified that letters**

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were sent out to Mexican parents. “And we said why didn’t the others, our neighbors right next door and across the street, that were going to the Franklin School, why they didn’t get any letters. And they said that those kids got a special permit, the white kids, as they call them. . .to be transferred to the Franklin (integrated school or school where White American children attended) that live in the Fremont District (non-integrated where Mexican American children attended—“Mexican school”), to go out of the Fremont District to the Franklin District.” Additionally in her testimony Mrs. Guzman makes the contention that colored people were also allowed to attend Franklin (school) and only Mexican children attended the Fremont School. (Virginia Guzman Testimony as indicated, Friday July 6, 1945, pp. 205 and 206 in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* 1946). (Interview: Mrs. Virginia Guzman, 2003).

Mr. William Guzman testified (*Gonzalo Méndez et.al v. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*, Transcripts of Trial, July 6, 1945, Testimony William Guzman: p. 170) about trying to enroll their son Billy into the Franklin school to no avail. He stated,

So then I went and got myself a lawyer, Mr. martin, who was over there at the School Board.

William Guzman, Plaintiff

Prior to the groups joining together from different parts of Orange County, the group led by William Guzman and his wife Virginia and others as recorded in the minutes of Santa Ana School Board during the Fall of 1944, hired their own attorney Martin, an attorney in Santa Ana, who did not pursue the case any farther than at the meetings of the Santa Ana School Board. More information than is included here about the others for instance Felicitas Fuentes and Mabel Mendez who were also actively involved is recorded in the transcripts of those who also testified and also those mentioned in the minutes of the meetings of the Board. Information about the discriminatory letters sent to the parents of children of Mexican descent is found in the testimony of various witnesses for the plaintiffs. With respect to information about witnesses representing other locales such as Garden Grove and El Modena, that is also in transcripts of legal proceedings.

In very few cases, the transfer system in schools had allowed some Latino parents to enroll their children into the schools where the white children attended. When Latino parents had knowledge that some Mexican American school children had enrolled in White schools and their own denied they complained to school officials whom were responsible. One example is the testimony given by Gonzalo Méndez when he recounts that he asked Mr. Harris, (Superintendent of Westminster School District) “why was it that he had admitted other Mexican children there sometime.” Mr. Méndez refers in this account to a *Mrs. Alarcon* whose children were admitted into the integrated school whereas his had not been. Thus he infers that complaints to the school board about discrimination of his children were not resolved (Gonzalo Méndez testimony, as recorded July 9, 1945 on p. 452 in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*). And now in the early 1940’s, the Anglo Americans wanted a total end to transfers that allowed Mexican children to attend school with their own. School authorities responded by executing a modification to their school transfer system whereby they first of all, in effect, prohibited Mexican children to enroll into integrated schools for English speaking pupils. Secondly, they stipulated that children (of Mexican descent) who previously had been allowed to enter on a transfer basis as exceptions were to return to the school within their school district boundary, i.e., *Mexican schools* although some children had already been accepted as transfers because they were approved by school officials in their ability to speak in English and were deemed presentable in appearance. But, letters informing parents of policy changes concerning transfers were only sent to the parents of children of Mexican or Latin descent in the fall of 1944.

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(Specific reference to letters informing Mexican parents of the status of transfers follows further below).

In Hector R. Tarango's account, the heightened clamor in the Latino community prompted Manuel Veiga Jr., Hector R. Tarango, Cruz Barrios and a fourth person most likely Isadore Gonzales to seek legal counsel (Interview: Hector R. Tarango, 2002). These men of Mexican/Latin or Hispanic extraction went to Los Angeles to consult with David Marcus before the actual lawsuit was filed in March of 1945 as to what to do about legally waging a fight against discrimination of Mexicans whom they considered as having rights, and those of Mexican ancestry who were born in the U.S. and whom they considered to be equal Americans (Interviews: Hector R. Tarango, 2002 and 2003, 2004, and 2005). Gonzalo Méndez and others of the so termed *Hoover school Mexican Colony* were accompanied by these founders of LULAC as reported in *Minutes of Westminster School Board of Trustees of September 19, 1944*. Gonzalo Méndez, sought the assistance of fellow activists in the fall of 1944 (Gonzalo Méndez testimony, July, 9, 1945, *Gonzalo Méndez vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*, 1946, transcripts of trial, pp. 447-449, National Archives and Records Administration, (Pacific Region), Laguna Niguel) and becomes a representative plaintiff when he learned from them the amount of discrimination against Mexican families, a common problem that his family also experienced through the efforts of Latin American Voters League noted as beginning in 1943 (Interview: Hector R. Tarango, 2002). At a special meeting of the Westminster School Board of Trustees held January 10, 1945, "The problem of the complaint from the Mexican speaking peoples was discussed at length." As reported in the minutes of the Westminster School Board of January 10, 1945, "Mr. Harris (Superintendent of Westminster School District) reported that David C. Marcus, suite 416, Spring and Second Building, 129 W. 2nd, Los Angeles, had called at the office with Mr. Gonzales [sic] Mendez on January 9, 1945. Mr. Marcus, attorney, at law indicated that in his opinion there was discrimination being practiced in this district." (See documentary sources for reproductions of minutes).

The outcry of social injustice that came from different cities, *colonias* or areas i.e., Artesia, Delhi, Logan of Santa Ana, Westminster, Garden Grove, El Modena, Placentia-Atwood-La Jolla, and La Habra took roots and groups formed and one of those groups continued to exist as a Santa Ana LULAC chapter. Initially this chapter membership represented most of these areas or *colonias* of Orange County (Interview: Alex Maldonado, 2003, 2008). The value in activism is the point made here. Without those who step forward, progress would not be made in any endeavor. Particular leaders of *barrios* can narrate further their own specific battles. The founders of LULAC stepped forward in this case and when asked for their organized leadership and support, it was provided and is well documented throughout this study. The spirit of LULAC prevailed because American Latinos in Orange County California were organized.

Manuel Veiga Jr. is enlisted into the Army May 24, 1945 (*U.S. World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946*), and in May 8, 1946 he is present and elected the first president of the LULAC council in Santa Ana at a meeting held at his family business, Veiga Funeral Home. Other officers are elected including Mr. Cruz Barrios, who is elected Treasurer and Mr. Hector R. Tarango who is elected Secretary. Mr. Frank Palomino, plaintiff in case seconds a motion to meet again. Santa Ana Council No. 147 is then installed and chartered June 9, 1946.

Understanding the practice of discrimination in its multiple forms is important in explaining the history of those whose lives were dedicated to fighting discrimination against people of their own ethnicity or nationality. Explaining various race categories does not fully explain the decision in *Mendez et al.* even though discrimination can be attributed to the color of the Mexican who in general terms is darker in complexion when compared to white *Anglo-Saxon* people and in particular cases whose complexion can be likened to that of African Americans. Underlying racism leads to discrimination when the perception of what is dark is unclean has been designated to persons of a different national origin. In this light, descriptions of national

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origin may inherently differentiate people by their physical characteristics, the defining characteristics of racial categories. For instance the people from Mexico are in general different in physical traits and in type of language spoken when compared to certain people from certain European countries. Mexicans were discriminated against because of their national origin because they “speak Spanish” in their homes, they “don’t talk in English” and they are identified as such by their Spanish surnames. National origin that inherently consists of these physical characterizations and language differentiations was the appropriately designated basis for litigation that claimed this kind of discrimination and consequently for the decision for the plaintiffs, all who were of Mexican/Latin families.

As evidenced in *Méndez et al.*, the actual legal cause of action that produced an entire class action was discrimination against a differentiated class of Mexican people; for example, those letters that were discriminatory on the basis of *Mexican national origin*. Used as an excuse by school officials to segregate, national origin indirectly encompassed these differences in language, therefore, the need for “ability segregation” to compensate for allegedly inferior English language skills and physical characteristics, therefore, the need to segregate because of perceived distinctions of which children are unclean or dirty. In some cases as indicated before colored children were allowed to attend with white children (Interview: Virginia Guzman, 2002). This is not to state that discrimination based on race did not occur and should not be reported or combated but in this legal case, ethnicity of the Mexican people as defined by school officials was at the crux of the matter.

Race had already been put to rest as an issue for litigation in the *pre-trial* portion of the case because there was not a distinct separate category in terms of race for Mexicans who belonged in the Caucasian race category (*Mendez v Westminster*, Transcripts, 1945, at National Archives and Records Administration, (Pacific Region), Laguna Niguel). School officials were not restricted from segregating under certain California laws certain children of other racial categories. Because of such law, it is interesting to note a misinterpretation of the case that concludes Mexican and Mexican American plaintiff families won because they could not be discriminated against because they were Caucasian according to race, therefore they could not be legally discriminated against because of this kind of racism. This contention identifies racism and then negates it as the single or independent variable and thus the determinant of the basis of the complaint. This explanation in considering whether or not the violations were based according to California law holds true. However, the larger jurisdictional law includes another classification of discrimination and that is national origin according to the Fourteen Amendment of the United States Constitution. The case for instance was also and more significantly adjudicated on the issue of whether or not persons were discriminated because of their national origin or Mexican ethnicity or Latin ethnicity and not race as strictly defined in definitive racial categories. Ethnically and culturally Mexican Americans or Chicanos refer to themselves and other Latinos (some include in this category Afro-Latinos) as *la raza*, that is an ethnic and cultural and political group of people living in America; the general meaning of the term may indicate alternate meanings as differentiations to the category of race. In this sense an Anglo person who is white and Caucasian by race is not considered *raza*.

The case of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* was litigated and decided upon the fact that only the children of Mexican families could no longer even attempt to attend the schools which were allegedly outside of their fixed by school districts school boundary, through the transfer system. In El Modena the schools were next to one another (Interview: Jose Ramirez, plaintiff, 2003). Children were kept apart in different schools; with different lunch schedules and play schedules so that interaction and social mixing could not take place. The primary factor for the struggle against *discrimination was the discriminatory school district letters about enrollment and transfers that ignited the cause which were sent by school authorities in the Fall of 1944*. Some parents had previously tried to enroll their children

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in integrated schools through the transfer system and failed. These letters were presented as evidence before the court of the presiding judge, Honorable Paul J. McCormick of District Court of the United States Southern District Division Central Division in Los Angeles by attorney David C. Marcus, who was affiliated with the Mexican Consulate. Litigation of the alleged matter of discrimination which took place in the five-day trial, *Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* brought before Judge Paul J. McCormick was significantly determined upon these letters sent to multiple Mexican parents in multiple schools districts in Orange County. (Information about these letters including text of an exhibit letter is found throughout the legal proceedings as recorded in transcripts found in case files located at National Archives and Records Administration, (Pacific Region), Laguna Niguel, CA).

School boards supported their practices and claimed that they in deed were not discriminatory but were based on valid school policy that did not violate any existing state laws for they claimed there were none that were applicable and therefore they were not jurisdictionally bound to and were not prohibited from using measures of segregation based on levels of ability of children to learn. Once they were served with the complaint, school boards responded. For example, the following is an excerpt of the response by Westminster School District of Orange County, May 5, 1945 p. 3, *Méndez v Westminster*, 1946, National Archives and Records Administration, (Pacific Region), Laguna Niguel):

That for the purpose and for the benefit of said pupils, and to give them instruction in the aforesaid subject separate and apart from the English speaking pupils, the Board of Trustees of said District have determined that it is for the best interests of said pupils of Mexican descent and for the best interests of the English speaking pupils, that said groups be educated separately during the period they are in the lower grades.

But their explanations and attempts to validate their actions throughout the legal case ultimately failed. David C. Marcus, affiliated with the Mexican Consulate, attorney for the petitioners and as such attorney for 5000 children of Mexican ancestry repeatedly asked witnesses if and when they received letters that in effect enforced the school boards discriminatory school policies. Hence the threshold for bringing a case to trial and having a *prayer* heard in court was met. Marcus went beyond the question of did you ever see or speak with a principal, superintendent or ask at a school board meeting and or request at any time or place that your child be allowed to attend a school known to be for “Whites” or “Anglo Americans or “English speaking pupils”? He presented to the court the evidence in black and white, those discriminatory letters: *prima facie* evidence of discrimination.

THE RIGHT LAWYERS, THE RIGHT JUDGE AND THE RIGHT JUDGES

School officials were wrong in separating children in schools because it is against the law. The following is an analysis of the judicial reasoning of Judge Paul J. McCormick that explains why. Although the parent is the first teacher of the child, the ultimate responsibility of educating a child rests upon the schools. The parents are dependent on schools and their respective teachers to educate their children so that they can become persons who can progress in society. The education of Mexican children in the American way and in the English language could only be achieved in integrated schools. The parents entrusted the schools with the ultimate responsibility of providing to their children an equal American education; not one that is separate and unequal. When school officials segregated and discriminated against their children the effect was that of *detrimental reliance*. This premise was supported by the litigation skills of David Marcus. Marcus allowed Charles F. Christopher of the National Lawyers Guild under amicus

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curiae to bring before the court Mary Hughes who testified before Judge McCormick about conclusions based on a study of the educational status of Mexican children attending Pfo Pico Elementary School in the El Ranchito School District of Los Angeles. Mrs. Hughes stated that children learn better when they have “informal social contact” with their peers. This interaction between pupils is vital for a child’s education and the state with its representative educators has a *compelling interest* in providing a learning environment that enables children to learn and to progress and eventually become law abiding citizens of the nation. (*Méndez v Westminster*, 1946: See Court transcripts at National Archives, Pacific Region, Laguna Niguel, CA of Hearings held July 1945 before Judge Paul J. McCormick of testimonies by witnesses brought forth by attorney for plaintiffs David C. Marcus and for the words of Judge Paul J. McCormick).

Because school authorities were held responsible for educating children and therefore jurisdictionally bound to do so; and because of their discriminatory practices, they and their policies and practices were in violation of constitutional law that states as in *U.S. Const., Amend. XIV §1*:

Section 1. All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United State and of the State wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

The law has been further defined in the *Civil Rights Act of 1964*, and states as in 42 *U.S.C. §1983*:

Every person who, under color of any statute, ordinance, regulation, custom, or usage, of any State or Territory or the District of Columbia, subjects, or cause to be subjected, any citizen of the United states or other person within the jurisdiction thereof to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured by the Constitution and laws, shall be liable to the party injured in an action at law, suit in equity, or other proper proceeding for redress, except that in any action brought against a judicial officer for an act or omission taken in such officer’s judicial capacity, injunctive relief shall not be granted unless a declaratory decree was violated or declaratory relief was unavailable. For the purposes of this section, any Act of Congress applicable exclusively to the District of Columbia shall be considered to be a statute of the District of Columbia.

The plaintiffs and community leaders had the right judge in 1945-1946 and the right seven appellate judges in 1946-1947. And, of course, they had the right attorney in David C. Marcus (law degree from University of Southern California in 1927) who had the necessary and appropriate class action type of lawsuit experience. (See Documentary Sources for further information and for photo of Marcus). Marcus then asked attorney William Strong to join him after the decision was appealed by the school districts. (See Documentary Sources for information and photo of Strong).

The question of jurisdiction of the 1946 case, whether or not it belonged at the level of the federal judiciary, was at issue. Jurisdiction was determined to be at the federal district court level and subsequently at the federal appellate court level. In any state of the country, any responsible party, entity, or agent or institution with authority over conditions--the necessary and sufficient meaning of the operative term “State” that violates a persons civil rights and due

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process of law was to be prosecuted under constitutional law. Because discrimination based on national origin had occurred in the schools for this was a school case that involved the education of children of Mexican ancestry, and more significantly and importantly because the law that was allegedly violated was federal law, and the complaint was a class action involving four school districts, during pre-trial the case was referred to by Judge McCormick as “*sui generis*,” a Latin term meaning of its own kind.

In his adjudication of the matter, Judge McCormick held to his beliefs of the tradition of a careful and lawful interpretation built through time that invoked legal principles of American law that were not to be subjected to the demands of some witnesses in this case who claimed equal rights in education for their children because family members had served in the military during WWII. Rights and privileges and or protection were not to be granted by Judge McCormick because of “political winds” of the time. He himself makes reference to this during the trial and elaborately addresses the foundation for his beliefs making reference to precedent cases (*Méndez et al. vs Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*, Transcripts of trial, 1945). American Latino children had the right to an equal American education because they were persons equally protected by the law under the fourteenth amendment of the United States Constitution; not necessarily born U.S. citizens whose family had earned them this right through any military service under conditions that were political in nature and subject to change. School authorities that comprised the “State” had the ultimate responsibility to provide to all of these children of Mexican/Latin extraction the opportunity to learn and to progress as persons under the jurisdiction of supreme American laws tested through generations. Judge McCormick rendered his decision based on one overriding issue, the equal protection of the civil rights of all people regardless of their national origin; the supreme law of the land.

Concrete evidence was sufficiently provided by Marcus with his introduction to the court of the letters sent by school districts to only *Mexican* parents of children informing them that they could no longer use the transfer system: an indirect method that parents used to send their children to schools with English speaking pupils. Because of this civil rights violation (*and violations under California Education Code*), school authorities were enjoined in the decision held by the Southern Division presiding Judge Paul J. McCormick of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*, 1946, and later unanimously enjoined when this decision was upheld in 1947 by seven appellate judges of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit: Honorable Albert Lee Stephens Sr., Honorable Homer T. Bone, Honorable William Denman, Honorable Francis A. Garrecht, Honorable William Healy, Honorable Clifton Mathews, Honorable William E. Orr, in *Westminster School District of Orange County et al. vs. Gonzalo Méndez et al.* (See Documentary Sources for photos of Judges).

PROFILES OF PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS: PEOPLE WILLING TO ORGANIZE AND TO LEAD THE STRUGGLE TO END DISCRIMINATION

As people of Latin descent living in the U.S. became more assimilated into the dominant Anglo American culture they became more Americanized in the sense that they learned to better assert their civil rights, they became *patriots with civil rights*. These people living in California engrained in its American culture and its social and legal components benefited from earlier experience and knowledge of ethnic and civic affairs passed on to them by predecessors and or ancestors. Jacob I. Rodriguez a founding member of San Antonio Council No. 2 of the League of United Latin American Citizens came from San Antonio Texas to Sacramento, California December, 1932. In 1933 Jacob I. Rodriguez began LULAC in California with its first council, Sacramento LULAC Council No. 61. He stayed a few years then returned to San Antonio, Texas and to San Antonio LULAC Council No. 2. Heading California LULAC there were LULAC regional governors, LULAC regional organizers and LULAC District organizers. The following

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persons served in such positions and resided in different locations: Modesto A. Gomez (Special Organizer for New Mexico, Arizona, and California lived in El Paso Texas when he served in 1937), M. R. Gameros, (State Organizer, Los Angeles, 1937), Rolondo S. Gutierrez (Regional Organizer for California, 1940, Los Angeles), Felix W. Montoya, (Regional Organizer for California, 1940, Organizer General, Los Angeles, 1943), Nieves Pineda (Regional Governor for California, San Bernardino, 1941), William H. Wheat (Regional Organizer for California 1945, and Regional Governor for California, 1946, Los Angeles, San Gabriel and Alhambra) George W. Ramirez (Regional governor for California 1945), Floyd Apodaca (Regional Organizer for California, 1946), John O. Gonzales (1st Vice-President General Los Angeles), Hector R. Tarango (National Trustee, 1947, California Regional Governor, 1949, Santa Ana), Isadore A. Gonzales (Regional Governor for California, Santa Ana, 1947), Alex Maldonado (Regional Organizer for El Modena, 1947, and District Organizer for El Modeno [sic] in *LULAC NEWS*, Vol. 16, No. 4, April, 1950), Ruben Lopez, (Regional Organizer for Anaheim, 1947, Anaheim), Henry M. Nestre [sic, correct Mestre] (Regional Organizer for Brea, 1947, Brea), David Ortiz (Regional Organizer for Santa Ana, Santa Ana) and Manuel Esqueda (Regional Organizer for Santa Ana, 1947), Hector Godinez (Governor of District No. 1, 1956, LULAC National President, 1961, Santa Ana), Danny Olivas (Regional Governor for California, 1955, State Director 1961, Placentia), Stephen S. Lara (Regional Governor for California, 1955, Santa Ana) and Joe O'Campo (Regional Governor for California, 1956, LULAC National First Vice-President, 1957, Santa Ana). Data obtained from research of *LULAC NEWS* publications.

In 1937 in the City of Los Angeles, a LULAC council was formed. Alhambra also had a LULAC council, Council No. 137. San Bernardino had LULAC councils, No. 108 and 135 including a council for women. Others followed. (See Documentary Sources for *LULAC NEWS* reproductions from originals stored in LULAC Archives at Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin and reproductions of Local *LULAC NEWS* publications from individual collections about councils identified through this work and refer to the above pp. 55-56 for a complete chronological sequence of councils formed).

The history of LULAC in California can be seen as the continued spreading of LULAC. In the forties, patriot with civil rights John Gonzales originally a LULAC member in Phoenix Arizona moved to Los Angeles and eventually started a Los Angeles LULAC council. A member of his council in its beginning years was Manuel Veiga Jr. (Interview: Mr. John O. Gonzales, 2003 by Ed Morga, past LULAC National President, Vicki L. Ruiz, Ph.D., Professor of History and Professor of Chicano/Chicana Studies, University of California, Irvine and Margie Aguirre, Chair of California LULAC Heritage Committee). The Mexican American Movement that was founded in Los Angeles in 1942 by Bert Corona and others had spread into Orange County and efforts by LULAC and M.A.M. intermittently overlapped. The theme *progress through education* was shared some members were crossovers. (Interview: Gualberto Valadez, founder of Placentia CA chapter of Mexican American Movement, 2004) (Interview: Alfred and Julia Aguirre, 2003). Americanization achieved through progress in education became a valued ideal. However, the obstacles of discrimination of ethnicity would interfere. This dilemma has continued for the people of Mexican/Latin descent including those who identify with the term Chicano as they continue to face this dilemma in their lives; in their own past or that of their ancestors who faced this same problem of discrimination with respect to their ethnic background; even though they may have been born in America. LULAC as a bridge for American Latinos provides relief for this enigma. It is a connection for people who reside in America who have roots from Mexico and or roots from other countries, with those who were born here, but yet have an ethnic background that is a target for those who practice discrimination and act out of resentment and hatred for those negatively perceived as a foreign element of American Society. Issues of ethnic identity continue to plague Latinos, especially those whose sanguine idealism expressed as Americanism is

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demonstrated by heroes whose supreme patriotic sacrifice of death in war is negated when the ugly face of discrimination appears in either the omission of positive images or a portrayal of negative images of the Mexican American, the American Latino in the media. The quest to rectify this matter goes on and because of it so does LULAC.

Associations of people and the relations that evolved provide a historic perspective of occurrences in California with respect to the Mexican and Mexican American community. Mexican American people living in Orange County were able to identify with both their Mexican identity and their American identity, an amalgamation that is distinctly recognizable. Some leaders of Mexican communities (barrios) had been members of the *Comisión Honorífica* established by the Mexican Consulate. The Mexican government hired American lawyers to represent those who needed legal assistance, interpreters and so on. Legal counsel was offered because the Mexican and Mexican American people were discriminated against in various ways. This kind of legal protection by the Mexican government was a valuable resource available to the Mexican community as a whole that encompassed Mexican Americans. During this period David C. Marcus, was the affiliated lawyer for the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles (Interview: Francisco Balderrama, 2003, author of *In Defense of La Raza: The Los Angeles Mexican Consulate and the Mexican Community, 1929-1936*, [Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1982] (Interview: Ralph Perez, 2003). Consuls had resources available although they did not themselves spearhead legal action that made for class action of the Mexican people against discrimination by Anglo Americans (*Mendez v. Westminster*, 1946). Marcus had the right kind of experience to represent plaintiffs in a class action lawsuit for civil rights in education for children who were also American though identified as Mexican children who prevailed with American civil rights.

In early 1940's, substantial social unrest manifested into pockets of activity by Latino individuals and Latino small groups in Orange County California (Mary Lisbeth Haas *Barrios of Santa Ana: Community, Class, and Urbanization, 1850-1947*, Doctoral Thesis, [University of California, Irvine, 1985]). This political struggle of combined forces for social justice would culminate and thrust the development of the class action lawsuit and the development of LULAC in Orange County, California. Example of activity is also identified by the Lorenzo Ramirez family which provided an account of a 1943 social and political struggle on behalf of Mexican residents in which Mr. Lorenzo a plaintiff in the *Gonzalo Mendez et al.* lawsuit was a participant as reported in a newspaper printed in English and Spanish in Mexico with coverage of affairs in Orange (including El Modena area) called *El POLITICO*. (See below for detail information) (Interview: Josefina Ramirez and family 2003). Also, Latinos organized the effort to get out the then called, "Mexican vote" and thus gain seats on school boards by removing those who were known to be unfair to the people of Mexican descent and to practice discrimination through segregation (Interview: Alex Maldonado, 2002 & 2003) (Interview: Ralph Perez, 2002 & 2003). Voting campaigns were held in order to change the composition of school boards and to change the political climate that one social and ethnic class remained above others. LULAC continues to exist because of still presently uneven social and political fields of influence and power that dominant social groups enforce through social, political and educational institutions.

The educational system is not immune to the politics that take place in the political domain. School boards share in politics because members are elected leaders. The political framework of a Mexican and Mexican American political force was set as a result of escalating discrimination against persons of Mexican or Latin extraction by school authorities who were themselves experiencing the dramatic influx of persons into Orange County. The perceived foreign segment of the population was comprised of people who spoke another language (in addition to English) and who were descendants of another country who practiced a different culture (in addition to the American culture), but nonetheless were growing in number. How Americanized they were depended on a case basis and hence school authorities as brought to the attention of the court in 1945 by Marcus, classified them into one category, a people with a

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different surname, language and culture and according to one superintendent named James L. Kent a people of a different and unclean and inferior race.

Americans in Orange County California in the 1940s as they are today were comprised of white, black, Asian and, Hispanic or Latino (Chicano) ethnicity but the positions of power were held mainly by white Americans. Divisions of power and limited social intermixing between people of different nationalities presented an outcome that was not to be tolerated by people of Mexican or Latin extraction in the 1940's for it was their children who suffered the consequences of a division in social and educational opportunities. Segregation had been practiced intermittently and sporadically throughout California in different forms in such societal elements as housing and schools. The findings of research revealed here deal only with discrimination in the schools in Orange County, California.

The political forces that existed to combat discrimination strengthened because people felt compelled for whatever personal reasons to defend the civil rights of primarily Mexican, Mexican American people.

Manuel Esqueda

(Interview: Manuel Esqueda, 2002 and 2003, LULAC leader, 1947 LULAC District Organizer along with David Ortiz for Santa Ana and founder of Gemini Club for scholarships). Mr. Esqueda stated that he "recalled a collection for the school case that at times was made up of quarters."

Patriot with civil rights Manuel Veiga Jr. associated with civic leaders when he engaged others to join him in the cause to fight segregation and social injustice, a cause not identified by the work of Carey McWilliams in his article "Is Your Name Gonzales?" published in *The Nation*, March 15, 1947. LULAC member and founder of Santa Ana Council No. 147, Manuel Veiga Jr. merits the recognition given him by the people who were his and his father's followers because he was actually involved in organizing the case of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*

Isadore A. Gonzales, First Trustee of Council No. 147, in his article, "Odds and Ends Down California Way" published in the *LULAC NEWS* Vol. 13, No. 8, February, 1947 wrote the following about LULAC member and founder of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147, WWII (U. S. Army) veteran Manuel Veiga Jr.:

"And while speaking of Manuel it is only fitting to give him his due. He is modest, honest, earnest and capable. Before the war he struggled and sweated with the Voters League until called into the service with his dream half finished. Upon his discharge he returned to the community and the problems that had dominated his thoughts during his military service. In his conversations with former G.I.s and members of the Voters League the possibilities of a Lulac Council were discussed. On June 9, 1946, Council 147 was chartered and its officers installed by Regional Organizer Wm. Wheat. (Manuel Veiga Jr. President). It was Manuel Veiga's patience and initiative that made us all realize our community responsibilities and required services. Three cheers for our Prexy and Buddy, Manuel. It is unfortunate that not many of us are gifted with his tact, diplomacy, understanding, and helpfulness, but let us give him our undivided assistance. Forward, Manuel, we are all behind you."

Manuel Veiga Jr. was the leader who with others began LULAC in Orange County and who led the desegregation effort that resulted in the victory of a landmark lawsuit.

**PLAINTIFF LEADERS WERE ACTIVE
AS PEOPLE WHO STRUGGLED FOR SOCIAL AND POLITICAL JUSTICE.**

It is interesting to note the way others have described the involvement of LULAC founders and the plaintiffs of the lawsuit themselves as having become involved in the social struggle for equality in education from their participation in World War II. But in the desegregation struggle that began prior to the lawsuit mostly non-veterans were involved. And in some cases some of the involvement in the struggle to end discrimination and segregation preceded actual service in WWII, as indicated by the history of WWII veteran Manuel Veiga Jr. noted above. Mr. Cruz Barrios was not a veteran of World War II. Mr. Hector R. Tarango did serve in the military in the California National Guard but did not serve in territory engaged in battle and hence was not a *returning* WWII veteran. Mr. Alex Maldonado was not a veteran. Other founders of LULAC in Orange County did serve in the war and are thus veterans and they are properly noted as such in this report. The point made here is that the discriminatory conditions themselves contributed to the empowerment of those who had civil rights of their own to use in the battle against discrimination for they did not need to go to foreign lands to gain the consciousness to do so. A commonly accepted view is that the GI's returned from the war demanding equality in all aspects of American life and that in 1945 Gonzalo Mendez and a group of Mexican American WWII veterans filed the Mendez lawsuit as depicted in article by Christopher Arriola, Esq, who hails from El Modena and the El Modeno(a) school district and did his research on the Mendez case for "A Landmark Little Noted" as in (*A Family Changes History: Méndez v. Westminster* edited by Marjorie De Martino, [University of California Irvine, Office of the Vice-Chancellor, Manuel Gomez Ph.D. 1998] p. 15). Arriola and others before had previously failed to interview the Ramirez family, three of whom were plaintiffs, and children of Mr. Lorenzo Ramirez the representative father plaintiff in the class action lawsuit representing the injured party in the Mexican community of El Modena within the El Modeno school district in *Gonzalo Mendez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* In this particular legal case, with respect to the five father plaintiffs, who were of age to serve in the military, this assertion about the plaintiffs being veterans is entirely inaccurate. None of the five father plaintiffs of Mexican descent in the Méndez et al. case went to war, or came back enlightened from their war experience particularly WWII for none served in the military. Therefore they the plaintiffs themselves were not veterans. The Méndez et al. case was thrust forward and won by a combined force of patriots with civil rights: the plaintiffs and the founders of LULAC some of whom were veterans and all of them mainly and notably of Mexican/Latin descent. Three of the plaintiffs were born in Mexico: Gonzalo Méndez, Tomás Estrada and Lorenzo Ramirez who did not become a naturalized U.S. citizen (Interview: Mrs. Ramirez, 2003). William Guzman and Frank Palomino were both born in the U.S. and are American citizens of Mexican descent. All however were represented by attorney David Marcus who was affiliated with the Mexican Consulate.

Gonzalo Méndez in explaining a request made in the Fall of 1944 possibly September 6, 1944 as in question to him by Marcus (*Méndez v Westminster*, Transcripts of Trial, July 9, 1945, p. 432) to unite the schools made by first of all himself, his wife Felicitas, Mrs. Bermudez and Mrs. Peña to Mr. Richard Harris, Superintendent of Westminster School District, states the following in his testimony of July 9, 1945 (Transcripts of Trial p. 443):

She (Mrs. Peña) brought again the same story that she told Mr. Atkinson (Ray Atkinson, County Superintendent of Schools), about her sons being in the United States Army. So Mr. Harris did not pay very much attention to that. So he, too, said he sympathized with her in that matter. But then I interrupted them, and I

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said that by sympathizing with her in that matter did not do us any good, that we were not—that the main point was not that we were going to discuss about our children in the armed forces, that the main point was we wanted to see if we could not come to some agreement where we could unite the two schools together.

Gonzalo Méndez a patriot with civil rights recalled in his testimony July 9, 1945, (Transcripts of Trial pp. 455-456) that in speaking with Mr. Harris:

Then I told him that still, regardless of everything, that we were going to insist, either by keep going to the School Board meetings, or if we wouldn't get no where by that, that the only thing that was left for us to do would be sue the School Board of Education.

In his testimony July 9, 1945, (Transcripts of Trial pp. 437-438) Gonzalo Méndez also explains the way his children were mistreated:

I said, 'Yes, Mr. Harris, but that wouldn't benefit us at all, as to your having a nice cafeteria for you here in the main school and a health room, while we over there in our Hoover school have nothing but a small building, and without any trees, or benches for my children to come and have their lunch at noon. To the contrary, at noon, when they go out to eat their lunch, they have to sit down on the ground or on the stairs, and the teachers do not even ask our children to go in the room and eat their lunches, but they stay in the rooms and eat their lunches there. They do not care about our children.'

The testimony of Gonzalo Méndez of July 9, 1945 was also informative of the words made by Manuel Veiga Jr. and Cruz Barrios as indicated before in presenting the petition to the Westminster School Board meeting of September 19, 1944 for the purpose of uniting the schools, in this instance, Westminster School and Hoover School. Gonzalo Méndez did seek and obtain their help as revealed previously by his testimony and by Felicitas Méndez in her 1975 interview by Alfredo H. Zúñiga and by school board minutes. Gonzalo Méndez became a naturalized citizen two years before testifying as he expressed in his testimony July 10, 1945, Transcripts of Trial, p. 459.

Associations of people involved in civic affairs reveal their connections with LULAC founders and others. According to Mrs. Lorenzo Ramirez, (Interview: Josefina Ramirez, 2003) her husband Lorenzo Ramirez was involved in the struggle to end discrimination in the schools in El Modena, Orange County California as a Mexican citizen but also as a resident of the U.S. with American civil rights, along with “Manuel Veiga (Founder of Santa Ana LULAC), Bobby Torres--El Modena Council charter member who learned from his father Rosario Torres who is also the father of Carol Torres--and Mr. Antonio Montoya and Manuel Esqueda” who was an early member of Santa Ana LULAC, 1947, (*LULAC NEWS* Vol. 14 August, 1947 No. 2 pg 13) and elected president 1949-1950, (*The Latin American*, Vol. II No. 29 May, 19, 1949). As citizens and/or residents who abide by American laws and serve the needs of those who suffer injustice these leaders are all thus recognized as patriots with civil rights.

As indicated below in “LIDER de LIDERES” (Leader of Leaders) in *EL POLITICO* written as a memorial a year after his death in 1967, patriot with civil rights Lorenzo Ramirez was actively involved and actually led in the struggle against discrimination of Mexicans. The following excerpt of an article dates his involvement to 1943, two years prior to serving as a plaintiff in *Mendez et al.* case filed by Marcus in March of 1945):

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In 1943, Mr. Lorenzo Ramirez was active in exposing the numerous cases of discrimination and went to San Francisco with 'Licenciado General de Mexico, Sr. Ezequiel Padilla' to a hearing of those testifying about discrimination against the Mexican people.

(See Documentary Sources newspaper article titled, "LIDER de LIDERES" which means leader of leaders in *El POLITICO* courtesy of Lorenzo Ramirez family).

According to Ralph Perez, a WWII veteran and LULAC charter member of the El Modena Council and early member of Santa Ana Council No. 147, Manuel Veiga Jr. knew the attorney David C. Marcus. Marcus represented the five father plaintiffs and children, and the 5000 similarly situated of whom Ralph Perez's daughter Janis is one. Mr. Perez explained that because Manuel Veiga Jr. and his father Manuel Veiga Sr. were in the mortuary business in Los Angeles and had expanded the business into Santa Ana that is the reason why the Veiga's knew of Mr. Marcus personally. Mr. Perez reports that for the appeal part of the case Manuel Veiga and Cruz Barrios came to El Modena to lead them to legal help and that they took him and Alexander Lievanos along with Isadore Gonzales to see Marcus in his office in Los Angeles. Mr. Perez also reports that both he and Alex Lievanos also on a second occasion "*went to see David Marcus at his office in Los Angeles and each one of us paid him one hundred dollars, money collected by the families in El Modena because the school district in El Modena was not enforcing Judge McCormick's ruling and they wanted Marcus to defend the civil rights of their own children among others.*"

In interviewing Mr. Perez, he indicated he was not involved until the fall of 1946 when as he says "*the school case exploded in El Modena.*" As he recalled families from El Modena went to the court hearings before Judge Leon Yankwich (Judge Yankwich had previously ruled in favor of plaintiffs in *Lopez v Seccombe* in February of 1944). The citation filed by Alexander Lievanos of LULAC to enforce *Gonzalo Mendez et al., Petitioners vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al., Respondents*, (National Archives And Records Administration, (Pacific Region), Laguna Niguel, No. 4292-M in civil records) was filed September 27, 1946. (Interview: Ralph Perez, 2002 & 2003). Mr. Perez recalls that David Marcus advised them that as representatives of the people of El Modena that comprised the civil rights group actively involved in the effort to win the school case, and as representatives of LULAC leaders that sought to fight the case in the courts "*It is best to incorporate their complaints in the legal proceedings of its appeal and to proceed with the case at hand instead of starting all over with an entirely new lawsuit.*" So the people of Mexican or Latin descent of El Modena also financially supported the case by collecting funds and paying Marcus to win the case to its final conclusion (Interview: Ralph Perez, 2002 & 2003). All legal efforts under the direction of LULAC founders to end discrimination were to conclude in 1947 not in Los Angeles but in San Francisco. But how did these efforts for social and political and legal justice first begin?

ASSOCIATIONS OF LULAC FOUNDERS WITH THE "SCHOOL CASE"

The origins of the lawsuit are defined as beginning with the associations of LULAC founders and members who have been referred in the following terms as explained by Mr. Hector Tarango: as a **Latin American Organization**, an informal ethnic label given in an interview in 1985 of Mr. Hector Tarango by Mary Lisbeth Haas **abbreviated as LAO** (Haas, 1985), **as Latin American Voters League** (*Gonzalo Méndez testimony of July 9, 1945 in Méndez v Westminster, 1946 page Zv448, see copy in this report in Documentary Sources*), **and as Latin American Voters Counsel** (*Minutes of the Westminster Elementary School Board of Trustees, September 19, 1944, see copy in this report in Documentary Sources*). **As Latin American Voters**

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Counsel, the founders of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 Manuel Veiga Jr. and Cruz Barrios and Hector Tarango attend the Westminster School Board of Trustees meeting on September 19, 1944 before the case was filed. All of these associations formed the chapter of Santa Ana LULAC No. 147. Felicitas Méndez identifies them as **LULACs** in her interview by Alfredo Zúñiga in 1975. **Therefore these leaders as patriots with civil rights and founders of LULAC are involved in the beginning of the formation of the lawsuit, that is, in its organizing as they represent the “Hoover School Mexican Colony” (in Westminster) including Gonzalo and Felicitas Méndez with their group petition. Gonzalo and Felicitas Méndez were associated with them in this matter (Felicitas Méndez, interview by Alfredo Zúñiga, 1975).** The notable representatives of Hoover Mexican Colony include Mr. and Mrs. Gonzalo Méndez, Mrs. Bermudez, Mr. and Mrs. Peña, and Mrs. Viduarri as related by Mr. Méndez in testimony. The petition shown below and presented here as in transcripts of *Méndez v Westminster* case National Archives and Records Administration (Pacific Region) Laguna Niguel) direct examination of Gonzalo Méndez on Monday, July 9, 1945 pp. 434-435:

Mr. Richard Harris, District Superintendent, and
Mr. Ray Atkinson, County Superintendent of Schools,
Court House Annex,
Santa Ana, Calif.

“Dear Sir:

We, the undersigned, parents, of whom about one-half are American born, respectfully call your attention to the fact that of the segregation of American children of Mexican descent is being made at Westminster, in that the American children of non-Mexican descent are made to attend Westminster grammar school on W. Seventeenth Street at Westminster, and the American children of Mexican extraction are made to attend Hoover School on Olive and Maple Streets. Children from one district are made to attend the school in the other district and we believe that this situation is not conducive to the best interests of the children nor friendliness either among the children or their parents involved. It would appear that there is racial discrimination and we do not believe that that there is any necessity for it and would respectfully request that you make an investigation of this matter and bring about an adjustment, doing away with the segregation above referred to. Some of our children are soldiers in the war, all are American born and it does not appear fair nor just that our children should be segregated as a class.

“Respectfully submitted”.

The association with Gonzalo Mendez and these LULAC founders is clear. Gonzalo Méndez a lead plaintiff in the case testifies that Manuel Veiga Jr. and Cruz Barrios and a third person (Mr. Tarango) the founders of LULAC that he names as the Latin American League of Voters attend the meeting of the Westminster School Board of Trustees. In his testimony, the same day the petition was read into the record by David Marcus, July 9, 1945, Gonzalo himself quotes what Manuel Veiga Jr. and Cruz Barrios state at the Westminster School Board of Trustees meeting of September 19, 1944. (Although Mr. Méndez testifies that he of course is present, the minutes themselves do not mention or indicate his name or that of Felicitas Méndez at this particular meeting of the Westminster School Board but they do mention Barrios and Veiga spelled as Vega and “Diago” who is Tarango). Gonzalo Mendez remembers and recites what the founders of LULAC in Orange County state at this meeting. One of them Cruz Barrios,

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a founder of LULAC in Orange County, made the request that “the schools be united.” The following is testimony of Gonzalo Méndez at trial, as sworn under oath, July 9, 1945 (Transcripts of Trial, p. 448) when asked about the Westminster Elementary School Board of Trustees, Meeting of September 19, 1944:

And the first one to talk, I think was Mr. Barrios. He thought that it would be a very good idea to have the schools united, that that would create a better democratic way of living among those districts, as being segregated up to that certain extent. And he did not discuss very much about that. Then he changed his subject, that that is why they had formed this Latin-American League of Voters, to see if they could by means of making—of societies or groups, or farming groups among the Mexican quarters, as we may say, and having interviews with the superintendents, that perhaps that we could come to some understanding.

Then Gonzalo Méndez sworn under oath states what Mr. Veiga—a founder of LULAC in Orange County--states to the Westminster School Board (*Méndez v Westminster*, Transcripts of Trial, July 9, 1945, p. 449):

And Mr. Vega [sic] talked after that, and he told Mr. Richard Harris that he thought that the Mexican people were not as, in other words, he put it as he named it, as dumb as lots of people thought they were.

(Please see reproductions of transcripts of Trial of pages 447-449 of direct testimony of Mr. Gonzalo Méndez for above quotes in documentary sources of this report).

As presented in the summary: these facts attest that these patriots with civil rights, founders of LULAC in Orange County, Manuel Veiga Jr., Cruz Barrios and Hector R. Tarango, of the Latin American Voters League as Méndez refers to them (or Latin American Voters Counsel as referred to in Minutes of the Westminster School Board of Trustee, September 19, 1944) were there leading the cause before the governing school board in the beginning for the formation of the class action lawsuit because before legal action is taken administrative remedy must be sought. Their association with others is evident. They followed the advice of attorney David C. Marcus and they guided and represented many others who also fought for their legal and civil rights in the inevitable lawsuit. Any repudiation of these facts is therefore refuted. See again sworn statement by Hector Tarango as handwritten by him, in presence of author, on a copy of Westminster School Board Minutes, September 19, 1944 obtained at the Offices of Westminster School District, attesting to the fact that he was present, his name is Tarango not “Diago” and he was also a member of Latin American Voters League, or Counsel and as such another founder of LULAC in Orange County, California (Interview: Mr. Hector R. Tarango, December, 13, 2002).

The common link in connecting the organizers of the case is Manuel Veiga Jr. whom with his father, also named Manuel Veiga (Sr.), ran a funeral parlor, and for whom Mr. Hector R. Tarango worked for sometime to “pick up the bodies” (Interview: Hector R. Tarango, 2002). Isadore Gonzales also worked there as mentioned by Mr. Tarango, Mr. David Ortiz and Mr. Maldonado in their interviews. Mr. William Guzman, a plaintiff and also a witness in the Méndez et al. case also worked for a brief period of time in the funeral home as recalled by Virginia Guzman. Mrs. Guzman recalled Mr. Veiga in her interview (Interview: Virginia Guzman, December 28, 2002 wife of William Guzman and the mother of child plaintiff Billy Guzman). William Guzman, a father plaintiff in the case had a long lasting friendship with Frank Palomino (Interview: Arthur Palomino, child plaintiff and son of Frank Palomino, December 26, 2002) (Interview: Mrs Virginia Guzman, December 28, 2002).

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The association of these lead plaintiffs with the LULAC founders and members is now further clearly defined. Noteworthy as a result of our research is the fact that **Frank Palomino, a father plaintiff on behalf of his children, Arthur and Sally Palomino, is a charter member of LULAC Santa Ana Council No. 147 under Manuel Veiga Jr.** as indicated in the minutes of the first meeting in establishing the LULAC council provided by Hector Tarango, charter member and first secretary of Santa Ana Council No. 147. Frank Palomino seconds a motion to meet again after the group elected its officers (See Documentary Sources: Minutes of meeting of formation of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147, 1946).

Plaintiff LULACer Frank Palomino was a leader in the cause to end discrimination and segregation in the schools, his son also a plaintiff recalls:

My father spoke with a big voice, he spoke like a man in politics. I remember going to court with my father. I didn't know why.

*Arthur Palomino, Plaintiff as a child
(Interview: 2002)*

The following is a quote from the testimony of LULACer and plaintiff Frank Palomino before Judge Paul J. McCormick:

Being in this country, as I am, I want to live and I want to raise them as a good American, if they give us a chance.

*Frank Palomino, Plaintiff
(Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al).
(Transcripts, July 5, 1945, p. 48)*

The above leaders had the right characteristics to fight and win the struggle for social and political justice and they worked together toward that end. Pointing to Manuel Veiga Jr. as a leader in the cause for *social equality*, is a witness in the hearing of *Méndez et al*, by the name of Carol Torres. Ms. Torres, was about thirteen years old when she testified. She recalled sitting in the courtroom near Lorenzo Ramirez and Ramon Prado whom she recalls were both very active. Her parents Rosario and Esperanza gave the group representing them permission to bring her to the court because her father who worked seven days a week to bring food to the table could not take the time off from work. In her interview she recalls how her family experience with discrimination in the schools in El Modena. In El Modena, the Lincoln elementary school was all Hispanic children. Even Japanese children attended the other school, Roosevelt Elementary. Carol Torres states in her interview that her father tried to enroll his children at Roosevelt:

My father Rosario Torres went to the school to try to enroll my brother David who is six years younger than I am and in so doing he had to speak to Mr. Hammersten, who was the superintendent. ... Mr. Hammersten said, 'Well, you know, we don't have any seats, we don't have any more desks and there isn't any room.' My father Rosario pointed to an area in the room and said, 'There's room there. There's room there. If you don't have any desks I will buy the desk. I will pay for the desk' and he said, 'but I want my son David to come to this school.' So they finally gave in, they wouldn't, they didn't let my dad pay for it because that would be against them I suppose but they let him go to school there.

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Carol Torres said that she went to the court in Los Angeles for three days of the hearing. In her interview, she recalled her experience:

I remember testifying. I remember the judge asking me questions and I remember the opposing lawyer asking me questions and the judge directing himself to the lawyer saying that's not appropriate, don't speak down to this girl, I mean those kind of were his words. Don't speak down to this girl, this girl understands and she knows. She can answer you in her way.

The way they told me was that the reason they took me there, they asked me to go, was they wanted to show the judge that we were intelligent that we Mexican Americans were not stupid. I was the brightest that El Modena Lincoln School had, if you can believe that. ... At that point, I didn't understand everything that was being said back and forth because there was a lot of legalese in arguing.

I had permission from my parents Rosario and Esperanza to go to Los Angeles to be a witness--or a specimen as I've called myself all of these years--to the court and the reason that they chose me was because I was very intelligent and my vocabulary was very good you know for being in a Hispanic family. And I was in awe. I didn't know what it was going to be. I don't remember being afraid once I got there. Mr. Marcus was very good to me and the judge defended me a couple of times. In the testimony it shows that the judge at least what I recall, it shows that the judge told them that I was smart enough to understand what they were talking about.

Carol Torres, Witness

Carol Torres graduated from Lincoln Elementary in 1945. In her interview, Carol Torres recalls that her own father Rosario Torres was a civic-minded leader and was involved in the struggle against discrimination. The Torres family knew both Manuel Veiga Jr. and Mr. Lorenzo Ramirez (Interview: Carol Torres, 2003). Carol Torres became Junior LULAC council president under the adult El Modena LULAC Council No. 179 under the guidance of its president Alex Maldonado (Interview: Alex Maldonado, 2003).

Isabel Ayala as a representative of the families in the Garden Grove School District that wanted their children enrolled in the integrated school, Lincoln Elementary, was also brought in to testify for the plaintiffs in the *Mendez v Westminster* case as were many others. Her testimony is on Wednesday July 11, 1945. For an example of her testimony about the way enrollment was handled by Kent, the Superintendent of Garden Grove School District the following quote from p. 642 of transcripts of legal proceedings is presented here:

I said, 'My little sisters speak English. They speak very good English, all of them.' He said, well, he couldn't do very much about it, and he says, 'If I let your sisters come here, most of the children, most of the Mexican children would want to come in here, too,' and he says, 'You are not the first one that has been here. I have had other complaints, but I can't do anything about that.' He says, 'All Mexican children have to go to the Hoover School.'

Isabel Ayala, Witness

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In Garden Grove, the Hoover school was the Mexican school and Lincoln elementary school was the integrated school. In El Modena, Lincoln school was known as the Mexican school and the Roosevelt school was the integrated school. In Westminster, the Hoover school was known as the Mexican school and Westminster school was the integrated school. In Santa Ana, the Fremont school was known as the Mexican school and Franklin School was the integrated school.

LULAC's involvement in the legal case also included financial support. LULAC, under President Manuel Veiga Jr. hosted fundraising events for the "school case." One event presented above "Mexico en Fantasia" was held Friday, November 22, 1946 at Santa Ana high School Auditorium with "Proceeds to Be Used for Educational Betterment of the American Youth of Latin Extraction." The program printed was compliments of the Anaheim Council of the Mexican American Movement, M.A.M. The guest speaker at this event is Ignacio Lopez of *Lopez v. Seccombe*, 1944 the desegregation case noted above and editor of *El Espectador*. The chair of the organizing committee is Henry M. Mestre from Yorba Linda (Brea) and a LULAC member. Committee members were: Manuel Veiga, Jr., (Veiga Funeral Home, Santa Ana), Isadore A. Gonzales (Employee Veiga Funeral Home, Santa Ana and also at one time resident of Anaheim and employee at JC Penny), Manuel Villalobos (mason from Santa Ana also at one time resident of Anaheim), Alex Maldonado (employee of a beer company, resident of El Modena), Hector R. Tarango (member of the California National Guard and various employment, including, Veiga Funeral Home, Santa Ana), David Ortiz (Santa Ana), Steven Lara (Santa Ana), Joe Salcedo (worked at J.C. Penny, resident Santa Ana), Luis Ortiz, (employment in printing, Santa Ana), Frank Robles, and finally Cruz Barrios (Barrios Market, Santa Ana).

The listed officers of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 at the time of this event for the children of Latin extraction of the Orange County school case (Mendez case) were: Manuel Veiga, Jr., President, Isadore A. Gonzales, Vice-President, Hector R. Tarango, Secretary, Cruz G. Barrios, Treasurer, Alex Maldonado, 1st Trustee, Frank Robles, 2nd Trustee, Evaristo Dias, [sic] 3rd Trustee and Tony Luna, Chaplain. Additionally, Mr. Alex Maldonado led a fundraising effort for the then called "school case" that since is known as the Méndez case, with the raffle of a refrigerator. A third fundraiser was a dinner. (See Documentary Sources for photos and info on fundraising events provided by Alex Maldonado Collection).

In sum, the tangible links of associations and collaborations of the plaintiffs in the *Mendez et al. lawsuit* with LULAC founders under leader Manuel Veiga Jr. are now evident. These links were cross-referenced by interviews with Mr. Hector Tarango, Mr. Alex Maldonado, Mr. John Gonzales, Mr. Ralph Perez, Mr. Hector Godinez, Mr. Manuel Esqueda, Mrs. Lorenzo Ramirez, and Mrs. William Guzman.

Mrs. William Guzman, wife of plaintiff William Guzman and mother of child plaintiff Billy Guzman who also appeared before the Santa Ana School Board and was a witness in the trial made the following statements in her interview in 2002 (indented italicized words are those of interviewee):

It started out with my husband (and) my first child. We didn't want to send him to a Mexican school, it was far from where we lived. Why couldn't he go to the school that is closer?... He was born in April of '37. We sent him to school to kindergarten. And naturally we wanted him to attend a school that was closer to the house. ... We went to enroll him to the nearest school (Franklin Elementary) but they turned it down that he had to go to the old Mexican school which was real far (Fremont). And we said, 'Oh no we just can't let this happen.'

So we went to St. Anne's school which they were building and so we waited until they finished the school, and so we enrolled him in St. Anne's Catholic church and therefore he attended (school there) because he was not allowed to go to the

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nearest school where we lived. We used to live on (208) Rait Street (used to be Artesia) in Santa Ana. He went to that school until he graduated to the junior high school where everybody was mixed.

So that is how it happened. They wouldn't allow him to go to that school, so my husband went to see this lawyer (Martin). From then on he thought he was going to help us but he was going to help just us (so) that Billy could go to any school that he wanted to. My husband said, 'Well no, now it's not only my son, I'm going to fight for everyone so that they can attend the school, with other children' you know. So there is where we got hold of Marcus, I don't know how my husband found out about him. We all got together, nobody wanted to help us, they didn't want to do nothing so we just went ahead and talked to Palomino, and he was willing right away to help us, and others I think there were five families, I can't remember the other ones.

And we raised money to pay Marcus as he fought the case and we went to LA to the court six days in a row. And Marcus did a very good job. . . They put the school board to shame really. ... And Marcus said, 'Do you know these people don't belong to the yellow race, they don't belong to the red race or another one he said the black race, they are from the white race'. ... All of us are from the white race. ... And they didn't know but he really told them off there and so we won the case and they didn't settle for that. They thought they were going to take it to the higher court in San Francisco and they lost it there too.

Any they [Mexican Americans] said, 'any other time they would start segregation like that we're not going to tolerate it no more'. ... In Orange County they didn't know that all of this segregation was going on. They wouldn't hire anybody to work in offices, attorneys, like they're doing now with nurses and everything and lawyers and everything. They send them out to pick oranges, and work in factories, fields. ... Nobody wanted to say anything, they were afraid. ... Ever since this happened it just turned everything around and helped everybody.

Can you tell us about Frank Palomino?

He was our best friend. He visited us all the time we used to visit him. He was really friendly. The most thing I remember, was his voice. It was real loud never heard anybody talk so loud like that, a voice so strong.

Do you remember who went to the court?

To the court? The families? Palominos, ourselves, there was a family, Campos and she spoke out and she said that how we're segregated over here and her boys were out there in the front fighting, she brought that up. How come they were not segregated they put them in the front to fight.

This case was filed under Mendez can you tell us anything about Mendez? Gonzalo Méndez?

Gonzalo? I don't. I don't remember, Gonzalo, but I really don't remember clearly.

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Do you remember Felicitas Mendez?

No, I don't remember. But I remember Manuel Veiga. My husband used to, I think he brought it up one time about Veiga, Veiga. I think he worked for awhile there with him. But I don't remember the other.

Where were you born?

I was born in Santa Ana in 1917, April the 18th.

Tell us about your husband William Guzman?

He was born July, 1913. He was born in Chino all his relatives were born there. His dad's name was Fernando he was a bounty hunter for the San Bernardino police.

What did your husband do for a living? [Mrs. Guzman had mentioned in her interview that she made her husband quit working at Veiga mortuary because she didn't like him working there. Mrs. Guzman also commented that he worked in construction until he could no longer work because of his health and that he passed away March 1979].

He worked in construction in the AFL-CIO. He worked for Disneyland when they were building the matterhorn. He worked for Consolidated Aircraft Corp. building parts for airplanes while the war was going on. He didn't go. He took an exam here. He had been in an accident and he had a broken leg and he had a pin in his leg. They didn't accept him to go to the war.

*Virginia Guzman, wife of Plaintiff William Guzman and mother of Billy also a plaintiff as a child.
(Interview: 2002)*

Mrs. Guzman identified the connection in terms of employment between her husband William with Manuel Veiga Jr. of Veiga Funeral Home. Mr. Guzman like Mr. Tarango enjoyed the hobby of sending signals and receiving signals or messages by means of (ham) radio.

Mrs. Virginia Guzman and her husband William Guzman and others represented by legal counsel went before the Santa Ana Board of Education in Fall of 1944 (*Santa Ana School Board of Education Minutes*, 1944) (Vickie L. Ruiz, "'We Always Tell Our Children They Are Americans:' Mendez v. Westminster and the California Road to Brown v. Board of Education" *College Board Review* (Fall 2003): 20-27) (*Transcripts of trial: Méndez v Westminster, 1946*).

The paper trail to LULAC's leadership in the case and in financially supporting litigation costs is in the *LULAC NEWS* where Manuel Veiga Jr. himself states in 1947 that he has given his Council No. 147 funds to the "school case" fund and has no money to offer to pay an organizer as proposed at the national LULAC convention in Santa Fe, New Mexico. (See Documentary Sources for full copy of Veiga statement).

In the Westminster area the leadership of Gonzalo Méndez is noteworthy. The active role of Gonzalo Méndez who volunteered to be a representative plaintiff is not questioned here but assumed in the fact that he is named lead plaintiff in the case. His personal family story of discrimination as told by Felicitas his wife and his children has been frequently portrayed in newspaper articles and is shown as indicated before in the documentary: *Méndez v Westminster: Para Todos Los Niños* by Sandra Robbie/Koce, 2002.

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A pocket of activity in the Westminster area involved the leadership of a group of parents and grandparents and close family relations that included Tomas Estrada, a plaintiff. Mr. Thomas (Tomás) Estrada (now the only living plaintiff father who represented his and his wife's--Mary Louise--six children in the class action lawsuit of *Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* is a tall man with great strength of character who speaks with a strong voice in a forthright manner. To be in his presence is a remarkable experience. He was present when the California LULAC Heritage Committee honored him and his family along with other champions for civil rights, March 15, 2003. Mr. Estrada, did not serve in the war but like Gonzalo Méndez he became a United States Citizen. He has pride in speaking English and Spanish and particularly of his leadership role in the case to end discrimination against the people of Mexican descent. A noteworthy leader in this area was the esteemed Aurelia (Delia) Peña wife of Ernesto Peña and mother of Mary Louise. Gonzalo's brother, Dolores Méndez, who actually worked the farm because of his knowledge and experience was married to the Peña's other daughter, Sophie. Sophie and Mary Louise were sisters and daughters of Delia Peña, the charismatic leader in the cause to end discrimination (Interview: Amanda Mendez Martinez, 2003) (Interview: Norma Mendez, 2003).

There were many active participants in the case who testified about the discrimination practices in areas in Orange County. Acknowledgement to all who testified and helped is greatly merited. Certainly research of their histories is also important. The transcripts of legal proceedings of *Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* should be reviewed by any one interested for a complete listing of all who testified. The scope of this report reveals the hidden historical account of LULAC founders and members of such councils as Santa Ana Council No. 147 and their role in the struggle for social justice that has not appropriately come to light in academic and public records. More can be done to bring appropriate light to this particular LULAC history and respective legacies of LULAC families. This research report can serve as guidance toward that end.

Throughout its history LULAC has claimed a role in the success of the *Méndez case*. In 1955, National President George Garza writes in his article, "The Founding and History of LULAC" that "in Orange County California, Lulac won a federal court decision condemning segregation." (See Documentary Sources for reproduction of this article from *LULAC NEWS*).

LULAC member Ralph Perez recalls the victory of their "school case" with great American pride. "My wife (Ruth) and I and others in El Modena, collected money to pay Marcus (attorney for case) so that he could go on and continue the fight in the appeal. Alex Lievanos and I went to see Marcus ourselves." Marcus filed a Contempt complaint against the school districts of El Modena for Alexander Lievanos that is then responded to with a stay of execution because the appeal decision was still pending and enforcement of the McCormick decision was not yet possible. Ralph Perez, his wife Ruth, Alex Lievanos and Mr. Alex Maldonado and others went to the Los Angeles court for this matter before Judge Leon Yankwich (Interview: Ralph Perez, 2002) (Interview: Alex Maldonado, 2003). Collections of money from a door-to-door campaign took place in El Modena as fundraising for the *school case* as it was known then.

David Marcus conferred with LULAC members about actions of the Orange County Office of the Superintendent with respect to the problem of enforcement of the McCormick decision. Mr. Alex Maldonado personally recalled the forthright manner of attorney David Marcus. David "Red" Ortiz in his interview, 2008 also recalled David C. Marcus coming to LULAC meetings and that LULAC paid him for representing the case that particularly "grew big in LULAC efforts in El Modena." The battle for enforcement continued until schools were actually desegregated. Hector Godinez also recalled the LULAC meetings with David Marcus at the Community Center on 8th Street (administration building and site of former military barracks) in Santa Ana. The communities in Placentia, Atwood and La Jolla were assisted by LULAC members in their fight to end discrimination and segregation. Mr. Godinez stated that Jackie

Gomez told him “lets go to Placentia.” And they did as further revealed below. Various accounts of different circumstances in different cities make it difficult to ascertain the extent and date of actual desegregation in terms of all schools in Orange County. LULAC’s struggle for civil rights in education continues today (Interview: Alex Maldonado, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006).

**LULAC, THE MEXICAN CONSULATE –*Comisión Honorifica*
AND CONNECTIONS BASED ON CHURCH AFFILIATIONS**

Another aspect of this landmark case in the lower court is the presence and support from the Mexican Consulate. The founders of LULAC had interaction with those who managed civic affairs of the Mexican community sponsored by the *Comisión Honorifica*. David Marcus on the first day of trial, July 5, 1945 asks Judge McCormick to have “permitted within the bar of this court Mr. Santiago Campbell of the Mexican Consulate in Los Angeles and Mr. Alcozar (First name “Jorge” as reported in *El Espectador*, in 1945) the Consul of Mexico in Santa Ana, Orange County, as a matter of courtesy to the Mexican government.” Judge McCormick states “That is perfectly agreeable” and thus they are seated along with their employee Mr. David C. Marcus. (See Documentary Sources for direct quotation as provided by two pages of transcripts of July 5, 1945 in this report). The Mexican Consulate had a supportive part in the legal aspect of this landmark case. This point is further amplified with the material presented in this report with respect to the background of civic leaders of the social struggle to end discrimination of people of Mexican descent by civic participation as expressed in the organizing of the Mexican community for distinct purposes that bears fruit evoked by upright citizenship, either Mexican or Mexican American, the protection of patriots with civil rights.

Associations of founders of LULAC based upon a common struggle for civil rights for Latinos produced the right elements for the historical development of the class action lawsuit of *Gonzalo Méndez et. al vs. Westminster of Orange County et. al*. Latinos in Orange County and in Los Angeles sought legal assistance as early as the 1930’s when it was provided by the organized efforts of the Mexican Consulate for Mexicans and Mexican Americans who also benefited from such service. “David Marcus since the 1930’s assisted the Mexican Consulate in legal matters” as stated in (Gilbert Gonzales, *Mexican Consuls and Labor Organizers* [Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 1999] p. 113). The Mexican Consulate established the *Comisión Honorifica* and “appointed to the post to represent the Mexican population in Orange County was a man named Lucas Lucio” (Balderrama, 1982). The organizers notably LULAC founders and members were inspired by their predecessors who had experienced the struggles for social justice. In 1946, Lulacer Isadore Gonzales writes, “Our hats are off to old-time residents such as Eduardo Negrete, Solomon Gonzales, Lucas Lucio, and others who are not with us in body but ever abide with us in spirit.” These men were known leaders in the Mexican Consulate *Comisión Honorifica*. These men as indicated by Isadore Gonzales were the same men who inspired the founders of LULAC to lead the cause for the betterment of Latinos, the mission of LULAC. (See article written by Isadore Gonzales titled “*Odds and Ends Down California Way*” of *LULAC NEWS* Vol. 13, No. 8, February, 1947 reproduced in documentary sources).

How people are associated provided the key to understanding and explaining the involvement of LULAC founders and members and also heir fight for social justice and equality. LULAC member Manuel Veiga Jr. who led the Latin American Voters League the base for the Santa Ana LULAC Council was the person in the forefront and a common unifying element that brought the plaintiffs under one cause, social justice for the people of Mexican, Hispanic or Latin extraction. LULAC member Manuel Veiga Jr. and his father Manuel Veiga Sr. (a native of Spain, Death Certificate, Los Angeles Hall of Records) also a LULAC member, and others were battling discrimination along with the Mexican Consulate prior to 1943. The cost of funerals is one of the reasons why families joined together to help one another. Certain ethnic groups utilized certain

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funeral businesses for their own family needs depending on who managed the business. The Veiga's owned a funeral home and white Americans in general would not utilize their services as indicated by several LULAC members in their interviews, (Hector G. Godinez, Hector R. Tarango, Tony Luna and others) but Latinos did. Business associations such as the funeral business affiliated with church associations brought people together. Isadore Gonzales, a charter member of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 worked at the mortuary (in the front) under Manuel Veiga Jr. according to another charter member of Santa Ana Council 147 Alex Maldonado. The meetings of the Santa Ana LULAC Chapter took place there at Veiga Funeral Home located at 116 West 17th Street, Santa Ana, California (Interview: Alex Maldonado, 2003). Before chartering of this council informal meetings or gatherings for information about LULAC by William H. Wheat, Organizer for California, were held at Ramon Prado's Barbershop (Interview: Tony Luna, 1996) (Interview: Mr. Hector R. Tarango, 2002). William H. Wheat from San Gabriel and a member of Alhambra LULAC Council No. 137, was an Organizer for California on the National LULAC level that had the backing of all Texas LULAC leadership and experience, and as such, he and John Gonzales as Vice-President General installs the Santa Ana LULAC Council. According to Mr. Hector Tarango, Mr. Wheat was a close friend of Mr. Hector Tarango's father first in Los Angeles when Hector Tarango was a boy and then continued when the Tarango family moved to Orange County (Interview: Hector R. Tarango, 2003).

LULACers Manuel Veiga Sr. and his son, Manuel Veiga Jr., who managed a business for funeral services in Orange County California were devoted to the cause to improve social relations and conditions with respect to the treatment of Latinos. They were inspirational leaders who were devout Catholics. The fact of their Catholicism contributed to their willingness to help others but in the case of accepting collaborative efforts from Fred Ross of the American Council of Race Relations this fact was also a reason for the alienation of the new LULAC chapter in Santa Ana from Mr. Fred Ross as further explained below. In the mid-forties, Fred Ross a compassionate leader who worked for the American Council of Race Relations, a nationally funded agency, had a significant role in guiding Hector Tarango further in the struggle for social justice (Interview: Mr. Hector R. Tarango, 2002). Mr. Fred Ross was informative on the general strategy of the fight for civil rights by various ethnic groups, including a national campaign for legally fighting discrimination and segregation of African Americans. LULAC helped in El Modena. The El Modena Community League helped organize the Mexican vote and succeeded in electing two candidates on the school board without formally coming under the actual organizational structure of the American Council of Race Relations or the unity leagues (Interview: Alex Maldonado, 2002).

The LULAC leadership under the helm of Manuel Veiga Sr. and Manuel Veiga Jr. was closely allied with the Roman Catholic Church. Burial services were often done in affiliation with the church. The lack of trust based on a false perception of the communist background of Mr. Fred Ross and others created an internal struggle within the LULAC group and Mr. Fred Ross withdrew his efforts from Orange County. Mr. Fred Ross, went on to assist Cesar Chavez, the great leader of Mexican farm workers who set up the Community Service Organization, CSO that was organized first in Los Angeles (Interview: Hector R. Tarango, 2002).

Upon the departure of Ross, LULAC leaders, patriots with civil rights were reviewed and sanctioned by Associated Farmers of Orange County, Inc. as indicated by their 1947 letter to Isadore Gonzales of LULAC. In this letter the Associated Farmers of Orange County identify the California Council for Civic Unity, the American Council on Race Relations and Progressive Citizens of America (PCA) and as shown by the following excerpts they state: "we suggest that it would be to the best interest of your splendid organization to refrain from any association whatsoever with the above mentioned groups." They also state: "they have become subservient to the aims and purposes of the Communist Party." In this letter they also make reference to "lists in the various reports of the Joint Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities (Tennev

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Committee) and several by Dies Committee.” In their letter they specify many names of persons who *have spoken at meetings sponsored by the groups in question or have served in an official capacity for these organizations*. Some of the names listed include: *Orson Welles, Carey McWilliams, Lena Horne, Loren Miller, Edward G. Robinson*. (See copy of this letter from the Associated Farmers of Orange County to Isadore Gonzales, May 5, 1947 in Documentary Sources). Nevertheless, the work of LULAC in fighting discrimination and desegregation continued.

After LULAC assisted in winning a court decision in *Westminster School District of Orange County et al. vs. Mendez et al.* efforts magnified to change social circumstances and end segregation for Latinos some of whom were veterans. LULAC helped to organize and win the landmark lawsuit and then LULAC continued the struggle to improve social relations and conditions for the betterment of Latinos communities in Orange County including the areas of Placentia, Atwood and La Jolla. Guidance from the Catholic church was again apparent in the formation of *Unified Veterans and Citizens of Placentia, Atwood and La Jolla*, a group first organized with the help and guidance of a priest named Father Gabino Taboada, pastor of St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church and Ted Duran working for Catholic Youth Organization a parishioner and LULAC member who at one time worked for Hector R. Tarango, a publisher, as a feature writer for Tarango’s *The Latin American*. Jack Gomez, a member of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 and Alfred Aguirre of Placentia helped organize the Placentia LULAC Council with the support base that stemmed from this earlier group. (See article on the formation of Placentia LULAC Council in Documentary Sources). (See photograph of former members of *Unified Veterans and Citizens of Placentia, Atwood and La Jolla* and others gathered to form Placentia LULAC Council taken by Mr. Hector R. Tarango, LULAC photographer and California Regional Governor in Documentary Sources of this report). According to Mr. Alfred V. Aguirre, as a result of this recruitment effort held on a Sunday afternoon, (1949) “*all of the men pictured in this photograph joined the Placentia LULAC Council*” (chartered in 1950) (Interviews: Alfred Aguirre, 2002 - 2007) (Interview: Eliseo Vargas, 2007) (Joseph V. Aguirre: article, “The Veterans And Citizens of Placentia,” July 24, 2000). See below for further information about the members of the group that formed Placentia LULAC Council No. 174 after the following that includes more detailed and substantial information about LULAC founders and the lawsuit.

Associations of LULAC founders with each other and with others revealed by documents and made visible by interviews highlights the formation of LULAC councils. In Placentia, patriots with civil rights Jack Gomez, who joined the Santa Ana council of LULAC in March of 1949, (*The Latin American*, Vol. II No. 23, March 24, 1949 pg. 1) and Alfred Aguirre who with Sal Zavala attended a few meetings of the Santa Ana council formed Placentia LULAC Council No. 174, and led the struggle for social justice under the LULAC banner. Jack Gomez was the first president of Placentia Council No. 174 chartered June 11, 1950 as recorded in (*LULAC NEWS*, a publication of Orange County, Vol. 1 No. 12 July, 1950). These patriots with civil rights learned civic participation from their fathers. In 1927 as children, Jack Gomez and Alfred Aguirre and others are pictured in clothes honoring their Mexican heritage with red, white and green ribbon sashes over their shoulder and over their chest. In another photo of same year and same event Mr. José Aguilera Aguirre, Alfred’s father, is pictured with other civic leaders honoring their Mexican heritage. According to Alfred Aguirre, his father José Aguilera Aguirre was the treasurer of the *Comité de Festejos Patrios* (better known as a committee that organized the *Fiestas Patrias* under the *Comisión Honorífica*--in Orange County led by Lucas Lucio). Alfred Aguirre’s father’s involvement in civic affairs of such kind taught him civic participation through his Mexican culture and ethnic identity.

I was my dad’s shadow, wherever he went I would go along with him. That is why I learned so much because I would always follow him. He’d close his

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barbershop early to go to the meetings of the Comisión Honorífica with such leaders as Don Alejo Diaz, Don Luis Vargas, Ed Negrete, Don Lucas Lucio, Don Domingo Gomez, Don Lucio Martinez, and Don José Diaz. They were the same men who were involved in everything.

Alfred V. Aguirre

Co-founder of Placentia LULAC Council No. 174

See copy of program of a 1933 Mexican Independence Day Celebration for content of this type of civic participation in Documentary Sources. See also two photos of September 16, 1927 event by Comité de Festejos Patrios with a photo of José Aguilera Aguirre and other distinguished leaders and a photo of Alfred Aguirre and Jack Gomez as boys sitting with other children at this organized civic event.

An examination of the background of the formation of the Placentia LULAC council illustrates the kind of individuals specifically identified by their associations that join LULAC councils. Alfred Aguirre and his brother Joe Aguirre and Louis Sandoval and Ted Duran and others were members of the Guadalupanos of St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Placentia. (The pastor of this parish was Rev. Gabino Taboada). These men became leaders in the Mexican American Movement founded in 1942 by Bert Corona along with Ted Duran who held various officer positions including vice-president and Gualberto Valadez who also held various officer positions including president and Paul Colonel who also held the position of president. Gualberto Valadez a member of the Orange County MAM council later established the Placentia MAM council, on October 22, 1944 at an MAM meeting held for this purpose in the City of Anaheim as reported in minutes of MAM meeting under President Paul Colonel in Los Angeles for November 12, 1944 (Records of Supreme Council of Mexican American Movement Box and folder 01-25). Mr. Valadez was very actively involved in the Supreme Council of the Mexican American Movement. Joe Aguirre once served as Vice-president under Gualberto Valadez. Joe Aguirre was an outstanding athlete at Valencia High School in Placentia and attended the community college in Fullerton. Alfred Aguirre and Ted Duran organized the sports activity of youth in Placentia at Chapman Hill along with Joe Aguirre, Ted Duran, Freddie Aguirre, Ross Chavolla, Albert Guerrero, Ismael Vargas, Chris Duran, Joe Zavala and G. Valadez. In the area of La Jolla, youth clubs were organized and led by Leonel Magaña and Celso Casas (Box and folder 01-33). Mary Chavolla and Romie Raya supervise the girls clubs. Louis Sandoval becomes president of the Anaheim MAM council and as president he prints the program for LULAC for the fundraising event for the Mendez case held at Santa Ana High School auditorium, titled *Mexico en Fantasia* in November of 1946. Ted Duran, Alfred Aguirre and Julia Aguirre, and Joe Aguirre, Eddie Gonzales and Madeline Gonzales, Leonel Magaña and Ismael Vargas, Joe Zavala, were leaders who become LULAC members and of course leaders for they were founders and charter members as such of Placentia LULAC Council No. 174. Isadore Gonzalez and Manuel Villalobos, members of the Anaheim MAM council under Louis Sandoval (Box and folder 01-20) become members of the Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147. Isadore Gonzalez becomes an active leader who at one point edits the local edition of the *LULAC NEWS*.

The connections are clear and to differentiate amongst groups to the point of severing connections detracts from the legacy of leaders and their role in the American Latino civil rights movement. When explaining the formation of LULAC councils; the organizers of LULAC councils who become the founders of LULAC chapters in California; the history of this connection is imperative. A further explanation of the formation of the Placentia LULAC council is presented below.

Formative years of civic participation led both Alfred Aguirre and Jack Gomez, who both served in World War II, to involvement in LULAC and to become Placentia city councilmen and

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mayor--mayor pro-tem in Aguirre's case. These activists (including the leadership of Ted Duran) and WWII veteran Joe Aguirre II, brother of Alfred also had a role in desegregation in Placentia after the *Mendez et. al* case was appealed and finally won by the support of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 in 1947. The leaders of Santa Ana LULAC had personal knowledge of the desegregation efforts and so the group *Unified Veterans and Citizens of Atwood, Placentia and La Jolla* name used as in the meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Placentia Unified School District minutes of June 9, 1947 (later recognized with variations of title) had an advantage because of knowledge and experience gained from this successful lawsuit in combating discrimination and segregation in their own areas. LULAC's battle for civil rights was an ongoing struggle. Alex Maldonado of Santa Ana LULAC met and knew and provided support for the Placentia contingency of civil rights efforts and became aligned personally with Alfred Aguirre beginning in 1947 then 1948 and so on through the desegregation efforts that were going on because of lack of enforcement in Placentia of the McCormick decision. The composition of the Placentia school board was in question. About this time, potential candidates for the school board included Harold Hammersten from the El Modena school district and Placentia Latinos, the founders of Placentia LULAC Council No. 174 did not want him and his discriminatory practices in their school district either for he had been a defendant in the Mendez case in 1946. (Interview: Alex Maldonado, 2008). Nine LULAC members (including): Hector Godinez, Hector Tarango, Isadore Gonzales, Alex Maldonado and "Red" (David) Ortiz later went to a special meeting of the Placentia school board with Superintendent Glick to close Chapman School.

Ted Duran was involved in the Catholic youth organization and the activities at St. Joseph's in Placentia (and also a feature writer on the staff of the monthly newspaper of Hector R. Tarango publisher, *The Latin American*) about the time when he and Alfred Aguirre traveled to Los Angeles to consult with an attorney named Dan Marshall president of the Catholic Interracial Council about the situation of segregation and the Mexican schools in Placentia, California after final judgment of the Mendez case (Interview: Alfred V. Aguirre, November 17, 2002) (*Forward*, Vol. 1, No. 1 October 28, 1945 edited by Felix Gutierrez, MAM publication, Los Angeles). Marshall followed up as legal adviser for the organized efforts thus led by Ted Duran and Alfred Aguirre and others for an end to segregation in their community that required the threat of another lawsuit (Interview: Alfred V. Aguirre, November 17, 2002).

Jack Gomez of Placentia officially joined the Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 in 1949 (*The Latin American*, published by Hector R. Tarango, March, 1949) before co-establishing the Placentia LULAC chapter. Jack Gomez was a charter member of the Unified Veterans and Citizens of Placentia, Atwood and La Jolla, a group circa 1946 to 1949 that fought segregation in the schools comprised of the following original members and those that became members of Placentia LULAC Council No. 174. An article written in 2002 by Joseph V. Aguirre III (Councilmember, Placentia City Council) titled, "Veterans and Citizens of Placentia" offers the following basic information about them:

Lucas Raya-President (citizen), Vincent Raya-Vice-President (U.S. Army Air Force veteran) Joe V. Aguirre-Secretary (U.S. Army veteran), Robert Moreno-Treasurer (U.S. Marine Corps veteran), Ismael Vargas-Sergeant-At-Arms (citizen), Reverend Gabino Taboada-Advisor (St. Joseph Church pastor), Alfred V. Aguirre (U.S. Army Air Force veteran), Raul Casillas (U.S. Navy veteran), Ted Duran (citizen), Mr. Gaona (citizen), Jack Gomez (U.S. Army veteran), Edward T. Gonzales (U.S. Army veteran), Art Moreno (U.S. Army veteran), Jesus Vargas (citizen), and Sal Zavala (U.S. Navy veteran).

The following persons as mentioned in article by Joseph Aguirre are those who gradually joined:

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Richard Aguirre (U.S. Army veteran), Henry Castro (U.S. Army veteran), Ben Cervera (U.S. Army veteran), Lupe Cervera (U.S. Army veteran), Ruben Escarcega (citizen), John LaBorde (U.S. Army veteran), Danny Lee Orozco (U.S. Army veteran), Charles Moreno (U.S. Army veteran), Gilbert Moreno (citizen), Reggie Ponce (citizen), Alfonso Rangel (citizen), Peter Rodarte (U.S. Army veteran), Fred Rodriguez (citizen), Jackie Rodriguez (citizen), William Rodriguez (U.S. Army veteran), Rodolfo Ruiz (U.S. Marine C. veteran), Albert Tafolla (U.S. Army veteran), Eliseo Vargas (U.S. Army veteran) and Joe Zavala (citizen).

A photograph of a meeting to form the Placentia chapter was taken by Hector R. Tarango (See photograph in documentary sources). Most of the men listed above by Joseph Aguirre are in this photograph. The persons in the photograph are all charter members of Placentia LULAC Council No. 174 as identified by name by Alfred V. Aguirre in his interview by the author, November 17, 2002 and Jackie Rodriguez, interview by the author in 2008 and finally identified by date and by name and corrected veteran status by Charlie Rodriguez Moreno by a phone interview by the author in 2008. Charlie Moreno identifies the date of this Tarango photograph and states they meet at the restaurant in Fullerton to form Placentia LULAC Council No. 174 the end of January 1949. He said that "*Jackie Gomez was the true leader and that they all followed him.*" He also stated "*Freddie Aguirre was also a leader who brought them together.*" He explains that this date as the correct time of year by recalling his military service. In the photo he is the only man in uniform. He also recalls that it had snowed in nearby Yorba Linda and because of that fact he had walked on that day in the cold with his hands in his pockets. Charlie Moreno stated that the photo was definitely taken after he enlisted in August 1948, and had completed basic training in Fort Ord for he has no wings on his cap. He also determined the date by recalling that he was in town before going to Fort Benning for jump school and glider training from which he graduates, April 1, 1949. He does combat training in Fort Bragg, North Carolina from where he is discharged in 1952.

The following information serves as further reference of the connection between Alfred V. Aguirre, Ted Duran and LULAC. Alfred Aguirre recalled: "*Ted Duran came to me and said: 'I talked to Tarango and I need a place.'*" This is an example of one of the ways that Ted Duran was leading in efforts (Interview: Alfred V. Aguirre, November 17, 2002). Ted Duran was a LULAC member and is a member of the organizing committee along with Blas Marron, Rudy Rodriguez, Aileen Olivas, Sara Aguirre Miranda (First female LULAC president of a council in Orange County, Placentia, and later first district director), Julia Aguirre, Mike Mena, Ray Aparicio, Fred Aguirre and Ray Castillo for the LULAC National Convention in Anaheim under convention chairman Danny Olivas and is in charge of entertainment.

Ted Duran served as emcee for numerous LULAC events. Ted Duran was a radio announcer in Corona and had once lived with Stephen Reyes who was in charge of the Pasadena Settlement House when active with MAM.

Ted Duran was on the Grand Jury of Orange County in 1949 (*Reports of the Grand Jury: County of Orange. Volume Two. February 9, 1931 - March 18, 1953, a Centennial Project of the Grand Jurors' Association of Orange County, Santa Ana, California, 1989*). Ted Duran was on staff as a feature writer for Mr. Tarango of LULAC for his publication, *The Latin American*, as indicated in issues of 1949 stored in category of California Newspapers in Special Collections Archives, University of California, Irvine.

A comment by one of Ted Duran's sons is informative about him and his experience of being actively involved and defending the civil rights of others:

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A knife on his door with a threatening note made my father withdraw from the forefront of civil rights activity for awhile and more into behind the scenes involvement.

*Gerry Duran [Musician and son of Ted Duran]
(Interview, 2008)*

Patriots with civil rights were actively involved citizens. A background of civic involvement combined with the leadership of patriot with civil rights Manuel Veiga Jr., president of Santa Ana LULAC Council, provided the molding of those who lead others to exercise their civic duties and responsibilities. According to Alfred V. Aguirre, Manuel Veiga Jr. showed him and other LULACers the “process of how to register people to vote.”

They [also] explained LULAC to us what it was, constitution, aims and purposes, education, Americanization. I’m really a Mexican American. It is a national organization for American citizens like me who were born here. I like that.

*Alfred Vargas Aguirre
(Interview: 2003)*

The guidance that stemmed from the knowledge and experience and political consciousness of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 president Manuel Veiga Jr. to Mr. Aguirre occurred between the years of 1947, 1948 and 1949 because Manuel Veiga Jr. sells his business and leaves Orange County and is no longer in Orange County in 1950 as reported to the author by Mr. Alex Maldonado, 2008. Mr. Alfred V. Aguirre was an official LULAC member since 1950 when the Placentia LULAC Council was chartered but had been attending the meetings of the Santa Ana LULAC council as others from different parts of Orange County had done. A convergence of forces was evident. The LULAC leadership in Santa Ana was fruitful. The tangible links to LULAC can be seen as a continuum of the leadership of the founders of LULAC in California as LULAC spread from Texas to California and particularly as highlighted in this report to Orange County California. See article on formation of Placentia LULAC Council, “GROUPS ARE ADDED TO LULAC, Install New Council in Placentia Area,” in *LULAC NEWS*, July, 1950 a local publication of published by LULAC in Orange County as reproduced in documentary sources.

Civic activity is further illustrated by the following. According to Eliseo Vargas, from Placentia, LULAC held a dance to benefit the March of Dimes for polio in 1954. Art Castillo was chairman of the dance committee from Placentia, Stanton, and Santa Ana that included Esther Felipe, Raul Ortiz, Joe O’Campo, Rudy Rodriguez, Alfred Castillo, Daniel Orona, Nash Garcia, Jess Saenz, Jim Miranda and himself (Interview: Eliseo Vargas, 2007). Stanton council was very active in citizenship. Citizenship classes were provided under LULAC in Our Lady of Guadalupe Hall in Stanton with Nate Rosales, Albert Hernandez and Trino Roman, and with Mike Mena of the Placentia LULAC Council (Interview: Manuel Marquez, 2007).

The history of Mexican Americans and their struggle for civil rights cannot be written without an account of the League of United Latin American Citizens. This civil rights organization began in Corpus Christi Texas in 1929 when three organizations joined to form one. It’s motto is *all for one and one for all*. In all LULAC has been a champion for civil rights. In California the members of LULAC worked in similar efforts for social justice and equality and for the betterment of Latinos as those patriots with civil rights who are in Texas and other states: in education, housing, street improvements, better jobs, and so on. Who are these people who dedicate their lives to fighting for civil rights in America? Some of them are military heroes who have gone off to other lands to fight for freedom, some immigrants, some natives of different

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generations, but all with the courage, the perseverance and true grit to withstand the turmoil from political divisions that occur in the struggle for economic and political power. All of them are persons with courage and integrity; they are true heroes and champions of people in their own land. Veterans fight and the wars come to an end and they are honored for their services and for their lives by their own military personnel and leadership and by the public on Veteran's Day or remembered and honored on Memorial Day and by medals of honor, parades, benefits and monuments. Some are asking for more medals for deserving heroic acts in the time of war. But what about those who serve in the military and in their own personal and civilian lives as leaders in the fight against the oppression of their people, *la raza, la gente el pueblo*, the Latino community, the people of Mexican or Latin descent or extraction, the Mexican Americans; whom are also Americans? Some of their stories have been lost in the changing circumstances of their lives. Few however have kept their records, the dusty trophies and awards from the many banquets and or dances for charitable causes, work with Boy Scouts of America, various sports groups for youth, and most importantly and notably scholarship fundraising. They have held countless conventions at local, state and national levels that have resolved many issues and problems faced by Latino Americans. Some have videos of numerous fundraising activities. And some kept their LULAC newspaper clipping which preserves a history to be passed on through this research here to generations of LULAC'ers, and to students and the general public.

The list of LULAC activity and dedication to the Hispanic community and the public at large is endless because as their leader the late Hector Godinez, a past LULAC national president has said *the fight for civil rights is one with no beginning and no end*. In his interview held at his home September 6, 1996, he attests to the organizing work of LULAC and the "school case" and many other LULAC activities including efforts to get streetlights in barrios. Mr. Hector Godinez, a patriot with civil rights a WWII veteran and early member of Santa Ana Council No. 147 who became a United States Postal Service District Manager also said:

I wouldn't be who I am without LULAC. I could never repay LULAC for what it did for me.

*Hector G. Godinez
Past National LULAC President*

Tony Luna, a charter member of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 first chaplain of the Santa Ana council, stated in his interview held in fall of 1996:

Hector Godinez came up to me at a Chamber of Commerce meeting and touched me on the shoulder and said, 'I am who I am on account of you and LULAC.'

*Tony Luna
Charter member and past Chaplain Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147*

The consciousness to seek and attain better conditions for Hispanics is the purpose of LULAC. Mr. Godinez in his interview stated, "In Delhi there was no cement, plumbing or electricity." (See also Documentary Sources for article on Hector Godinez with respect to this endeavor).

LULAC members such as patriots with civil rights Nash Garcia and Mary Garcia, were part of the early organizing of LULAC in Orange County. Hector Godinez invited Nash Garcia--who later became National LULAC treasurer under Godinez--to a meeting to join LULAC as recalled by Nash Garcia in his interview, "He impressed me with wanting to have paved streets with curbs." Nash Garcia who later served as National LULAC Treasurer was referred by the words, *send the cash to Nash*. After Victor Zuniga was founding president of the Stanton LULAC

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Council in 1954, (he later becomes Mayor of the City of Stanton), then Nash Garcia stepped in. Later he and Hector Godinez, Steve Lara from Santa Ana and Alex Maldonado from El Modena (who at one time held the title of District Governor) traveled to such cities as Corona, Buena Park, Anaheim, Fullerton, Orange, Pomona, Norwalk, Paramount, and Sylmar forming councils (Interview: Nash and Mary Garcia November 1, 2002). Nash equates an organized LULAC to the metaphor of worker bees and their protected beehive. "Disturb the beehive in any way, the bees will sting you back into order and justice." Nash Garcia also recalled how Victor Zuniga was strict on rules of order. He said that when the Stanton LULAC Council first started a lot of people joined, a roster indicates a listing of two hundred members in 1954. (See a copy of roster in documentary sources. This roster of the Stanton LULAC Council is noteworthy. The names are of people in Orange County who belonged to LULAC in that one council. The families of these LULACers could see the names of themselves or of family members on this list). The president of the Stanton LULAC Council No. 245 was Victor Zuniga. Nash Garcia commented about his first experience with the Stanton LULAC Council in his interview:

Victor Zuniga was the first president of the council and he knew about rules and most members didn't. He wanted everything to be according to the rules so everybody was always out of order. When anyone wanted to say anything, or raise their hand, Victor would quickly point and say, 'You're out of order.' For that reason, we lost a lot of members. When I became president of the council, I let everyone talk. We were new at parliamentary procedure so at first the meetings were rough but we all learned.

*Nash Garcia,
Cofounder of many LULAC councils,
Past National LULAC Treasurer*

And from the Santa Ana LULAC Council, Joe O'Campo joined LULAC in 1949 (*The Latin American*, edited by Hector R. Tarango, March 24, 1949). He was Regional Organizer of California (now titled State Director) and he became a leader on the national level. He served LULAC as National Vice President under Felix Tijerina. Mr. O'Campo was brought into Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 by his older brother Ray O'Campo who was already in LULAC and who knew Hector Tarango well for Hector Tarango and Ray O'Campo both shared an interest in photography. Joe O'Campo was a member of Our Lady's Crusaders, shortened to the Crusaders, of Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Santa Ana. Joe O'Campo did two terms in the Navy. His activity in LULAC began during the period between his years of military service. Members of the O'Campo family were early settlers in Santa Ana and are also native-American.

Joe O'Campo a past Natinal LULAC Vice-President stated in his interview:

I learned about how bad discrimination was from the elders, especially those who talked about why LULAC started in Texas. I listened to them and the stories they told about their experience and how we needed to register voters and get involved with politics to make things better and to educate our children.

*Joe O'Campo,
Past National LULAC Vice-President*

His older brother, Ray O'Campo was an active member of Santa Ana LULAC and at one point worked for Douglass Aircraft (Interview: Joe O'Campo, 2008).

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WWII veteran Jess Saenz and wife Nellie were early members of LULAC as well. Mr. Saenz also played a strong role in organizing various LULAC councils in Orange County. Jess Saenz has said this numerous times:

I wanted to support my people. I would never go against that principle no matter what party I vote for. I carry LULAC in my heart everywhere that I go.

*Jess Saenz,
Cofounder of many LULAC councils*

Jess Saenz, also helped to register people to vote and has held numerous positions in the LULAC organization especially in serving the needs in educating Latino youth and in the granting of scholarships (Interview: Jess Saenz, 2003). Both Jess and Nellie Saenz have hosted numerous fundraising events for LULAC at their lovely home. (They have lived in the City of Garden Grove for many years and they tend to their award-winning garden).

Patriots with civil rights, Manuel Marquez a World War II veteran and his wife Vera Marquez, are proud of their over fifty years duration of service to LULAC in Stanton in Orange County. Both became in later years California LULAC State Directors. Manny served as State Director (under National President Oscar Moran) and he, with the support of his wife Vera, founded the California LULAC Educational Foundation. In speaking with Manny Marquez, you learn of his commitment to LULAC. His experience as a LULAC leader and an officer prompted others to do the same. He is truly a man with administrative skills necessary to lead in many causes. Manuel Marquez stated:

Stanton Council has always been a strong council. Our council sponsored all kinds of sports for little kids and teenagers. We tried to help out with many issues. I've been president, district director and state director. I've been a LULAC member for more than fifty years. When I started the California LULAC Educational Foundation I started with a good board of directors. It was a dream come true to recognize with awards and serve Latino students, many of them Mexican or Mexican American.

*Manuel Marquez,
Founder of California LULAC Educational Foundation*

Manny Marquez, an early leader in LULAC in Orange County, in many ways has been an inspirational to many because of the numerous scholarships given by his foundation through funds from corporate sponsors and of course an inspiration to Vera Marquez. Mrs. Vera Marquez followed in his footsteps as California LULAC State Director and then became a national LULAC officer when she was elected as National LULAC Vice President for the Far West and then National LULAC Vice President for Women. In speaking with Vera Marquez she made the following comment:

Providing scholarships for our future leaders is the best way to help our youth.

*Vera Marquez
Past National LULAC Vice President for the Far West
Past National LULAC Vice president for Women.*

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In the El Modena area, the activism of patriot with civil rights Alex Maldonado is made clear for he was a founder of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 (and member of it for many years) and first president of the El Modena LULAC Council, a council that did not continue but Mr. Maldonado continued his membership in the Santa Ana Council for a few more years, then retired from LULAC activities. He became active again as a member of LULAC in Anaheim. He recalled his earlier LULAC service. He helped people to register to vote and thus gain the “Mexican vote.” Mr. Maldonado states:

In El Modena during the late forties we were struggling with the school case and so we had to try to correct the school districts. ... We needed to put into office within the school districts people who would be able to do something for the children of Mexican descent. ... We have established the fact that we can actually do now what before, back in the forties didn't seem possible, to get representation for the people, our people, that LULAC certainly tries to help.

*Alex Maldonado
Charter member of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147
Cofounder of numerous councils
Fundraiser Organizer for school case*

Mr. Maldonado was in charge of fundraising for the appeal part of the case as mentioned above (Interview: Alex Maldonado, 2003). [Mr. Alex Maldonado earned the title of “LULAC Man of the Year,” more than fifty years later in 2007].

LULACer Ralph Perez of El Modena, a WWII veteran, also organized the Latino vote and sponsored many dance programs (promoted by posters) throughout Orange County to support various LULAC causes in addition to financially supporting the legal case through a collection of funds (Interview: Ralph Perez, 2002) and assisting Alex Lievanos with the filing of a contempt citation against the School District in El Modena under the case number of *Mendez v. Westminster* for their lack of enforcement of the McCormick decision. This legal action put more wood into the fire for the school case that was appealed. This was not a separate legal action with a different case number but one that was taken by the efforts as led by Mr. Perez and Mr. Lievanos both members of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 and both residents of El Modena to keep the dynamics of the class action (the same case number so therefore the same case titled *Mendez v Westminster*) in play so that the school districts would know that there was a combined united front in fighting discrimination in Orange County. Marcus had advised the LULAC members that the demand for justice had to be contained in one lawsuit rather than to accept a new and different lawsuit by other parents who also had reason to complain of discrimination. Additional lawsuits at this point in the legal process were not warranted because the decision by the appellate court was pending. The contempt citation was denied for the same reason but nonetheless Marcus had the strategy of jamming the court for the sake of applying pressure.

Dedicated and committed people formed LULAC councils and played a major role in the struggle for civil rights. LULAC has always had the political role of a pressure group. It was not surprising to find that the leaders of LULAC played such a dominant role in school board meetings in fighting discrimination and segregation of the people of Mexican and or Latin descent and in a class action filed in 1945. Members of this political organization knew the great scope of this social battle for justice because they had been fighting the same discrimination in other states, most notably the great state of Texas. LULAC in the *Mendez et al. case* did not file an amicus brief like other groups but LULAC founders organized its formation as a *class action* lawsuit. LULACers were involved as plaintiffs themselves as Mr. Ralph Perez explained: in the appeals process, it was their own *school case* and they were thus not in the position of friend of

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the court but plaintiffs at large represented by Marcus whom they also paid. The law applied to personal violations of the rights of their own children in the status of petitioners who needed relief as determined by the court. As WWII veteran Ralph Perez explained:

When my daughter Janice was sent home from school with a note from Superintendent Hammersten that she was to now attend the Mexican school and could no longer attend her school which was the Roosevelt School we didn't want her to have to go there so we kept her at home while we fought the case and my wife taught her at home for the entire school year from the fall of 1946.

David Marcus was our lawyer. We hired him to represent us because our children were also being segregated that is why it was also our own lawsuit.

Ralph Perez,

*Charter member of El Modena LULAC Council,
Early member of Santa Ana LULAC Council
Leader in the ultimate success of
Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District et al.
(Interview: 2002)*

Marcus was an activist as well as a defense attorney. Profiling of activist lawyers who defended the civil rights of Latinos in major roles explains further the development and the progression of this part of the American Latino civil rights movement. Presented earlier was the profile of Carey McWilliams an attorney and his leadership in the social cause shown in records. Attorney Dan Marshall another civil rights lawyer and activist was also introduced earlier in this report. Also shown in records as well is the support of the Mexican consulate an agency that provided legal services. Another activist attorney in Los Angeles Paul Sweetser had been, as David Marcus at one period of time been affiliated with the Mexican Consulate, before engaging in the development of MAM, the Mexican American Movement that contributed to LULAC with its members. As legal adviser to this organization, Paul Sweetser assisted Gualberto Valadez and other leaders of MAM, those who became LULACers such as Joe Aguirre and Alfred Aguirre, Manuel Villalobos, Isadore Gonzalez, and Ted Duran, with its constitution and by-laws, and provided general counsel. He thus provided a great amount of service to the Mexican American community and to their cause. In this capacity he served the Mexican and Mexican American community in the American Latino civil rights movement (as in collection titled, *Supreme Council of the Mexican American Movement* held at California State University Northridge, Special Collections and Archives). Paul Sweetser assisted many with immigration matters in addition to what he did for MAM when he had his law practice in Santa Barbara, California including representing the author's family. As an example, and a small personal note by the author: Sweetser was the attorney for the family of Eleno and Micaela de la Torre, the author's parents. Eleno, the son of Antonio de la Torre who was a copper miner during the period of WWI when America needed laborers for mining of essential minerals and Petronila López, was born in 1917 in the mining camp or town of Sonora, Arizona. The de la Torre family immigrated into the U.S. in 1916 and repatriated to Mexico when Eleno was a small boy not yet five because of discrimination due to national origin the family had suffered after they migrated from Arizona and settled in the citrus and oil town of Santa Paula, California; Santa Paula is the same home-town of Martha Menchaca's *The Mexican Outsiders: A Community History of Marginalization*

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and Discrimination in California, [Austin, Texas: University of Texas Press, 1995]. Voluntary repatriation compelled by such discrimination was an issue for Latinos. The sons and daughters of immigrants who were mainly from Mexico, like those of the de la Torre family had need of legal representation for many reasons. Immigration or repatriation back into the U.S. was one of the reasons that legal assistance was needed as it was for Eleno de la Torre. Many Mexican consulates provided legal services such as those provided especially in the 1940s through the assistance of the lawyers, Marcus, Marshall and Sweetser.

The El Modena contingency of the American Latino civil rights movement also needed legal services as they also took part in the appeal period of the class action of *Mendez v Westminster* then titled *Westminster School District of Orange County vs. Gonzalo Mendez et al.* as represented by the activism of Lievanos and Perez and others who hired David C. Marcus. Mr. Perez referred to Marcus as our lawyer, the “Mexican lawyer.” John Gonzales in his interview thought that Marcus was Mexican or half Mexican and Jewish. But as said before he was not ethnically Mexican neither was McWilliams, Marshall or Sweetser. Nonetheless, the members of LULAC and the Mexican and Mexican American community benefited greatly from important legal advice. In the larger picture the activism of the civil rights lawyer David Marcus and these LULAC civil rights leaders and their activist lawyers promulgated the movement for civil rights.

Explaining who comprised the membership of councils was important in learning about how councils were formed. For further documentation of the formation and membership of numerous LULAC councils and their activity please see *Documentary Sources* in part two that includes selective articles and photographs. The need to fight for civil rights in terms of education and the instruction of citizenship was a dominant focus of activity for LULAC and was essential to the formation of LULAC councils. LULAC spread in some cases from neighbor to neighbor. In Fullerton, LULAC member Iola Gallardo recruited her neighbor Rose Jurado, (who later served for many years as Anaheim LULAC Council president) and others into the Fullerton LULAC Council (Interview: Rose Jurado, 2008). Mel Jurado became a California LULAC State Director. Dora S. (O’Campo) Hanning long served LULAC Council No. 147 until she passed away in 2008. Some LULAC councils for women began because councils had first started only with men as members. In many cases these councils would then merge. In some cases when councils became inactive, members joined others that were still active or stronger in membership. Councils then joined and represented their respective district(s). Social gatherings occurred because of the underlying need for persons of Latin descent to be included in civic affairs as others who were members of known civic groups but more significantly because of the need to combat social discrimination based on ethnicity.

LULAC activities and political issues were not being covered as much in the main newspapers so LULAC had its own publication(s) (Interview: Alex Maldonado, 2003). Because they had their publication or organ that served the purpose of informing the Latino community of the issues and of publicizing various fundraising events for various causes, their activism was memorialized and is now presented in this study. The importance of research on the history of Latinos that depend on such archival material is hereby reinforced. The past editors and publishers of newspapers such as *ACCION*, *El Espectador*, *El Quetzal*, *The Latin American* and most importantly in this report, *LULAC NEWS* are greatly appreciated. The work to produce these American Latino newspapers is also an important part of civil rights activity and serves us all as a record of the efforts of LULAC patriots with civil rights.

How were we to explain the significance of political action as a mobilized force against opposing individuals or representatives of institutions who practice discrimination either intentionally or through systematic oppression? Our methodology for our research effort was simple. First of all, because we were compelled to research the history of LULAC in California and its relation to the class action lawsuit we went to those who were present, who were involved, the oral historians, or relatives (and also historians) and asked them meaningful yet elegant

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questions. We simply began with such questions as: What is your name? Where did you live? Were you a member of LULAC? When did you join? How did you become a member of LULAC? How did you become involved or interested in being active in the fight for civil rights? The answers to these questions allowed interviewees to tell us themselves about what happened at the time of their involvement. Also we obtained all pertinent documents and present them in their entirety or have extracted and presented what is relevant material. So, in the second part of this report we have documentary sources that demonstrate how we obtained this important history to share with all.

In sum, this report is about the history of LULAC and within that history its role in what happened before and around the time of the filing of the desegregation case and the decisions that came at the district court Level and at the appellate level in San Francisco Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. Mexicans grew to significant populations and local schools, specifically Anglo school administrators, impacted by their numbers, and because of prejudice and identifiable difficulties and conflicts of interest, failed to meet the needs of families and failed to offer the children of Mexican descent the freedom for an equal American education. Thus, it was found necessary by different leaders in the Mexican, Mexican American and or Latino Community to end the discrimination and segregation of their children of Mexican and or Latin descent. The right elements for change were required. When alone a struggle is a great deal more difficult--the obstacles appear greater and they were. LULAC once honored David C. Marcus who had the kind of experience needed to make the *Méndez et al.* case into a class action lawsuit as he directed the legal proceedings with founders of LULAC and/or plaintiffs. When LULAC wanted to honor him as Hector Godinez stated "Marcus was ill at the time and we had to ask his son if it was okay for us to go ahead and honor him" (Interview: Hector Godinez, 1996). In addition to a great attorney, honorable judges as shown later in this report were also vital to the success of the *Méndez et al.* case. This case is one of the great civil rights in education class action lawsuits. Because LULAC is part of a larger struggle to end discrimination in the United States it shares in the fight with other organizations such as the N.A.A.C.P, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The litigation of a 1946 case would serve as a guide for a higher-level landmark case of 1954. The following is a comparative view although very brief of the two landmark decisions so that the 1946 case could be seen from a different perspective.

The 1954 landmark Supreme Court case of *Brown v Board of Education* shares a commonality with the still not as known 1946 case of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* Both class action lawsuits were filed to end segregation of children in schools in order to have social equality a term now specified as *educational equity* in the *California Education Code* and a principle first applied in trial in the 1946 case. The case of *Méndez* in this respect precedes the case of *Brown* even though *Méndez* is not cited in *Brown*. The *Méndez et al.* case was organized by parents with the assistance of founders of LULAC in Orange County and was filed by David C. Marcus, March 2, 1945. Most highly recognized as legal counsel for *Brown vs. Board of Education* was Thurgood Marshall. Thurgood Marshall and other lawyers of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) by the name of Robert L. Carter and Loren Miller at the branch office in Los Angeles contributed to the ultimate success of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* by filing an amicus brief on behalf of NAACP in the fall of 1946 when the case was appealed by the school districts and at that point *Westminster School District of Orange County et al. vs. Gonzalo Méndez et al.* LULAC Council No. 147 was already a formalized LULAC chapter at this time and LULAC paid the attorney Marcus who had follow up contact with representatives of NAACP under Thurgood Marshall (Interview: Hector Godinez, 1996).

In 1946, the plight of Mexican Americans in Orange County California coalesced with the civil rights movement led by Black Americans to end segregation. Mr. Marshall and his fellow NAACP lawyers were overwhelmed but not overcome by the struggle to end the

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segregation of Black Americans or African Americans in all aspects of society. Five plaintiff fathers of Mexican ancestry and their children and on behalf of 5000 similarly situated had won the decision by Judge Paul McCormick of the District Court of the United States, Southern District of California, Central Division, in Los Angeles, to end segregation of children of Mexican ancestry from other children who were labeled and identified as English speaking pupils. Judge McCormick rendered his decision on March 21, 1946.

In Judge McCormick's "FINDINGS OF FACT and CONCLUSIONS OF LAW," p. 11 in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* 1946. Civil Case 4292-M he states:

'The equal protection of the laws' pertaining to the public school system in California is not provided by furnishing in separate schools the same technical facilities, textbooks and courses of instruction to children of Mexican ancestry that are available to the other public school children regardless of their ancestry. A paramount requisite in the American system of public education is social equality. It must be open to all children by unified school association regardless of lineage.

In Judge McCormick's "JUDGEMENT and INJUNCTION" p. 2, in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* 1946. Civil Case 4292-M he orders:

It is further ordered, adjudged, and decreed that the regulations, customs, usages and practices of defendants and each of the segregating persons and pupils of Latin and Mexican descent in separate schools within the respective districts of the defendants and each of them in the City of Santa Ana California and elsewhere in the County of Orange, 'State of California, are and each of them is arbitrary and discriminatory and in violation of plaintiffs' constitutional rights and illegal and void; And it is further ordered, adjudged and decreed that the defendants and each of them are hereby permanently restrained and enjoined from segregating persons and pupils in the elementary schools of the defendant school districts, respectfully, of the defendants and each of them within the City of Santa Ana, California and elsewhere in the County of Orange, State of California.

However, the case was appealed to a higher level, the United States Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit in San Francisco. Although Judge McCormick's decision in *Mendez et. al* was based on the legal issue of the violation of civil rights in terms of "national origin" and not in terms of "race" as in *Brown v Board of Education* as both are protected rights under the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution for residents and for citizens of the United States, the legal argument in both landmark decisions was determined by an underlying issue of whether or not children could learn better in a segregated environment or together in shared classrooms. In the 1946 case, as mentioned above, one social scientist, Mrs. Marie H. Hughes, from the Los Angeles County School office testified about a study she in cooperation with the office of Inter-American Affairs had done about children of primarily Mexican ancestry of a Los Angeles elementary school, Pio Pico of the Ranchito School District, which revealed that students learn better when they practice speaking in the English language when provided instruction in a shared setting that includes *informal contact* (*Méndez v. Westminster*, Transcripts of Legal proceedings: Testimony of Marie H. Hughes pp. 687-703, Wednesday July 11, 1945). Questions under direct examination of this witness were by Mr. Charles F. Christopher representative of Amicus Curiae of National Lawyers Guild. The testimony supported the intent of legal counsel

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including attorneys for the National Lawyers Guild and ACLU to convey to the court that students who have a shared social and educational experience showed a higher measurement in their progress in learning than those who did not interact with other students. Judge McCormick accepted the argument as reason for integration of students in their beginning school years. Students learn from each other and from school instructors in a socially equal school environment than when segregated (*Méndez v Westminster*, National Archives and Records Administration, (Pacific Region), Laguna Niguel, California).

Mrs. Marie Hughes was a public figure in the legal and educational affairs of the Latino community. Representing Los Angeles County Schools she served the Mexican American community along with others including representatives from the Office of the Coordinator of Inter-American Affairs on a panel for the annual Mexican American Movement Convention held in Los Angeles, October 8, 1944 at the Edison Bldg. 5th and Grand (MAM records Box and folder 01-07, Urban Archives Center, Oviatt Library, California State University, Northridge).

When *Méndez et. al* was appealed and was adjudicated by the seven judges in San Francisco, Thurgood Marshall of the NAACP had a large civil rights battle to end segregation and discrimination of Black Americans in the military in San Francisco. Overwhelmed Thurgood Marshall had assistance in the writing of the friend of the court brief for the case *Westminster School District of Orange County et al. vs. Gonzalo Méndez et al.* by Robert L. Carter an attorney and associate in New York. Loren Miller was the NAACP representative of the Los Angeles area.

Because the appealed 1946 case was based on the issue of discrimination of national origin, the NAACP filed a brief and referenced the *Good Neighbor Policy* established by President Hoover for U.S./Mexico relations. The NAACP filed a friend of the court brief on October 2, 1946 and declared (p. 8): “Thus, since the Civil War a body of constitutional law has developed which proscribes both our nation and state governments from making distinctions and classifications and from discriminating on the basis of race, color or national origin.”

Also the American Jewish Congress filed an amicus brief on October 17, 1946 in which they state (p. 2): “We are convinced that the treatment of minorities in a community is indicative of its political and moral standards and ultimately determinative of the happiness of all its members. In arguing in favor of the rights of one ethnic group we are certain to serve the interests of all Americans.” Other Amici Curiae have been mentioned before.

The 1947 United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit upheld Judge McCormick’s decision of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* to end segregation based on national origin in *regulations, customs, usages and practices* by school districts and provided a restoration of due process of law and the civil rights of children of Mexican or Latin ancestry with respect to their right to make social progress and to thus become successful American citizens through an equal American education. The formidable civil rights movement led by African Americans had another arm, the victory of the 1946 case to raise the banner for social justice and for an equal American education for all children no matter of what race or national origin. The commonality of “social equality” ruled by Judge McCormick, the guiding principle of argument that David C. Marcus, the National Lawyers Guild and ACLU had determined was essential in the 1946 case with a great *et al.*, *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* and its reaffirmed victory in 1947, was essential in the case before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1954, *Brown v Board of Education*, a landmark case with a great *et al.* as well as brought forth by the NAACP.

CONCLUSION OF PART ONE

Part one includes the narrative portion of the history of the formation of LULAC councils in California, that is, the primary purpose of this report and within this history its secondary

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purpose, LULAC and the *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* case information and respective references. This report simply in its secondary purpose answers the question for those who want to know what is the hidden truth behind the *class action* lawsuit of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* That is, that LULAC, through the efforts of founders of LULAC in Orange County justifiably merits acknowledgement for leading in the struggle to end discrimination and segregation of children of Mexican or Latin descent in California and for their struggle for an equal American education for Latino children. LULAC was responsible for fundraising and for a community public appeal for bringing social justice to the primarily Mexican people and to other Spanish surnamed individuals and families. The case of *Méndez v Westminster* was not appealed all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States, therefore, the Ninth Circuit of United States Court of Appeals was the *court of last resort* for the people who stemmed from Mexico and for their fight for justice in California because of discrimination in the education of their children based on their national origin. The issue of the constitutionality of the doctrine "separate but not equal" that had been the law for several years since *Plessy v Ferguson* was not directly dealt with in the 1946 case but was reintroduced in *Brown v Board of Education, 1954*, when the ruling of *separate but equal* was overruled.

LULAC stands firm in its historic effort to win the judicial decision in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* In past accounts, others have failed to account for this concerted effort to end discrimination and segregation providing recognition to the sole contingency of parents and others in Westminster. The struggle for social and political justice was imminent in more than one pocket of activity. The hidden story behind *Méndez et al.* is the *et al.* And it is only now that it has begun to come into light. More is bound to be uncovered so that all may learn about all of our champions for civil rights in education.

It is much more valid to make a report by presenting copies of actual documents than to surmise every aspect of the history of LULAC and of the unique and charismatic will of individuals who led the struggle in civil rights by forming active and committed LULAC councils of patriots with civil rights in California since the first council was formed in Sacramento. Therefore, in PART TWO we have further documented evidence for our points made here.

The compiled information for this work titled **LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS: Early History of the League of United Latin American Citizens in California 1929-1957 and *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*** is dedicated to these heroes whose battle for justice continues in the social and political arena of today with new heroes who have hope of creating a better world for themselves and for their posterity; the new face of America.

The following section includes documentary sources with detailed description of compiled information and references.

PART TWO

DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

- I. EARLY HISTORY OF LULAC—ORGANIZERS AND FORMATION OF COUNCILS.
- II. EARLY CONVENTIONS—REGIONAL, DISTRICT, NATIONAL.
- III. LULAC AND THE CLASS ACTION LAWSUIT.
- IV. CALIFORNIA LULAC HERITAGE COMMITTEE EVENT: RECEPTION IN HONOR OF CHAMPIONS FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN EDUCATION HELD MARCH 15, 2003.
- V. RESEARCH INTERVIEW INFORMATION.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



JACOBO RODRIGUEZ

This member of the San Antonio Council is now in California. He writes he had a hard time getting there, but that he arrived safe and well. Mr. Rodríguez, being a true Lulacker and a man who does not let grass grow under his feet immediately began preaching Lulac. He requested of our Treasurer-General to send him some literature. Pretty soon we will hear of LULAC COUNCILS in California. Good work, brother Rodríguez!

Source: Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin. (LULAC Archives–LULAC NEWS).

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Lulac News

THE SPIRIT OF LULAC

Jacob I. Rodriguez.
Sacramento Cal.

The Spirit of Lulac is the Spirit of Democracy.

Lulac embodies in its doctrines the highest expression of the True Democratic Principles. Those Principles that made the American Declaration of Independence the pattern for other Nations to follow. Those Principles that have withstood the test of Time because they express the true sentiments of a Free people. Those Principles that have come down to us as the real Test of a true and real Americanism.

Allow me to present to you the expressions of true Democracy from a Real American, Mr. Woodrow Wilson:

"Democracy is the antithesis of all government by privilege. It excludes all hereditary right to rule, whether in a single family or in a single class or in any combination of classes. It makes the welfare of society the end and object of law, and declares that no class, no aristocratic minority, no single group of men, however numerous, however capable, however enlightened, can see broadly enough or sufficiently free itself from bias to perceive a nation's needs in their entirety or guide its destinies for the benefit of all!

"Modern democracy rests upon principles" unparalleled in the History of the World. "Its theory is of equal rights without respect of blood or breeding. It knows nothing of a citizenship won by privilege or inherited through the lines of descent which can not be changed or broadened. Its thought is of society without casts or classes, of an equality of political birthright which is without bound or limitation. Its foundations are set in a philosophy that would extend to all mankind an equal emancipation, make citizens of all men, and cut away everywhere exceptional privilege. 'All men are born free and equal' is the classical sentence of its creed, and its dream is always of a state in which no man shall have mastery over another without his acquiescence and consent. It speaks always of the sovereignty of the people, and the rulers as the peoples' servants!

"The consent of the governed must

at every turn check and determine the action of those who make and execute the laws!

Woodrow Wilson expressed himself thus many years ago and today Lulac is working, with all the means at its command to bring home to us that message, the gospel of Democracy, the only principles that make of us real Americans.

The American people, as we all know, is composed of all the races of the world. They are of different races and divergent national traditions and can be united and welded together into a truly great nation only through the fusion of all those divergent traditions into one ideal, "To be or not to be, (Real Americans) that is the question."

But listen again to our War-Time President:

"I certainly would not be one to suggest that a man cease to love the home of his birth and the nation of his origin - these things are very sacred and ought not to be put out of our hearts - but it is one thing to love the place where you were born and it is another thing to dedicate yourself to the place to which you go. You can not dedicate yourself to America unless you become in every respect and with every purpose of your will thorough Americans. You can not become thorough Americans if you think of yourselves in groups. America does not consist of groups. A man who thinks of himself as belonging to a particular national group in America has not yet become an American, and the man that goes among you to trade upon your nationality is no worthy son to live under the Stars and Stripes".

"My urgent advice to you would be, not only always to think first of America, but always, also, to think first of Humanity. You do not love humanity if you seek to divide humanity into jealous camps. Humanity can be welded together only by love, by sympathy, by justice, not by jealousy and hatred. I am sorry for the man who seeks to make personal capital out of the passions of his fellow-men. He has lost the touch and ideal of America, for America was created to unite mankind by those passions which lift and not by the passions which separate and debase. We came to America, either ourselves or in the persons of our ancestors, to better

The Spirit of LULAC by Jacob I. Rodriguez.
LULAC NEWS, February, 19, 1933.

Source: Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin. (LULAC Archives-LULAC NEWS).

the ideals of men, to make them see finer things than they had seen before, to get rid of the things that divide and to make sure of the things that unite. It was but an historical accident no doubt that this country was called "The United States"; yet I am very thankful that it has that word - - "United" in its title, and the man who seeks to divide man from man, group from group, interest from interest in this great Union is striking at its very heart."

And so, my dear reader. MY urgent advice to YOU is, and always will be, to fall in line behind the glorious banner of L U L A C, that Organization of Real Americans that is fighting to keep these principles alive so that our brethren of Latin extraction born in this great Country of ours can raise their eyes to heaven and be not ashamed to say "We are Americans"; and so that our "government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

A BRIGHT OUTLOOK

Besides Laredo, Roma and Hondo Councils have just sent in their Charter dues of \$5.00 each; in addition to this Alice will reorganize and will send her Charter fees in a few days. President General Canales has received communications from La Joya and Kingsville requesting re-organization. It seems the hard times of depression are slowly fading away, and that things are beginning to wake up all around. San Felipe Council No. 18 of Del Rio sends word they are functioning one hundred per cent, and are preparing for our Annual Convention; and inviting suggestions to make it a success. Bro. Sergio González Jr. its President also sends in \$10.00 as part of their annual dues. Good work Del Rio, keep it up!

Bro. Flavio Palacios, President of Roma Council No. 22 has sent in \$8.00 yearly dues and reports good news in his territory. Bro. Tony Valencia, Treasurer of that hard working El Paso Council has sent in \$3.00 for the Lulac News, \$5.00 Council Dues and \$6.00 for the Educational fund. GREAT!

TRAINING FOR LEADERSHIP

By Alonso S. PERALES.

Unquestionably, the progress of our Race in Texas calls for Constructive leadership, and the sooner we produce it the better. Our League can aid greatly in the attainment of this end by opening up a Night School of leadership for adults in every city and town where there is a Lulac Council.

To begin with, the curriculum might consist of courses in English and Spanish, Hygiene, Civics and Government.

Every Latin-American should be able to speak and write the English and Spanish languages correctly.

The object of the Hygiene course to be to teach our people how to prevent and check diseases; and the course in Civics and Government to be designed to awaken the civic consciousness of the Student, teach him his constitutional rights and duties and acquaint with the mechanism and functions of city, county, state and national government.

Now, this is not as difficult as it may seem.

It is simply a question of resolving to have such a school and appointing a committee of two or three active and energetic members to carry out the plan.

In many instances, the local school boards will very likely cooperate.

The writer will be glad to go into this matter fully with any interested Lulackers who will write to him for further suggestion as to the ways and means of performing this very valuable and much needed service.

**RUBEN R.
LOZANO**

ATTORNEY - AT - LAW

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Res. Pershing 8404 — Garfield 5235

San Antonio, Texas

Article *The Spirit of LULAC* by Jacob I. Rodriguez (second page)
LULAC NEWS, February, 19, 1933.

Source: Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas Libraries,
The University of Texas at Austin. (LULAC Archives—LULAC NEWS).

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



LULAC NEWS, Vol. 4, No. 1, February, 1937

Source: Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas Libraries,
The University of Texas at Austin. (LULAC Archives–LULAC NEWS).

ciation," which no doubt will be a great factor in the community for years to come.

Mr. Carrasco has been a member of LULAC for over two years and in October 1936, he was elected President of the El Paso Lulac council. He works just as hard in Lulac work as he does in his school room. In fact his vocational teaching and Lulac work go well hand in hand. For both have the same objective—to make of our boys and girls, young men and young women the best citizens of tomorrow. El Paso is looking forward to a most successful Lulac administration under his leadership.

WHAT LULAC MEANS TO ME

By Jacob I. Rodriguez
Organized General

Let me tell you what LULAC means to me, in just as few words as possible. Taking the name letter by letter we have:

L Stands for "love." Not the love of a man for his wife, nor for his children nor for his brother nor for his sister, not even that love we have recognized as the greatest love of all, mother love, but the love that really transcends and surpasses all understanding. The love of a man for the Flag of his country. The love that impels him to leave his family, material possessions, or anything else that may be near and dear to him to follow and to defend that Flag even at the cost of his life.

U Stands for "unity." The saying is that in union there is strength. I may add that with strength we acquire respect, and with respect will come to tolerance and understanding which we so sorely need for our people.

L Again we come to the letter "L."

But this time it stands for that necessary adjunct to love which we call "loyalty." The first article of our aims and purposes will tell you that our League is pledged 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."

A Stands for "advancement." In other words, progress through education. If we are to attain the aim set forth in the first article mentioned above, we must pledge ourselves to the most thorough education of ourselves and our children.

C This, the last of the letters of our name, stands precisely for what it means in that name—Citizenship. In pursuance to that which is provided in the first and highest principle of our organization, it is high time that we realize and bring home to our Anglo-American brethren the fact that our race can, and will produce just as good, true, loyal, conscientious, and law-abiding citizens of this country as any other race—barring none—that has ever lived and thrived under the benevolent protective shadow of the Stars and Stripes.

Long may you live and
Unite our souls;
Leading us onward,
After others may fall,
Citizens — Americans all.

SAID IN FUN Punishment

Prof. S. Huitron:—"Now, if I were to be flogged, what would that be?"

Class (in unison): "That would be corporal punishment."

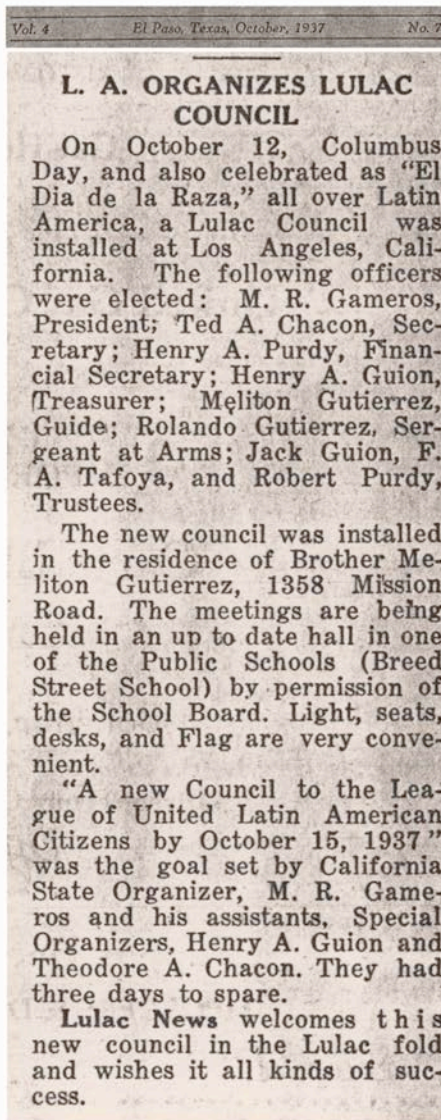
Prof. Huitron:—"But if I were to be beheaded?"

Class (still in unison): "Oh, that would be capital!"

"WHAT LULAC MEANS TO ME" written by Jacob I. Rodriguez.

LULAC NEWS, Vol. 4, No. 1, February, 1937. Jacob I. Rodriguez was originally from San Antonio Texas LULAC Council No. 2 and returns to that council after having been in Sacramento California for a few years.

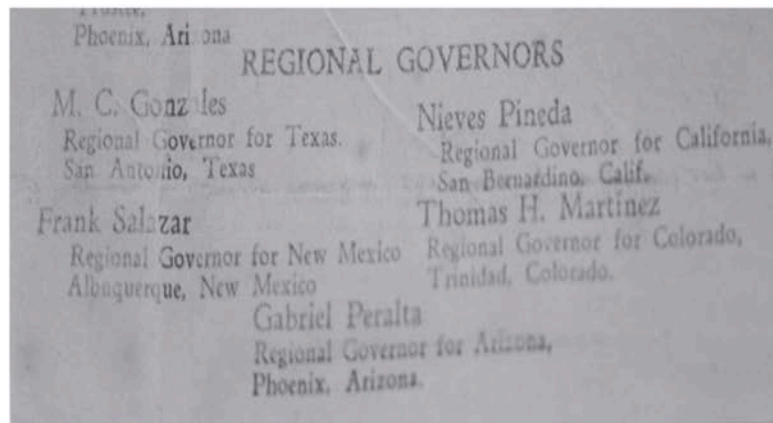
Source: Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin. (LULAC Archives—LULAC NEWS).



Source: Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin. (LULAC Archives—LULAC NEWS).

Regional Governor for California– 1941

Nieves Pineda



LULAC NEWS, Vol. 8. October, 1941.

Source: Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas Libraries,
The University of Texas at Austin. (LULAC Archives–LULAC NEWS).

THIS ISSUE SPONSORED BY COUNCIL No. 135 OF SAN BERNARDINO, CALIF.

CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION

In East Los Angeles

East Los Angeles is proud of its program of Citizenship Education which has been carried on at the Roosevelt Adult Evening High School. For the past ten years there has been a constant stream of adults of all nationalities learning the English language and preparing themselves to become Citizens of the United States. The record has shown six classes in Americanization English and three in History and Government. The classes for instruction to the non-English speaking are graded from the beginning in a progressive scale leading to the certificate which allows for admission into high school work. As the students progress to the higher grades they are ready to take up classes in Citizenship. The record of achievement in the Citizenship classes show that each year between one and two hundred have successfully passed the Naturalization Court examinations and now are citizens of the United States. Our community is proud of these new citizens and of the educational success and progress they have made. All who are not citizens of the United States, living in

East Los Angeles, should be taking advantage of these classes held at the Roosevelt Evening High School.

In explanation of community cooperation, too much cannot be said for the interest and work done by the American Legion and the LULAC Organization of the district. Each Spring in May, a fitting program has been arranged through these groups to honor the new citizens at the Roosevelt Evening School auditorium. These programs have consisted of music and talks on the Meanings of a New Citizen's Day and What America Stands

For. Noted speakers and leaders are invited as guests. The new citizens are given a reserved section, and tokens commemorating the event and their achievements are awarded them.

FELIX W. MONTOYA.

Member Citizenship and Americanization Committee, Adult Education.



UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS

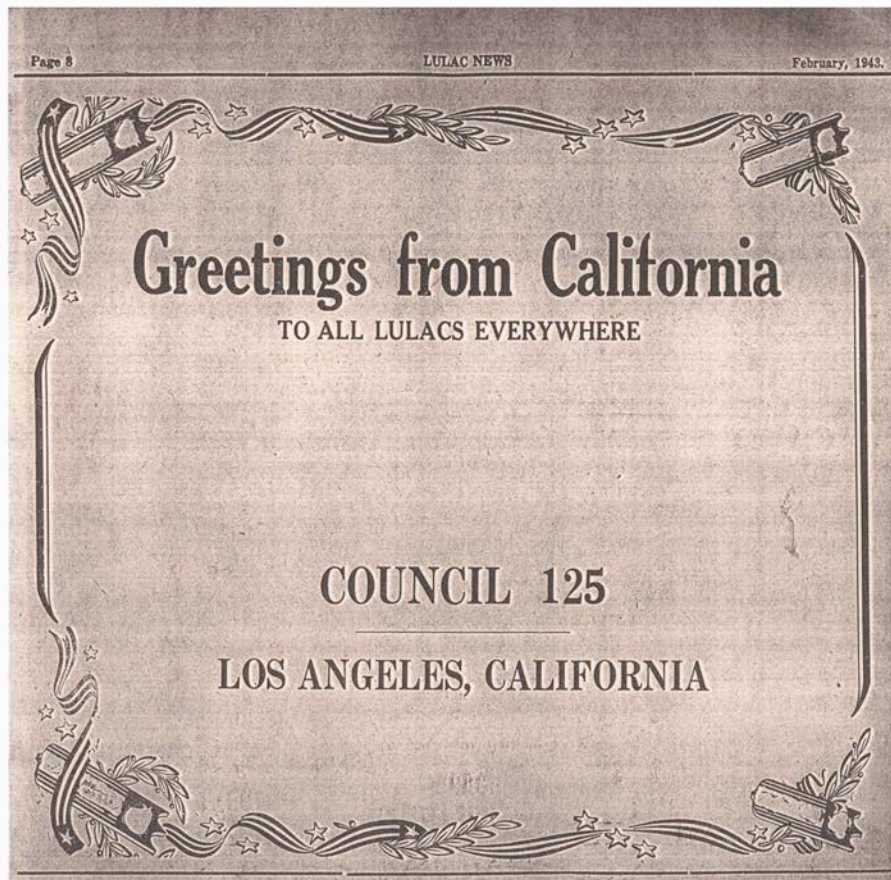
Council No. 135 was honored with the sponsoring of this edition of LULAC NEWS. It is evident that this edition of LULAC NEWS is a success. The success of this edition is owed to Council No. 108 of San Bernardino, California; to the Ladies' Council of San Bernardino, California; to the merchants of San Bernardino, California and Los Angeles, California who have expressed their cooperating spirit toward the League of United Latin American Citizens; and to Council No. 125 of Los Angeles who so enthusiastically and gallantly have without doubt shown by living deeds that TRUE LULACS are "All For One and One for All."

It is with great pleasure therefore that I, in behalf of Council No. 135, most sincerely thank you all.

RODERICK FLORES.

LULAC NEWS, February, 1943.

Source: Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin. (LULAC Archives-LULAC NEWS).



LULAC NEWS, February, 1943.

Source: Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin. (LULAC Archives–LULAC NEWS).

Additional Accounts of Early California LULAC Reference: LULAC NEWS

(Vol. 4, No. 8, December 1937) M.R. Gameros is listed as California State Organizer.

(Vol. 6, No. 10, October 1939) California Council No. 77 ratifies the LULAC national constitution.

(Vol. 6, No. 12, December 1939) California Council No. 61, Sacramento is listed as being cancelled along with others.

(Vol. 7, No. 4, April 1940) Listed are: Felix W. Montoya, Regional Governor of California, Charles Lopes, Governor of West Coast District, Rolando S. Gutierrez, Regional Organizer of California. Representing California Council No. 77 is Ralph G. Salcido, Ernest R. Orfila, President, and Charles M. Lopez.

(Vol. 12, No. 2, August 1945) Lists George W. Ramirez from Alhambra, mentions Alhambra Council No. 137 recommending Brother George W. Ramirez of Alhambra for Regional Governor and Brother William Wheat of San Gabriel as Regional Organizer for California.

(Vol. 13, No. 1, July 1946) Photo of John Gonzales 1st Vice-President Gen'l from Los Angeles, California and photo of Floyd Apodaca, Regional Organizer, Los Angeles, California. Lists Los Angeles Council No. 125, Alhambra Council No. 137 and Santa Ana Council No. 147. "Brother Gonzales would hold a regional convention after the National Assembly for the purpose of electing Regional officers."

Source: Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin. (LULAC Archives–LULAC NEWS).

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.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

part of this issue. LEE LICONA AND JAMES SAENZ, have just finished with the reorganization of the ALICE council, you will hear more details about this in the next issue. Congrats—Lee and Jimmie.

● EL PASO COUNCIL No. 132

Ygnacio J. Porras, President
3800 Montana St. El Paso, Texas

Have not heard very much from El Paso recently but we are waiting for the big news next month. El Paso will sponsor the April Issue of LULAC NEWS and there you will hear from them. However in the phone calls made by the Regional Governor M. C. Gonzalez he adds as follows: "Modesto Gomes, past president general, stated that the El Paso Council was receiving many new members, most of them returnees, that there was much activity and were planning an interesting program for the year to carry out the aims and purposes of Lulac. Nacho Porras is the newly elected president. El Paso should be congratulated."

● SAN DIEGO COUNCIL No. 98

Nago Alaniz, President San Diego, Texas.

● TAFT COUNCIL No. 81

% Antonio Torres, Taft, Texas

We are glad to hear that Bro. Antonio Torres has again taken an active part in the affairs of the Taft Council. Bro. Torres is always looking for the welfare of our people. Recently he registered a complaint with the President General about certain acts of discrimination against returnees of Latin extraction in the city of Gonzales. This complaint is being investigated and action has been taken to remedy this situation.

● DEL RIO COUNCIL No. 18

Carlos Cortez, President
P. O. Box 199 Del Rio, Texas

This council is fully reorganized with a full set of new officers. This was done through the efforts of Bro. Pilar Garza, and other old timers. We are glad to report that among those in the roster we find the names of Rudolph H. Gutierrez, Gilbert Cerda, E. I. Calderon, Arturo C. Gonzales, and others. Soon we will hear of the good work to be done by this council.

● WINSLOW COUNCIL No. 140

A. R. Rios, President
P. O. Box 1053 Winslow, Arizona

NEWS

Haven't heard much from Winslow of late but Professor Banuelos of Baytown, brought to Laredo the song which he composed to the words dealing with No. 1-4-0. We understand that the Winslow Council is getting prepared for the annual convention which is on June 15 and 16. Winslow bring all of the Arizona delegates from the other Councils to Houston.

● TRINIDAD COUNCIL No. 113

Jay Garcia, Secretary
410 So. Chesnut St. Trinidad, Colorado

● SANTA FE LADIES COUNCIL No. 9

Mrs. Marian Delgado, President
425 Camino de las Animas Santa Fe, N. M.

● FT. STOCKTON COUNCIL No. 62

Saturnino L. Gonzales, Pres. Ft. Stockton, Tex.
Nothing to report.

● D'HANIS COUNCIL No. 106

% Julian Ybarra D'Hanis, Texas
Haven't heard much from this council in some time.

● AUSTIN COUNCIL No. 85

Ed Cantu, President

This council did a swell job in sponsoring the February Issue of Lulac News. Just a tip to the Austin membership. San Marcos is about ready to be organized. Why dont some of you go to that town and finish the job. By the way we have been informed that the President General will be in Austin on April 8 and 9. He is planning to meet with some of you on the night of April 9. Maybe you can invite some of the leaders from San Marcos to meet with the President General while in your city.

● BEEVILLE LULAC COUNCIL

Bernard C. Sandoval, President
P. O. Box 500 Beeville, Texas

● LOS ANGELES COUNCIL No. 130

Wm. Trujillo, President
1716 West 37th. St. Los Angeles, Calif.

● BAYTOWN COUNCIL No. 73

Antonio Banuelos, President
P. O. Box 1059 Baytown, Texas
The Baytown Council was well represented in
(Continued on Page 23)

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Los Angeles Council No. 125 becomes No. 130
when reactivated. LULAC NEWS Vol. 12 No. 9, March, 1946 p. 19.

Source: Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas Libraries,
The University of Texas at Austin. (LULAC Archives—LULAC NEWS).

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

AROUND THE LULAC SHIELD—

(Continued from Page 5)

eyesight while in military service in the European theatre of war. Is now back in Trinidad. Lulac is sponsoring an intensive statewide drive for money donations toward purchase of a home for him and perhaps a seeing eye dog. Lulacs are enlisting all community agencies on this project. Committee in charge is headed by Bob Sanchez, Lulac member. The Lions Club have already undertaken an active part in the project.

The tentative date of Sunday, March 31st, has been set for the State Organizer, Felix Romero and State Governor, J. M. Romero, to install a new council of Lulac at Pueblo, Colorado. A group of active Latin-Americans in Pueblo have requested a visit from the Trinidad members for that purpose. It is hoped that in the near future, Pueblo will have a strong Lulac council.

Under the sponsorship of the Trinidad High School and the Trinidad Junior College, a series of concerts have been held in Trinidad at the High School Auditorium during the fall of 1945 and spring of 1946. It is titled "Greater Artist Series." The last concert will take place on Friday, March 29, featuring Olga Coelho, famous Brazilian singer and guitarist. This concert has been chosen specifically for the benefit of people of Spanish extraction in Trinidad. Lulac, with other Latin-American organizations, are busy with the publicity and ticket sale connected with this concert.

Eight organizations in Trinidad, whose membership is composed of Latin-Americans, namely: Lulac, Alianza-Hispano-Americana, Los Conquistadores, Prosperity Club, La Bonita Club, Sagrado Corazon Society, Happy-Go-Lucky Club and La Confederacion Mutualista, have organized a federated central organization under the name of Latin-American Service Club. The central group is composed of two representatives from each organization. Its purpose is to obtain united effort in the community toward promotion of Health and Education, particularly among people of Spanish extraction. The organization has already sponsored several very valuable community projects. Its officers are: J. M. Romero, President, Joe Vialpando, Vice-President, Mrs. R. V. Sandoval, Secretary, Joe La Crue, Treasurer.

SAN GABRIEL AND LOS ANGELES COUNCILS

On March 27, a meeting of San Gabriel and Los Angeles Councils was held in Los Angeles at the Casino Inn, 649 North Spring Street. Both Councils had a very good representation.

At the meeting after much discussion, the members elected William H. Wheat for Regional

Governor for California. Our present Regional Governor having tendered his resignation to the President General recently. Mr. Floyd Apodaca of Los Angeles was elected for Regional Organizer for California. Mr. Wheat has done very well as a champion and defender for all Latin American Citizens and Mr. Apodaca has been active for the same cause. We feel that with men of this type who are honest and courageous LULAC will make progress and become an important organization from the small communities to the large metropolitan cities.

Los Angeles Council No. 125 marches on for a United, Progressive, and Powerful Lulac that will help guide and protect our people always.

A BIGGER AND BETTER LULAC IN 1946.

Note !! To William Trujillo, Secretary Council No. 125, 1761 West 37th Street, Los Angeles 7, California. HOW ABOUT A GOOD DELEGATION FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE HOUSTON CONVENTION ON JUNE 15 AND 16. A personal challenge from the PRESIDENT GENERAL.

MY OWN

Trod on foreign lands have I
And found no country like my own—
My beloved land.
Saw I the queer, the strange
The mysterious customs of the world,
But found no country like my own—
My land beloved.
Adventure I longed for yet
Lonely I grew for my own land
When home I could not go.
And then I reached my land.
My tears started.
Here I was born, here I was reared,
Here I shall die
If I find my way.
My heart filled with glory
I knelt and kissed the ground
From whence I went—
My land, my own beloved.

By Rodolfo Soto,

Bowie High School, 1945

Editor's note—This poem was the inspiration for the article "And Their Spears into Pruning Hooks" which follows it. Rodolfo Soto is a student of Bowie High School, which is the common meeting ground of former students completing their services in the Armed Forces. Rodolfo has caught the conflicting emotions experienced by these returning veterans, upon whom adjustment lies heavily. H. V. Williams is the principal of Bowie High School, whose students are 100% Latin-Americans.

NEWS

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LULAC NEWS, Vol. 12, No. 10 April, 1946

Source: Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin. (LULAC Archives-LULAC NEWS).

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FLOYD APODACA
REGIONAL ORGANIZER
Los Angeles, California
LULAC NEWS, Vol. 13, No. 1, July, 1946.

Source: Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas Libraries,
The University of Texas at Austin. (LULAC Archives–**LULAC NEWS**).

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JOHN O. GONZALES

John O. Gonzales, a LULAC member since the thirties in Phoenix Arizona, a member of Los Angeles Council No. 125 in the forties and National LULAC 1st Vice President General in 1946. Mr. Gonzales wrote the article, "Calling All LULACs" to collect money for Orange County school case fund. Monies collected contributed to offset litigation costs of the decision to uphold Judge Paul J. McCormick's decision in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*

Photo: As taken from the photo by Hector R. Tarango of the installation ceremony of El Modena Council in 1949 also presented in this report.

Margie Aguirre Collection.



William H. Wheat II and wife on their wedding day circa 1920's.

During his years of serving as Regional Organizer for California in 1945, and Regional Governor of California, 1946, William H. Wheat II and family lived at 415 W. Saxon St. San Gabriel, California. He was a member of Alhambra Council No. 137. (**LULAC NEWS**, Vol 12 No. 2 and No. 3 1945). He installed Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 on June 9, 1946, the first council in Orange County, California (**LULAC NEWS**, Vol. 13, No. 8 February, 1947). According to his grandson, Joe A. Cruz, Mr. Willam H. Wheat II worked in law enforcement and at one time worked with the FBI. William H. Wheat II was the son of an Irish man, William Henry Wheat, who came from Ireland to Tennessee and then settled in Texas where he became a Texas Ranger and married a Mexican woman. Willam H. Wheat II was born around 1900 and died when he was around 61 years old. He is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in Los Angeles. (*Interview: Joe A. Cruz, 2007*).

Photo courtesy of Joe A. Cruz, grandson.

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OFFICERS OF SANTA ANA LULAC COUNCIL NO. 147 IN 1947.

Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 was chartered June 9, 1946. Founding members were previously active as patriots with civil rights under the name of Latin American Voters League. This photo was taken by member of Latin American Voters League and LULAC charter member of Santa Ana Council No. 147, Hector R. Tarango.

Left to right: Tony Luna, Ray Carrasco, David Ortiz, Manuel Veiga Jr., (re-elected president), Isadore I. Gonzales, Cruz Barrios, Hector Godinez and Alex Maldonado.

Margie Aguirre Collection.

WE DEDICATE THIS ISSUE

BY COUNCIL NO. 147
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA
ORANGE COUNTY



Lulac Council No. 147 of Santa Ana, California, extends a generous "Thank you" to our many friends having made possible the publication of this edition; to the untiring and working active members who have given fully of their time; to our regular members for placing their faith in our work; to the generous and helpful associate members and contributing members of business establishments for their contributions; to City and County Officials whose thoughts and advice were with us to guide us.

Lulac has been an ideal idea slowly developing into reality, through the untiring work of many, and on strong solid foundation it slowly rises to represent democracy at its best.

For better organization, for better development of youth in moulding the clean character of All American Citizens as well as non-citizens, for a better community for all, for understanding of peoples and unity in working out problems for a better America, "Our America," we do proudly dedicate this Lulac News and say thank you one and all to the ones responsables for the above —

I. A. GONZALES, 1st Trustee	MANUEL VEIGA, JR., President
EVARISTO DIAZ, 2nd Trustee	PHIL MENDEZ, Vice-President
CHARLES CARRILLO, 3rd Trustee	HECTOR R. TARANGO, Secy.
TONY LUNA, Chaplain	CRUZ G. BARRIOS, Treasurer

Charter officers of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147.

LULAC NEWS Vol. 13, No. 6, December, 1946.

Source: Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin. (LULAC Archives-LULAC NEWS).

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Hector R. Tarango formerly of the Latin American Voters League and one of the founders of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 repeatedly and emphatically states:

“We--formally of the Latin American Voters League and founders of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147--organized the class action lawsuit after we, Manuel Veiga Jr. myself and Cruz Barrios, and another person consulted David Marcus in Los Angeles. Mendez volunteered to be a representative plaintiff.” (Interviews: 2003-2004).

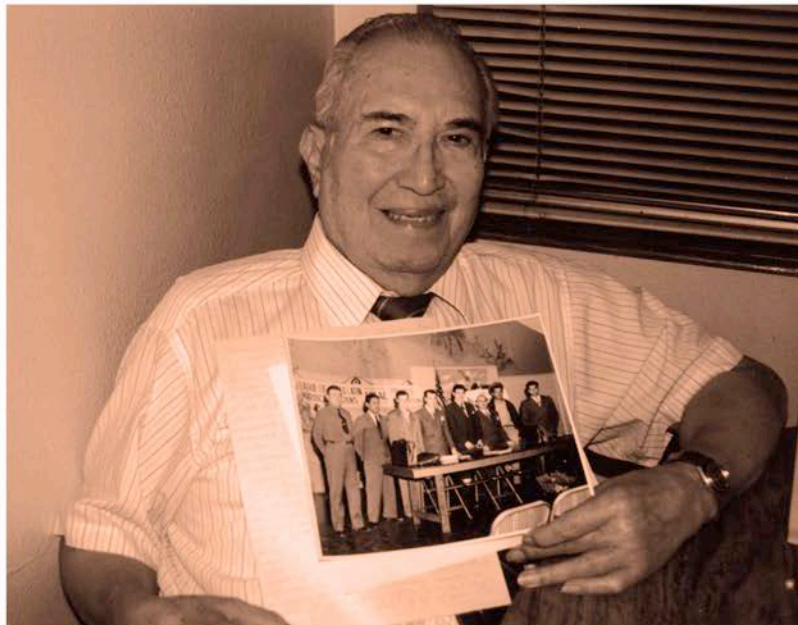
Mr. Tarango recalls that four of us went in one car to Los Angeles to consult David Marcus an attorney (who worked for the Mexican Consulate) as to what to do legally in fighting discrimination and segregation in the schools. (Interview: Hector Tarango, 2003).



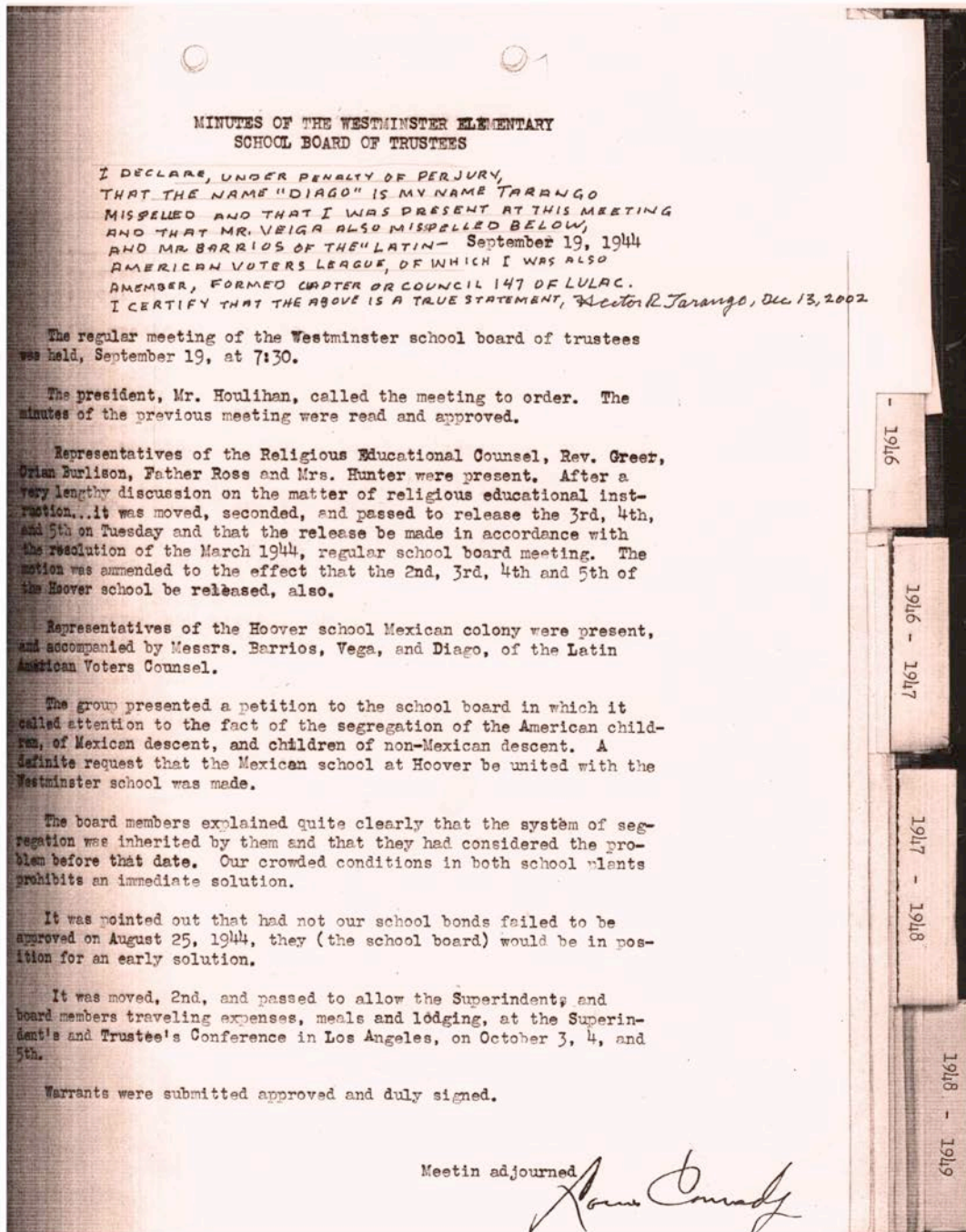
Mr. Tarango was present and “accompanied the Hoover School Mexican colony” at the September 19, 1944 Westminster School Board meeting when Manuel Veiga Jr. and Cruz Barrios spoke on behalf of the Hoover School Mexican colony requesting that the *Mexican school at Hoover be united with the Westminster school.* (See Westminster School Board Minutes 1944).

2nd Lt. Hector R. Tarango (ID photo)
California National Guard 1st Bat. 49th Reg.
Lt. Tarango was in charge of communications and under his command were other LULAC founders: Phil Mendez and Tony Luna.

Mr. Tarango shown below holds the original minutes of a meeting of the founding of Santa Ana Council No. 147, May 8, 1946 in Manuel Veiga’s handwriting on Veiga Funeral Home stationary, his own typed minutes for he was elected Secretary and a later 1947 photo of its officers taken by him. He served LULAC as National Officer of League as Trustee in 1947, **LULAC NEWS** Vol. 14, August, No. 2.



LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Mr. Hector Tarango states that he was present at this school board meeting on September 19, 1944. Above is Hector Tarango's statement as he wrote it and signed it on a copy of these minutes December 13, 2002 at an interview held by Margie Aguirre at his home in Santa Ana, CA. Mr. Cruz Barrios and Mr. Manuel Veiga were also present and spoke to end segregation as Gonzalo Méndez testified on July 9, 1945 for *Gonzalo Méndez vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al., 1946*. These facts attest to their leadership and involvement in the case.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Minutes of the Westminster
School Board of Trustees
January 10, 1945

A special meeting of the Westminster School Governing Board was held January 10, 1945, 7:30 P.M., in the school office.

Those present were Mr. Houlihan, Mr. Schmitt, Mr. Conrady and Mr. Harris.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

A discussion was held relative to the necessary construction of four cesspool drain tanks, installed during the vacation period at Christmas.

Mr. Conrady, clerk, presented a registered letter to the Board from Gonzales Mendez, asking when the next regular Board meeting would be held. Mr. Conrady presented a copy of the letter, which he had sent to Mr. Mendez, indicating the next regular Board meeting would be held on January 16, 1945.

The problem of the complaint from the Mexican speaking peoples was discussed at length. The cost of housing and the moving of the Hoover school building was given a great deal of consideration.

Mr. Harris reported that David C. Marcus, suite 416, Spring and Second Building, 129 W. 2nd, Los Angeles, had called at the office with Mr. Gonzales Mendez on January 9, 1945. Mr. Marcus, attorney, at law indicated that in his opinion there was discrimination being practised in this district.

Mr. Harris reported to the Board that he had contacted our County Counsel, Mr. Joel Ogle, on January 10, 1945, concerning the matter. He indicated he would inform us concerning our position in the matter.

The entering of children of Japanese descent at the Westminster Main school was discussed. It was moved, seconded and past to enter children of Japanese descent at the Westminster Main school.

It was moved, seconded, and passed to change the meeting date of the regular monthly school board meeting from the 3rd Tuesday to the 2nd Thursday of each month. This action was taken in view of the fact that at times during the year the 3rd Tuesday falls within 2 or 3 days of the 25th of the month. Since the County Office begins work on the Payroll on the morning of the 25th, they prefer warrants to be in the office at least five days before that time.

The warrants for the month of January were presented, and duly signed.

Meeting adjourned.

Louis Conrady,
Clerk

Westminster School Board Minutes shows Gonzalo Mendez at the office with David C. Marcus--the attorney that Hector Tarango claims that the founders of LULAC "consulted and that he told them what to do and Mendez volunteered to be the representative plaintiff." (Interview of Mr. Hector R. Tarango December 13, 2002 by Margie Aguirre). As recorded above:
"The problems of the complaint from the Mexican speaking peoples was discussed at length."

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

SANTA ANA
May 8, 1946
Time 8:45 PM

An informal meeting was held at the above mentioned place and date by a group of fourteen persons, to discuss the founding of a chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens, said Organization having 130 chapters throughout four States of the Union. A motion was made by Mr. Isadore A. Gonzales to form a chapter in Santa Ana, motion being seconded by Manuel Veiga, it was put to vote and was carried by a majority. Mr. Charles C. Carrillo made a motion to name Hector Tarango as temporary chairman to preside over the meeting, motion was seconded, put to vote and passed by a majority. The chairman then named Manuel Veiga to act as temporary secretary. A motion was made by Mr. Cruz Barrios to name the first four officers of the chapter, said motion being seconded by Isadore Gonzales, was put to vote and carried favorably by a majority. Manuel Veiga makes a motion that the voting be done openly, seconded by Mr. Philip Mendez and passed by a majority. Chairman calls for nomination of officers, putting before the house. Chairman opens nominations for Secretary. Mr. Veiga nominating Hector Tarango for that office, seconded by Mr. Philip Mendez. Mr. Barrios makes a motion that nominations be closed, seconded by Isadore Gonzales, put to vote and carried, electing Hector Tarango to the office of secretary. Chairman then opens nominations for Treasurer. Manuel Veiga nominating Mr. Cruz Barrios for that office. Seconded by Ramon Prado. Mendez makes a motion that nominations be closed, seconded by Manuel Veiga, carried by a majority. Results of the elections were:

Mr. Tarango's transcribed minutes of a meeting to form Santa Ana LULAC Council and elect officers. (Continued on next page).

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Manuel Veiga - President

Philip Mendez - Vice President

Hector Tarango - Secretary

Cruz Barrios - Treasurer

Mr. Tony Luna makes a motion that we have our next meeting one week from tonight being on the 15th of May, was seconded by Mr. Jimenez, put to vote and carried by a majority. Motion was made by Mr. Mendez that a post card be mailed to all members stating the time and place of the next meeting, was seconded by Prado and carried by a majority. Mr. Philip Mendez makes a motion to close the meeting, seconded by Mr. Frank Palomino. Time 10:30 PM.

Page two of minutes of a first meeting of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 shows Frank Palomino, plaintiff in *Gonzalo Méndez et al vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* present. Also these minutes show the first elected officers of this council and other members including Mr. Jimenez (of La Chiquita Grocery and Tortilla Factory in Logan barrio). Mr. Philip Mendez [sic] and Isadore Gonzalez, Ramon Prado, Charles C. Carillo are also indicated as present at this meeting as shown previously on the first page of minutes.

★ ★ CALLING ALL LULACS ★ ★



The Orange County California School Case
(By Vice President General J. Gonzales)

A brief summary of facts as found by the District Court, Judge McCormick presiding are as follows: That Appellants (School Board) for several years past, and do at present, in furtherance and execution of "a common plan, design and purpose," by regulation, custom and usage, have required and now require that all children of Mexican descent be excluded, and appellants have thus excluded them from attending and using certain public schools within their respective districts which are maintained by appellants for, and are attended and used only by "white" or "anglo-saxon" children, and have required and now require that children of Mexican descent be segregated in and use certain public schools reserved exclusively for and attended solely by children of Mexican descent. Appellees, (School Children of Mexican descent) are citizens of the United States and all are of Mexican or Latin descent or extraction and all reside within the school districts included in the complaint. Each of the appellees has been and now is being segregated and compelled and required to attend a separate school reserved exclusively for children of Mexican descent or extraction, SOLELY FOR THE REASON that these appellees are of Mexican descent or extraction.

In the words of Attorney David C. Marcus, found in his conclusion to his reply brief which is filed in this case—"Of what avail is our theory of democracy if the principles of equal rights, of protection and equal obligations are not practiced? Of what avail is our good-neighbor policy if the good neighbor does not permit of honest neighborliness? Of what use are the four freedoms if freedom is not allowed? Of what avail

are the thousands upon thousands of lives of Mexican-Americans who sacrificed their all for their country in this great "War of Freedom" if freedom of education is denied them? Of what avail is our "education" if the system that propounds it denies the equality of all?"

Several issues back, Lulac carried a very interesting and illuminating article written by our capable Editor, Bro. George Garza. This article set forth factually and quite accurately the conditions existing in the educational institutions in the State of Texas. What George said there is no less applicable to three-fourths of the states in these United States. Texas is only one of many states afflicted with these shameful conditions and gross inadequacies as our editor complained of.

I am thinking of some of these other states and I begin to feel the magnitude of the task that lies before all of us who hold hopes for a day when all persons regardless of former ancestry, color or creed shall have the right to equal educational and economic opportunities and the equal protection of our laws. When all persons may meet on common ground as educated and intelligent human beings, forgetting those stupid and utterly false prejudices, mothered and nurtured by ignorance and handed down from the dark ages to poison the minds of gullible and moronic individuals who presume to be sane and who willingly accept and practice them for the sole purpose of furthering their own selfish ends.

Discrimination in our schools, etc., etc., many of us complain, is due to a lack of organization and a lack of funds with which to bring about costly litigation, etc., etc., thus we resignedly say we are hampered in our efforts to correct a deplorable situation. What a pity. (May I add—a lack of genuine interest coupled with half-hearted action on the part of too many persons). We have at the present time a very fine organization and as far as I know none of our members are on relief. If discrimination against our children by school officials continues we shall have no one to blame but ourselves. NO, Brothers and Sisters, we can no longer excuse ourselves.

I am firmly convinced that the renaissance of educational opportunity for the Latin-American child is at hand, unless we of the League of United Latin American Citizens permit the greatest opportunity which has ever come to us to slip through our fingers. I have reference to the Orange County, California, School Case which will be heard on appeal by the District Court of

(Continued on Page 11)

LULAC NEWS Vol. 13, No. 16, December, 1946. (Continued on next page).

Source: Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin. (LULAC Archives—LULAC NEWS).

CALLING ALL LULACS—

(Continued from Page 9)

Appeals on the 9th day of December, 1946 at San Francisco. I am confident that it is not necessary for me to plead or even to urge members of our organization, regardless of where they may be to support and join in the fight against those who would deprive our children of an education and who so ill-treat and humiliate them without provocation other than that they happen to have been born with a Latinized name and whose parents trace their ancestry to Mexico.

Since March 2, 1945 when this action was filed in the U. S. Dist. Court for the Southern Dist. of California and up to the present time there has been expended by council for plaintiff's, (Us—Appellees in present appeal) a total of approximately \$800.00, this sum represents costs exclusive of services of Counsel. This sum has been paid by contributions from various persons and groups and has been gathered almost entirely through the efforts of Brother Lulacs, members of Council 147 of Santa Ana, California.

The defendant School Board has already served notice that if a judgment favorable to

plaintiffs is rendered they will definitely appeal and we in turn are equally determined to appeal if the decision goes against us. It is evident therefore that in any event this case will inevitably reach the Supreme Court of the United States. The tremendous importance of a favorable decision rendered in our behalf by the highest court in the land cannot be overly emphasized and it obviates the necessity of explaining why every member of Lulac is duty bound to support this cause to the limit of their ability. The responsibility of EVERY man and woman in our organization becomes clear and none of us should suffer the burden to be placed upon the California councils alone, even though they would willingly shoulder it but of necessity would be forced to ask other groups for help.

Fellow Lulacs, even though a comparatively new addition to our beloved organization I feel that I can say that never in the history of Lulac has the call to arms been more urgent or for a more worthy cause and I should like to feel that when this fight is over each of us shall have

(Continued on Page 15)

CALLING ALL LULACS—

(Ctnued from Page 11)

cause to be proud. I feel that any other program before us should for the moment as far as it is possible be subordinated in favor of this case to the end that there will be no doubt as to ultimate conclusion.

In accordance with these views, I am asking President General Zamora to call a meeting of the Supreme Council for the purpose of formulating the most effective program for council participation. The mailing address of the Orange County School Fund Committee will be found in the pages of this issue of Lulac News and is for the benefit of all those wishing to send in their personal contribution. Proper books are being kept and all contributions will be properly recorded.

LULAC NEWS Vol. 13, No. 16, December, 1946.

Source: Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin. (LULAC Archives—LULAC NEWS).

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Photo left to right: Esteemed past National LULAC President Eduardo Morga, with John O. Gonzales, *patriot with civil rights*, past Vice President General of LULAC (1946), and prominent historian Vicki L. Ruiz, Ph.D., (Stanford University), Professor of History and Chicano Latino Studies, University of California, Irvine, (presently Dean of U.C.I School of Humanities), at the interview of Mr. Gonzales at his residence in Dana Point, California in 2003.

Margie Aguirre Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Patriot with civil rights John Gonzales holds a copy of his article, “Calling All LULACS” which he wrote for the **LULAC NEWS** in 1946. In his article he asks for donations for the school fund for the legal case, *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* In photo from left, Vicki L. Ruiz, Ph.D., Professor of History & Professor of Chicano and Latino Studies, U.C. Irvine, (presently Dean of School of Humanities) and Margie Aguirre enjoy his review. John O. Gonzales was 1st Vice President General of National LULAC when he wrote the article. Manuel Veiga Jr. the president of Santa Ana LULAC Council had called him seeking help. Mr. Gonzales was a LULAC member in Phoenix Arizona before moving to Los Angeles around 1941. He formed a Los Angeles LULAC council. Mr. Gonzales recalled that Manuel Veiga had been a member of his Los Angeles council in its beginning years. Mr. John O. Gonzales was present as an officer and an organizer in installing the Santa Ana LULAC Council in 1946, the El Modena LULAC Council in 1949 and the Placential LULAC Council in 1950 and others. John O. Gonzales was also a law student who was interested in the legal rights of Mexican Americans. Photo taken at interview of John Gonzales at his residence in 2003.

Margie Aguirre Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

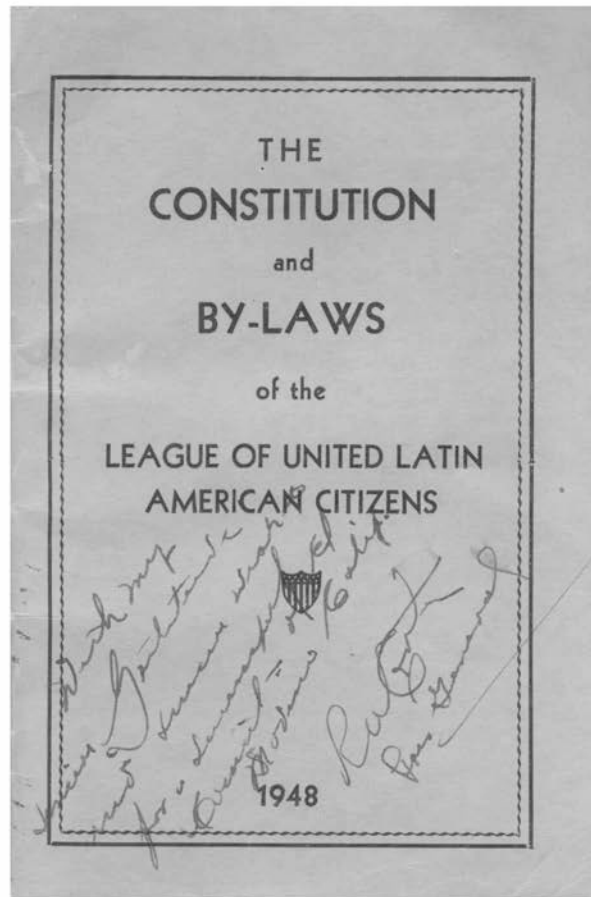


1947 LULAC Fundraiser: Raffle of a Refrigerator to collect funds for *Gonzalo Méndez et al.* vs. *Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*

In Photo above (left to right): Isadore A. Gonzales, Raffle Queen, and Alex Maldonado who was in charge of fundraiser. Information courtesy of Alex Maldonado.

Photos by Hector R. Tarango.

Margie Aguirre Collection.



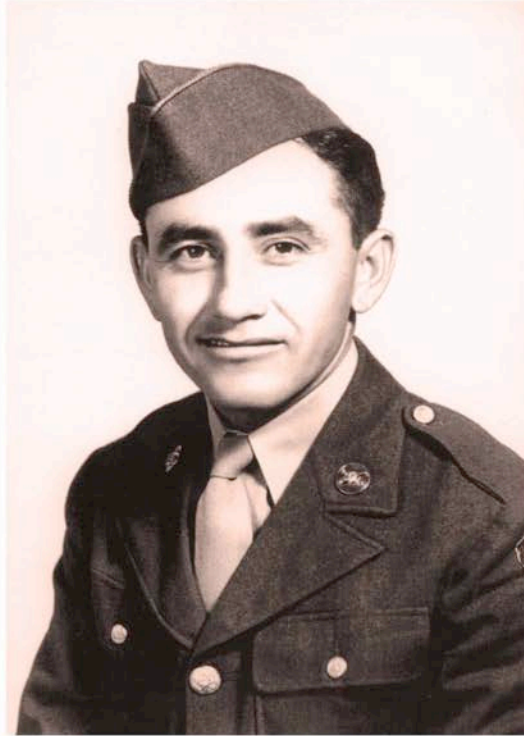
Copy of front page of booklet of LULAC's constitution and by-laws owned by Alex Maldonado.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

<p>— COMPLIMENTS OF —</p> <p>McCOY DRUG CO. NO. 4 Arnulfo L. Ramirez, Mgr. and Co-owner (Lulac Member)</p> <p>— PHONE 2322 —</p> <p>600 N. Main St. — Santa Ana, Calif.</p>	<p>— COMPLIMENTS OF —</p> <p>El Modena Citrus Inc. GROWERS — PACKERS — SHIPPER — Buyers of — — CITRUS FRUITS —</p> <p>P. O. Box 146 — El Modena, Calif.</p>
<p>BARRIOS MARKET (Lulac Member)</p> <p>We feature a complete line of FINE GROCERIES AND MEATS ALSO THE BEST IN FINE WINES AND BEERS — PHONE 3577 —</p> <p>N. E. Cor. Harbor Blvd. and West 5th Street — Santa Ana, Calif.</p>	
<p>— COMPLIMENTS OF —</p> <p>VEIGA FUNERAL HOME MANUEL VEIGA, SR. — MANUEL VEIGA, JR. (Lulac Members)</p> <p>116 West 17th Street — Santa Ana, California</p>	
<p>EAT AT THE CASA BLANCA CAFE ● The Home of Good Mexican Food ● Short and Complete Orders To Take Out! Phil Rivera and Louis Armendariz, Props. (Lulac Members)</p> <p>— PHONE 7114 —</p> <p>1137 W. 4th St. — Santa Ana, Calif.</p>	<p>La Chiquita Grocery and Tortilla Factory JIMENEZ BROTHERS (Lulac Member)</p> <p>● FINE WINES AND BEERS ● — PHONE 3350 —</p> <p>902 E. Washington — Santa Ana, Calif.</p>

LULAC NEWS December 1946, has a page of sponsors that indicates LULAC members Manuel Veiga Sr. and Manuel Veiga Jr. and others and supporters.

Source: Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin. (LULAC Archives—LULAC NEWS).



RALPH PEREZ A WWII VETERAN AND EARLY MEMBER OF SANTA ANA LULAC COUNCIL NO. 147 AND CHARTER MEMBER OF EL MODENA LULAC COUNCIL WHO ALONG WITH OTHERS COLLECTED MONEY AND PAID DAVID MARCUS ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR THE APPEAL PART OF THE "MENDEZ CASE" KNOWN TO HIM AS THE "SCHOOL CASE." (Photo: courtesy of family).

LULAC patriots with civil rights Ralph Perez and Alex Lievanos met with David Marcus and they each paid him one hundred dollars to ensure that Marcus would fight the cause against desegregation at the higher level court, the Ninth Circuit of U.S. Court of Appeals in San Francisco. Mr. Perez wanted his daughter Janice to continue her education at Roosevelt Elementary in the El Modena School District after Superintendant Hammersten sent her home with a letter/note that she could no longer attend that school. The school districts were still practicing discrimination in the Fall of 1946 after the *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* decision. Mr. Perez, states that "Manuel Veiga Jr. and Cruz Barrios had taken him to Los Angeles earlier to meet with David Marcus." Additionally he states that "with the help of Manuel Veiga Jr. and Cruz Barrios, Alex Lievanos, Alex Maldonado, Hector Tarango of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147, LULAC won the case in the Ninth Circuit of U.S. Court of Appeals and that Manuel Veiga Jr. and others attended the hearing of the case in San Francisco." He also asserted that he didn't "recall Gonzalo Méndez being actively involved in the appeal part of the case that carried the Méndez name." He recalled that "Marcus advised me and other LULAC members that the matter was a class action that would resolve the problems in El Modena also." (Interview: Ralph Perez, 2002).

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

PROGRAM
COMPLIMENTS OF THE
ANAHEIM COUNCIL
of the
MEXICAN-AMERICAN MOVEMENT, INC.

LOUIS SANDOVAL, President

M.-A. M., Inc., is sponsoring educational scholarships for youth of Mexican extraction throughout this area. Their progress has been good and the results encouraging. They are helping various other social groups to improve the social, educational and economic conditions of the Mexican-American people in their community.

Mexican-American Movement, Inc., believes in "Progress Through Education."

To the League of United Latin-American Citizens Council No. 147

Santa Ana, California

Manuel Veiga, Jr., President

A fine inspiration to all other organizations which are striving to assist minority groups by sponsoring Americanism amongst its members as well as non-members. Orange County should be proud of your organization and its work.

Sincerely,

LOUIS SANDOVAL, President

Anaheim Mexican-American Movement, Inc.

Santa Ana Council No. 147
of the
League of United Latin-American Citizens

"AIMS AND PURPOSES OF LULACS"

The League of Latin-American Citizens, the organization was founded following the Great War of 1916 for the purpose of assisting American citizens of Latin extraction to become better adjusted to the American social environment, this being done by fostering Americanism among American citizens of Latin extraction and also assisting other Latins to become Americans.

MEMBERS OF LULACS PLEDGE THEMSELVES TO:

- Develop within members, as well as non-members the purest and most perfect type of true and loyal citizen of the United States of America.
- To define with absolute and unmistakable clearness our unquestionable loyalty to the ideals and principals of the United States of America.
- To assume complete responsibility for the education of our children in their duties and rights as citizens of the United States of America.
- To promote mutual understanding and cooperation between Latin-Americans and other Americans of other extractions.

The members of Lulacs extend their appreciation and gratitude to the Santa Ana Board of Education, county and city officials and to the people of the communities throughout Orange County for the cooperation and assistance given this worthy effort.

Executive Board of Council No. 147
Santa Ana, California

MANUEL VEIGA, Jr., President	ALEX MALDONADO, 1st Trustee
ISADORE A. GONZALES, Vice-Pres.	FRANK ROBLES, 2nd Trustee
HECTOR R. TABANGO, Secretary	EVARISTO DIAS, 3rd Trustee
CRUZ G. BARRIOS, Treasurer	TONY LUNA, Chaplain

ELISA GARCIA LOPEZ

"EL ALMA DE MEXICO"

'Mexico en Fantasia'

SPONSORED BY THE

League of United Latin-American Citizens

LULAC

SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA, COUNCIL No. 147



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1946

8:00 P. M.



SANTA ANA HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
520 West Walnut St. Santa Ana, Calif.

Proceeds to Be Used for Educational Betterment
of the American Youth of Latin Extraction

PROGRAM

Henry M. Mestre.....Master of Ceremonies
Ignacio Lopez.....Guest Speaker

ELISA GARCIA LOPEZ

"I ALMA DE MEXICO"

Presents her Review of Artists of Prestige. That will present the best and most complete typical costumes, dances, songs and customs of various states in Mexico in a musical review as follows:

LUPITA ADELINA
"Queen" of Typical Mexican Dances
MARIA REYES
Singer and Dancer of "Jarochan Tempos"
LUPITA CAVAZOS
Mexican Nightingale
DONA TACHA Y COMPANERO "QUINGUIN"
Comedians Deluxe

Accompanist: Julia Pina

Committees

HENRY M. MESTRE, Chairman	MANUEL VEIGA, Jr.
ISADORE A. GONZALES	MANUEL VILLALOBOS
ALEX MALDONADO	HECTOR R. TABANGO
DAVID ORTIZ	STEVEN LARA
JOE SALCEDO	LUIS ORTIZ
FRANK ROBLES	CRUZ BARRIOS

USHERETTES . . . COURTESY OF SANDOVALS TEEN-QUEENS

Program by LULAC to raise funds for lawsuit: *Gonzalo Méndez et. al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* Proceeds were used to pay David C. Marcus, Esq. (Interview: Alex Maldonado, 2003). Note the guest speaker Ignacio Lopez of *Lopez v Seccombe 1944*. Alex Maldonado Collection.



PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Left to right: Manuel Veiga Jr., Cruz Barrios, Isadore Gonzales officers of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 and delegates of LULAC National Convention, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1947. Photo by Hector R. Tarango (Secretary of Santa Ana LULAC Council, also a delegate and LULAC photographer). (Interview: Hector R. Tarango, 2002).

Margie Aguirre Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

The following is taken from **LULAC NEWS** Vol.14, No. 2 August, 1947 as recorded in "Minutes of Eighteenth National Convention." This information confirms the support that LULAC provided for the "Orange County School case," *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* Manuel Veiga Jr. Cruz Barrios and Hector Tarango and others had organized this case and gave funds and were therefore also responsible for its being filed and won. Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 had given their money to the Orange County School case and thus had no money to contribute to a fund for a paid position for an organizer as described below.

Brother Manuel Veiga of Santa Ana, California, announced that in view of expenses made by that Council in connection with the Orange County School case, it would be some time before that Council would be in a position to contribute to the fund.

President Zamora then explained to the Assembly the action taken by the Supreme Council at its meeting of July 31, 1946, authorizing the employment of a full time, paid organizer for the League, stating that the basic salary would be \$300.00 per month, plus an additional amount for expenses, to be decided by the President General, and requested that this action be ratified by the Assembly; whereupon Brother Hector de Peña, of Corpus Christi, moved that the resolution adopted by the Supreme Council be in all things ratified and confirmed. This motion was seconded by John J. Herrera of Houston, and after considerable discussion with regard to details as to how plans would operate, the motion was put to a vote and carried.

Source: Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin. (LULAC Archives–**LULAC NEWS**).

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

ASSOCIATED FARMERS OF ORANGE COUNTY, INC.

P. O. Box 470

506 NORTH LOS ANGELES STREET
ANAHEIM, CALIFORNIA

PHONE ANAHEIM 2136

May 5, 1947

Mr. Isadore A. Gonzales
Chairman, Committee on Associations
League of United Latin American Citizens
Santa Ana, California

Dear Mr. Gonzales:

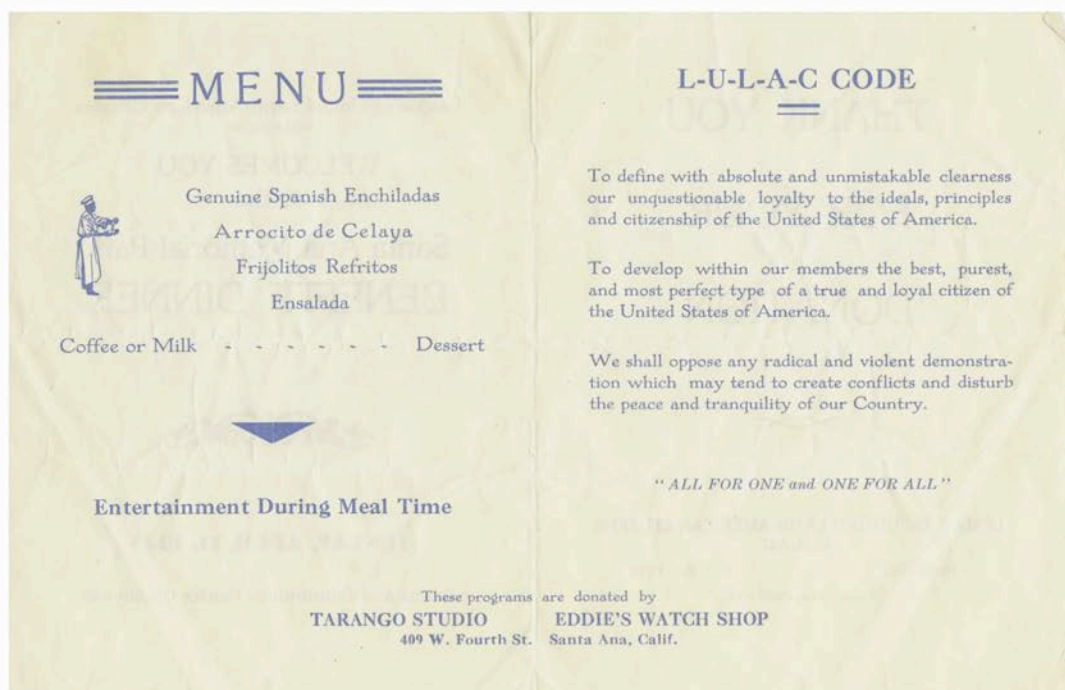
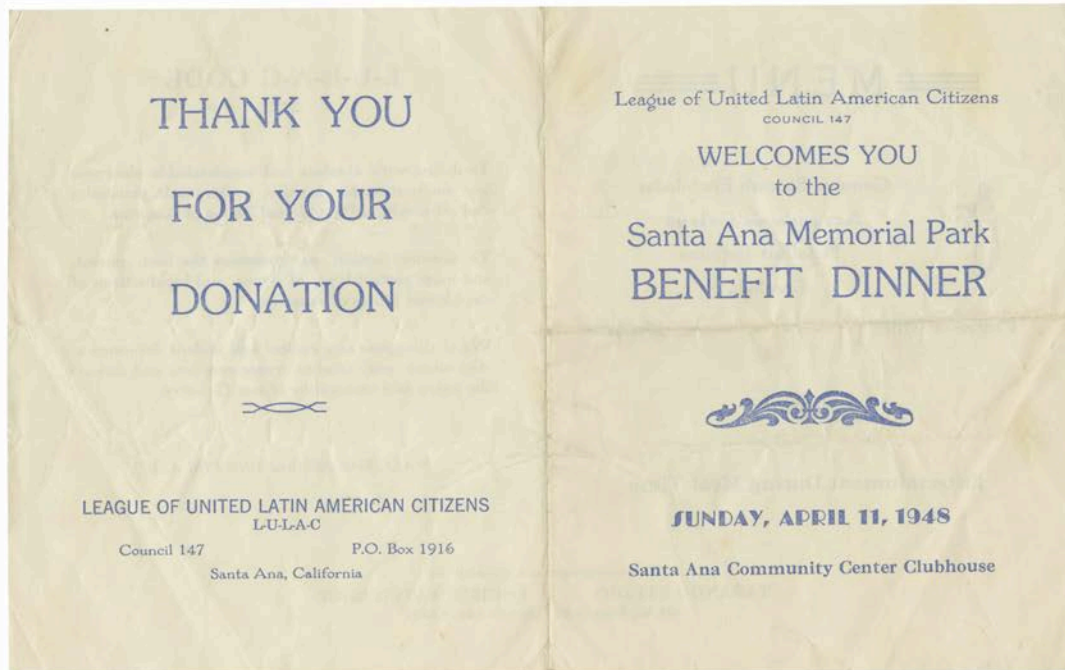
After a rather intensive research and investigation of the organizations you referred to in your letter of April 12, 1947, namely, the California Council for Civic Unity, the American Council on Race Relations and the Progressive Citizens of America (PCA), we suggest that it would be to the best interests of your splendid organization to refrain from any associations whatsoever with the above mentioned groups. All three of these organizations have impressive titles and high ideals, but after a glance at a few names of the persons affiliated with these groups one can readily see that they have become so infiltrated with communists and fellow travelers that now, rather than functioning as organizations for the promotion of better race relations, they have become subservient to the aims and purposes of the Communist Party.

To illustrate: The following, all listed in the various reports of the Joint Fact-Finding Committee on Un-American Activities, (Tamm Committee) and several by the Dies Committee, have spoken at meetings sponsored by the groups in question or have served in an official capacity for these organizations.

Orson Welles, Carey McWilliams, Dalton Trumbo, Bartley Crum, Robert Kenny, Albee Glad of the communistic Peoples Educational Center, Rev. Clayton Russell, Dr. Edwin R. Embree, Mary C. McCall, Jr., Revels Ceyton, Albert Dekker, communists Aubrey Grossman, Oleta Yates, David Jenkins and Samuel Ornitz; together with such well-known fellow travelers as Mervyn Rathbone, Matt Crawford, Gus Hawkins, Paul Robeson, Sidney Roger, Mrs. Robert McWilliams, Loren Miller, Evans Carlson of the Win the Peace Committee Communist Front, Lena Horne, Carleton Moss, Marc Connelly, Edgar G. Robinson and Harry Margolis. These are to mention but a few of those affiliated with the three organizations you have requested information on.

LULAC had to defend its American honor and integrity in the face of discrimination against persons or groups who were deemed anti-American or belonging to the Communist Party.
Margie Aguirre Collection-source Hector R. Tarango.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Courtesy of Alex Maldonado.



Fundraising event by Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147.

In photo in center is LULAC council member Ralph Gutierrez

and to the far right is LULAC council member Ray Carrasco.

The other gentleman is unidentified by name. This event took place

April of 1948. Program on previous page and photos on following three pages.

Information courtesy of Alex Maldonado.

Photo by Hector R. Tarango.

Margie Aguirre Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Santa Ana LULAC council member Hector Godinez, person standing in serving attire, at benefit dinner. Photo by Hector R. Tarango who took photograph of event held by Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 in April, 1948. Santa Ana Memorial Park Dinner.

Margie Aguirre Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Photo of fundraising dinner shows Alex Maldonado in serving attire, the person standing to the far right. Santa Ana Memorial Park Benefit Dinner was held for the education of children.

Photo by Hector R. Tarango who took photograph of event in April, 1948.

Margie Aguirre. Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

February 13th. 1949.

Exec. Secy. Gen'l.

Mr. Hector Tarango,
California Regional Governor,
409 West 4th. Street,
Santa Ana, California.

Dear Bro. Tarango:

Apropos of your telegram stating that the Los Angeles, El Modena and the Santa Ana Councils were not able to sponsor the February issue of Lulac News, the President General requested that I write to you saying that he would not take "no" for an answer and for you to please get together with those Councils to see what could be done in this matter.

Since we have received no further word from you, the President General has again requested that we write you and the Councils about sponsoring the March issue, as it is imperative that we have an issue of our official organ for that month as San Antonio is already taking care of February.

As you already know the issue will cost your Councils \$400.00 plus cuts for a 24 page magazine that you can very easily pay for by selling 18 pages of ads, at \$20.00 per page. When you divide that between the three Councils, we are sure that four pages apiece can be sold by your members in one day and you can easily make up enough articles and other information on your recent activities to fill the rest of it with a few pictures and material.

Let us hear from you by return mail. We know you can do it and Lulac needs it.

Fraternally yours,

FOR THE PRESIDENT GENERAL.

Jacob I. Rodriguez
Jacob I. Rodriguez,
Exec. Secy. General.

Jacob I. Rodriguez, the person who founded the first LULAC council in California in Sacramento has returned to San Antonio Texas and to LULAC Council No. 2 and is now serving in 1949 as Exec. Secy. General. Jacob I. Rodriguez wrote this letter to Hector Tarango who was then California Regional Governor and President of Santa Ana Council No. 147.

Courtesy of Hector R. Tarango.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Officers of San Antonio Lulac Council No. 2: L. to R. (upper row) Frank Leyton, Trustee; A. P. Sánchez, Treas.; Jacob I. Rodríguez, Secretary; Marshall Aguilar, Guard; Albert U. Treviño, Trustee; Octavio B. Treviño, Trustee. (Lower row) Manuel J. Gonzalez, 1st. Vice Pres.; Joe Olivares, President; Rudy J. Peña, 2nd. Vice Pres.; C. D. Pérez, Guide.

Once again in Texas, Jacob I. Rodriguez who organized a Sacramento LULAC Council in California as early as January of 1933 is the *LULAC Regional Organizer for Texas*, as well as *Secretary of San Antonio Council No. 2.* as portrayed in this photo and caption in 1945.

The same year, the *Regional Governor for California* was George W. Ramirez, who resided at 1601 West Valley Blvd., Alhambra, California and the *Regional Organizer for California* was William H. Wheat whose address was 415 West Saxon Ave. San Gabriel, California.

LULAC NEWS Vol. 12 No. 2 August, 1945 page 2 (listing of officers) and page 7 (above photo).

Source: Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin. (LULAC Archives–**LULAC NEWS**).

ODDS AND ENDS DOWN CALIFORNIA WAY

By ISADORE A. GONZALEZ,
First Trustee, Council 147

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Due to unpremeditated circumstances that were beyond the control of this office the following material was delayed in going to press. Our apologies to Council 147).

A note of thanks is hereby accorded the various Orange County businesses for their general support in assisting Council 147 in sponsoring Lulac News for the month of December. Such help and cooperation will help us realize our Lulac Aims and Purposes that much sooner and aid us in better serving our country and communities.

PERSONALITIES: Verbal bouquets are in order for our second Trustee, EVARISTO DIAZ, el General del Rancho Murphy, who is quick to rally around a good cause and is willing to do his share and that of others as well. Example, he served as chef during our steak-bake which is sure to be remembered by all. And speaking of steaks reminds us of storekeeper and Treasurer CRUZ BARRIOS to whom we members and the council as a whole are indebted for his Alladin-like ability to furnish us with steaks and pre-war articles during trying times. More of the same to JOE SALCEDO (our Latin Charles Boyer) who has done an unselfish and efficient job during registration in his neck of the woods; to our go-getter Jack-of-all-trades (Glutton-for-punishment) HECTOR TARANGONOW, late for meetings but always coming through in the end. Stay in there and pitch, Hector. Bouquets to our esteemed Chaplain, TONY LUNA always on hand with his inspiring talks and his beaming face which seems to ask, "can I do anything else"; and for a good promoter, ALEX LLEVANOS, who although living in El Modino and working in Riverside County with the labor branch of the U.S.D.A. is always keeping us informed as to the progress of our sub-organization in El Modino, - a man no organization can do without. With the distance that Alex travels and the time he does it in, one would think he flew. We have another promoter well worth bouquets. He is our little five-foot Cuban General, Alberto Pedro Samuel Mesa de Enrique M. Mestre who progressed in becoming an American citizen and in being a good neighbor. His 25 years in America have been dedicated to aiding and furthering his brother Latins in becoming better American citizens through unity. Our hat is of to you. Well done.

To our west side brothers in the Artesia district we accord a cheer and especially to BOB BOJORQUEZ whose efforts have not been in vain since he has a swell bunch of fellows to work with.

And orchards of oranges to hermanito RAMON PRADO who has pioneered in so many other organizations. His dreams as he assisted in the organization of Lulac council have not been in vain. His face beams with pride as he sees the organization progress. When not working in Lulac they say he gives rotten haircuts to "non-Lulackers"; his motto: Non-Lulackers! Haircuts and shaves at your own risk. He seems to take his thoughts to heart.

Our hats are off to old-time residents such as EDUARDO NEGRETE, SOLOMON GONZALEZ, LUCAS LUCIO, and others who are not with us in body but ever abide with us in spirit. And a word of praise to the Delhi gang whose organization is split with half of them working at night and the other half during the day. Their motto is: "Divided we work, united we stand". Meet some of them, ALBERTO ORTIZ, the red-headed ball of fire; HECTOR GODINEZ, who did a splendid job of pro-Americanism in getting people to register; ERNESTO LARA, a go-getter in Artesia; Roberto Bojorquez, who does not know the words give up or I am tired.

Out El Modino way who rivals Artesia district for progress we find ALEX MALDONADO, JOE RUIZ, and FEDERICO ISLAS deserving of oceans of roses for their splendid cooperation. I was told that President MANUEL VEIGA (the thrill Hunter) went horsey-back riding. Note: we almost elected a new president. A suggestion, Manuel, it is Okeh to like Roy Rogers but do not try to act like him. He gets paid for it. And while speaking of Manuel, it is only fitting to give him his due. He is modest, honest, earnest and capable. Before the war he struggled and sweated with the Voters League until called into the service with his dream half finished. Upon his discharge he returned to the community and the problems that had dominated his thoughts during his military service. In his conversations with former G.I.s and members of the Voters League the possibilities of a Lulac Council were discussed. On June 9, 1946, Council 147 was chartered and its officers installed by Regional Organizer Wm. Wheat. It was Manuel Veiga's patience and initiative that made us all realize our community responsibilities and required services. Three cheers for our Prexy and Buddy, Manuel. It is unfortunate that not many of us are gifted with his tact, diplomacy, understanding, and helpfulness, but let us give him our undivided assistance. Forward, Manuel, we are all behind you.

NEWS

Page Fifteen

Article in LULAC NEWS Vol. 13, No. 8, February 1947 indicates the people of LULAC, their predecessors and their activities, including Voters League, also the account of the chartering of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147, June 9, 1946. William H. Wheat installed the council in a restaurant in Santa Ana called Frenhman's Restaurant on Broadway. (*Interview: Alex Maldonado, 2002*).

Source: Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin. (LULAC Archives-LULAC NEWS).

LULAC NEWS—4
FEBRUARY, 1955

"Notice All Councils"


Any prior Notices about Wednesdays' Tri-Council Executive Board Meeting Wednesday, February 16, 1955 are hereby rescinded.

The Executive Board of the Santa Ana, Placentia and Stanton Councils will meet at SIMON'S CAFE, 5TH & ARTESIA STREETS, SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA — WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 1955 at 7:30 P.M. (Be on time)

This meeting will not be a Dinner Meeting but we will have coffee & doughnuts. Members of the Councils may attend if they desire, but they will only have voice but no vote.

Hope to see you all present

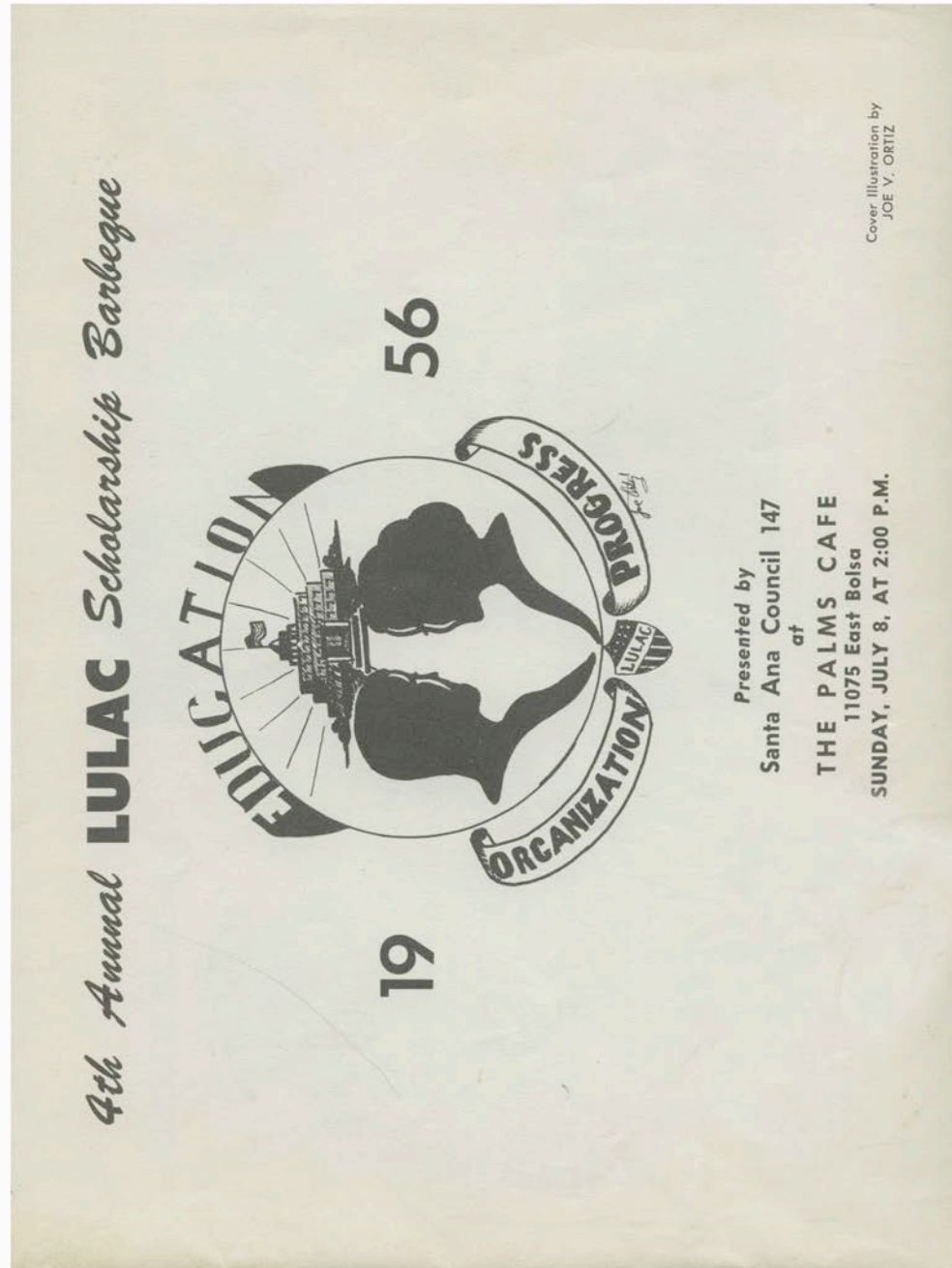
<i>Stephen S. Lara</i> Regional Governor	<i>Alex Maldonado</i> Dist. No. 1 Governor
<i>Danny Olivas</i> President Placentia Council	<i>Victor Zuniga</i> President Stanton Council
<i>Joe O'Campo</i> President Santa Ana Council	



STEPHEN S. LARA, California Regional Governor for LULAC will preside at the coming California Regional Convention. Steve as he is better known has come up from the ranks of LULAC. He also is the editor of LULAC NEWS of California. He resides in Santa Ana, California. He is married and has three children of who he is very proud of.

LULAC NEWS Vol. 4, No. 3 February, 1955 (Publication of Orange County).

Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning Collection.



Courtesy of Alex Maldonado.

LULAC NEWS—8
JUNE—1955—

Who Will Be Queen Of 1955 Santa Ana Council Bar-B-Q



ENGIE BRACAMONTES
TERRY BERMUDEZ
EVELYN REYES
VIOLA BORGIA

—Robert O'Campo Photos—

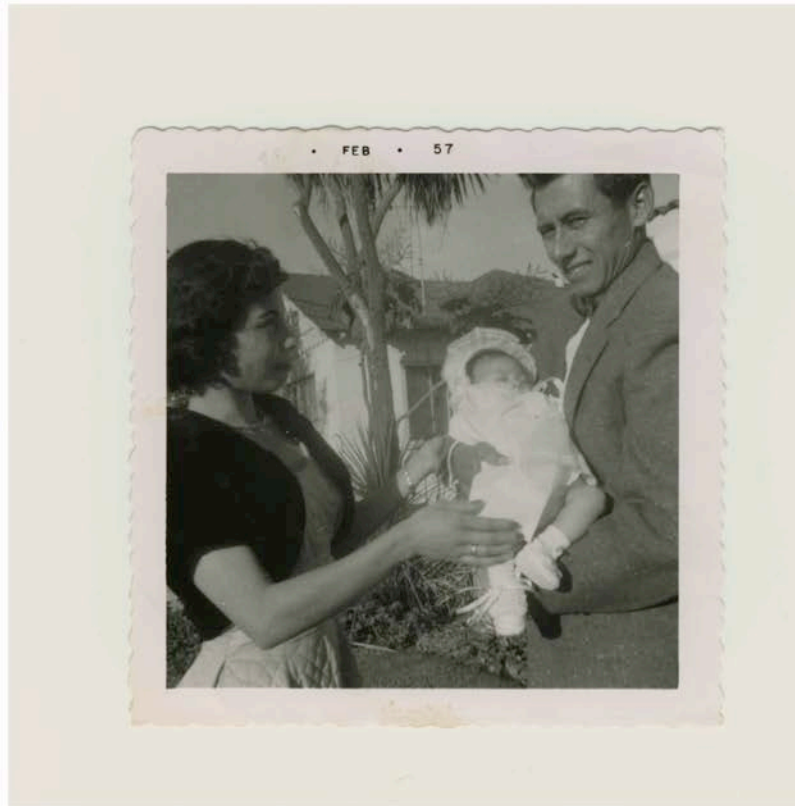
FOURTH ANNUAL BAR-B-QUE

SUNDAY, JULY 10TH, 1955
PALMS CAFE 11075 EAST BOLSA
SANTA ANA
CONTINUATION OF WEST FIRST STREET

Proceeds to go to Annual Scholarship Award

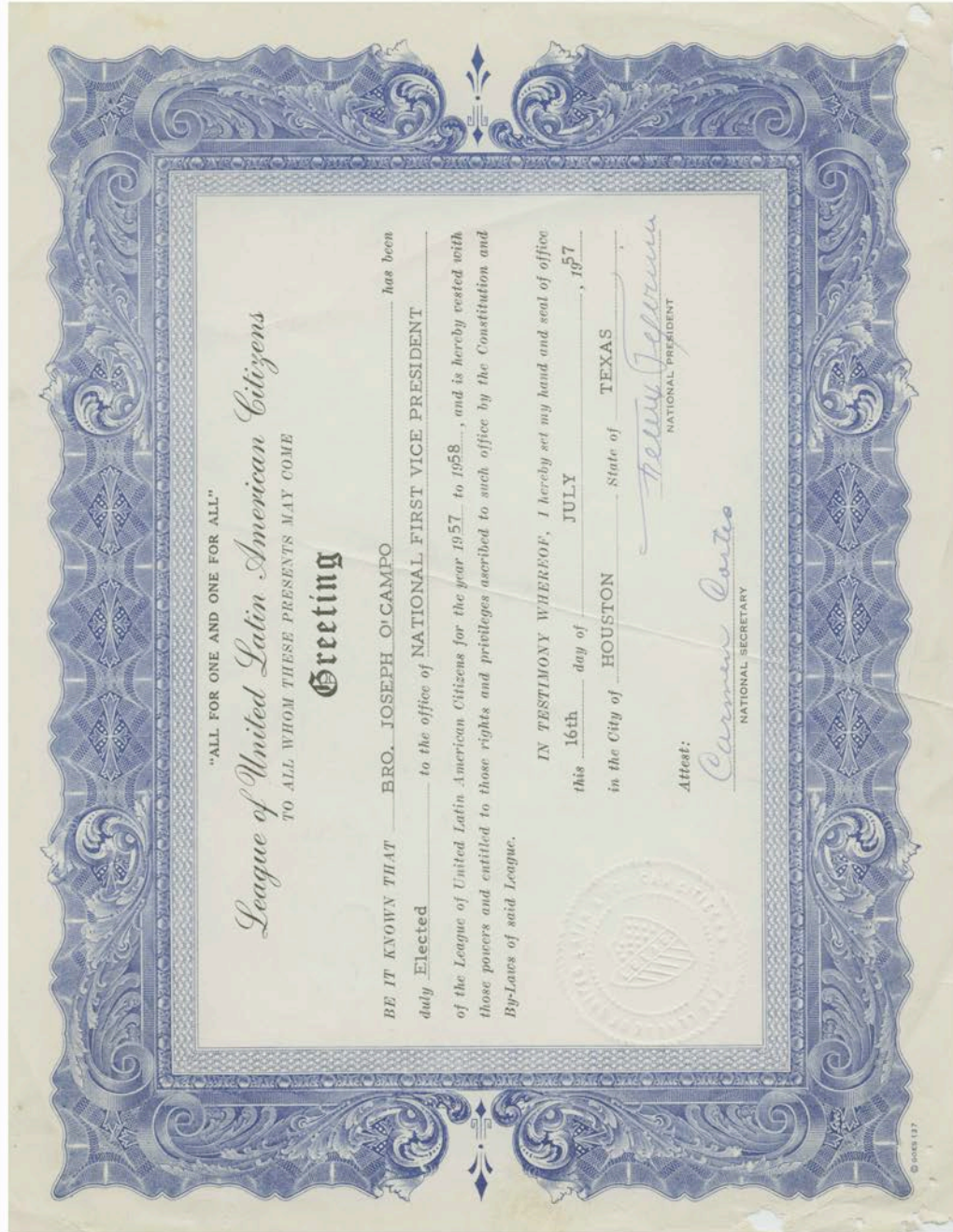
LULAC NEWS Vol. 5 No. 5, June, 1956. (Publication of Orange County).

Alex Maldonado Collection.

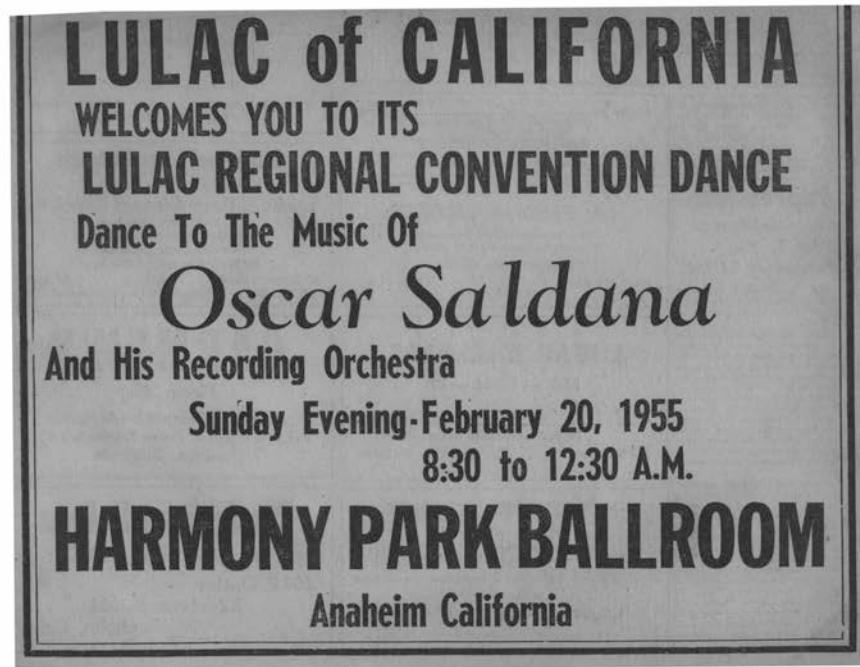


Steve Lara and wife and child, February, 1957.
Steve Lara was a regional organizer who founded numerous councils with Hector Godinez and Nash Garcia and Alex Maldonado. Steve Lara also was responsible for a period of time in editing the **LULAC NEWS**, for the region. He was an early member of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147.

Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning Collection.



Joe O'Campo Collection.



LULAC NEWS Vol. 4 No. 3 pg. 8 February, 1955 (Orange County Publication).

Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning Collection.

CITY COUNCIL ELECTS TO BEAUTIFY

LULAC Spearheads Clean-up Program

Having started more than two years ago with a drive to improve the Delhi district members of the League of United Latin American Citizens have argued long and loud with property owners that the area should be improved, with the contention that other areas in Southern California which have literally "lifted themselves up by their bootstraps." This was pointed out at a recent City Council meeting in Santa Ana when the petition for the improvement drive was signed by Mayor Courtney Chandler along with 73 per cent of other property owners in the area. This was considerably more than the required 60 per cent.

It was pointed out that approximately 44 per cent of the individual property owners in the area signed the petition and that the majority of the property was owned by the city itself.

Steps to improve the area have been taken and property owners have asked that the assessment district be formed as soon as possible to provide paved streets, curbs, gutters and sidewalks.

Hector Godínez, District Governor of LULAC, present at the meeting, told the council, "I want to thank you for your cooperation in helping us with this matter. It is we who should be thanking you for getting up this petition and doing all the work," answered Councilman Milford Dahl.

In urging the city sign the petition, Carl Thornton, City Manager, pointed out that the city owns 774,700 square feet of property in the Delhi district, or slightly less than one-third of the entire square footage in the area.

Union Seeks to

Fullerton LULAC Aids Program

Funds earmarked for the new Camp Ahwahnee now under construction in the mountains north of San Bernardino are the object of prime importance with the members of LULAC council 278 of Fullerton.

"This camp will provide camping facilities for all boys interested in boy scouting from North Orange County," reports Dickie Sandoval News correspondent from Fullerton Council. Among the cities included are La Habra, Brea, Olinda, Fullerton, Buena Park, Placentia, Cypress, Anaheim, Olive, Stanton and Los Alamitos.

Donations for the program are being accepted by council 278 and headquarters are at 612 S. Lawrence in Fullerton. They are to be made payable to Northern Orange County Council, Boy Scouts of America Camp Ahwahnee fund c/o Art Viramontes of the above address. All donations are deductible from State and Federal income tax.

Juvenile Delinquency on Agenda



ADMIRING THE CHERISHED trophy which is to be presented to the winner of the Barbecue queen race being sponsored by the Santa Ana LULAC's are from left to right, Sonya O'Campo, Santa Ana, Mary Balderrama, Santa Ana, Martha Ruiz, Costa Mesa, and Rosie López, Santa Ana. Not pictured is Pauline Bracamontes who is running from El Modena. The BBQ which is sponsored yearly by the Santa Ana club is the only event of the year is scheduled primarily to raise funds for a Scholarship which is given to JC student each year. It is scheduled for July 8th at the Flemish hall of the Palms Cafe (Sunday) at 11075 E. Bolsa, Santa Ana and it begins at 2 P.M. Door prizes are to be given to the holder of the winning ticket.

The winner of the Queen race will receive a two day all expenses paid trip for two to the Island of Santa Catalina and will travel aboard the Island Lady, a Ship skippered by Red Rice out of Newport Beach's Port Orange.

PREPARATIONS FOR SANTA ANA LULAC BBQ REACHING CLIMAX

LULAC Council 147 of Santa Ana is now making final preparations for their fourth annual Scholarship BBQ which is to take place at 2 P.M. on Sunday

delicious Barbeque dinner and Professional entertainment and dancing until 1 AM will be offered for the low price of only \$1.50. Children under 12 will be admitted for .75.

Music for the occasion will be furnished in part by Oscar Saldaña.

BEQ. This year, five beauties were chosen. Representing the Santa Ana area are Mary Balderrama, Sonya Ocampo and Rosie Lopez, From El Modena

LULAC NEWS Vol. 5, No. 5, June, 1956 (Publication of Orange County).

Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



LULAC members at different events.

Bottom photo left to right: Joe O'Campo, Hector Godinez, unknown, unknown, Danny Olivas, Nash Garcia, unknown.

Courtesy of Hector R. Godinez.



Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning Collection.



Ted Duran

Founding member of the Mexican American Movement (MAM) and a member of LULAC was on Spanish-language Radio KCOS (in photo above), the same station as that presented by *EL Espectador* (also a newspaper) with Ignacio L. López.

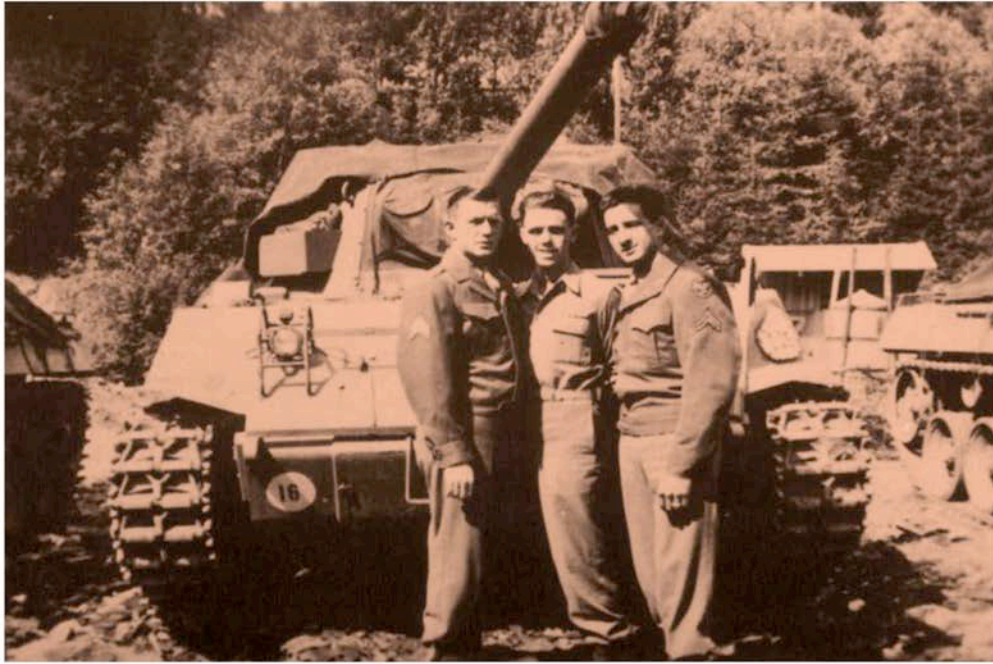
Ted Duran was on KBUC in Corona from 1948–1962.

He was a feature writer for Hector Tarango's Orange County *The Latin American*.

Ted Duran was a member of the Orange County Grand Jury in 1949.

Photo courtesy of Mike and Gerry Duran.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Honorable Hector G. Godinez (to the right)
774 Tank Destroyer Battalion

HIGHLY DECORATED WAR HERO HECTOR G. GODINEZ RETURNED FROM SERVING IN THE U.S. ARMY IN WWII AND JOINED THE NEWLY CHARTERED SANTA ANA LULAC COUNCIL NO. 147 UNDER COUNCIL PRESIDENT MANUEL VEIGA JR.

HONORABLE PATRIOT WITH CIVIL RIGHTS HECTOR G. GODINEZ SERVED LULAC IN THE HIGHEST OFFICE AS NATIONAL PRESIDENT OF LULAC IN 1960.

Description of photo:

Honorable Hector G. Godinez served in the U. S. Army in WWII as a Sergeant with specialty of Gun Commander Anti Tank 610; Sharpshooter M1 Rifle in the 774th Tank Destroyer Battalion in the European African Middle Eastern Theater in Normandy Northern France GO 33 WD 45 Central Europe Rhineland Ardennes Go 40 WD. He received wounds in action in Germany 16 Dec 44.

Because of honorable distinguished service he was given decorations and citations:

Purple Heart Go 10 Hq 774th TD Bn 29 Aug 45;
Bronze Star Medal GO 217 Hq 94th Inf Div 27 Aug 45;
Good Conduct Medal;
European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal;
American Campaign Medal;
World War II Victory Medal.

Courtesy of son Hector R. Godinez Ph.D.



In photo right to left Joe O'Campo, Dora O'Campo and friend (post WWII).
Joe and his wife Dora were early members of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147.

Photo courtesy of Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



David “Red” Ortiz was an early member of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147,
and served as a Police Officer for Santa Ana Police Department.
In photo left to right (front row) second officer.

Courtesy of David Ortiz.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



SANTA ANA LULAC COUNCIL NO. 147 INSTALLS FOUNTAIN
AT MEMORIAL PARK IN SANTA ANA.

In photo (left to right and standing behind fountain): Alex Maldonado, Dee Padilla, Stephen Lara, Hector Tarango, Manuel Villalobos, Bill Gallardo and with brush and pail Eddie Valenzuela.

Photo courtesy of Joe O'Campo.

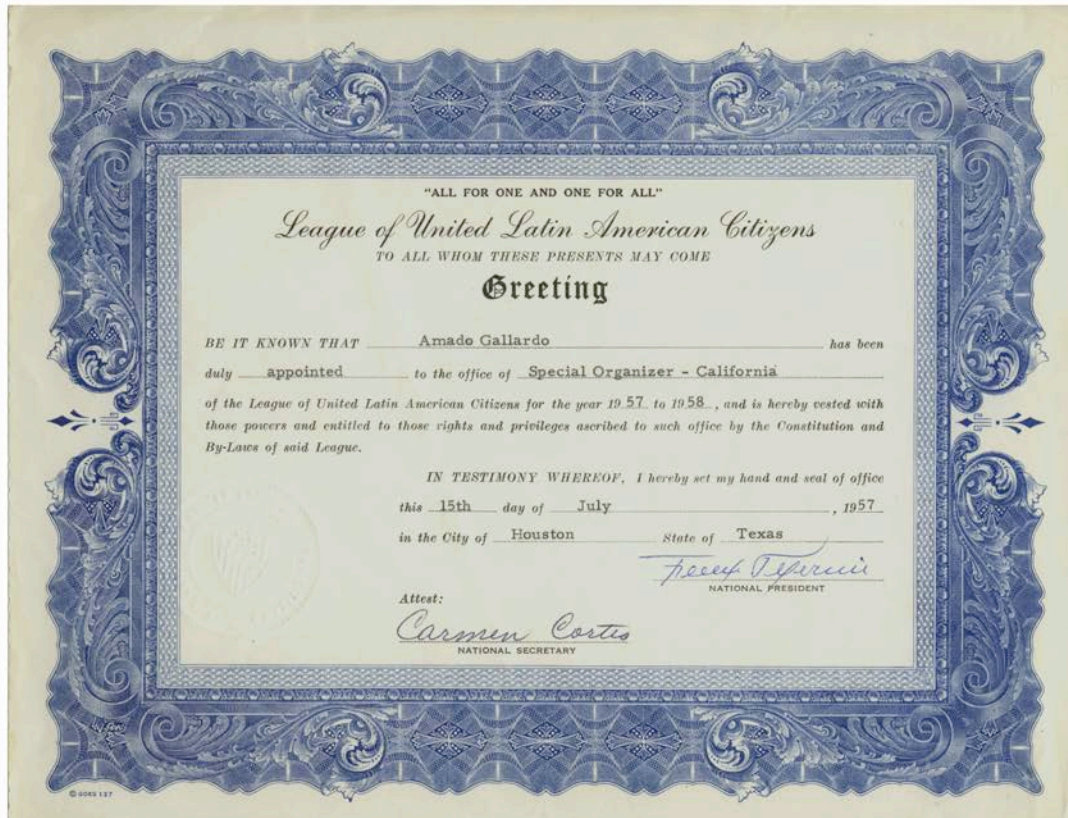


Bill Gallardo

Early member of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147.
In photo Sgt. Amado Gallardo is broadcasting from the
American Red Cross Rainbow Corner, in the BBC programme
'The American Eagle' in Britain during WWII.

Photo courtesy of Mrs. Bill Gallardo.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Courtesy of Mrs. Bill Gallardo.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Hector G. Godinez
receives gavel from
Victor Zuniga.



Hector G. Godinez, Joe O'Campo, and Danny Olivas.

Photos courtesy of
Hector R. Godinez.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



LULAC members at El Paso, Texas.
Ray Perez far left. Hector Godinez center of photo with hat on.



Alex Maldonado waits for
Hector Godinez and Nash Garcia
to carry on business.

Photos courtesy of Hector R. Godinez.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Congratulations are in order also, after official installation of officers of the Paramount Lulac Council #357. L. to R., Hector Delgado, Vice President, Bob Garcia, President; Danny Olivas, California State Director, and Jess Vela District Director, District # 6.

DANNY OLIVAS in later years and new Paramount LULAC Council No. 357.



BABY COUNCIL---Meet the Baby Council of California, Council #357 of Paramount, California. From L. to R. --Hector Delgado, Vice President; Bob Garcia, President; Margaret Pacheco, Secretary; and Joe Pacheco, Treasurer. In

the Back Row, Chris Rodriguez, Sgt. at Arms; Terry Garcia, Benny Duran, Mrs. Duran, Mrs. Genevieve Sanchez and Mrs. Josephine Delgado.

LULAC NEWS Vol. 32 No. 5, May, 1961 pgs. 5 and 6. (Publication of Orange County).

Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



LULAC Gathering (1950s).

Photo courtesy of Hector R. Godinez.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

REGIONAL CONVENTION The League of United Latin American Citizens



LULAC COUNCIL No. 252
SAN YSIDRO, CALIFORNIA

CIVIC CENTER

SAT. APRIL 7, 1956

1956 Calif. Regional Convention 1956

League of United Latin American Citizens
SAN YSIDRO, CALIF. - CIVIC CENTER - APRIL 7, 1956

- 8:30 A. M. Registration of officers, delegates and guest.
9:30 A. M. Opening of business sessions, 1956 Calif. Reg. Convention. Denny Olivas, Calif. Reg. Gov. presiding. Elevation of Official Prayer by Hon. Ramon Parra, Dist. Gov. Dist. 2. Pledge of allegiance, by Hon. Hector Godinez, Dist. Gov. Dist. 1.
9:45 A. M. Address of Welcome by San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce.
10:00 A. M. Response by Hon. Sam Dreizen, Reg. Legal Advisor.
10:15 A. M. Roll call and introduction of guests.
10:30 A. M. Appointment of Committees.
Rules and Credentials
Organization and Youth Work
Lulac News
Health, Welfare and Education.
10:45 A. M. Report of Councils.

Santa Ana Council	No. 147	Joe O Campo
Placentia Council	.. 174	Rudy Rodriguez
Stanton Council	.. 245	Victor Zulliga
San Ysidro Council	.. 252	Edmundo Perez
La Habra Council	.. 259	Joe Campos
Buena Park Council	.. 269	Nash Garcia

11:15 A. M. Introduction of Hon. Oscar M. Laurel, Laredo, Texas, Lulac National President.
11:45 A. M. Recess.
12:00 Noon Lunch, El Toreador Motel Banquet Room.
12:30 P. M. Address by Dr. R. J. Carreon Jr., President Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce.
1:15 P. M. Resume business sessions, works shops.
3:30 P. M. Reports of Committees.
4:30 P. M. Nominations and election of Regional Governor. Selection of 1957 Regional Convention site. Good and Welfare of the League.
6:30 P. M. Banquet. Address by Guest of Honor, Hon. Oscar M. Laurel, Laredo, Texas, Lulac National President. Presentation of awards.
9:00 P. M. Dance, Civic Center.
2:00 A. M. Goodnight, God Bless You and drive safely, so we may see all of you at the 1957 Calif. Regional Convention.

YOUR LOCAL MERCHANTS WELCOME YOU LULACS TO SAN YSIDRO, CALIF.

"EL TOREADOR"

HOTEL - MOTEL

A DELIGHTFUL PLACE FOR REST
SWIMMING, REFRESHMENTS, COCKTAIL LOUNGE,
COFFEE SHOP, DINING ROOM

F. MATOZA

Garden 5-1102

SAN YSIDRO, CALIF.

Best Wishes

THE PADDOCK CARMEN'S

★ COCKTAILS BEER ★

SAN YSIDRO, CALIFORNIA

PHONE
GA-5-1405

FOR FINE WINES & SPIRITS

DON'S LIQUOR STORE

DELICATESSEN

105 W. SAN YSIDRO BLVD.
SAN YSIDRO, CALIFORNIA

COLD BEER
ICE CUBES
OPEN 9 P. M. to 12 M.

CONGRATULATIONS

SAN YSIDRO PHARMACY CEASAR SOTO, PROP.

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127 SAN YSIDRO, BLVD.

SAN YSIDRO, CALIF.

COMPLIMENTS

EL PALACIO MOTEL

6 BLOCKS FROM MEXICO

PHONE GA. 5-9088

321 E. SAN YSIDRO BLVD.

SAN YSIDRO, CALIF.

Regional Convention Program.
Courtesy of Hector R. Godinez.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

**YOUR LOCAL MERCHANTS WELCOME
YOU LULACS TO SAN YSIDRO, CALIF.**

CONGRATULATIONS

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COMPLIMENTS

BUDS MARKET

109 SAN YSIDRO BLVD. SAN YSIDRO, CALIF.

COMPLIMENTS

DEE GEE FOOD MARKET

225 BROADWAY CHULA VISTA, CALIF.

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SAN YSIDRO COMMERCIAL Co.

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THE BEST IN MEXICAN DISHES
ORDERS TO TAKE OUT

ALEX SOLIS, PROP.
TEL. GA-4-7375 1651 PALM AVE. PALM CITY

OUR MOTTO
ONE FOR ALL ALL FOR ONE

HOST

San Ysidro, L.U.L.A.C. Council No. 252
PRES. EDMUNDO M. PEREZ
VICE PRES. RICHARD CELICEO
SEC. DAN PARRA
TREAS. RONALD JOHNSON
CHAPLAIN. CAROL LARA
SAN YSIDRO, COUNCIL IN REVIEW

★

Organized in April, 1955. Has participated in various projects, Such as sponsoring a Junior Lulac Council. Contributed to the multiple sclerosis & march of dimes. United States Olympic Fund drive, and other benefit projects.

One of the most recent activities of this council is the participation in our local Cub Packs and Brownie troops, recently organized in San Ysidro.

We the members of Council No. 252 Cordially invite each and every one to attend Regional Convention Banquet and Dance.

For Reservations Call
GA-5-1171 or GA-5-1439

Regional Convention hosted by San Ysidro Council (pg. 2).
Courtesy of Hector R. Godinez.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Photo: Taken at the LULAC National Convention, San Antonio Texas, 1949.
(left to right):

- (1) Ed Valenzuela, delegate, Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147,
- (2) Los Angeles Council delegate,
- (3) Manuel Veiga Jr. delegate, Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147,
- (4) John O. Gonzales, delegate Los Angeles LULAC Council No. 154.
- (5) Alex Maldonado, delegate and President of El Modena Council No. 179.

Courtesy: Alex Maldonado Interview and Collection. (Identification of El Modena Council No. 179 and Los Angeles Council No.154 was provided by 1949 correspondence and envelope with printed address owned by Mr. Alex Maldonado).



Ray Perez, National Director of Publicity, Joe O'Campo, National Executive Director, Nash Garcia National Treasurer, and Raquel Molina of the La Habra Council.

LULAC Leaders continue to serve as patriots with civil rights and gain national level positions.

LULAC NEWS Vol. 32 No. 5 May, 1961 (Publication of Orange County-Santa Ana).
Joe O'Campo Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



“Orange County LULAC Ball Team”

“Directors Lucio Gomez, M. Guerro, Danny Orona, Tony Pinedo, Paul Magdaleno and Stephen Lara. These LULACers will work with the team and its coach (Julio Mendez) to bring the pennant home to LULAC. This fine ball team is being co-sponsored by Carats.”

Quotes as printed in “New LULAC Ball Team” from Manuel and Vera Marquez Collection.
No reference of article source.

Top Row: left to right:

Lupe Rivera, Joe Rivera, Pete Guadan, Julio Mendez, Ted Alarcon, George Zepeda, and Henry Salizar.

Bottom Row: left to right:

Socorro Rivera, Jimmy Romero, Johnny Perez, Tony Rivera, Tony Niebla.

LULAC Council No. 147 jointly sponsored this team in 1948.

Information courtesy of LULAC member Mr. Alex Maldonado who watched them play at Santa Ana Municipal Park, corner of 8th Street and Flower St. in Santa Ana, California.

Photo by Hector R. Tarango
given personally to Margie Aguirre.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Photo of LULAC officers who meet with El Modena Council in 1949.

Left to right: John Gonzales (served as national LULAC 1st Vice President General in 1946 -1947 and as Regional Governor for California 1949-1950), Manuel Ochoa (Los Angeles Council member), Hector R. Tarango (served as National Trustee 1947 and as Santa Ana Council President), Raul Cortez (National LULAC President), Manuel Veiga Jr. (the first president of Santa Ana Council No. 147), and Alex Maldonado (President of El Modena LULAC Council, 1949).

Information provided by Alex Maldonado and John O. Gonzales and different publications of **LULAC NEWS**.

Margie Aguirre Collection.



El Modena LULAC Council in 1949.

Left to right: Henry Pineda, Jack Perez, Robert "Bob" Torres, Nate Serrato, Raul Cortez (National LULAC President from Texas), Ismael Vargas, Jess Hernandez, Ralph Perez and Alex Maldonado, President of new El Modena Council.

Photo taken by Hector R. Tarango.

Margie Aguirre Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

The League of United Latin
American Citizens
Council 162
Richmond, California

THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERSHIP OF COUNCIL NO. 162, THE
LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS (LULAC)
CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO OUR FIRST STATE CONVENTION
TO BE HELD AT THE HOTEL DON, 10TH & NEVIN AVENUE IN
RICHMOND ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, AND SUNDAY, JANUARY
22, 1950.

TO THIS GATHERING WILL COME DELEGATES FROM SOUTHERN
CALIFORNIA LULAC COUNCILS AND VISITING MEMBERS FROM
OTHER INTERESTED ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS.

TO THOSE LATINS AND NON-LATINS UNFAMILIAR WITH THIS
ORGANIZATION, ITS POLICIES AND PURPOSES, WE ARE EX-
TENDING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME ACQUAINTED, AND
TO LEARN OF OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS AS A NATIONAL ORGAN-
IZATION AND AS A STATE ORGANIZATION, BY ATTENDING OUR
CONVENTION.

A VARIFIED PROGRAM OF BUSINESS AND RECREATION HAS
BEEN ARRANGED, AS OUTLINED ON PAGE 2. THE INSTALLA-
TION DINNER TO BE HELD ON THE FIRST EVENING OF THE
CONVENTION, AND TO WHICH YOU ARE EQUALLY WELCOMED,
WILL BE \$2.50.

DON'T FORGET THE DATES, JANUARY 21 & 22.

RICHMOND LULAC COUNCIL NO. 162

Richmond LULAC Council No 162 was formed before 1950.
ALEX MALDONADO COLLECTION.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

CALIFORNIA LULAC ASSEMBLY

Palm Room, Bakersfield Inn
Bakersfield, California
July 15 & 16, 1950

Tentative Outline of Assembly Arrangements

Subject to each council's approval, omissions or additions.
ALL CHANGES MUST BE MADE PRIOR TO JULY 10, 1950

July 15, 1950:

Registration of Delegates and Guests	9:00 A. M. to 10:30 A. M.
Introduction of LULAC Regional Governor, John O. Gonzalez who will preside over the Assembly.	10:45 A. M.
Official Prayer of League by Bakersfield Chaplain	11:00 "
Salute to Flag	
Address of Welcome & Response	11:15 "
Minutes of last Convention	11:30 "
Reading of Correspondence	
Reports from Councils:	
Los Angeles	Jess D. Soto
El Modena	Alex Maldonado
Richmond	Raul Martinez
Santa Ana	Manuel E. Esqueda
Placentia	Jack Gomez
Bakersfield	Chris D. Perez

Adjournment for Lunch 12:30 to 2:00 P. M.

Assembly Reconvenes:

Unfinished Business, if any.	2:00 P. M.
Nominations for Regional Governor (to be voted on July 16th session)	2:15 "
Introduction of Guests	2:45 "

Outline of Duties pertaining to Committee Work Shops

Appointment of Committees:

- (a) Credentials
- (b) Resolutions
- (c) Organization
- (d) Special

Committees to assemble at designated place to consider the work referred to them. Reports to be given in writing to Assembly on July 15th after 4:00 P. M. or July 16th not later than 9:45 A. M.

Assembly to adjourn for the day 4:30 P. M.

Delegates are from Los Angeles, El Modena, Richmond, Santa Ana, Placentia and Bakersfield at the California LULAC Assembly in 1950.

Courtesy of Alex Maldonado.

**CALIFORNIA
REGIONAL
CONVENTION**

Will Assemble

February 19 & 20, 1955

AT

**American
Legion Hall**

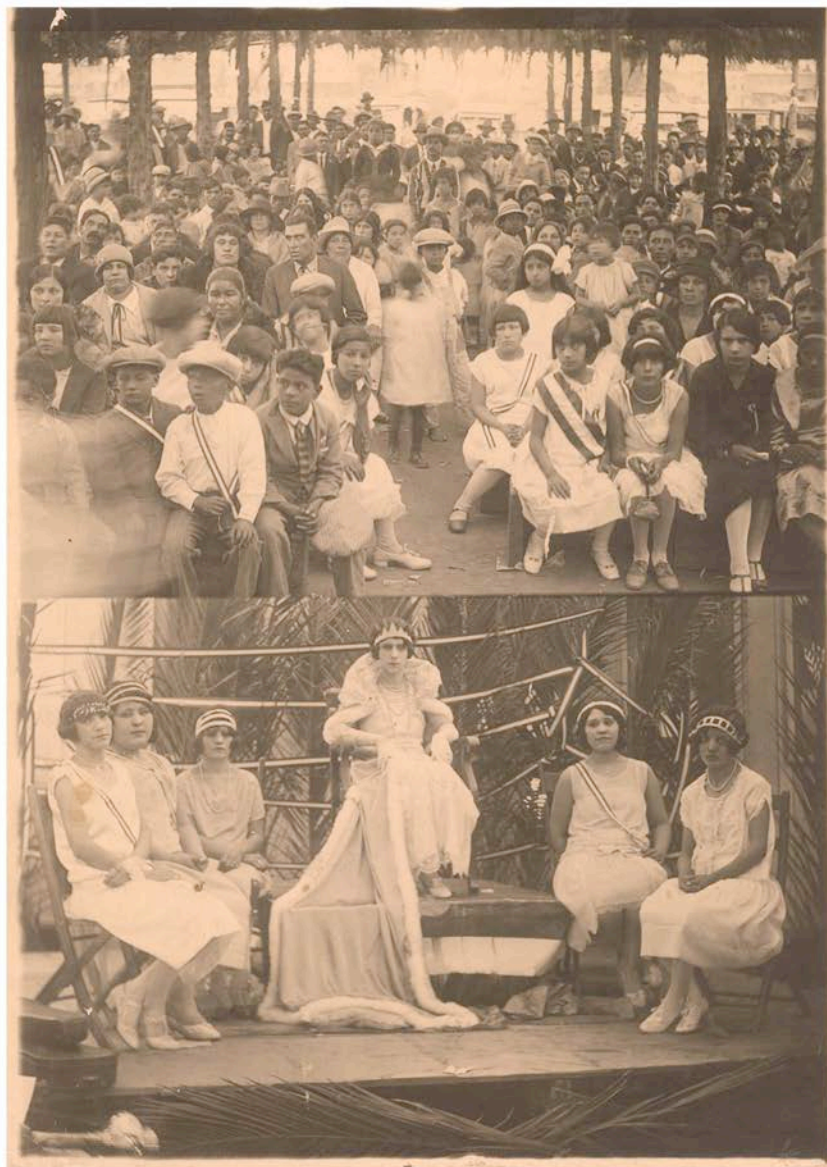
Lemon & La Palma Streets Anaheim, California

WILL CONVENE AT 9:00 A.M. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1955, WITH
BUSINESS SESSIONS ALL DAY AND RECESS AT 4:30 P.M.

BANQUET TO FOLLOW AT 7:30 P.M. TO 9:30 P.M., AT WHICH TIME THE
CEREMONIES BEING CONCLUDED, CONVENTION SOCIAL WILL FOLLOW
FOR PARTICIPANTS FOR REMAINDER OF EVENING.

LULAC NEWS Vol. 4, No. 3 pg. 2 February, 1955 (Orange County Publication).

Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning Collection.



Top photo: *Festejos Patrios* event such as this one introduced Alfred V. Aguirre and Jack Gomez (two rows in the front row--left to right-- wearing hats) to civic participation in Placentia California in 1927. Alfred is seven years old. Such formative experience became valuable when these two and others organized LULAC.

Bottom photo: The Queen of *Fiestas Patrias* and her court in 1927 in Placentia California.

The Hispanic community made up of people of Mexican descent were involved in this kind of activity which allowed them to organize and to participate in community and public affairs.

Cory and Margie Aguirre Collection.



Photo: This photo taken September 16, 1927 shows the officers and members of a civic group with the name *Comité de Festejos Patrios*, (a group that presented events about Mexican heritage). This group of men includes, José Aguilera Aguirre, (first person sitting from left). These men organized such public events in Placentia, California. The presence of Latino leaders is illustrated by this photo of distinguished gentlemen whom were either Mexican or of Mexican descent. Mr. José A. Aguirre is the father and role model of Alfred V. Aguirre, a founder of Placentia LULAC Council No. 174, who often expressed he followed his father *like a shadow*. Evidently he learned greatly from him and the men with whom his father was associated. (Interview: Alfred V. Aguirre, 2002-2007).

Cory and Margie Aguirre Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS- FORMATION OF PLACENTIA LULAC COUNCIL NO. 174.
Photo by Hector R. Tarango, 1949 LULAC California Regional Governor and President of Santa Ana Chapter.
January 1949 La Perla Restaurant, Fullerton

The purpose of this gathering of men is to form a LULAC council representing Placentia, Atwood and La Jolla. The LULAC council would consist like the Santa Ana Council of activists comprised of veterans and citizens. Seated in front row first person to the left is Jack Gomez, the first president of Placentia LULAC Council No. 174 chartered June 11, 1950. On March 29, 1949 the Placentia School Board of Trustees votes to close the segregated Mexican school, Chapman Hill Elementary because of combined pressure from: Attorney Dan Marshall of Los Angeles (President of the Catholic Interracial Council), and Unified Veterans and Citizens of Placentia, Atwood, and La Jolla who had been counseled by LULAC founders who organized the *Mendez v Westminster* lawsuit and formed the Santa Ana LULAC Council and who spoke at the school board meetings. All pictured here became members of Placentia LULAC Council No. 174. Information from interviews of Alfred V. Aguirre, 2002, Edward T. Gonzales, 2002, Eliseo Vargas, 2007, Jackie Rodriguez, 2008, Charlie Rodriguez Moreno, 2008 and interview Joe V. Aguirre, 2008 (all in photo). Instrumentally important in organizing as LULAC were Hector R. Tarango, Jack Gomez, Robert Moreno, Alfred V. Aguirre and Joe V. Aguirre. In photo first row, left to right: Jack Gomez, Robert Moreno, Alfred V. Aguirre, Lupe Cervera, Eddie Gonzales, Rodolfo Ruiz, *Joe Zavala, Danny Lee Orosco. Second row, left to right: Ben Cervera, Art Moreno, *Reggie Ponce, William Rodriguez, *Alfonso Rangel, *Ruben Escarcega, Albert Tafolla, *Jackie Rodriguez, *Fred Rodriguez. Third row, left to right: Joe V. Aguirre, *Carlos Felipe, John LaBorde, Henry Castro, Peter Rodarte, Charlie Rodriguez Moreno, Eliseo Vargas, and Richard V. Aguirre.

*Not identified as a veteran.

Photo: taken by Hector R. Tarango courtesy of Cory and Margie Aguirre.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

1—NO. 12 SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA JULY 1950 5c PER COPY

GROUPS ARE ADDED TO LULAC

Install New Council In Placentia Area

*Plan Similar Rites for New
Council in San Bernardino Soon*



Photo: (left) Jack Gomez, first president of Placentia Council No. 174 who first joined Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 in Spring, 1949 and his brother Peter Gomez.

Courtesy of J. & B. Gomez Collection.

Great response was given to the installation of the new council in the Placentia, Atwood and La Jolla areas.

With the organizing program stepped up by all LULAC League of United Latin American Citizens, another of these was organized in Placentia, Cal. on June 11, 1950. The event took place at the Valencia Cafe in Placentia, with the installation following a banquet. California Regional Governor and Organizer Mr. John O. Gonzales headed the installation team.

Varied representation from other LULAC Councils were present from Los Angeles, Santa Ana and El Modena.

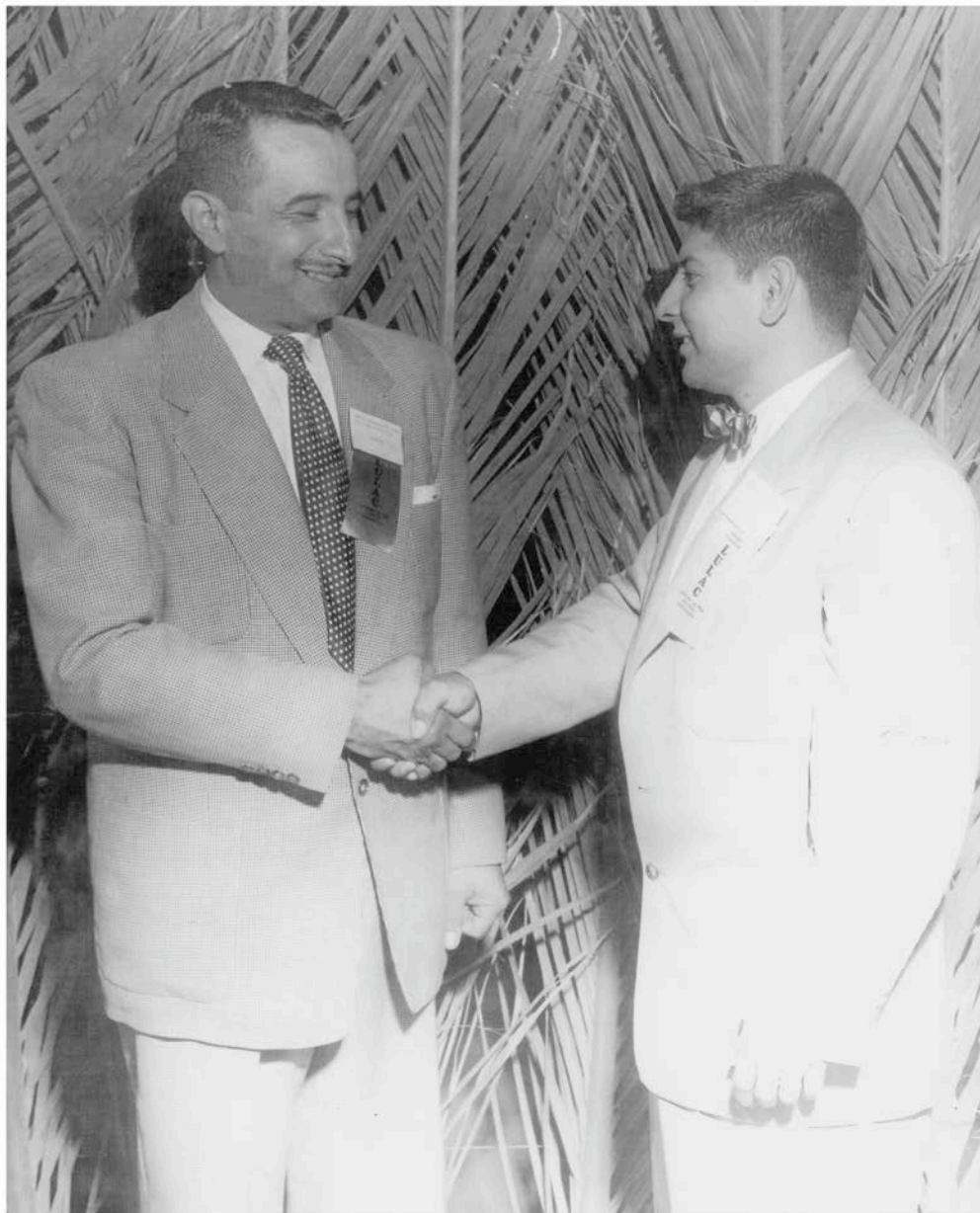
Newly elected and installed officers of Placentia were Jack Gomez, president; Lupe Castro, secretary; Robert Moreno, treasurer; George Herrera, Sgt. of Arms, and Serafin Perez, chaplain.

In the founding of this new council much of the work should be credited to Miss Lupe Castro and Mrs. Anita Morales, who were very active in the La Jolla area. To Bill Belasquez, a pat on the back for his work in the Atwood area, likewise to Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Aguirre, Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Gonzales, Mr. and Mrs. John Labourd and to Mr. Jess Castro. In an interview, Mr. Jack Gomez of the new Council in Placentia and we quote, "At this particular moment we find our nation involved in a world crisis trying to preserve our democratic way of life and we of the League of United Latin American Citizens, being an organization that believes in said American principles, urges every American citizen of Latin extraction to join in with LULAC, and in that manner, united with other civic and patriotic groups, we can make our struggle, in preserving our American Way of Life.

"The Placentia Council through this medium wishes to acknowledge to all of the civic and patriotic organizations in and around the Placentia area, that we will cooperate in any way or form necessary, to help our community and its problems."

(Editor's note: As we went to press we were still awaiting a report as to the organizing and installation of the new LULAC Council at San Bernardino . . . complete coverage will be given that event in the next issue.

LULAC NEWS Vol. 1 No. 12, July 1950 (Publication of Orange County).
Margie Aguirre Collection.



Hector Godinez (left) and Danny Olivas (right) at a LULAC District Convention in California in the 1950's. Both served as Governors of California LULAC. Hector Godinez, served as National LULAC Vice-President in 1958 and as National LULAC president in 1960. Danny Olivas was the 1957 National LULAC Convention Chairman. The 1957 National LULAC Convention was hosted by Placentia LLULAC Council No. 174. and held in Anaheim California.

Photo: Courtesy of Diane Olivas Montano Collection.

MAN OF THE MONTH



Danny Olivas

The Men of the Month for the Jrs. in our opinion, Mr. Danny Olivas, Regional Governor of LULAC for California. Up to date, Mr. Olivas has been responsible for the organization of Junior LULAC Councils in Placentia and San Ysidro, with one to be organized within a matter of time in Stanton, Santa Ana, and La Habra.

LULAC NEWS May, 1955.
(Publication of Orange County)
Joe O'Campo Collection.

PLACENTIA ELECTS
AGUIRRE NEW PREXY

Election of officers for the Placentia LULAC Council 174 was held earlier in the month in the Americanization hall of the inland community.

Having chosen Fred Aguirre for President of the group, he will hold office for the year 1956-57. The new Vice President is Leonel Magana while Julia Aguirre was chosen as Secretary. Blas Marron of Anaheim will act as Treasurer for the coming year. Sergeant at Arms is Ismael Vargas. The new Chaplain is Danny Olivas, presently Regional Governor for the State of California LULAC's. All officers will hold office for the period of one year.

LULAC NEWS Vol. 5, No. 5 pg. 7 June 1956 (Publication of Orange County).

Joe O'Campo Collection.



Contestant for queen Stella Villacano at a benefit program for scholarships for Valencia High School seniors held at American Legion Hall in Santa Ana. In photo with Miss Villacano is Alfred Aguirre, President of Placentia Council No. 174, 1956.

Courtesy of Alfred V. Aguirre.

patronizing Advertisers and Save Money in Your Friends. In Unity is Strength



Read by more than 45,000 Latin Americans in Orange county. This is a non-profit organizational newspaper. Published monthly.

Loyalty to Country, Heritage and Traditions

VOL. 4—NO. 10 SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA SEPTEMBER, 1955

known, mostly between 1914 on Form 5517, in which is guaranteed.

Official Org
of the
League of United
American Citizens
Orange Coun

Who are the Best Americans

and a Day

Disneyland

ement of a new "Day and" ticket book plan, tomorrow through Nov. 15, made today by the man- of the park in Anaheim. ticket book plan offers visitors their choice of rider and amusements for admission to Disney- for a fixed price—\$1.50 for under 12; \$2 for juni- or high school stu- \$2.50 for adults. ticket plan books will only Disneyland's boxoffice, to C. N. Wood, Jr., dent and general man- Disneyland, the plan has oped as a "convenient individual and families day's entertainment at and to know before their expenditure will

ket book was also de- o encourage Southern residents to visit or re- Park during the "low- ontha. ore than 1,200,000 people ited Disneyland since its statistics compiled at the e that children average tely seven rides or ts on a visit, with adults approximately six rides. tiling on the research Wood stated: "We feel ay at Disneyland ticket ult the needs of most s and families and give ill day's entertainment cost."



ALFRED J. CASTILLO, Chairman of the League of United Latin American Citizens Olympic Fund Committee, presents \$700.00 Olympic Fund check to **Jim Donahue** (1912 Olympic Games Pen- athlon and Decathlon medal winner), Vice-President of the South- ern California Chapter of the United States Olympians. In photo: Alfred J. Castillo (holding check), Jim Donahue at right. In back row: Rudy Rodriguez (left), and Gabe Baltierra, (right).

Presentation was made at Helms Hall, Los Angeles, during South- ern California Chapter of the United States Olympians meeting. The \$700.00 donated to the United States Olympic Fund by the League of United Latin American Citizens, was one of the largest contributions made to the Olympic Fund by a Southern California organization. IT WAS UNSOLICITED!

The LULACS (League of United Latin American Citizens is com- posed of a group of Latin-Americans who reside in Southern Cal- ifornia.

The donation by the LULACS boosted the Southern California Olympic Fund collections, to date, to \$25,782.49. Climax of the cur- rent Olympic Fund campaign will take place on October 18th, when a gigantic Olympic Fund \$100 Donor Dinner will be held at the famed Moulin Rouge in Hollywood. More than 750 persons are expected to attend. The LULACS will be represented at the Olympic Fund dinner by seven officers of the organization.

Well! . . . what do you know about that?

How many good American citizens in Southern have contributed to the United States Olympic fund? we can assure you!

Less than 200 Southern California citizens and or have donated to the 1956 United States Olympic fu . . . but the members of the League of United Latin Citizens of Orange county (California) have done so erously so!

The LULAC (League of United Latin America have just turned over to the Southern California cha United States Olympians (the organization which i carrying on the Southern California Olympic fund, an Olympic fund donation of \$700! . . . It is one of Olympic fund donations which has been made in Sou fonia this year.

Presentation of the Olympic fund of \$700 do made by the LULAC at a meeting of the Southern chapter of the United States Olympians at Helms hall. Presentation was made by Alfred J. Castillo, chairman, LAC Olympic fund committee, with Committee- miera, Rudy Rodriguez and Danny Olivas particpal presentation ceremonies. Jim Donahue, 1912 Olym penathlon and decathlon medal winner, who is vice- the Southern California chapter of the United States accepted the check on behalf of the United States Oly mittee.

The \$700 donation by the LULAC brought th California Olympic fund collections up to \$25,782.49. ern California quota is \$75,000—which must be raise ber 8, at which time the local Olympic fund campa to a close. The local committee is far from its quot worried!

The local Olympic fund campaign will be clima gigantic Olympic fund \$100 donor dinner at the far Rouge in Hollywood on Tuesday evening, Oct. 18. who have donated \$100 or more to the Olympic fund ing it through the Southern California chapter of States Olympians, will be guests at the big affair—w attended by famous Olympic Games champions, and of stage, screen, radio and television.

The Hollywood Junior Chamber of Commerce the Olympic Fund \$100 donor dinner. On the night event, the total Olympic fund collections raised in Sou fonia, will be announced with a listing of each don- ling ceremonies will be held, in which many illustri wood celebrities will participate. Then, there'll be a s followed by the sensational Moulin Rouge stage show, evening!

Olympic fund donations—tax deductible—may Southern California Chapter, United States Olym Venice Blvd., Los Angeles 34, California.

Or to Hollywood Junior Chamber of Commer wood 28, California.

Donations of any size will be welcomed. Ho those who donate as much as \$100 to the Olympic fu entitled to attend the Olympic fund dinner at the Mos Better hurry! Make your OLYMPIC FUND DC NOW!

HELP! HELP! HELP! HELP! H

SAC Milers Ready For Championship

BY CARL SAWYER

Santa Ana College's long- winded tug-of-war go after the school's second successive East- ern Conference Championship. In the cross country, starting Friday afternoon at 3:30 p.m. on the Don course, in competi- tion with Orange Coast, Full- erton and Riverside.

With only one letterman, Jim the quarter mile and can be ex- pected to improve as the sea- son.

1955 Cross Country Schedule
Oct. 7—Orange Coast, Full- erton, Riverside at Santa Ana.
Oct. 14—Long Beach at Santa Ana.
Oct. 21—Orange Coast, Full- erton, San Bernardino, Santa

What's New In Lulac Ne

While moseing around town the other day I bump- ed friend of mine at Jackman's and it was none other than Esparza. and boy, you lucky girls, I hear that this boy

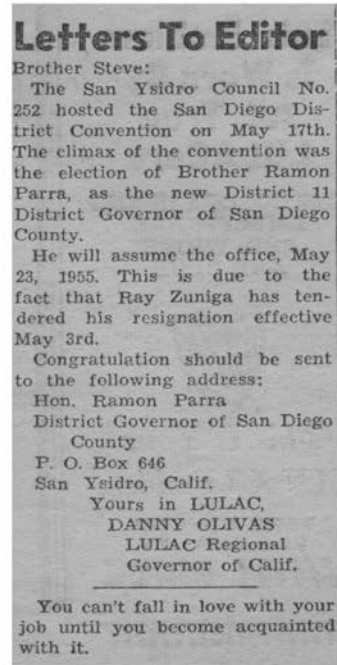
LULAC contributes to the Olympic Fund in noteworthy fashion, "one of the largest contributions made by a Southern California organization," under the leadership of Alfred J. Castillo, Chairman of the League of United Latin American Citizens Olympic Fund. 1955. LULAC NEWS Vol. 4 No. 10, September 1955.

Joe O'Campo Collection.



ALEX MALDONADO LULAC MERIT AWARD-1954.
Courtesy of Alex Maldonado.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



LULAC NEWS Vol. 4 No. 7 pg. 7 June, 1956. (Publication of Orange County).

Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning Collection.

Lulacs In California

By RAMON GARCES
Managing Editor

The famous advice given by Horace Greeley to a young man to "Go West" perhaps did not have anything to do with the Lulac program, but that is just what has been happening to the expanding activity of the League of United Latin American Citizens. It has been traveling West.

The last few months Lulac councils in California have been a beehive of activity, according to Regional Governor Danny Olivas.

In June, the third Junior Lulac Council was formed in California when the Stanton Juniors were organized with Rudy Najera as president.

With the organization of the Stanton Junior Council it makes three Junior Councils in California. There are five senior councils, and reports have been coming in from several sources of plans to organize others.

Nash Garcia, membership organizer of Stanton Council No. 245, said that the names of twenty-five persons are available who wish to start a Council at Buena Park, California.

Of course, the goal of Lulacs is to re-activate and organize councils in California cities such as Los Angeles, San Diego, Sacramento, Compton, and others. When the state of California, whose past history has been strongly Spanish, is represented in the League of United Latin American Citizens by scores of councils, it will be a great step forward for the national Lulac program.

National Lulac President Oscar M. Laurel believes that California can supply a major number of the councils expected to be installed or re-activated during his administration.

"Through the inspired and able leadership of Regional Governor Danny Olivas we see California councils increase three-fold next year," President Laurel said.

The expansion of Lulac activity to the west will be the realization of one of the fondest dreams of past administrations. California, like Texas and other southwestern states, should be the place where Lulac activity is strongest.



GOV. DANNY OLIVAS

The senior councils active in California now are Santa Ana Council No. 147, Placentia Council No. 245, and La Habra Council No. 239. La Habra is the baby senior council.

The three Junior councils are Placentia Junior Council, San Ysidro Junior Council and Stanton Junior Council.

Danny Olivas, whose address is P. O. Box 42 in Placentia, is regional governor. Vicky Magdaleno, 1693 Skyline, Santa Ana, is regional secretary.

Governor of District 1 in the region is Victor Zuniga, P. O. Box 95, Stanton, and Governor of District Three is Ramon Parra, P. O. Box 645, San Ysidro.

The Council presidents are Joe O'Campo, 510 English St., Santa Ana; Rudy Rodriguez, P. O. Box 464, Placentia; Edmundo Perez, 432 Bolton St., San Ysidro; Victor Zuniga, P. O. Box 95, Stanton; and Joe Campos, 341 Monte Vista, La Habra.

Junior council heads are Jerry Perez, 7091 Gonzalez St., Placentia; Daniel Parra, P. O. Box 646, San Ysidro, and Rudy Najera, P. O. Box 237, Stanton.

The council roster of officers follows:

La Habra -- Joe R. Campos, President; Paulino Castro, Vice president; Trino Reynoso, secretary; Gregory Gomez, treasurer; Edward C. Navarro, chaplain; Jess M. Mejia, first trustee; Rebecca S. Rodriguez, second trustee; Sai Zuniga, third trustee.

Placentia -- Rudy Rodriguez, president; Jack Gomez, vice-president; Freddy Aguirre, secretary; Eddy Gonzales, treasurer; Smily Vargas, chaplain; Lucio Gomez, sgt. at arms; Marcelino Guerero, first trustee; Ray Robles, second trustee; Blas Marron, third trustee; Margaret Felipe, fourth trustee.

Santa Ana -- Joe O'Campo, president; Hector Godliness, vice-president; Ruth Cruz, recording secretary; Rosina Mendoza, corresponding secretary; Ladislao Cruz, treasurer; Raymond Gomez, chaplain; Alex Maldonado, sgt. at arms; Dee Padilla, first trustee; Robert O'Campo, second trustee; A. L. Robbins, third trustee.

San Ysidro -- Edmundo Perez, president; Richard J. Celiceo, vice-president; Ronald Johnson, treasurer; Minerva Noriega, secretary; Edward Perez, chaplain; Ortense Gomez, first trustee; Frank Aldama, second trustee; Jesse Gomez, third trustee.

Stanton -- Victor Zuniga, president; Ramon Perez, vice-president; Henry Mendez, secretary; Natividad Fosaes, Jr., treasurer; Albert Hernandez, chaplain; Tony Pinedo, sgt. at arms; Tomas Rocha, first trustee; Paul Magdaleno, second trustee; Harold Bailey, third trustee; Marcy Garcia, fourth trustee.

"It is very comforting to know," writes Brother Zuniga, district No. 1 governor, California, "that our district has been very active in the past month."

District 1 held a picnic June 19 where all councils were represented, Governor Zuniga reported. On June 25 the Stanton Council held initiation ceremonies. A banquet was given in honor of the newly organized Stanton Junior Council. On July 2, the Placentia Council observed a pre-4th of July party in the American Legion Hall.

The Santa Ana Council entered a decorated car in the annual 4th of July parade at Huntington Beach and won third place. The Council also celebrated its Fourth annual Scholarship Barbeque, which was reported as a great success.

La Habra Council held a barbeque on June 26 which was well-attended and on Aug. 6 participated in La Habra's annual Corn Festival.

California Regional Governor Olivas is a prominent social and civic leader in Placentia. He is past president of Lulac Council 174 and past president of the Fullerton East-side Club. He has been active in Red Cross, March of Dimes, Community Chest, and other community projects. He is a member of the Orange County Registrar of voters.

A member of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, he is married to Aileen Aguirre Olivas and they have two children, Diane and Darlene.

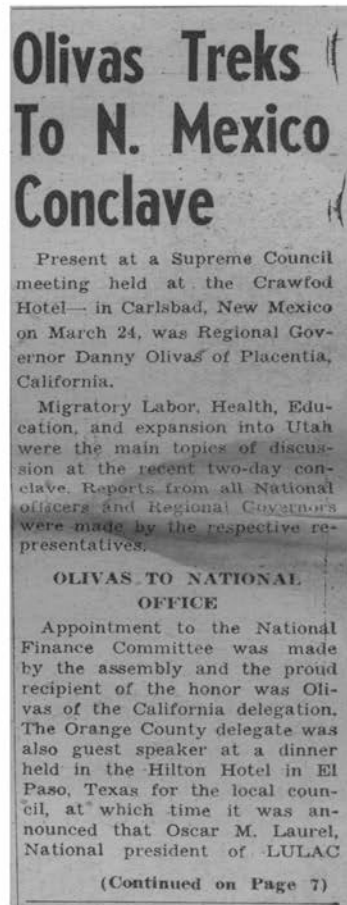
A veteran, he served in the U. S. Air Force after graduation from Fullerton, California High School. He graduated from Radio Operators School Scott Field, Ill. and served in various fields in the U. S. He was discharged as a corporal in December 1946.

The 27-year-old Californian is one of the youngest Lulacs ever to serve as Regional Governor.

This article provides information about adult LULAC councils and junior LULAC councils in California.

LULAC NEWS August, 1955.

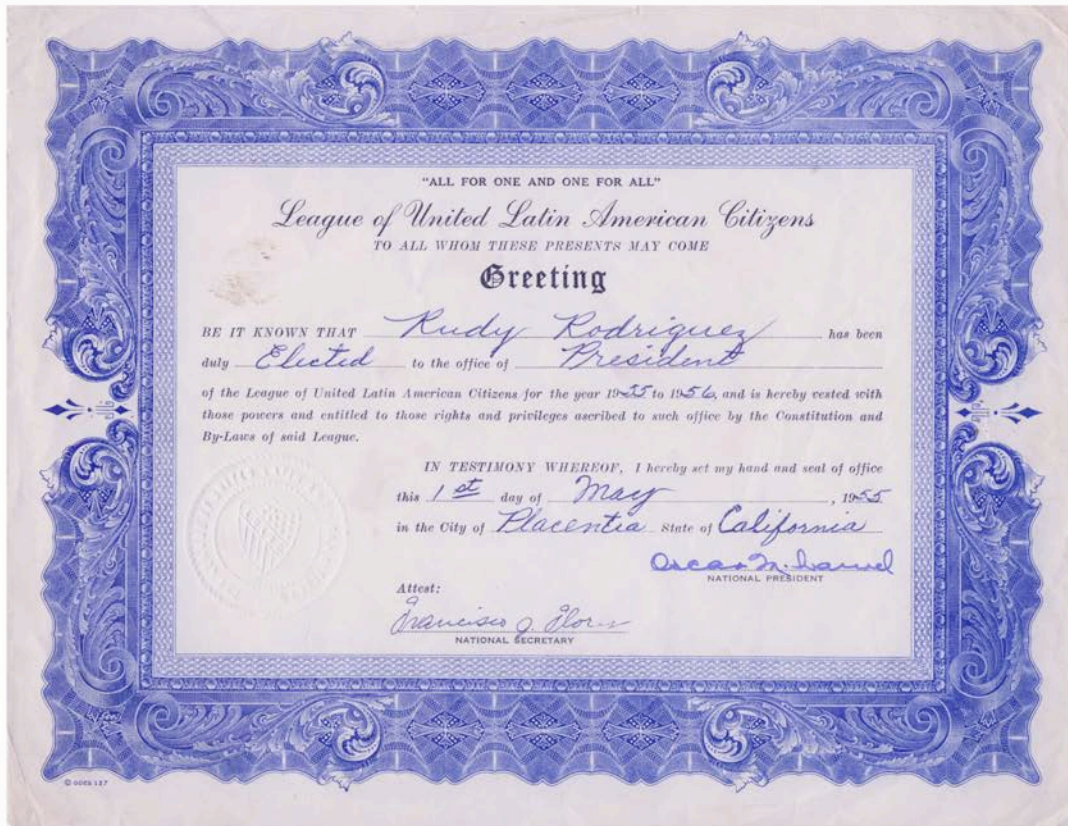
Source: Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin. (LULAC Archives-LULAC NEWS).



LULAC NEWS Vol. 5 No. 3 April, 1956 pg 1. (Publication of Orange County).

Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Rudy Rodriguez
President of Placentia Council No. 174
in 1955.
Rudy Rodriguez Collection.

Stanton

CALIFORNIA

— "All for One—One for All" —

STANTON LULACS SET PACE

The newly installed Stanton, Calif., LULAC Council is setting a whirlwind pace in the current membership drive. Jim Miranda, Stanton membership campaign chairman, has reported that 70 new membership applications have been approved. Council members have set their goal at 100 and are mapping plan for an initiation festival.

— "All for One—One for All" —

VICTOR ZUÑIGA ELECTED BY STANTON LULACS

Victor Zuñiga has been elected as president of the newly installed LULAC council at Stanton, California. Other officers are Nash Garcia, vice-president; Arthur Viramontes, secretary; Natividad Morales, treasurer; Stanley Gomez, chaplain; Jim Miranda, parliamentarian; Tony Pinedo, first trustee; Joe Razo, second trustee; Tom Rocha, third trustee, and Paul Magdaleno, fourth trustee. Legal advisor of the Council is Samuel Dreizen.

LULAC Council 245 of Stanton was organized on August 31 by Stephen Lara, Regional Governor of California. Initiation of members and installation of officers was conducted on September 14.

Council 245 is comprised of 71 charter members. Participation in a campaign for the Emergency March of Dimes was the first project undertaken by the Council. In connection with this project a benefit dance was held at Placentia under the sponsorship of LULAC Councils of Placentia, Santa Ana, and Stanton.

A check for \$1,055 was presented to the Polio Foundation by Art Castillo, dance committee chairman for the Placentia Council. Nash Garcia acted as committee chairman for the Stanton Council.

The second project of the Stanton Council was called the "Mugica Project." This project took its name from the fact that a Stanton resident, Manuel Mugica, was denied aid for his child who is a victim of polio. Committee chairman Jim Miranda contacted officials at the local chapter of the Polio Foundation and received assurance that the boy will receive treatment.

Third project of the Council was a Hallowe'en Festival designated to raise funds. More than \$100 was raised.

Directors of the festival committees were Nash Garcia, Stanley Gomez, Raul Garcia, Evelyn Rosales, Tom Rocha, Jim Miranda, and Manuel Mugica.

The committees were comprised of Raloh Mugica, Joe Razo, Manuel Martinez, Natividad Rosales, Tony Pinedo, Albert Hernandez,

Joe Acosta, Raul Lemus, Raymond Perez, Bernard Casserly, Michael Aguilera, Henry Ochoa, Leonard Rodriguez, Joe Aguirre, Victor Zuñiga, Jr., Helen Zuñiga, Jr., Virginia Avalos, Lillian Najera, Mary Aguilar, Shirley Ann Rosa, Gloria Perez, Annie Figueroa, Margaret Romero, Virginia Casserly, Helen Zuñiga, Sr., Mary Pinedo, and Art Viramontes.

The festival was attended by more than 400.

The Council then entered a decorated car in the local Anaheim Annual Hallowe'en Parade. Chairman of this project was Jim Miranda. Members who rode in the car were Helen Zuñiga, Jr., Lillian Najera, Virginia Avalos, and Lucille Miranda. The LULAC car, which was decorated by Victor Zuñiga, Jr., Margaret Romero, and Nash Garcia, won first prize in its division.

At the present time, Tony Pinedo is acting as chairman for the Stanton area Youth program, with Art Viramontes holding a similar post in the Colonia Independencia area.

— "All for One—One for All" —

Stanton Council No. 245 was organized August 31, 1954 and installed September 14, 1954 by Stephen Lara, Regional Governor of California as indicated above.

LULAC NEWS (no volume number) November, 1954. pg 3 and pg. 7.

Source: The Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas, Austin. (LULAC National Archives-LULAC NEWS).

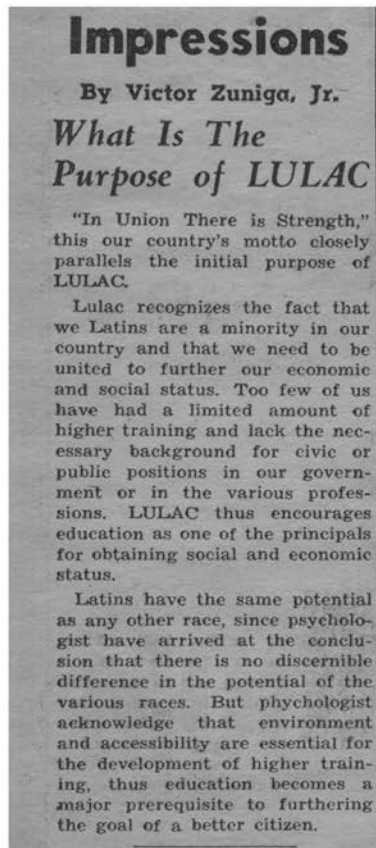
LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

League of United Latin American Citizens 1st Membership Roster, 1954 STANTON L.U.L.A.C. COUNCIL #245

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 Victor Zuniga, President, Stanton | 2 Nash Garcia, Vice President, Buena Park. |
| 3 Arthur Viramontes, Sec., Anaheim | 4 Natividad Rosales, Jr, Treasurer, Stanton |
| 5 Jim Miranda, Parliamentarian, B.P. | 6 Stanley Gomez, Chaplain, Stanton |
| 7 Joe Razo, Trustee, Buena Park | 8 Tony Pinedo, Trustee, Anaheim |
| 9 Thomas Racho, Trustee, Anaheim
(Samuel Dreizen, Legal Advisor) | 10 Paul Magdaleno, Trustee, Anaheim |
| | |
| 11 James Aceves, B.P. | 12 Lionzo Jose Acosta, Ana |
| 14 Eutimo Aguilar, Stanton | 15 Marcus Aguilar, Stanton |
| 17 Leo Aguilera, Stanton | 18 Michael Aguilera, Stanton |
| 20 Gabriel Aguirre, Stanton | 21 Joe Aguirre, Stanton |
| 23 Jean Allen, Mary Lee Dr | 24 Frank Ambriz, Stanton |
| 26 Martin Avalos, Anaheim | 27 Virginia Avalos, Stanton |
| 29 Harold Bailey, Anaheim | 30 Natividad Banda, Long Bch |
| 32 Annie Barba, Anaheim | 33 Wayne Butterbaugh, Stn |
| 35 Johnny Calderon, Stanton | 36 Edward Candelaria, Ana |
| 38 Virginia Casserly, Ana | 39 Robert Contreras, Stanton |
| 41 Marcelino Correa, Ana | 42 James Fernandez, Stanton |
| 44 Bernice Garcia, Stanton | 45 Mary Garcia, Buena Park |
| 47 Dolores Gonzales, Ana | 48 Frank Gonzalez, Anaheim |
| 50 Albert Hernandez, Ana | 51 Isabel Hernandez, Anaheim |
| 53 John Jennings, Westmnst | 54 Mary Lemus, Stanton |
| 56 Hazel Lewis, Stanton | 57 Raymond Limon, Anaheim |
| 59 Julian Lopez, Stanton | 60 Tomasa Lopez, Stanton |
| 62 Crespin Luna, Long Beach | 63 Eppie Luna, Long Beach |
| 65 Evangelina Macias, B.P. | 66 Pasqual Macias, B.P. |
| 68 Luisa Maldonado, B.P. | 69 Tony Maldonado, B.P. |
| 71 Frank Marquez, B.P. | 72 Phyllis Marquez, B.P. |
| 74 Clorinda Martinez, B.P. | 75 Esperanza Martinez, B.P. |
| 77 John Martinez, Stanton | 78 John Martinez, Anaheim |
| 80 Victoria Martinez, Stanton | 81 Calvin Mc Ewen, B.P. |
| 83 Andrea Mendez, Stanton | 84 Enrique Mendez, Stanton |
| 86 Irene Mendoza, Stanton | 87 Sipriano Mendoza, Stn |
| 89 Sovina Miranda, B.P. | 90 Tony Miranda, Anaheim |
| 92 William Mitchell, S.A. | 93 Helen Morales, Whittier |
| 95 Raul Moran, Anaheim | 96 Abel Moreno, Jr, B.P. |
| 98 Manuel Mugica, Stanton | 99 Ralph Mugica, Stanton |
| 101 Lillian Najera, Stanton | 102 Magdaleno Najera, Los Al |
| 104 Estelle Nunez, Anaheim | 105 Henry Ochoa, Anaheim |
| 107 Cruz Orozco, Stanton | 108 Jesus Orozco, Stanton |
| 110 John Ortiz, Stanton | 111 Antonio Pallares, Ana |
| 113 Erlinda Palomar, B.P. | 114 Gabriel Palomar, B.P. |
| 116 Julio Palomino, Ana | 117 Gloria Perez, Stanton |
| 119 Ray Perez, Stanton | 120 Pedro Perez, Stanton |
| 122 Annie Pina, Los Alamitos | 123 Luz Pina, Los Alamitos |
| 125 Refugio Quintana, Stn | 126 Helen Ramirez, Bellflower |
| 128 John Ramirez, Stanton | 129 Santiago Ramirez, B.P. |
| 131 Gilbert Rios, Santa Ana | 132 Gloria Rivera, Cypress |
| 134 Jess Rivera, Anaheim | 135 Nattie Rivera, Anaheim |
| 137 Jennie Rocha, Stanton | 138 Rufina Rocha, |
| 140 Lydia Rodarte, Ana | 141 Leonard Rodriguez, Stn |
| 143 Evelyn Rosales, Stanton | 144 Elvira Rosales, Stanton |
| 146 Louise Roman, B.P. | 147 Trinidad Roman, B.P. |
| 149 Dario Romero, Anaheim | 150 John Romero, Anaheim |
| 152 Sotero Romero, Anaheim | 153 Jess Saenz, Anaheim |
| 155 Grace Sandoval, Stanton | 156 Pete Sandoval, Stanton |
| 158 Margaret Sigala, S.A. | 159 Antonio Trujillo, Stanton |
| 161 Matias Valadez, Anaheim | 162 Anita Vasques, Stanton |
| 164 Stephen Velarde, Stanton | 165 Eva Villareal, Anaheim |
| 167 Virginia Ybarra, Anaheim | 168 Catalina Zuniga, Stanton |
| 170 Helen Zuniga, Stanton | 171 Valentine Zuniga, Stanton |
| | 172 Victor Zuniga, Jr., Stn |

Both Manuel and Vera Marquez have served LULAC for over fifty years. Number 70 in above roster is Manuel Marquez.

MANUEL & VERA MARQUEZ COLLECTION.



LULAC NEWS Vol. 4 No. 3 pg. 7, February, 1955 (Publication of Orange County).

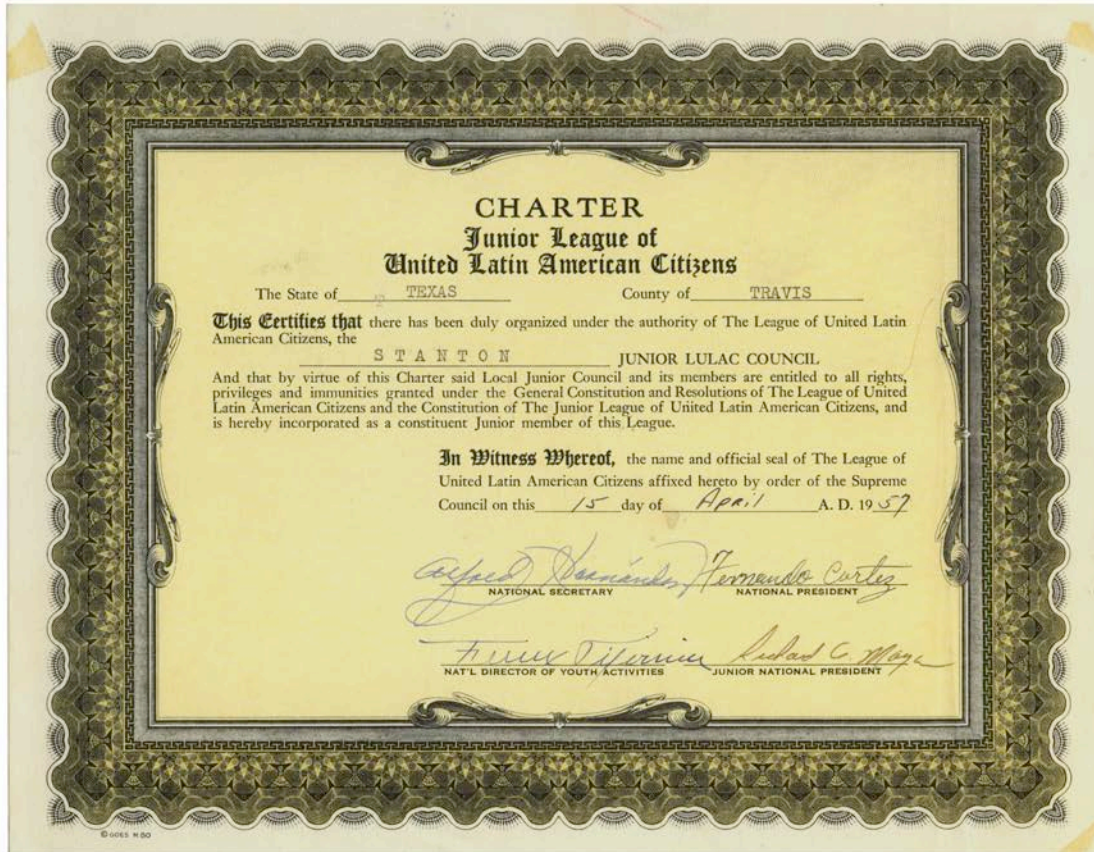
Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Photo: (Left) Victor Zuniga, President of Stanton LULAC Council No. 245 at a raffle in May, 1956, and two raffle participants.

Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning Collection.



Educating youth is a primary goal for LULAC. Stanton Council had a youth council.

Manuel and Vera Marquez Collection.
1957



Pictured above is new District Governor Victor Zuniga making flag presentation to the La Habra Council president, Joe Campos. Others in group are some of the La Habra Council members. This presentation was made at the initiation of said Council which was attended by more than 450 LULACers from around Orange county.

LA HABRA LULAC COUNCIL

La Habra LULAC Council formed in June, 1955.
LULAC NEWS June, 1955 (Publication of Orange County).

Joe O'Campo Collection.



Front Row: L. to R. --Gregory Gomez, Raquel Molina, Mike Gomez; back row--Raul Dorame, Gloria Gomez and Phillip Gomez. All members of the La Habra Council.

LULAC NEWS Vol. 32 No. 5 pg. 5 May, 1961.

Joe O' Campo Collection.

Lulac Dist. Governor Installs New Council In Buena Park

District Governor Victor Zuniga Buena Park. They had election has installed a new Council in of officers and the following were elected to their respective offices: Nash Garcia, president; Charles Siordia, vice-president; Manuel Uriarte, treasurer; Jesus Morales, secretary; Tony Malonado, chaplain; Frank Marquez, parliamentarian.

This new group should get all the backing possible from the other councils throughout the County, as they are the "Baby Council" and should be supported to the utmost, as stressed by our District governor, Victor Zuniga.

BUENA PARK LULAC COUNCIL

Above is an account of the formation of Buena Park LULAC Council in September, 1955.

LULAC NEWS Vol. 4 No. 3 September, 1955 (Publication of Orange County).

Joe O' Campo Collection.

FULLERTON, LATEST ADDITION TO LULAC

Preparations for the installation of a new LULAC council in the city of Fullerton, California were made this month at a meeting held in the American Legion hall of the Northern Orange county community.

Presiding at the conclave were Mr. Hector Godinez, Governor of District one and Mr. Nash Garcia, president of the Buena Park council and District Organizer. At this time, officers for the incoming council were chosen. Art Viramontes, former LULAC member from Santa Ana and now residing in Fullerton, was named president with Joe Jaimes acting as his vice-president.

The newly formed council, having received its' charter at the recent Regional Convention

held in the border city of San Ysidro, California, has an initiating group of more than twenty members. Following in the footsteps of the recently formed Elks Lodge in this community, the new organization may well be the largest group of initiates ever to be chartered into LULAC ranks in California. This brings the number of League councils in District one, to six, with another group being scouted in the city of Orange.

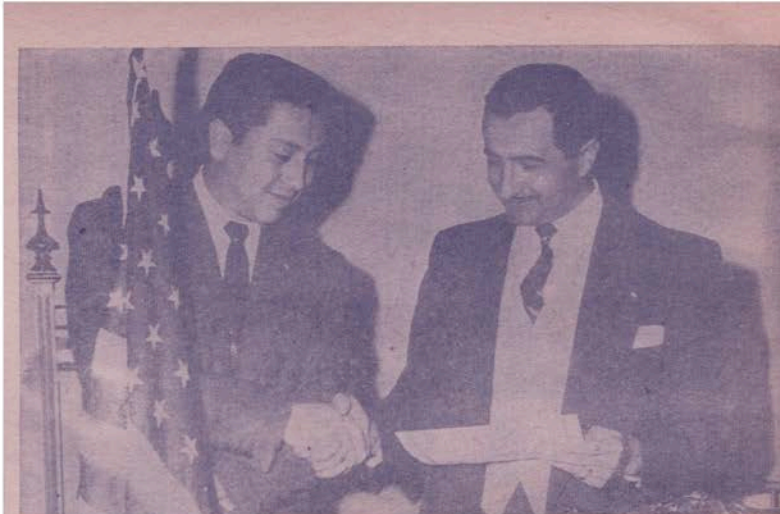
After more than a month of meetings and investigation, Godinez and Garcia accepted the newly formed group for membership. The group has also accepted the hard task of forming a Junior LULAC for its' group and new prexy, Viramontes, has stated that a scouting

committee has come up with 30 juniors who are more than eager to start procedure to secure their charter as a new council.

LOPEZ, SANDOVAL, MORENO GAIN OFFICE

Edward Lopez, has been elected secretary for the incoming aggregation, while Richard Sandoval and Diego Moreno were chosen Treasurer and chaplain respectively. Three members constitute the board of trustees, Albert Sambrano was chosen first trustee, while Armando Viramontes acquired the position of the second chair. Third trustee was given to Albert Viramontes. Adolph Pineda is the new Sergeant-at-Arms.

The new club will be duly initiated at a dinner banquet to be held prior to the National Convention in June.



ACCEPTING CHARTER for the newly formed council of LULAC in Fullerton is Art Viramontes (left), who was elected prexy of 278 at a recent installation banquet held at the American Legion hall of the Orange county city. Performing his duties as the installing officer is Hector Godines, Governor of District No. 1. Upwards of 250 members and guests were present at the conclave which saw the new group receive their pins and membership cards. (Photo by Robert O'Campo)

FULLERTON LULAC COUNCIL

Above: Article of the formation of Fullerton LULAC Council chartered May, 1956 with Art Viramontes as president. **LULAC NEWS** Vol. 5 No. 3 April, 1956 pg. 5 Newport Beach, California. (Publication of Orange County).

Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning Collection.

Below: Photo **LULAC NEWS** Vol. 5 No. 4, May, 1956 page 2 (Publication of Orange County). Joe O'Campo Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



WELCOME NEIGHBOR. Nash García, LULAC district one Organizer, from Buena Park, congratulates new President of Fullerton council, Art Viramontes, into the ranks of the League of United Latin American Citizens. Seated from left to right are new officers Joe Jaimes, Richard Sandoval, Edward Lopez, Diego Moreno, and Albert Sambrano.

FULLERTON LULAC COUNCIL

LULAC NEWS Vol. 3, No. 5 pg. 6 June, 1956 (Publication of Orange County).

Joe O'Campo Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

HECTOR GODINEZ
as National LULAC President.

DANNY OLIVAS
as State Director



State Director Danny Olivas, the National President, Hon. Hector Godinez, and two unidentified members of the Fullerton Council.

Page 4



Members of the Fullerton Council, who will host the California State Convention in Fullerton, Calif. Front Row, L. to R.--Bill Rivera, Convention Ch.; Marty Rivera, Lee Love, Lorrie Lopez, Dora Villa Kathleen Barrett. Back Row--Ray Villa, Jim Gallardo, Edward G. Valenzuela, Eddie Lopez, Frank Aguirre, Phil Miranda, and Manuel Jurado.

May 1961 Fullerton Council.

LULAC leaders continue to serve in later years.

LULAC NEWS Vol. 32 No. 5, May, 1961 (Publication of Orange County-Santa Ana).

Joe O'Campo Collection.




LULAC OFFICERS — Shown being installed as officers of the newly formed Corona Council of the League of United Latin American Citizens, which received its charter Saturday night, are left to right, President Ray Delgadillo, Vice President Ray Aparicio, Trustee Anselmo Mejia, Secretary Mrs. Viola Rodriguez, Trustee Tony Ortiz, Treasurer Onias Acevedo, Trustee Mrs. Rudolph Ramos, Chaplain Gilbert Uribe, and Sergeant-at-Arms Mrs. Frances Martinez. In lower photo, Corona 20-30 Club representative Jim Pauly, right, presents Delgadillo an American flag characteristic of the LULAC pledge and purpose. The LULAC, with headquarters in Houston, Tex., is a 29-year-old organization devoted to civic and social improvement. Corona's council is the newest in the nationwide organization and has been mentioned by visiting members as possessing the potential of becoming one of the organization's most powerful and effective groups.—CDI Photos.



CORONA LULAC COUNCIL

Corona LULAC Council was formed in 1956. (*Interview: Alex Maldonado*).

(Clipping no reference)-Joe O'Campo Collection.



LULAC NEWS

Loyalty to Country, Heritage and Traditions

OL. 4—NO. 3 SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA FEBRUARY, 1955

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Official Organ
of the
League of United Latin
American Citizens of
Orange County

CALIFORNIA LULACS MEET IN ANAHEIM

California Lulacs Meet in Anaheim

(Continued from Page One)

Stanton Delegates	Stanton Alternates
Victor Zuniga	Raymond Perez
Naah Garcia	Helen Zuniga, Jr.
Arthur Viramontes	Harold Clyde Bailey
Natividad Rosales, Jr.	Lillian Najera
Stanley Gomez	Ray Lopez
Jim Miranda	Albert Hernandez
Joe Raza	Rudy Rosales
Tony Pinedo	Leonard Rodriguez
Thomas Rocha	Evelyn Rosales
Paul Magdaleno	Trinidad Roman

The following are the Hostess Committee: Evelyn Rosales, chairman; Mary Garcia, Louise Roman.

The following are the Publicity Committee: Henry Mendez, chairman; Albert Hernandez and Virginia Ybarra.

Under the banner of the League of United Latin American Citizens . . . thousands of Americans are observing "TWENTY-SIX YEARS OF AMERICANISM," this week. Made up of American Citizens . . . these groups participate in activities that are recreational, civic, educational, and spiritual. They are instilled with faith in God and country, in family, and in themselves.

During this week, members of LULAC groups have banded together to call attention to the principles for which they stand and the part they are playing in the life of their community and their country. We acknowledge these people as one of the nation's assets. Congratulations to the members of LULAC groups everywhere.

February 13 marks the beginning of NATIONAL LULAC WEEK. LULAC WEEK is being observed by members of the LULAC groups here in California and in many parts of the nation. Thousands of Americans with faith in God, in country, and in themselves are giving their time freely in order that the principles of liberty and justice may not disappear from the face of the earth. Thousands of Americans who learn leadership of the betterment of their community . . . their state . . . and their nation. Members of LULAC have won the admiration and gratitude of their fellow Americans. The services they perform for their communities and their country . . . the principles for which they stand . . . make them citizens of top quality. We send greetings to these people on their anniversary.

The California LULACS are holding their Regional Convention in Anaheim February 19th and 20th. (Full agenda can be found on page 2). Each Council will be represented by 10 delegates and 10 alternates. Members that wish to attend can do so, but will have voice but no vote. Registration fee will be charged to all participants which will be two dollars—this will include the banquet also. The Convention dance tickets will be distributed by the members for which a donation of \$1.25 will be asked. Get your tickets early from any LULAC member so you won't have to stand in line. The following delegates and alternates will attend the Convention as stressed by the chairmen of the Councils from which they are coming:

Placentia Delegates	Placentia Alternates
Rudy Rodriguez	Bruno Rodriguez
Eddie Gonzales	Arthur Ponce
Fred Aguirre	Smiley Vargas
Fred Castillo	Margaret Vargas
Ofelia Rodarte	Jack Gomez
Art Castillo	Ruben Gomez
Leonel Magana	Lucio Gomez
Danny Olivas	Trini Perez
Margaret Felipe	Jenny Sanchez
Esther Felipe	

Aileen Olivas will serve as hostess from the Placentia Council and Danny Olivas will serve as Publicity Chairman from Placentia.

Santa Ana Delegates	Santa Ana Alternates
Joe O'Campo	John Lopez
Beatrice Mendoza	Andy Lima
Ruth G. Cruz	Tony Luna
Ladislao G. Cruz	Luis Ortiz
Margaret Correa	Len Robbins
Lupe Yslada	Ray Gomez
Raul Ortiz	Helen Gomez
Danny Orona	David Romo
Hector Godinez	Simon Sarrinana
Alice Cardona	Dora O'Campo

Helen Gomez and Clara Lara will serve as Hostess from the Santa Ana Council. Margaret Correa and Raul Ortiz will serve as Publicity from Santa Ana Council.

LULAC NEWS Vol. 4 No. 3, February, 1955. (Publication of Orange County).

Joe O'Campo Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



LULAC WOMEN APRIL, 1956

Home of Hector and Mary Godinez for a reception to honor Oscar Laurel,
LULAC National President.

Seated in front left to right are: Josefina Magdaleno, Ruth Rodriguez, Julia Aguirre,
Luisa Roman, Gloria Cruz, Ruth Hernandez and Gloria Campos.

Standing left to right are: Ruth Cruz, Mary Godinez, Mary Garcia, Vickie
Magdaleno, Rosina Mendoza and Dora O'Campo.

(Clipping-Manuel and Vera Marquez Collection).

New District Governor Victor Zuniga Elected

The LULAC Council of District No. 1 (Orange county), held its annual district convention in the small quiet city of Placentia the weekend of May 15, 1955. Delegates from the Councils of La Habra, Stanton, Placentia and Santa Ana were present with all of the regional executives. As honored guests were LULAC's own past National President, Albert Armendariz and his charming wife, Mrs. Albert Armendariz. Also as honored guests were Placentia councilman, Doug Harline. As guest speaker, was Dr. Edward Russell, County Health Officer, who brought to the attention of the assembly the dire need for a therapy pool for the physically handicapped. LULAC wholeheartedly supported the proposed project.

High lights of the convention were resolutions passed to be presented at the National Convention which will be held June 11 and 12. Also on committee reports it went on record that

New District Governor Victor Zuniga Elected

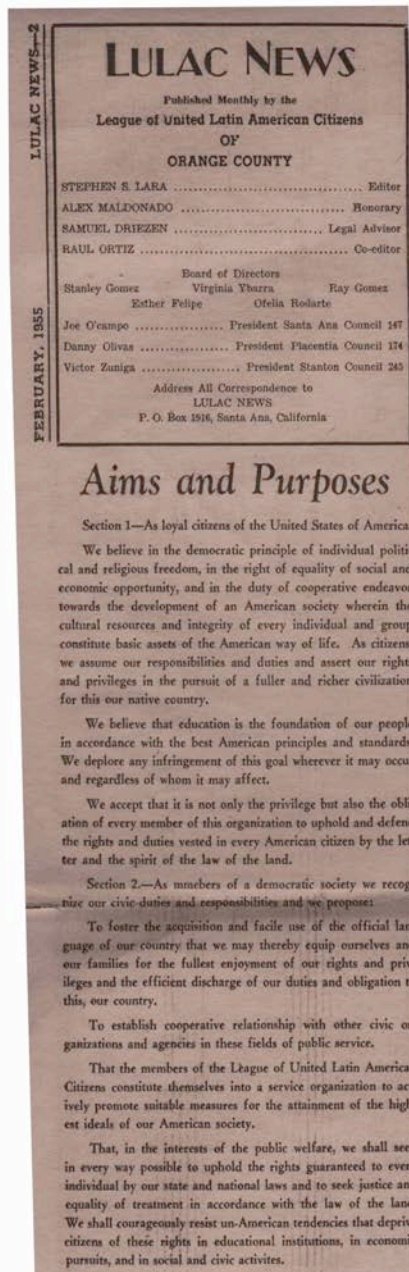
(Continued from Page Two)

LULAC District No. 1 would create an Olympic fund to help send our great athletes to the coming Olympic games. Plans were laid for a LULAC home here in Orange county to be located within the center of Orange county.

The most important event of the convention was the election of District Governor which was really a close race for the nominees. Victor Zuniga of Stanton will replace Alex Maldonado as District Governor of District No. 1 as of June 13, 1955. Complete agreement was reached on the district fathers' box lunch picnic, which is to be held at Irvine Park Sunday, June 19 at 10 a.m., honoring departing and incoming officers.

The convention had first class entertainment which was composed of song and dance by Miss Emma Ortiz, crazy rhythm dance by Richard Garcia and songs by Armando Ortiz. These talented youngsters were accompanied by Mrs. Milan Garcia.

LULAC NEWS Vol. 4 No. 7, June, 1955 (Publication of Orange County).
Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning Collection.



LULAC NEWS Vol. 4, No. 3, 1955. (Publication of Orange County)

Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Sister Mrs. Baltierra, Institution Director

THE SAN DIEGO LULAC BULLETIN *No. 24, 57*
 All for One and One for All DEDICATED to GOD & COUNTRY
 OFFICIAL PUBLICATION of the REGIONAL ORGANIZER, DISTRICT NO. 2.
 VOL. 1. NO. 2 & 3. REGION of CALIFORNIA APRIL & MAY 57.

LULAC ANNUAL NATIONAL CONVENTION
 at DISNEYLAND, Anaheim, CALIFORNIA

League of United Latin American Citizens will hold their National Annual Convention at the DISNEYLAND HOTEL, at Anaheim, California on the 28th, 29th, and 30th of JUNE. The 27th being the Registration day. ALL DELEGATES and ALTERNATES AND OTHER INTERESTED MEMBERS ARE ADVISED TO PREPARE FOR A GREAT AND INTERESTING CONVENTION. PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE PASSIVE MEMBERSHIP RESOLUTION AND AMENDMENT IS TO COME UP BEFORE THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. SEE YOU ALL THERE, I HOPE — Ed.

LULAC REGIONAL CONVENTION
 WAS HELD APRIL 28th, at
 SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA

The California Lulac Regional Convention was held at Santa Ana, California on the 28th of April. Besides regular convention business we had our election for Regional Governor.

We had two hardworking Lulackers as candidates, which were: Former Regional Governor, Honorable Brother Mr. Danny Olivas, Present National Convention Committee Chairman, and the Present District Governor of District No. 1., District Governor, Brother Hector GODINEZ. Brother Mr. Hector Godinez being elected as our new 1957-1958 Regional Governor, which will be installed in JUNE.

CHARTER MEMBERS OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNCIL, LULAC.
 Also Temporary Officers and Appointments.

The following are the original twenty persons whom signed up as CHARTER MEMBERS of the SAN DIEGO COUNCIL, LEAGUE of UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS. And they are as follows: ACTIVE MEMBERS: Charles Gessel, Salvador Roberto Torres, Henry Robinson

C O N T E N T S : ————— PAGE

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LULAC REGIONAL CONVENTION—	1, 7 & 12
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Fullerton Council —	No Report
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Placentia Council —	No Report
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San Ysidro Council —	No Report
Santa Ana Council —	No Report
Stanton Council —	No Report

THE SAN DIEGO LULAC BULLETIN Vol. 1 No. 2 & 3 pg. 1 April & May 1957.
 (Region of California publication).
 Joe O'Campo Collection.

R. Diaz Captains Ysidro Bowlers

Competing in the Nite Owl Handicap in National City, the San Ysidro LULAC's are now enjoying a comfortable position in team competition with other bowling teams in the league, it was reported by Edmundo Perez correspondent for the border city council.

Ray Diaz, high scorer for the team (170) is captain with Tony Lopez, Genaro Velasquez, Ronald Johnson and Perez, all members of Council 252, following him in order with scores of 140 and 150 average.

This is the first team sponsored by any LULAC council and the members of this group are bowlers for the first time. It is reported by Perez that it is hard to be consistent in league standings because of lack of combined practice, but as the season goes on, it will not a gradual increase in the performances of the individuals.

The team bowls every Wednesday night and it is hoped that the club supports them wholeheartedly in the future.

San "Ysi" To Start For LULACer

The Jr. Lulacs of San Ysidro will form the Little Lulacs as their first project. The Little Lulacs will be made of boys and girls ranging from 7 to 12. There were 15 kids who attended the meeting on Aug. 27th. One of the outstanding members of the Jr. Lulacs is Bill Milam Jr. of Palm City. Bill is a trustee of the Jr. Lulacs and is very helpful in everything. Bill has been the first to pay his dues till February of 1956. The Jr. Lulacs hold their meeting every Thursday night at 7:30 p.m. Our meeting place is 188 E. San Ysidro Blvd. Anyone wishing to attend is welcome.

This article shows the San Ysidro Jr. LULAC Council forming Little Lulacs boys and girls ages 7 to 12.
LULAC NEWS Vol. 4 No. 10, September 1955.
(Publication of Orange County)

Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning Collection.

LULAC NEWS Vol. 5 No. 5 pg. 8 June, 1956 (Publication of Orange County).

Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning Collection.

Council 252 Sends Four Boys to Camp

Four boys from the local area will enjoy a summer stay at the Cuyamaca Mts. this summer, reports Edmundo Pérez, spokesman for LULAC council 252 of San Ysidro.

A plan recently adopted by the border city council was that of helping finance four boy scouts to summer camp this coming summer. The plan well carried out by council members under the leadership of Raymond Parra, president of the club reached its' climax at the dance held in the community center last June the 16th.

Music for the occasion was furnished by Larry Flores and a tremendous financial success was reported by the League paper representative.

LULAC NEWS Vol. 5 No. 5 pg. 1 June, 1956. (Publication of Orange County).

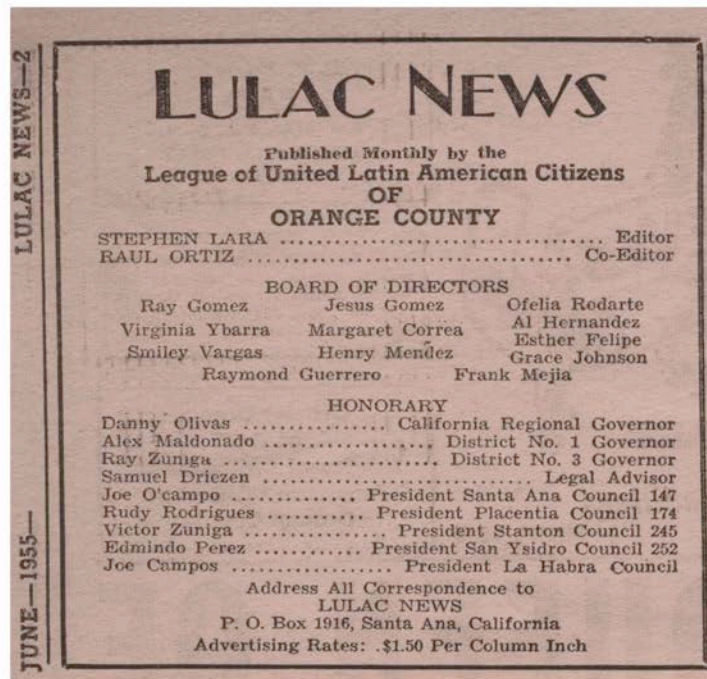
Joe O'Campo Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

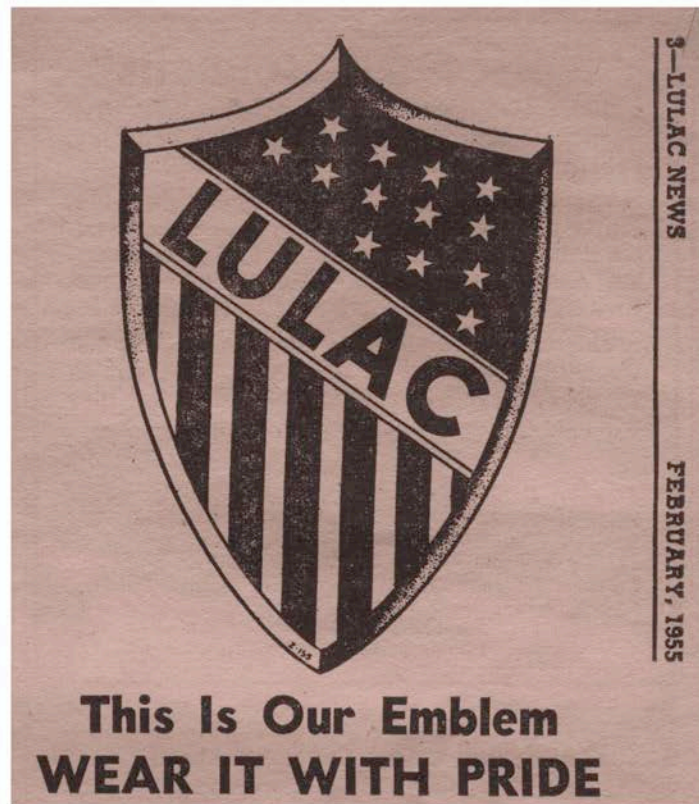


Above **LULAC NEWS** Vol. 4 No. 3 February, 1955 shows the LULAC NEWS LOGO, and printing information for this Orange County publication.

Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning Collection.



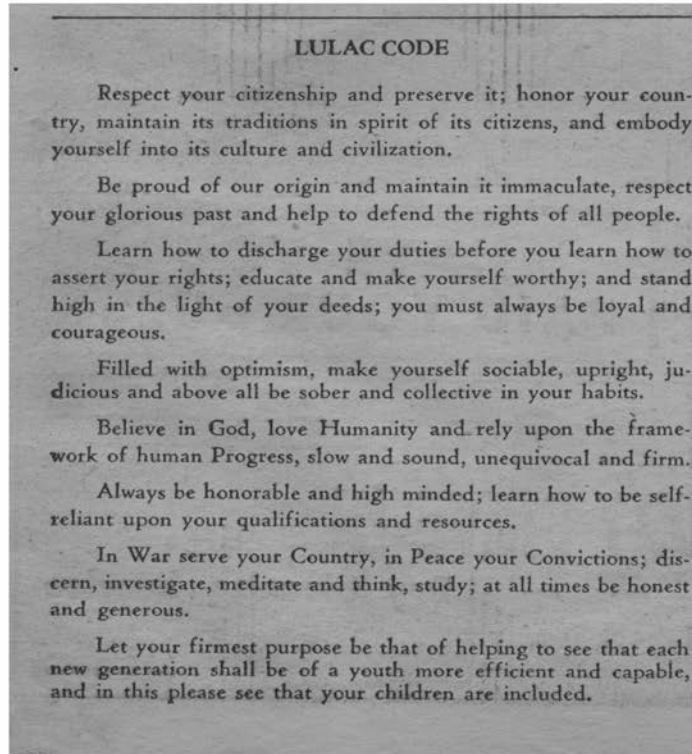
LULAC NEWS Vol. 4 No. 7 pg. 2 June, 1955 (Publication of Orange County).
Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning Collection.



LULAC NEWS Vol. 4. No. 3 pg. 3 February, 1955 (Publication of Orange County).

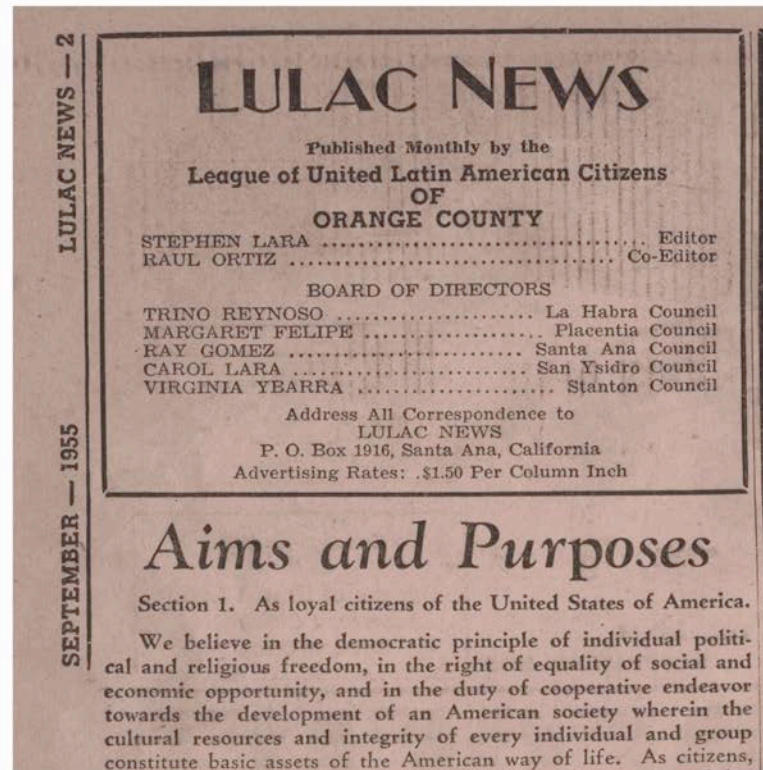
Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning Collection.

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LULAC NEWS Vol. 4, No. 3, February, 1955 (Publication of Orange County).

Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning Collection.



LULAC NEWS Vol. 4, No. 3, September, 1955 (Publication of Orange County).

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Y GROUP SPONSORED BY COUNCIL 147. Standing from left to right is a group of young men recently formed by the YMCA and currently being sponsored by the Santa Ana LULAC council. They are Fidel Reyes, LULAC Advisor; Bob Campos, Joe Alcarey, Boni Hernandez, Albert Murrietta, Raymond Sanchez, Ruben Lujan, Al Villalobos, Rogné Vasquez, Ralph Murrietta, Arthur Hernandez, Danny Valenzuela, and Jack W. Neal, club leader from the local Y. This is the Gra-Y as designated by Mr. Neal. The boys have been active in community drive programs and are currently helping in an effort to start a new group. Under the formidable leadership of Reyes, the aggregation is doing very nicely. More clubs of this type are needed in the Santa Ana area as well as in Orange County. These boys represent the youngsters of the Delhi area.

LULAC NEWS Vol. 5 No. 3 April, 1956 pg 6. (Publication of Orange County).

Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning Collection.

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LULAC NEWS Vol. 4 No. 7 pg. 7 June, 1955 (Publication of Orange County).

Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning Collection.

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Best Wishes to Lulac for a successful Regional Convention

William G. Figueroa
ATTORNEY AT LAW
108 NORTH BRISTOL
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA
KIMBERLY 2-5444

CALIFORNIA
Regional Convention
League of Latin American Citizens

"All for one, one for all"

YOUR HOST
Santa Ana Council No. 147

CARPENTER'S HALL
20795 West First — Santa Ana

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 1957
9:00 A.M.

*In acknowledgement to our LULAC members who
unselfishly gave their time and efforts to make
this Regional Convention a success.*

"Welcome one and all to Santa Ana for the
4th annual State of California Regional Con-
vention. As we look about us we see many
new faces to the ranks of LULAC. It proves
but one thing, that we haven't let up doing the
things we want for our great organization and
in the words of our Past District Governor of
District One, Mr. Hector Godinez, candidate
for the Regional Office, may I quote "A
MAN, WOMAN OR ORGANIZATION,
CANNOT BE CALLED GREAT UNLESS
THEY HAVE BOTH A SOARING AM-
BITION AND THE CAPACITY TO SAT-
ISFY IT". Leaving those words impressed in
your minds, may I say once again Bienvenidos
mis socios.

Joe O' Campo,
Regional Governor of California

∴ Program ∴

9:00 A.M. Registration

9:30 A.M. Convention in session. Honorable Joe O' Campo,
Regional Governor of California presiding.
Elevation of official prayer, Ramon Parra, Presi-
dent San Ysidro Council No. 252. Pledge of
Allegiance to Flag, Fred Ybarra.

9:45 A.M. Welcome Address by City Official

10:00 A.M. Appointment of Resolutions and Amendments
Committee

10:45 A.M. Reports of Councils

Santa Ana Council - - -	Gabe Baltierra
Placentia - - - - -	Freddie Aguirre
Stanton - - - - -	Victor Zuniga
San Ysidro - - - - -	Raymond Parra
La Habra - - - - -	Mike Gomez
Buena Park - - - - -	Jess Martinez
Fullerton - - - - -	Art Viramontes
Orange - - - - -	Jack Perez

11:15 A.M. Introductions of Honored Guests

11:45 A.M. Recess

12:00 Noon Luncheon

1:15 P.M. Resume Business Session

2:30 P.M. Committee Reports

3:30 P.M. Nomination and Election of Regional Governor
Selection of Site for 1958 Convention
Good and Welfare of the League

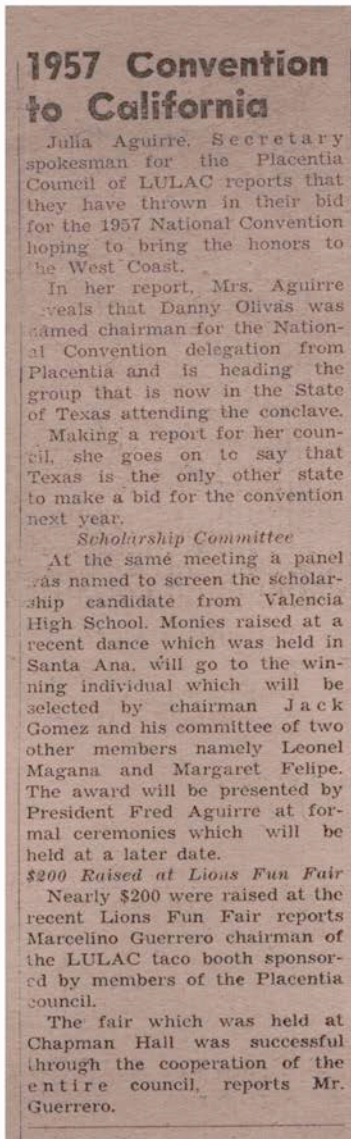
ADJOURNMENT OF BUSINESS

6:00 P.M. Banquet
Guest Speaker—Carl Thornton
Presentation of Awards

8:30 P.M. Dance

12:00 A.M. Good night all, see you next year, let's continue
with our evergrowing progress.

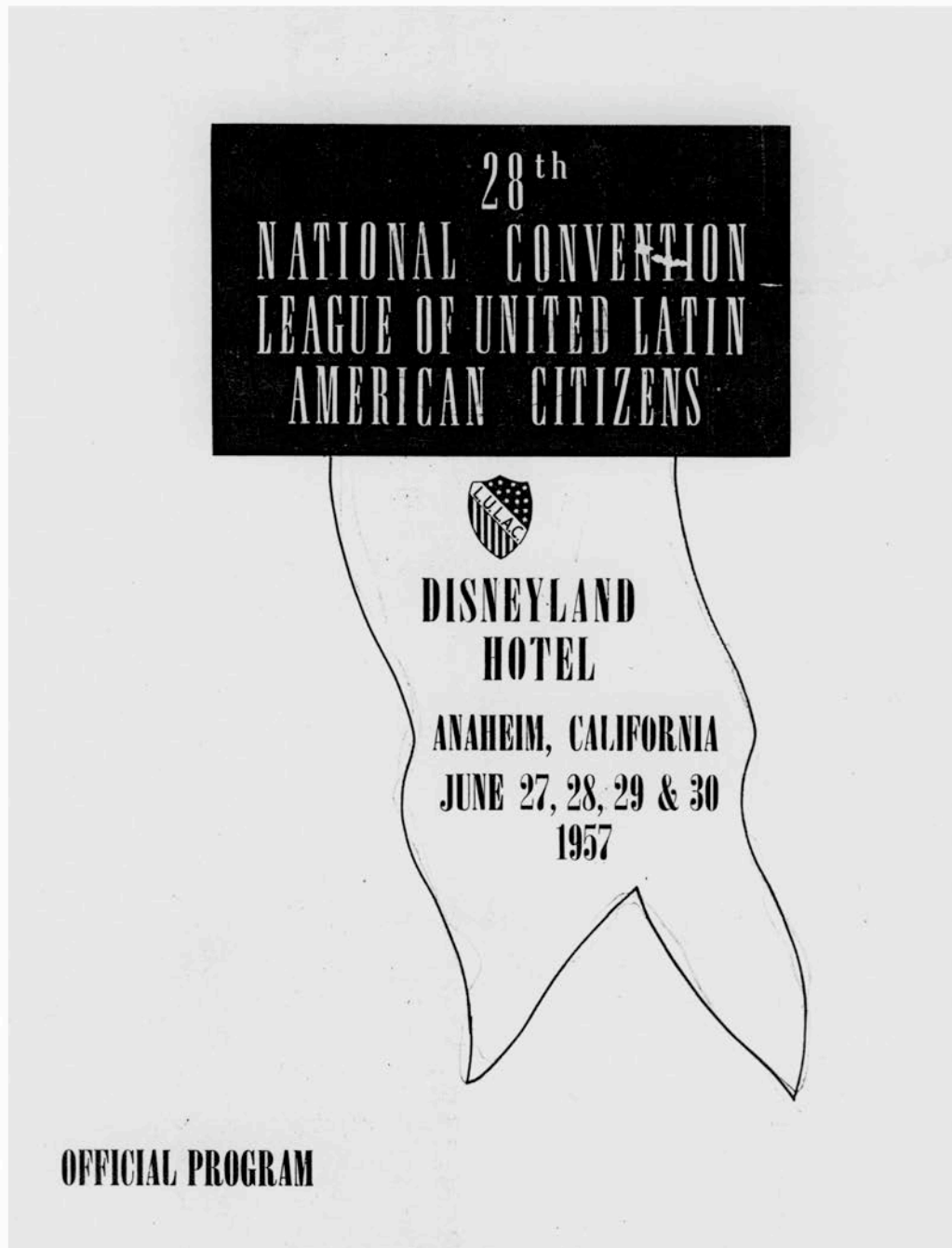
In 1957 district conventions were called regional conventions.
Alex Maldonado Collection.



Placentia LULAC Council No. 174 announces bid for the first National LULAC convention to be held in California in 1957.

LULAC NEWS VOL. 5 No. 5 June, 1956 (Publication of Orange County).

Joe O'Campo Collection.



1957 was the year of the first National Convention in California which was hosted by Placentia Council No. 174.
Alfred V. Aguirre Collection.

*Welcome
28th National
Lulac
Convention*



YOUR CONVENTION COMMITTEE: (L. to R., seated) Blas Marron, Rudy Rodriguez, Aileen Olivas, Danny Olivas, Sara Miranda, Julia Aguirre, Mike Mena; (Standing), Ray Aparicio, Ted Duran, Fred Aguirre, Ray Castillo. (Photo by Ray Pound.)

YOUR HOSTS, The Placentia Council No. 174, welcome delegates to this, the largest LULAC convention in history, and the first to be held in historic Southern California.

WE ARE HONORED to have been selected to host this convention and assure you that everything possible has been done to make this not only a fruitful convention, but an enjoyable stay as well.

IT IS OUR hope that this California convention will not only mark a milestone in the advance of LULAC as an organization, but as an expanding and influential positive force throughout the nation.

DANNY OLIVAS,
Convention Chairman
Placentia LULAC Council No. 174

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

OUR KEYNOTE SPEAKER, the Honorable D. S. Saund, Democratic Congressman for the 29th District of Westmoreland, California, was born in Armitsar, India, attended the University of Punjab there, and took final work at the University of California, Berkeley, receiving a Ph. D. degree in mathematics.

ESTABLISHING A SUCCESSFUL commercial fertilizer business in Westmoreland, Saund helped organize and became the first president of the India Association of America, was elected a Judge of the Justice Court, Westmoreland Judicial District, Imperial County, a position he resigned when elected a member of the 85th Congress in the 1956 elections.

JUDGE SAUND IS A past District Governor, Toastmasters International, District No. 5.

HE IS MARRIED TO THE former Marian Z. Kosa. Their three children are: D. S. Jr., Korean war veteran and former U. S. Army officer, presently enrolled at Cal Tech; Julie (Mrs. Fred H. Fisher), a past president of the UCLA YWCA; and Ellie, an education major at UCLA.



HON. D. S. SAUND



FELIX TIJERINA

YOUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT, Felix Tijerina, is a successful restaurant owner from Houston, Texas, a past Regional LULAC Governor for Texas and has served with distinction this past year as the National LULAC president.

DURING THE PAST YEAR membership rolls have been increased by one third, with new councils added in four states, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, and Wisconsin. A LULAC sponsored program of teaching English to Spanish-speaking children prior to the start of school has been successfully installed in Texas during the past year.

Convention

First Day of Events . . . THURSDAY, June 27, 1957

3:00 P.M. Registration of early convention Officers, Delegates, Alternates and Guests, at Disneyland Hotel Lobby.

8:00 P.M. Reception Dance for LULAC Officers, Delegates, Alternates and Guests. At Gourmet Rooms, A-B-C. Music by the recording orchestra of Marty Espinoza.

Note: The Registration Committee requests that you register as early as possible in order to start the first session Friday morning on time.

Second Day of Events . . . FRIDAY, June 28, 1957

8:00 A.M. National Officers, Regional Governors, breakfast at Poolside room, Gourmet Restaurant.

8:00 A.M. Registration of Officers, Delegates, Alternates, Guests, at Disneyland Hotel Lobby.

9:00 A.M. Opening of business sessions, 1957 National Convention, Honorable Felix Tijerina, National President presiding. Elevation of official LULAC Prayer, Mr. G. C. Martinez, National Chaplain. Pledge of Allegiance, Mrs. Arcenio A. Gonzales, Second National Vice-President.

9:30 A.M. Address of Welcome by the Hon. Charles A. Pearson, Mayor of City of Anaheim, Hon. Raymond Pound, Mayor of City of Placentia.

10:00 A.M. Response by the Honorable Oscar M. Laurel, Immediate Past National President.

10:10 A.M. Roll Call of Officers, Hon. Alfred J. Hernandez, National Secretary.

10:20 A.M. Appointment of Committees, Hon. Felix Tijerina, National President.
Credentials
Rules
Auditing
Resolutions and Amendments
Outstanding LULAC Man-Woman of the Year
Introduction of Guests, Hon. Danny Olivas, Convention Chairman.

10:45 A.M. Adjournment to Conference Rooms, Disneyland Hotel.

11:00 A.M. Presentation and discussion of Resolutions and Amendments.

12:00 Noon Luncheon for all registered officers, delegates, alternates and guests. Those not registered may pay at entrance. Gourmet Rooms A-B-C. Address by the Hon. Edward R. Roybal, Councilman, 9th District, City of Los Angeles.

1:15 P.M. Ladies entertainment, Disneyland Hotel Conference Rooms.

1:20 P.M. Seminar: Government; City, County and State.

2:25 P.M. Seminar: Education.

3:30 P.M. Reports of Regional Governors: Arizona, California, Colorado, Wisconsin.

4:45 P.M. Special programs at Disneyland Amusement Park.

Program

Third Day of Events SATURDAY, June 29, 1957

- 9:00 A.M. Business sessions reconvene. Hon. Felix Tijerina, National President, presiding.
Reports of National Officers
First National Vice-President
Second National Vice-President
National Director of Health
National Director of Youth Activities
National Director of Publicity
National Executive Secretary
National Legal Advisor
Reports of Committees
Auditing.
- 10:45 A.M. Adjournment to Conference Rooms, Disneyland Hotel.
- 11:00 A.M. Discussion on Resolutions and Amendments and voting.
- 12:00 Noon Luncheon for registered officers, delegates, alternates, and guests. Those not registered may pay at entrance.
Gourmet Rooms A-B-C.
Address by Hon. Harvey Beffa, Executive Vice-President and General Manager, Falstaff Brewing Corp., "Key to the Future."
- 1:45 P.M. Presentation of Awards, Honorable Felix Tijerina.
- 3:00 P.M. Juvenile Delinquency.
- 4:00 P.M. Reports of Regional Governors: Illinois, Indiana, Iowa.
- 6:00 P.M. Banquet and Presidential Ball.
Gourmet Rooms A-B-C. Master of Ceremonies, Mauricio Jara, star of motion pictures, TV and stage.
Installation of Regional District Governors.
Presentation of outstanding LULAC Man-Woman of the Year, Hon. Felix Tijerina.
Introduction of Guests, Master of Ceremonies.
Remarks of Keynote Speaker, Hon. Edward R. Roybal.
Introduction of Keynote Speaker, Hon. Richard T. Hanna, Member of Assembly, 75th District.
Keynote Speaker, the Hon. D. S. Saund, Member of the United States Congress.
Floor Show. Presidential Ball.

Fourth Day of Events . . . SUNDAY, June 30, 1957

- 9:00 A.M. Business reconvenes, Hon. Felix Tijerina, National President presiding.
Reports of Committees.
Credentials.
Reports of National Officers.
National Secretary.
National Chaplain.
Reports of Regional Governors.
Texas
- 10:45 A.M. Reports of Resolutions and Amendments and voting on same.
- 11:45 A.M. Adjournment for Lunch.
- 1:00 P.M. Report of National President, Hon. Felix Tijerina.
Report of Rules Committee.
Rules.
Election of National Officers.
Selection of 1958 Convention Site.
Good and Welfare of the League.
- 3:30 P.M. Adjournment of the 1957 28th National Convention.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Fred Aguirre and Mrs. Sara Miranda, Immediate Past President, and President of Placentia Council No. 174, and brother and sister.

PLACENTIA COUNCIL

No. 174

Wishes All Success

for the

28th NATIONAL LULAC

CONVENTION

Your Convention Staff



DANNY OLIVAS
Convention Chairman

DANNY OLIVAS Chairman
AILEEN OLIVAS Secretary
RAY APARICIO Treasurer
ALFRED AGUIRRE Reservations
BLAS MARRON Registration
MIKE MENA Banquet

RUDY RODRIGUEZ Publications
JULIA AGUIRRE Ladies Entertainment
TED DURAN
EDDIE RODRIGUEZ Entertainment
RAY CASTILLO Sergeant-at-Arms
AL PEREZ Transportation

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At Chapman

1957 National LULAC Convention Program, Anaheim, California.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Executive Department State of California

California always has had a close affinity with our Latin American neighbors. There is historic and cultural tradition for this, for to a major extent we share with the nations to the South a common heritage, and, to a great extent, common customs and ideals. While time and events have developed for us new and distinct courses and destinies, warm bonds of mutual understanding and respect continue strong and firm. In no other State is this more true than in California.

The interests of the League of United Latin American Citizens, better known as LULAC, have always been to foster better relations among our citizens of Latin American extraction and Americans of other descents. And LULAC during its 29 years has devoted its efforts to furthering the aims and purposes of the organization through education and comprehensive programs of citizenship responsibility.

It is appropriate, therefore, that the theme "Twenty-nine Years of Progress Through Education" is being promoted during NATIONAL LULAC WEEK, commemorating the fact that this organization has consistently demonstrated a strong dedication to the principles of freedom, justice and human dignity. To assist in this realization, LULAC has fostered worthwhile educational programs and other civic projects to assure the broadest possible foundation for constructive citizenship.

In view of this, and in order that the people of our State may acquire a wider understanding and deeper appreciation of the beneficial contribution being made by the League of United Latin American Citizens to our American Way of Life, I, Goodwin J. Knight, Governor of California, do hereby designate and proclaim the period of February 16 through February 22, 1958, as NATIONAL LULAC WEEK in our State.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 30th day of January, A. D., One Thousand Nine Hundred and Fifty-eight.

Goodwin J. Knight
Governor



Courtesy of Hector R. Godinez.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



ANAHEIM COUNCIL No. 316

INSTALLATION and DINNER DANCE

Saturday, January 18, 1958
6:00 P.M.

Carpenters Hall
608 West Vermont
Anaheim, California

PROGRAM

Banquet 6:30 P.M.
Ceremony 7:15 P.M.
Official Prayer of the League Jack Gomez
Flag Salute Victor Zuniga, Mayor of Stanton
Initiation { Joe O'Campo, National Vice-President
Hector Godinez, Regional Governor
Nash Garcia, District Governor
Iola Gallardo, District Secretary
Installation Nash Garcia, District Governor
Welcome Tony Schmidt
President of Anaheim Council No. 316
Master of Ceremonies Joe O'Campo
Introduction of Guests
Presentations
Gavel Fullerton Council No. 278
Flag Santa Ana Council No. 147
Speaker Paul W. Cook, Superintendent of Schools

ENTERTAINMENT

Entertainment Master of Ceremonies Ted Duran
Latin Songs Trio "Los Angeles"
Baton Twirlers Stevie and Linda
Duet "Las Dumas"
"Canciones Rancheras" Virginia Ibarra
Acknowledgements Tony Schmidt

Dance—9:00 P.M. to 1:00 A.M.
Featuring Art Castillo and his Orchestra

Committees

Banquet Coordinator Daniel Barragan
Festivities Joe Mora
Decorations Angie Schmidt
Reception and Publicity Felipe Mendez
Official Photographer Amador Acosta
New Membership Cruz F. Sandoval

Anaheim Council No. 316 Program
Courtesy of Hector R. Godinez.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

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LULAC

"League of United Latin American Citizens" (LULAC) is the official name of this organization. Its motto: "All For One and One For All."

Founded in the State of Texas, in 1929, the league has attained national prominence and has expanded throughout southwestern and central United States, with the Anaheim Council as the latest group being chartered. The tremendous growth experienced by this organization is largely due to the outstanding principles embodied in its constitution.

As loyal citizens of the United States of America, the members of the league believe in the democratic principles of individual political and religious freedom and in the right of equality of social and economic opportunity. Each member heartily assumes his obligation of upholding and defending the rights and duties vested in every American citizen by the letter and spirit of the law of the land.

The LULAC member:

- Respects his citizenship and preserves it, honors his country and embodies himself into its culture.
- Is proud of his origin, maintains it immaculate, respects his glorious past and helps defend the rights of all people; educates himself and makes himself worthy.
- Makes himself sociable, upright, judicious, cautious in his speech and actions.
- Believes in God, loves Humanity.
- Is honorable and highminded.
- In war serves his country, in peace his convictions; discerns, investigates, meditates and thinks, studies, and at all times is honest and generous. His firmest purpose is to help each new generation be a more efficient and capable one.

Anaheim Council No. 316 Program (continued).

Courtesy of Hector R. Godinez.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



WOMEN IN LULAC

Top photo: (Left to right) Vera Marquez, Alicia Corral, Sally Martinez, Anita Del Rio (no date).
Bottom photo: (Left to right) Iola Gallardo and Anita Del Rio (no date). Photos courtesy of Vera Marquez.



LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Photo: Jess Araujo Esq. Emcee, and honorees of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 in 1996 at 50th Anniversary program "Que Viva LULAC!" held in the City of Fullerton, Plummer Auditorium. In photo (left to right) after Emcee Jess Araujo, two unidentified, Carol Vargas, one unidentified, John Palacio, Jay Portillo, Viola Myer, Jess Saenz, Nellie Saenz hidden behind Zeke Hernandez, Art Montez, National President Belen Robles, Manuel Esqueda speaking using microphone and at end Gilbert Flores, Orange County LULAC District 1 Director.

Photo: courtesy of Margie Aguirre Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



LULAC PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Photo: (right to left) Belen Robles, LULAC National President, (1994 -four terms) and past national LULAC presidents: Ed Morga, (1977) Mario Obledo (1983 two terms) and Hector Godinez (1960).

“Que Viva LULAC” program in celebration of 50th Anniversary of LULAC in Orange County California LULAC Council No. 147, 1946-1996. Program held in Plummer Auditorium, City of Fullerton.

Photo: Courtesy of Margie Aguirre Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Top photo: (center holding microphone) Vera Marquez, California LULAC State Director, and honorees Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147 50th Anniversary 1946-1996. Last three to the right as honored guests: past national presidents Ed Morga, Mario Obledo, and at end Hector Godinez. (Left to right: unknown, John Palacio, Jay Portillo, Viola Myre, Jess Saenz, Nellie Saenz, Art Montez, Vera Marquez, and Zeke Hernandez. "Que Viva LULAC!" program, Plummer Auditorium, Fullerton, September 27, 1996. Bottom photo: (left to right) District 1 Committee of "Que Viva LULAC!" Art Montez, President Santa Ana Council No.147, Jess Saenz, Deputy District Director for Youth, Zeke Hernandez, past California State Director, Gilbert Flores, Orange County District 1 Director, Susie Mendoza (Flores), Deputy District 1 Director, Margie de la Torre Aguirre, Deputy District 1 Director for Women and Cory A. Aguirre, Esq. California LULAC Legal Counsel and President of Placentia LULAC Council No. 174. Photos: courtesy of Margie Aguirre Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



LULAC PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Patriots with civil rights who served LULAC for more than fifty years.
Left to right: Jack Perez, Alfred Aguirre, Ralph Perez, Manuel Marquez,
Vera Marquez, Nellie Saenz, and Jess Saenz in April, 2000 as honorees at
District 1 Banquet held by District 1 Director Benny Diaz.

Margie Aguirre photo.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS
PAST CALIFORNIA LULAC STATE DIRECTORS


Left to right: Pete Villa, Manuel Vasquez, Joe Velez, Jess Vela, Frank Galaz, Frank Montoya, Ed Morga, Anita Del Rio, Hector Godinez, Larry Luera, Ray Perez, Mel Jurado, José Pacheco, and Ray Villa. There are many more since this picture was taken circa mid-1980's.

Photo: courtesy of Manuel Marquez.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

**California LULAC
Young Hispanic Academic
Achievement Awards
1991**

Rosario O. Argueta	UC Davis	Physiology
Rosa M. Camacho	UC Davis	Economics
Zayda L. Garcia	Glendale Coll.	Business
Oscar Gonzalez	Cornell Univ.	Industrial Labor Relations
Carmelita Gutierrez	UC Riverside	Environmental Engineering
Melanie L. Jurado	CSUF	Psychology
Erica Lubliner	UCLA	Psychology
Sharon Martinez	Southwestern Univ.	Law
Felicia de la Rocha	UCLA	Kinesiology
Gustavo M. Sanchez	USC	Pre-Med.
Ana I. Sandoval	UCLA	Civil Engineering



**League of United Latin American Citizens
California Educational Foundation**

**FIRST ANNUAL
YOUNG HISPANIC ACADEMIC
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

AUGUST 31, 1991

SEQUOIA ATHLETIC CLUB
Beach & Orangethorpe
Buena Park, California

SOCIAL HOUR: 6:30 P.M. **BANQUET: 7:30 P.M.**
Mariachi Entertainment
Fashion Show By La Linda

Logo by Lynn Veronica Bustos.

Patriots with civil rights Manuel and Vera Marquez served LULAC for many years and this California LULAC Education Foundation is a fruit of their labor.

Charter members of California LULAC Educational Foundation Board of Directors:

Manuel R. Marquez, Chairman and Founder, U.S. Postal Service, California State Director, Stanton Council No. 245.

Vera Marquez Director, Vice-President and Foundation Scholarship Chairperson, Stanton Council No. 245.

Frank Lopez, Director-Treasurer, Capital Charters Acquisitons Inc.

Manuel Frias, Director Coastinline College, North Orange County Council No. 2855.

Anita Del Rio, Ph.D. Director, California Past State Director, Irvine Council No. 2064. (Educator).

Frank Galaz, Director, U.S. Department of Labor, California Past State Director, North Orange County Council No. 2855.

Susie Mendoza, Director, Past LULAC State Secretary, Orange County Council No. 2841.

Manuel and Vera Marquez Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Annual State Ball and Recognition Awards
Saturday, October 14, 1989.
Inn at the Park, Anaheim, California.



Top photo (left to right): Sally Martinez, LULAC Vice President for Women, Honoree Elva Donnell (Boeing) also a LULAC member, and LULAC leaders Manuel Marquez, State Director, and Anita Del Rio, Ph.D., National Vice President for Far West. Bottom photo (left to right): LULAC leader Vera Marquez, Honoree Judge Frances Muñoz, and LULAC leader Anita Del Rio Ph.D, National LULAC Vice President for Far West.



Hector M. Flores
LULAC PATRIOT WITH CIVIL RIGHTS
addressing NALIP, National Association of Latino Independent Producers,
Austin, Texas, November, 2002 as National LULAC President.

LULAC celebrated its 75th Anniversary in 2004
under the administration of LULAC President Hector M. Flores.
Photo taken by Margie Aguirre.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



LULAC NATIONAL BOARD MEETING IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
HECTOR FLORES, LULAC PRESIDENT
SPRING, 2004

Photo taken by Cory Aguirre after presentation made by author Margie Aguirre—shown holding preliminary report of LULAC project.

In photo (seated left to right):

Theresa Filberth, National LULAC Secretary.

Vera Marquez, National LULAC Vice President for Women.

Rosa Rosales, National LULAC Vice President for the Southwest.

Hector Flores, LULAC President.

Margie Aguirre, Author.

Blanca Vargas, National LULAC Vice President for the Midwest.

Laura Medrano, National Vice President for the Northeast.

In photo (standing left to right):

Adrian Rodriguez, LULAC National Parliamentarian.

Manuel Olguin, National Youth President.

Dr. John Garcia, National LULAC Vice President for Young Adults.

Ray Velarde Esq., LULAC National Counsel.

David Rodriguez, LULAC National Vice President for the Farwest.

Fernando Escabi, National Vice President for Youth.

Desi Pesina, LULAC National Vice President for the Elderly.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



California LULAC State Board Meeting
Saturday, November 16, 2002
Embassy Suites, Buena Park Hotel
Buena Park, California.

California LULAC State Director Mickie Luna presides over meeting as Margie Aguirre, Chair of California LULAC Heritage Committee presents a preliminary report LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTSWITH CIVIL RIGHTS to the California State Board. In photo: Margie Aguirre standing, then to her left sitting in front of banner is State Treasurer Ed Delgado, State Secretary Ruth Hermosillo and State Director Mickie Luna, then District Director David Rodriguez, and District 1 Director Rose Jurado and unknown. Sitting to Margie's right not facing camera is Deputy State Director for Seniors Mel Risher, State Youth President Leslie Vega, and Deputy State Director for Young Adults Michael Perez, and District Director Rosemarie Lopez.

Project report was accepted by motion made by Rosemarie Lopez that called for special funding.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



LULAC honors research work by Margie Aguirre, LULAC Woman of the Year at state convention under Mickie Luna in 2003.

Celebrating and pictured left to right:

- (1) Cory A. Aguirre Esq., California LULAC Legal Counselor;
- (2) Angel Luevano, California Deputy State Director;
- (3) Margie Aguirre, *California LULAC Woman of the Year* and first recipient of *LULAC PROJECT PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS AWARD, 2003*;
- (4) David Cruz, Emcee California LULAC State Convention Dinner, NBC;
- (5) Mrs. Argentina Luevano, also a California LULAC officer.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Ignacio L. López
PATRIOT WITH CIVIL RIGHTS
Editor and Publisher of
El Espectador and friend of LULAC
5 de Mayo 1945
San Bernardino, CA.

Photos courtesy of Leonor V. López.

In earlier years reviewing his publication.



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Bajo igualdad de circunstancias,
patrocine a nuestros anunciantes



HONREMOS LA PATRIA
Viviendo con dignidad y asumiendo nuestros deberes diarios

VOL. XII

IGNACIO L. LOPEZ, Publisher

VIERNES 15 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 1948

829 N. White Ave.—Pomona

NUMERO 42

MEJORARAN EL CAMPO RECREATIVO **El Caso De Segregacion En Orange County Toma**

Los Kiwanis Usaran \$1800 a

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N. White Ave.—Pomona

NUMERO 42

El Caso De Segregacion En Orange County Toma Proporciones Nacionales

Seis Admiten Culpabilidad De Estrupo

SAN BERNARDINO — Acusados de estrupo como consecuencia de sus actos criminales perpetrados en la persona de dos jovencitas de Ontario la noche del 27 de julio pasado, seis de los once acusados se dieron culpables en la Corte Superior de esta ciudad el jueves pasado, según informó la oficina del procurador del Condado. Tres más de los acusados serán juzgados en la Corte Superior el lunes entrante, y el juicio de los que se declararon no culpables ha sido fijado para el 12 de diciembre.

Los juzgados el jueves fueron: David Márquez, 15, Nicolas Esparza, 15, Ruben Carrasco, 16, Daniel Camacho, 15, Rudy Carrasco, 16, y Leonardo Bracamonte, 15.

Juan Cabrera y Pedro Rivas, quienes dicen no tener culpa, comparecerán el 12 de diciembre, y José López, Efrén Ojeda y Marcelo Pérez serán juzgados el lunes entrante.

Las Padilla en San Bernardino

SAN BERNARDINO.—Las populares y famosas cancioneras mexicanas "Las Herránas Padilla" harán su debut en San Bernardino el Jueves 28 en el

La Apelacion Fue Cambiada A la Corte de San Francisco

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — La segregación o no segregación de los niños de origen mexicano que asisten a las escuelas públicas es de tal trascendencia en la jurisprudencia nacional, que el martes pasado tres jueces de la Corte Federal de Apelación del Quinto Distrito se negaron a dictar un fallo ante la apelación elevada por los distritos escolares de El Modena, Garden Grove, Santa Ana y Westminster, contra la orden dictada por el Juez McCormick en favor de los padres y niños mexicanos.

Los Jueces Sterns, Mathews y Orr al escusarse por no rendir una decisión aseveraron que preferirían que los nueve jueces de la Corte de Apelación del Quinto Distrito se reunieran en audiencia, para que juntos estudiaran el caso, pues cualesquiera que fuese su decisión afectaría a millares de niños, no solamente de origen mexicano, sino también de otros orígenes étnicos y razas por toda la nación.

Se Ventila En San Francisco

Por unanimidad los tres jueces federales transfirieron el caso hasta principios de diciembre, 'a más tardar el 12 de ese mes,' cuando se reuniran en San Francisco para llegar a un acuerdo legal.

El licenciado David Marcus, quien desde el principio de la lucha de los padres mexicanos ha estado representando nuestros intereses, nuevamente hizo una magnífica presentación de los principios básicos que impelman a los padres mexicanos al demandar igualdad de derechos en las escuelas públicas.

Además del alegato jurídico del Abogado Marcus, se nos informó (Pesa a la página 5)

El Premio Nobel Fue Concedido a Seis Americanos

ESTOCOLMO.—Los premios Nobel de Paz, Física y Química, correspondientes a 1948, fueron concedidos hoy a seis americanos, entre los que se encuentra un anciano de 81 años y una señora de 79.

El premio de la Paz fue otorgado conjuntamente al Dr. John R. Mott, de la YMCA (de 81 años de edad), y a la profesora Emily Greene Balch, (de 79 años.) El Prof. Percy Williams Bridgman, de la Universidad de Harvard, ganó el premio de Física.

El Prof. Wendell M. Stanley, bioquímico del Instituto Rockefeller, obtuvo el premio de Química, conjuntamente con el Prof. James Batcheller Sumner y el Prof. John Howard Northrop.

El valor de cada premio monta a la suma de 121,000 kroners que en moneda americana resultan... \$34,700.

Courtesy of Leonor V. López.

El Caso de Segregación

(Viene de la Página 1)

forma que varias otras organizaciones nacionales han sumado sus resúmenes legales en favor de los mexicanos. Entre estas organizaciones que respaldan con sus expedientes el fallo del Juez McCormick se encuentran, el Jewish Council, el National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, el Civil Rights League, y ultimamente el Licenciado Robert W. Kenny, Procurador General de Justicia del Estado de California también presentó un expediente en acuerdo con la decisión McCormick.

Esperan Asistir Al Caso

De la ciudad de Santa Ana nos informa el señor Manuel Veiga, presidente del Concilio 147 de los Lulacs, que varios de los miembros de esa organización esperan sufragar sus propios gastos para estar presentes en San Francisco cuando se ventile el juicio. Además de Veiga, irán a San Francisco Isidoro González, Cruz Barrios, Alex Liébanos, Hector Tarango y otros.

Para ayudar con los gastos de corte y abogado, los miembros del Concilio 147 tendrán una fiesta artística el viernes 22 de los corrientes en el salón de ac-

tos de la Escuela Superior de Santa Ana. Elisa García López, artista de cine y teatro, presentará una revista teatral intitulada,—"Mexico en Fantasía."

Nov. 15 de 1946 — Página 5

El público del Valle de Pomona y San Bernardino está invitado.

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IGNACIO L. LOPEZ, Publisher

VIERNES 23 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 1945

809 N. White Ave.—Pomona

NUMERO 44

VOL. XII

IGNACIO L. LOPEZ, Publisher

VIERNES

En Corte Superior Ventilaran Juicio

En San Francisco Se Oira Apelacion Antisegregatoria

El segundo escalón en su contienda por obtener igualdad de trato en las escuelas públicas de California será dado el día nueve de diciembre en la Corte Federal de Apelaciones del Novena Distrito en la ciudad de San Francisco, donde los padres de origen mexicano de Condado de Orange oiran la decisión de los jueces federales a la apelación de las autoridades escolares contra el dictamen del Juez McCormick.

El fallo del juez federal McCormick fué dictado el 18 de febrero pasado, después de que los padres mexicanos de varias comunidades del Condado de Orange presentaron una queja por medio del abogado David C. Marcus, en que protestaban contra la segregación de sus hijos en las escuelas públicas del condado. Al rendir sus fallos en favor de los maestros el Juez Paul L. McCormick dijo que se basaba en el Artículo catorce de la Constitución, el cual garantiza igualdad social a todos los ciudadanos del país.

SOL Y SOMBRA Por ENO

Eno y los Cuatro

Esperamos que esta discusión sea la más corta de la discusión de mesa redonda que se hallan celebrado.

Tema: SITUACION DE LOS 4.
Identificación de los 4 lectores: David Lohanado, Micaela Ciriaco, Iggie Inclan y don Leonardo.
Moderador de la discusión — ENO.

David:— Bueno, ¿qué es lo que se va a decidir de la suer te de nosotros?— En años pasados, en nuestro periódico, hicimos esfuerzos y ayudamos para comprar "piernas" artificiales a varios compatriotas— y ahora sería de justicia que a nosotros se nos tratara con la dignidad a que somos acreedores.

Micaela:— Hermano David, hablas de dignidad como los hombres hablan de felicidad— Y parece que se utiliza el preciso tiempo tratando de conseguir la dignidad y la felicidad. Ego, hermano, a mi entender se conquista ni se recibe de nadie. Ego son atributos que poseemos o no poseemos. Lo demás "tudo" soñando. Creo que nosotros no debemos perder mucho tiempo pensando en lo que va a pasar sino que debiéramos preocuparnos con ENO o sin él, continuar teóricamente la lucha contra la discriminación, educando a los que discriminan y educando a los discriminados.

ENO:— En la primera parte de la discusión David apela a los actos registrados en el pasado para sostener su petición de mejor trato mientras que Micaela niega y explota la teoría de la dignidad y la felicidad, alegando que el individuo, como dijo Shakespeare, ES o no ES. Tiene la palabra ahora en la segunda parte de la discusión, Iggie.

Habla Iggie:— ENO, Usted es un imbécil. (Eno palidece y el orador no articula otra palabra).

Don Leonardo toma la palabra.

Don Leonardo:— Señores, hace muchos años que "El Sol" ha estado establecido. Primeramente creo que fueron los del periódico diario en inglés los que le publicaban utilizando los servicios de un Señor Itala; luego durmió unos cuantos años y ENO empezó a publicarlo con la ayuda del hoy locutor de radio, Santos.

(Pase a la página 1)

Continúan Discriminación

Las autoridades escolares del Condado de Orange apelaron la decisión del juez federal y a la vez han continuado segregando a los alumnos de origen mexicano, valiéndose de estratagemas para salir con su capricho.

En septiembre de este año los padres mexicanos nuevamente citaron a corte a los funcionarios escolares, alegando que estos estaban infringiendo la orden del Juez McCormick al forzar a sus hijos a asistir a diferentes centros de estudio, si no en planteles segregados. Este juicio fue postergado hasta esperar la decisión del alegato de apelación hecha por los autoridades escolares.

Apoyan la Justicia

Al abrir sus sesiones el lunes 12 de diciembre en San Francisco la Corte de Apelaciones tendrá que contestar no solamente la apelación de los licenciados Joe E. Orte y George Holden quienes representan a los distritos escolares de Westminster, El Monte y Garden Grove y Santa Ana, sino también a los resúmenes legales en favor de los padres e hijos de ascendencia mexicana presentados por la American Civil Liberties Union, the American Jewish Congress, the National Assn. for the Advancement of Colored People y el Procurador de Justicia de California, Robert Kenny.

Este caso que afecta no solamente a los niños de extracción mexicana, sino también a muchos otros alumnos de otros orígenes y razas, ha causado interés nacional y se espera con ansiedad la decisión de los jueces federales.

Interés Nacional

De varias partes del estado se espera que asistan personas interesadas en los resultados de San Francisco, y se teme que sea necesario llevar el caso a la Corte Suprema de la Nación antes de obtener un fallo final. Esta publicación espera tener presente un representante cuando se ventile el juicio, y hemos sido informados que varios líderes cívicos de Santa Ana también concurrirán a escuchar el resultado.

Nueva York Investigara El Pugilato

NUEVA YORK.— La Asociación de Cronistas de Box de Nueva York acordó designar una comisión investigadora de las irregularidades que se cometen en este deporte a fin de eliminarlas.

La Comisión atendida dedicará atención especial a las cuestiones relacionadas con la conducta de los segundos, las condiciones sanitarias de los gimnasios de entrenamiento y la violación de las reglas en el ring.

El ex-pelador de peso completo Lou Nova felicitó inmediatamente a los cronistas por su iniciativa y les sugirió recomendar a la Comisión de Box que ordene la manufactura de los guantes en cierta forma que no permita que los boxeadores extiendan el pulgar al perforar sus aros.

Nova manifestó que centenares de píjulas han cegado de uno a ambos ojos en los últimos 10 años debido al hecho mencionado y que personalmente está satisfecho de poder ver hoy en día, ya que Tony Galento puso en juego el trazo en la espectacular pelea que sostuvieron en Filadelfia.

Agregó que muchos managers y entrenadores seducen a sus pupilos que pelean con el pugilato extendido, cuando se trata de ganar alguna peca a cualquier precio.

Pasan Resol Contra El D

FLUSHING, N. Y. Noviembre 1945.— La Asamblea de las Naciones Unidas, sesión de Egipto.

En círculos autorizados se considera este paso de las Naciones Unidas como una garantía para el futuro de las minorías en diversos países, y en los Estados Unidos especialmente, para el futuro de judíos, negros y mexicanos, los cuales, como se ha comprobado, sufren persecuciones en algunos de los Estados que forman la Unión Norteamericana.

La proposición, adoptada y solo pendiente de reglamentación dice así:

"La Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas declara que es del más alto interés de la humanidad, al poner en inmediata 'hasta aquí' a las persecuciones religiosas y a la persecución y prejuicio llamados racismo, y pide a los gobiernos y autoridades responsables, normarse tanto por la letra como por el espíritu de la carta de las Naciones Unidas, dando los más pronto y energéticos pasos al efecto."

El delegado soviético IA ndre Vishinsky, en un voto afirmativo en la proposición, manifestó que la encontraba "democrática y justa" y añadió al hacer

Courtesy of Leonor V. López.



Drew Pearson Comenta Sobre La Discriminacion

Hablo de los Litigios Federales De la Alberca y las Escuelas

SAN BERNARDINO.—El renombrado y mundialmente conocido columnista del sindicato Bell, Drew Pearson, autor de la columna Washington Merry-Go-Round, hablando sobre la discriminación en California el domingo pasado refirió el caso que el Comité de Defensa Mexicoamericana instituyó victoriosamente sobre la ciudad de San Bernardino, en la siguiente forma:

California Discrimination

San Francisco's Judge William Denman of the U. S. circuit court of appeals, is one who believes in seeing judicial opinions enforced. He has written a letter to Gov. Earl Warren of California, lighting a firecracker under the governor's chair regarding racial discrimination.

Denman's circuit court of appeals recently handed down a sweeping decision banning segregation of Mexican children in California schools. In addition, San Bernardino had even barred a Catholic priest of Mexican ancestry plus two editors of Latin origin from using the city's public park.

This discrimination was finally threshed out in the U. S. courts in a suit against the mayor of San Bernardino—who lost. Citizens of Latin descent can now use the public works.

(Editor's note: This refers to the Perris bill plunge case. Persons of Mexican origin had been barred from the plunge, the federal court ordered the city to cease such a prohibition and the order has been obeyed.)

Judge Denman, citing these decisions, wrote Governor Warren, pointing out that it was up to the state of California to enforce the laws. Otherwise, such a distinguished Californian as the American ambassador to Indian, Mrs. Lucretia Del Valle Grady, descended from a Mexican national, would have been excluded from the San Bernardino park; together with the ambassadors of 20 Latin American republics—despite the fact that we have been welcoming the president of Mexico and preaching the good-neighborhood.

(Pasa a la Página 2)

Aleman Pensiono A Una Viuda

MEXICO, D. F.—El licenciado Miguel Alemán Valdés, Presidente de la República Mexicana, concedió en New York, a una viuda norteamericana, una pensión que le baste para su sostenimiento y educar a sus pequeños, como un acto de agradecimiento de nuestra patria a un acto heroico con que se intentó salvar la vida de un mexicano.

Ocurrió que el 7 de junio de 1945, el bracero mexicano Estanislao Avila se cayó sobre los rieles del ferrocarril subterráneo y John Walsh, veterano de la Primera Guerra Mundial, intentó salvarle la vida apartándolo del peligro, pero ambos perdieron la vida.

Walsh dejó a su viuda con cinco hijos, dos de los cuales se hallaban en servicio activo en los momentos de ocurrir su muerte, con muy escasos recursos.

En reconocimiento al heroico acto de Walsh, el Presidente Alemán acordó que el Gobierno de México pase una pensión a la viuda, destinada a la educación de sus hijos pequeños.

Ola Turistica A Mexico

MEXICO—Durante los meses de febrero y marzo, la corriente turística norteamericana hacia México fué de importancia. Para los tres meses proximos se espera la llegada de grupos más o menos numerosos y de un crecido turismo individual.

Courtesy of Leonor V. López.

Drew Pearson Comenta Sobre La Discriminacion

(Viene de la página 1)

bor doctrine.

Vigilance of Embassies

"Everyone who has any knowledge of the vigilance of the Latin American embassies in Washington," Judge Denman wrote Governor Warren, "knows that within a month every ambassador will have been informed of the Westminster and Lopez (school and park segregation) cases. So, too, will they be known to the astute Secretary Vaviloff, now at the Russian embassy in Washington, and formerly consul general in San Francisco."

Governor Warren, heartily agreeing with Judge Denman, has written to Senator Herbert W. Slater, chairman of the California senate committee on education, urging the end of racial discrimination.

"I personally do not see how we can carry out the spirit of the United Nations," said Governor Warren. "If we deny fundamental rights to our Latin American neighbors."

Triunfo de la Razón

No está demás que nosotros digamos hoy que el importantísimo caso, en donde se puso en juego la dignidad de miles y miles de personas, culminó en el triunfo de la razón sobre la persecución indigna y desastrosa trayendo ese triunfo una orden con carácter permanente de la Corte de los Estados Unidos en la ciudad de Los Angeles; y estableciendo un precedente en los anales de la jurisprudencia en este país.

Los directores de periódicos a que refiere el "tio vivo" de Washington son Eugenio Noguera, director de "El Sol" de S. B. y el señor Ignacio López, director de "El Espectador" de Pomona. El cura aludido es el querido y popular Reverendo J. R. Nuñez, de la Iglesia de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe en esta ciudad. Los tres formaron parte del Comité de defensa Mexicoamericana que fué presidido por el referido señor Noguera.

Nos hacemos eco de este importante escrito porque la columna de Pearson tiene circulación continental y sus opiniones son en la mayoría de las voces moti-

Palomares Takes Wilson, 7 to 1

LA VERNE—Playing heads-up ball and gathering a total of 25 basehits, in addition to 15 walks, the Palomares lightweight softball team coasted to an easy victory over the Norton School for Boys, from Claremont, to win the undisputed championship of the newly formed Foothill Lightweight League, by the score of 31 to 8.

In addition to their lusty clouting the Palomares team pulled their first tripleplay of the season in the second inning. With the bases loaded in the second inning, Amador Castro forced the next batter to ground back to him. Castro then forced a runner at home and Jesus Martinez, catcher, threw to Raymond Gaeta at first to catch the hitter for the second out. Gaeta, playing a wide-awake game, then threw to Sammy Beltran, at third, and trapped the runner off the bag for the final out.

The Palomares' sluggers were led by Freddy Castro, centerfielder, with a triple, three doubles and a single in five trips to the platter. Gaeta and Beltran also poled out triples while Amador Castro, Tony Escoto and Jesus Martinez doubled once. Raul Gomez and Joe Arumbula collected two doubles apiece.

Amador Castro pitched the first four innings for Palomares and set the Norton men down with two hits, one walk and no runs while striking out one batter. Ismael Ascencio, who finished out the game, allowed five hits but two of them were home runs by Straiger and Steagerwald while two others were dou-

bles.

vos de interés nacional trascendental. Su gran labor al exponer recientemente a la organización secreta Ku Klux Klan le ha valido millones de amigos y citaciones honorables de organizaciones de prestigio en la nación.

Courtesy of Leonor V. López.



PHONE 185-12

NUMERO 22

Eliminan Escuelas Segregatorias

El Gob. Earl Warren Firmo La Nueva Ley el Lunes

SACRAMENTO — El lunes pasado el Gobernador Earl E. Warren firmó la nueva ley de California eliminando las planteles docentes segregados. Este estatuto elimina en este Estado la ley que permitía que se mantuvieran en California escuelas especiales para indios, chinos, japoneses y miembros

La Convocatoria De la Honorifica Sera el Domingo

CHINO.—La reunión citada por la Comisión Honorifica Mexicana de este lugar para el domingo entrante, 22 de junio, promete ser muy concurrida según los muchos comentarios que ha provocado.

Asistirá a la junta, a la cual toda la colonia esta cordialmente invitada, y la que se verificará en el Salon de la Comunidad a la 1:30 p.m., el Consul de México en San Bernardino, Sr. Bernardo Blanco. El Consul Blanco viene a Chino por primera vez, y el Presidente Enrique Padilla está muy ansioso de que la colonia mexicana en masa asista a la reunión.

También vendrán como huéspedes de honor varias otras personalidades del Valle de Pomona. Nos informa el Sr. Pablo Ramos que él personalmente invitó a la señora María del Cár-

(Pasa a la Página 2)

Pide Justicia Su Santidad Pio XII

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO — Su Santidad el Papa Pio XII habló ayer por medio de la radio, pidiendo a sus radio-escuchas que "abrieran los ojos" y se dieran cuenta de que es sumamente necesaria la "justicia social."

te la raza mongólica, y que también había sido usado como excusa para segregar a los niños de origen o nacionalidad mexicana.

El nuevo proyecto de ley anti-segregatorio ha sido bien recibido por los líderes mexicano-americanos de toda California, así como por los educadores progresistas del Estado, quienes siempre consideraron este estatuto como antidemocrático y retrógrado, puesto que era usado como excusa para conservar centenares de planteles docentes separados para criaturas de extracciones extranjeras en diferentes ciudades de California.

MOVIMIENTO DEMOCRATICO

Desde hace muchos años se está luchando en diferentes sectores del Estado por eliminar de los estatutos dicha medida segregatoria. En 1945 un grupo prominente de ciudadanos de origen mexicano de Los Angeles, encabezados por el Lic. Manuel Ruiz, Eduardo Quevedo, Tony Sein, Dr. Reynaldo Carreón y otros, consiguieron pasar por la Camara de Diputados de California un proyecto de ley semejante al que ha sido firmado por el Gobernador Warren, solamente para ser derrotados en el Senado.

El cambio obtenido en este último intento, se debe en gran manera a las demandas en las cortes federales instituidas por ciudadanos de varias comunidades de cercanías, con especialidad, la queja elevada por los vecinos de El Modena, contra las autoridades escolares del

(Pasa a la página 3)

Courtesy of Leonor V. López.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

California LULAC Heritage Committee
and
Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County
cordially invite you to attend

A RECEPTION IN HONOR OF
CHAMPIONS FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN EDUCATION
The unsung heroes of the class action lawsuit
to end segregation of Orange County Schools

Mendez et. al
vs
Westminster School District of Orange County et. al

Saturday, March 15, 2003
1:00 - 5:00 pm. (program 2:00-3:30 pm.)
Youth Café Center
One Stop Center
12865 Main St.
Old Town
City of Garden Grove, CA

Invitation to an event
to honor plaintiff families
and LULAC families
who participated in the
class action lawsuit:

*Gonzalo Mendez et al. vs. Westminster
School District of Orange County et al.*

March 15, 2003.

LULAC PROJECT
Patriots with Civil Rights
The History of the League of United Latin American Citizens
in California
1929-1957

California LULAC Heritage Committee
Chair: Margie de la Torre Aguirre
Committee members:
Cory A. Aguirre, Esq.
Gil Flores
Zeke Hernandez
Rose Jurado
Vera Marquez
Maria Solis-Martinez

Event info: MArelections@aol.com (714) 777-6810



HONOREES

The unsung heroes of the class action lawsuit
to end segregation of Orange County Schools,
Mendez et. al

vs
Westminster School District of Orange County et. al

Five plaintiff families:
Gonzalo Mendez Family
Thomas Estrada Family
William Guzman Family
Frank Palomino Family
Lorenzo Ramirez Family
and

Participants in the movement for desegregation who supported
this case and who founded and were members of LULAC.

Comments by:

Honorable Judge Frances Muñoz
Fabio R. Cabezas, Esq. President of HBA

Exhibits:

Photos, Legal documents of court case and appeal, pre-trial
and trial transcripts, amicus curiae briefs, other documents,
school board minutes, LULAC Council 147 Minutes, articles
from LULAC NEWS, and newspaperclippings.

Presentation of flowers.

Presentation of certificates of appreciation from
invited elected officials:

U.S. Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez
California State Senator Joseph Dunn
California Assemblymember Lou Correa

Music

Vocalists: Beverly Guzman Gallegos
Bernadette Espinoza

Vocalist/Pianist: David Ibarra

MARGIE AGUIRRE COLLECTION.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Sebastian A. Aguirre of Abrazo Productions, and a LULAC member video-tapes event *Reception in Honor of Champions for Civil Rights in Education* held March 15, 2003 in Garden Grove California.

Photo by Harvey Tarango (son of Hector R. Tarango) courtesy of Margie Aguirre.

PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Reception in Honor of Champions for Civil Rights in Education
March 15, 2003, Garden Grove, California.

Plaintiffs and representatives of participants of

Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.



Photo: (left to right): Russ Barrios, Genevieve Barrios Southgate, Mrs. Cruz Barrios, Jose Ramirez, Silverio Ramirez "Jimmy" Mrs. Lorenzo Ramirez, Ignacio Ramirez, Thomas Estrada, Hector Tarango, Arthur Palomino, Mrs. William Guzman, Carol Torres, Alex Maldonado, Mrs. Hector Godinez, Ralph Perez, Amanda Mendez Martinez.
Photo: taken by Rebecca Fambach and courtesy of Margie Aguirre Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

1	DAVID C. MARCUS.	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> FILED MAR 2 - 1945 EDMUND J. SMITH, Clerk By <i>Edmund J. Smith Jr.</i> Deputy Clerk </div>
2	Attorney at Law.	
3	213 Spring & Second Bldg.	
4	Los Angeles, California.	
5	VA. 6311	
6		
7		
8	IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE UNITED STATES	
9	FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA	
10	<u>CENTRAL DIVISION</u>	
11	GONZALO MENDEZ and SYLVIA, GONZALO and	
12	GERONIMO MENDEZ, by their father and next	
13	of friend GONZALO MENDEZ,	
14	WILLIAM GUZMAN and BILLY GUZMAN, by his	
15	father and next of friend WILLIAM GUZMAN,	
16	FRANK PALOMINO, and ARTHUR and SALLY	
17	PALOMINO, by their father and next of friend	
18	FRANK PALOMINO,	
19	THOMAS ESTRADA and CLARA, ROBERTO, FRANCISCO,	
20	SYRIA, DANIEL and EVELINA ESTRADA, by their	
21	father and next of friend, THOMAS ESTRADA,	
22	LORENZO RAMIREZ and IGNACIO, SILVERIO and	
23	JOSE RAMIREZ, by their father and next of	
24	friend LORENZO RAMIREZ,	
25	Petitioners.	
26	-VS-	
27	WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY,	PETITION No. <u>4292-M</u>
28	and J. A. HOULIHAN, LEWIS CONRADY, RAY SCHMITT,	
29	as Trustees and J. HARRIS, Superintendent of	
30	said School District,	
31	GARDEN GROVE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DISTRICT OF	
32	ORANGE COUNTY and WILLIAM C. NOBLE, ROBERT B.	
33	SMITH and PAUL APPLEBURY as Trustees and	
34	JAMES L. KENT, Superintendent of said School	
35	District,	
36	SANTA ANA CITY SCHOOLS and GEORGE R. WELLS,	
37	HIRAM M. CURREY, JAMES K. GIVENS, DANIEL W.	
38	STOVER and GEORGE J. BUSDIEKER its Board of	
39	Education and FRANK A. HENDERSON and HAROLD	
40	YOST, its Superintendent and Secretary,	
41	EL MODENO SCHOOL DISTRICT and HENRY CAMPBELL,	
42	THEODORE HOFER, CLARENCE JOHNSON as Trustees,	
43	and HOFOLD HANFARSTEN, Superintendent of	
44	said School District,	
45	Respondents.	

First page of complaint of landmark case.

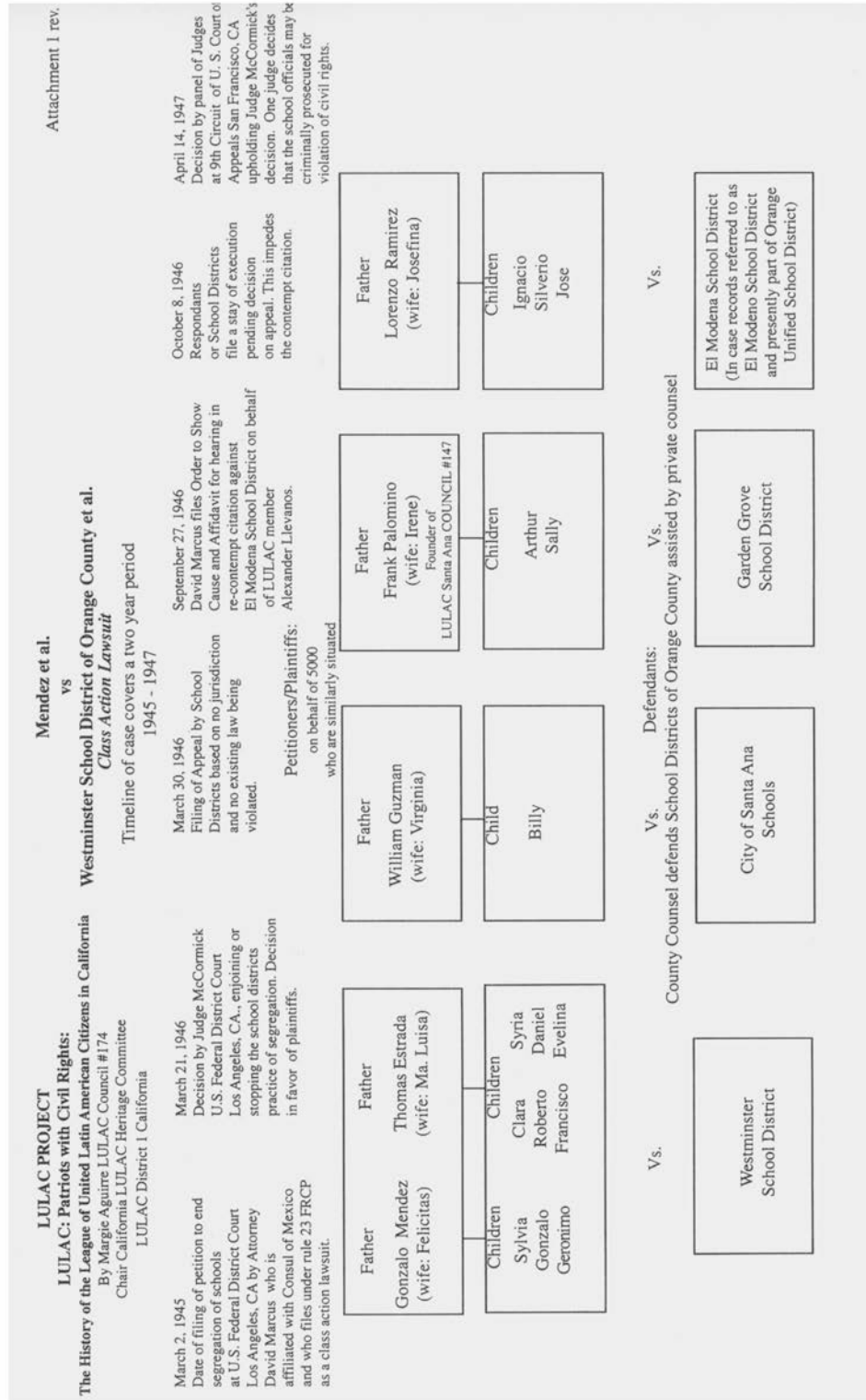


Chart showing the history of the desegregation case *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* which LULAC helped win.
 Chart by Margie Aguirre.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Reproduced from the holdings of the National Archives
Pacific Region, Laguna Niguel Office

Zv447
26

1 Q BY MR. MARCUS: Now, did you have a conversation
2 in September, 1944, with Mr. Harris respecting your children's
3 attendance at the other school?
4 A More or less, in August. It was more or less be-
5 tween, before the opening of the school season.
6 Q Where did that conversation take place?
7 A At the school building, at the Main School Building.
8 Q Who was present at the time you had this conversa-
9 tion?
10 A That day that we had that conversation there was
11 three other persons from Santa Ana, from the Latin-American
12 League of Voters, Mr. Barrios and Mr. Vega, and Mr. and Mrs.
13 Pena, and Mrs. Mendez, and me, and Mrs. Vidaurri.
14 Q Relate the conversation you had with Mr. Harris now.
15 A That day I asked Mr. Harris, that we were going --
16 that day it was with the School Board of Education; that was
17 the meeting. It was a meeting of the School Board of Educa-
18 tion.
19 Q Was Mr. Harris present at that meeting?
20 A He was present at that meeting.
21 Q Relate the conversation that you had there and tell
22 us with whom you had that conversation.
23 THE COURT: Let's identify who else was there.
24 THE WITNESS: From the School Board of Education?
25 THE COURT: Who was there besides Mr. Harris?

MARIE G. ZELLNER

Gonzalo Méndez testimony at trial before Judge McCormick as recorded July 9, 1945 when he recalls who spoke representing their group at the September 19, 1944 Westminster School Board Meeting. Note that those he mentions include Mr. Barrios and Mr. Veiga (corrected spelling of name) who are the founders of LULAC in Orange County California, specifically of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147. (*Gonzalo Méndez vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*, 1946).

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Reproduced from the holdings of the National Archives
Pacific Region, Laguna Niguel Office

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Zv448

1 THE WITNESS: Mr. Houlihan, and Mr. Lewis Conrady, just
2 the three of them, and Mr. Harris. Those three.
3 THE COURT: Very well. Proceed with the conversation.
4 THE WITNESS: I asked Mr. Harris, that we were sent from
5 our group that we had formed, and that me, and Mrs. Vidaurri,
6 and Mr. and Mrs. Pena were chosen as representatives or dele-
7 gates to go and interview the School Board of Education, and
8 that our meeting had decided to ask Mr. Barrios and Mr. Vega
9 to come and be present at the School Board of Education from
10 Santa Ana. So they were present there. And the first one to
11 talk, I think, was Mr. Barrios. He thought that it would be
12 a very good idea to have the schools united, that that would
13 create a better democratic way of living among those districts,
14 as being segregated up to that certain extent. And he did
15 not discuss very much about that. Then he changed his subject,
16 that that is why they had formed this Latin-American League
17 of Voters, to see if they could by means of making -- of
18 societies or groups, or farming groups among the Mexican
19 quarters, as we may say, and having interviews with the
20 superintendents, that perhaps that we could come to some under-
21 standing.
22 And I think that Mr. Houlihan was the one who answered
23 Mr. Barrios, and he said that he was very much in sympathy with
24 the way he thought; that he thought that it was a very nice
25 or good way to get at it.

MARIE G. ZELLNER

Gonzalo Méndez testimony of July 9, 1945 when he testifies that Mr. Barrios (Cruz Barrios founder of the first LULAC council in Orange County) speaks to Westminster School Board on September 19, 1944 to have "the schools united" before the Mendez et al. case was filed March 2, 1945. (*Gonzalo Méndez vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*, 1946).

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Zv449

Reproduced from the holdings of the National Archives
Pacific Region, Laguna Niguel Office

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1 And Mr. Vega talked after that, and he told Mr. Richard
2 Harris that he thought that the Mexican people were not as,
3 in other words, he put it as he named it, as dumb as lots of
4 people thought they were. He said, "In fact, I have very
5 many friends that I went to high school with who outsmarted
6 the Anglo-Saxon races, and I, myself," he said, "I am of
7 Mexican and Spaniard descent, but I still think that I am not
8 -- I am average," he said, "among any one, and I cannot say
9 it is because I am a Spaniard alone. I also am of Mexican
10 descent, too."

11 THE COURT: Who said that?

12 THE WITNESS: Mr. Vega. So Mr. Richard Harris said that
13 he knew some person or some young boy, too, that he could --
14 that he knew him very well, that was a very smart Mexican
15 boy, and that he thought that Mr. Vega was right in that way.
16 And Mr. Conrady did not have much to say on that meeting.
17 He favored that all of the Mexican children and the Americans
18 should be united.

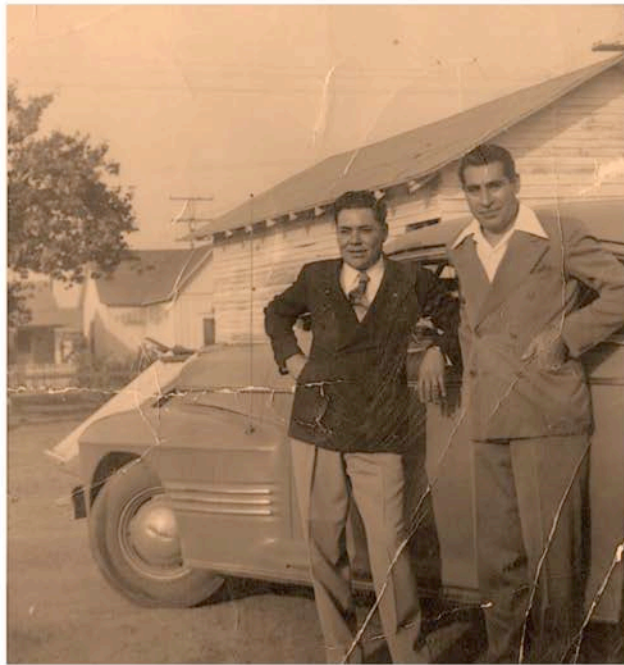
19 But Mr. Houlihan said that, to the contrary, that perhaps
20 it would have been better if they would start all of the
21 children from the kindergarten in the Main School, and leave
22 all the rest to finish their schooling in the Hoover School,
23 and that is where I objected.

24 I said that in my children, the youngest one had just
25 started school, he would have been segregated for eight years

MARIE G. ZELLNER

Gonzalo Méndez testimony as recorded July 9, 1945 conveys that Manuel Veiga Jr. founder of first LULAC council in Orange County speaks against discrimination to end segregation, Westminster School Board Meeting on September 19, 1944 (before case was filed March 2, 1945). LULAC founder Manuel Veiga Jr. states as Gonzalo Méndez recalls, "The Mexican people were not as . . . dumb as lots of people thought they were." Above document reproduced by Margie Aguirre from National Archives and Records Administration Pacific Region, Laguna Niguel (Gonzalo Méndez vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al., 1946).

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Gonzalo Méndez (at right) a lead plaintiff and patriot with civil rights,
Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al., and F. Saucedo (left).
Photo courtesy of Amanda Mendez Martinez.

For full personal story of Gonzalo and Felicitas Méndez and their plaintiff children, Sylvia Gonzalo Jr. and Geronimo, please see documentary video: *Méndez vs. Westminster: For All the Children/ Para Todos Los Niños* by Sandra Robbie/KOCE-TV Foundation, 2002.

The Gonzalo and Felicitas story is part of the pocket of activity of the struggle for civil rights that was occurring in the city of Westminster and in other parts of Orange County. Mr. Méndez had help from his wife Felicitas, and from the following to bring his case to court: the active voice of Delia (Aurelia) Peña (husband Ernesto Peña), his brother, Dolores Méndez who worked the farm (wife Sophie Méndez, a daughter of Delia Peña), Thomas Estrada a plaintiff (wife Mary Louise, another daughter of Delia Peña), the Bermudez family and other residents of what is referred to as the “Hoover School Mexican Colony.” Many others who lived in the vicinity also helped by collecting signatures to petition school authorities to desegregate the schools. This group of parents, family members and community activists was further helped by the leaders of civil rights and founders of LULAC in Orange County. The notable leaders were thus acknowledged by Mr. Gonzalo Méndez himself in his testimony of July 9, 1945 where he recounts who spoke at the Westminster School Board meeting of September 19, 1944. The Santa Ana LULAC Council that they form was the first LULAC council in Orange County and it was known to represent all parts of Orange County because its members came from different cities in addition to the city of its name, Santa Ana. (Interview: Mr. Alex Maldonado, 2002). The struggle against discrimination was a cohesively run battle. To extract one segment, one pocket from the whole is to unjustly portray what happened in Orange County in the fight to end segregation in the 1940s. See part I of this project report (pp. 18 - 24) for account by Felicitas Méndez in excerpts of her interview by Alfredo H. Zúñiga of September 10, 1975.



EL QUETZAL

Volume 1 Number 4 January 1977 Orange County 25 Cents

En Memoria de Rvdo. Demetrio Bazan

Paladin caído En La Buena Batalla

El Rvdo. Demetrio Bazan falleció en la ciudad de Costa Mesa, CA el pasado diciembre treinta y uno, mil novecientos setenta y seis. Nació en la población de Pesca, Tamaulipas, México, en el año 1900. Habiendo fallecido sus padres cuando era pequeño, fue criado por la familia Bazan en el estado de Texas. Cuando solo tenía quince años de edad, oyó el evangelio en la lengua Hispánica por el predicador Rvdo. H. C. Ball, y fue salvado en la misericordia divina. Pronto Dios le llamó a su santo ministerio y andando en esa obra, escucho un servicio que se celebraba en la calle donde predicaba una señorita cuyo nombre era Nellie Trevino, pues con ella se unió en matrimonio tiempo después. El Señor les dio diez hijos, los cuales crearon en los caminos de Dios, pudieron proporcionales buena educación y varios de ellos con sus familias están en el santo ministerio.

El Rvdo. Bazan fue un predicador muy destacado, no solo en nuestro movimiento, pero dentro de todo el pueblo Evangelico Hispano. Habiendo sido uno de los primeros creyentes y ministro fue fundador de varias iglesias. Siendo persona tan capacitada, sus consejos y ministerio eran muy solicitados y así viajó por todo los estados de esta nación donde había Latinos, viajó por México, Centro Sur America, Cuba, Puerto Rico y Santo Domingo.

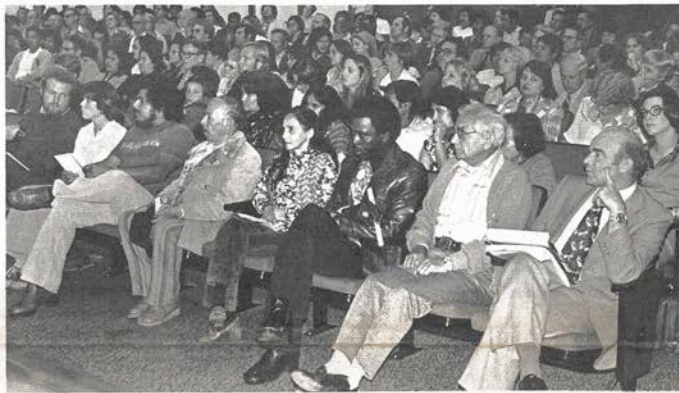
El Rvdo. escribio algunos libros y muchos artículos para distintas revistas Evangelicas. Dedicó 19 años al pastoreo de distintas iglesias, 19 mas, fue superintendente del movimiento Latino "Asambleas De Dios", y los últimos dieciocho fue Evangelista, Maestro y Conferencista. Trabajo incansablemente desde el 1920 hasta la penultima semana de su vida en el año 1976.

a la pagina 7



Rev. D. Bazan

Eviction of Five Santa Ana Residents Delayed by Santa Ana City Council



Residents of the proposed redevelopment area listen to councilmembers discussion of their demands L to R Silvio Sanchez, Guadalupe Rodríguez, Hortencia Gonzales, Ken White and Jose Robles.

The eviction of five Santa Ana residents was delayed Monday night during an emotionally charged meeting of the Santa Ana City Council. The residents, all living in the downtown area of the city scheduled for redevelopment, had agreed to leave their homes earlier this year after the Santa Ana Redevelopment Agency, through its relocation contractor Urban Projects, Inc., had promised to pay for their moving expenses and assist them in finding equivalent housing.

Silvio Sanchez, speaking for the residents, told the City

Council that "The agency has failed to keep its promise or fulfill its legal obligations." Urban Projects Inc. had allowed each family only \$200 for moving costs. "The amount is insufficient to pay the costs of relocation," said Sanchez. "Urban Projects Inc. has also been negligent in its failure to advance relocation money" he said.

Sanchez said "Urban Projects Inc. has made insufficient efforts to help residents find equivalent housing. The relocation personnel, whose offices are located in Carson, are inaccessible."

"Urban Projects Inc. has provided no apartment listings for residents and residential listings that are provided are located outside the Santa Ana area," said Sanchez.

The Council voted unanimously to direct the Redevelopment Agency to implement four demands made by the residents. The Council ordered the Redevelopment Agency to extend the rent determination date of those families who have not been helped until acceptable housing has been found.

The Redevelopment Agency is to update listings weekly and

make these listings available at a site near the residential area. Advances on relocation benefits are to be given residents before they move so that they will be able to pay moving expenses as well as first and last months rent and any deposits.

At the next regular City Council meeting, Feb. 7, the Council and the community are to receive a report from Urban Projects Inc. to be presented by Richard Goblirsch, Redevelopment Director, stating how the remaining residents are being assisted.

Gonzalo Mendez

First Chicano to Challenge Segregation
by Sylvia Mendez

As Chicanos we have the responsibility to get rid of the false myths that the Chicanos struggle towards liberation started in the 1960's. I was involved in this struggle of liberation as mentioned on the following excerpt from *North of Mexico*, by Carey McWilliams.

Gonzalo Mendez, a citizen of the United States, has been a resident of the town of Westminster, in Orange County, for 25 years. Of immigrant background, he had come to be a moderately prosperous asparagus grower. There are two schools in Westminster: a handsomely equipped school with green lawns and shrubs for the Anglo-Americans; and a Mexican school whose meager equipment matches the inelegance of its surroundings. It was not the discrepancy between the two schools, however, that annoyed Gonzalo Mendez. Rather it was the fact, so he said, that he didn't like the idea of his Sylvia, Gonzalo, Jr. and Geronimo, growing up with hatred in their hearts for the children who went to the beautiful school. In the nearby community of El Modeno, the two schools were side by side; but the Mexican youngsters were always served lunch at a different hour from the Anglo-American students. Concluding that this practice had gone on long enough,

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Gonzalo Mendez

El Primer Chicano en Desafiar la Segregacion
por Sylvia Mendez

Como Chicanos tenemos la responsabilidad de deshacernos de los mitos falsos: que los Chicanos luchan por la liberación empezada en 1960. Yo estuve envuelta en esta lucha de liberación como mencionada en la siguiente excerpta de *North From Mexico*, por Carey McWilliams.

"Gonzalo Mendez, un ciudadano de los Estados Unidos, ha sido residente del pueblo de Westminster, en el Condado de Orange, por 25 años. De antepasados inmigrantes, llegó a ser un cultivador de espárragos moderado y prospero. Hay dos escuelas en Westminster, una de ellas bien equipada y muy hermosa con pastos verdes y arbustos era para los americanos anglosajones; y la otra mexicana en la cual el escaso equipaje hacía juego con la poca elegancia de sus alrededores. No era la discrepancia entre las dos escuelas que molestaba a Gonzalo Mendez, sino el hecho, según él, que no le gustaba la idea de que sus hijos, Sylvia, Gonzalo Jr. y Geronimo, crecieran con odio hacia los niños que asistían a la bella escuela. En la comunidad cercana de El Modeno, las dos escuelas estaban juntas, pero a los niños mexicanos siempre les servía el almuerzo a una hora distinta que a los

a la pagina 6

Courtesy of Larry Labrado, and Enrique H. Zúñiga, (Editors and Publishers of EL QUETZAL newspaper. This edition offered significant information in the article by Sylvia Mendez about her parents, champions for civil rights Gonzalo Mendez and Felicitas Mendez and the landmark lawsuit.

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Gonzalo Mendez

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Mendez filed a suit in the federal courts on March 2, 1945, on behalf of some five thousand Mexican residents of the district, against the school officials of Orange County.

I would like to relate to you how this incident came about and the struggle my father encountered during the three years it took before the ninth U.S. Circuit court of appeals reached its decision.

My father a Mexican immigrant came to the United States in 1919, like most immigrants at that time as soon as he was old enough he went to work in the fields, in Westminster. He saved enough money to buy a cafe in Santa Ana in 1942. My father belonged to the LU LAC's and the S.P.L.A. In which he was an active member. The schools in Santa Ana were segregated and we went to Fremont because that was the district we belonged to. I was in the 1st grade, and can remember. There was not one Anglo-child in the class room.

In 1944 we had gone to live in an asparagus farm in Westminster and it was time to enroll. We belonged to the 17th street school district so my father sent my aunt to take us to school. The principal of the school said he would allow her children to attend school but not us. My aunt was married to a chicano with a French name and my cousins were very fair.

Westminster had two schools at this time furnishing instruction from kindergarten to the eighth grade. At Westminster (17th St.) School 642 pupils were enrolled of which 14 were of Mexican descent. Hoover School had 152 all of which were of Mexican descent. This obvious segregation practice had precipitated such vigorous protests by Mexican-American residents of the district that the school board in January, 1944, resolved to unite the two schools and thus abolish the objectionable practices which had been operative in the schools of the district for a considerable period. A bond issue was submitted to the electors to raise funds to defray the cost of contemplated expenditures in the school consolidation. The bonds were heavily defeated and nothing was changed.

My father formed a group of Chicano parents in Westminster, into an organization known as the Association of Fathers of Mexican-American Children. On September 8, 1944 my father and his friends and neighbors sent a petition to the Clerk of the Board of Education in Westminster. The only result from this letter was that only a few selected chicanos including myself would be permitted to attend the 17th street school.

My father asked the Chicano organizations to help him but they did not want to get directly involved although they did tell him he was doing a good job. My father hired a lawyer named David C. Marcus of Los Angeles. On March 2, 1945 they filed a suit in the Federal Courts against the school officials of the Westminster, Garden Grove, Santa Ana, and El Modena school districts.

On July 7, 1945 the discrimination suit against schools opened in Los Angeles. *Mendez et al. v. WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY et al.* What is not known is the fact that my father aside from paying the lawyer, had to pay the people, who were to testify against the discrimination, their wages because they couldn't afford to take the day off. He also had to supply transportation to Los Angeles and money for expenses. Aside from actually doing some of the investigation and inquiries necessary for the lawyer to have a valid case.

In the opening brief Marcus made it clear that the Mexican-Americans did not claim that the rights of their children to attend the public schools, which right is undoubtedly created by the state constitution and laws, had been violated. Their claim was that the right to equal protection of the state's laws had been infringed by discriminatorily arbitrary and unreasonable segregation rules. Marcus went on to say that "such rules are repugnant to their rights to the privilege of attending the schools in their district without regard to such discriminatory rules and the immunity which they assert is to be free, as other children not Mexicans are, from regulations based upon no other ground than race ancestry, which privilege and immunity are both within the 14 Amendment equal protection of the laws clause.

The petitioners demand that the alleged rules, regulations, customs and usages be adjudged void and unconstitutional and that an injunction issue restraining further application by defendant school authorities of such rules, regulations, customs, and usages.

On July 11, 1945, the Santa Ana Register printed the article with the heading "First Round in Segregation Suit Lost by County". Kent defended segregation on social and educational grounds. He said, "if sent to the same schools as other children the Mexican-American would feel inferior because of the clothing they have to wear and their economic status would prevent their taking part in school activities."

Judge Paul J. McCormick denied the motion by County Counsel Joel E. Ogle to dismiss the injunction suit. Thesis written in 1939 by Supt. James L. Kent as mentioned in North from Mexico by Carey McWilliams, was read out loud in court:



Mr. and Mrs. Gonzalo Mendez April 14, 1947 [The date that the ninth Circuit Court affirmed Judge McCormick's ruling.]

"Because of (1) social differences between the two races, (2) much higher percentage of contagious disease (among Mexican children), (3) much higher percentage of undesirable behavior characteristics; (4) much slower progress in school, and (5) much lower moral standards, it would seem best that wherever numbers permit, Mexican children be segregated and teachers especially qualified be placed in charge."

You can compare the statement Kent made in court and the thesis he wrote and determine what type of a man he was.

Another excuse for segregation was the language barriers they claimed that all Mexican children are handicapped by reason of language and the purpose of the special instruction and separate schools is to assist the pupils in their understanding of the English language.

In Westminster, the Supt. testified that the essence of the reason for segregation was the different "cultural background" of the Mexicans. He extended the need for a understanding of the English language to a need for a complete understanding of Mother Goose Rhymes. He went on to say that since the Mexican-American child has not had these stories read to him in the English language he has no conception of them and therefore must have special classes in them. (From court records.)

My mother Felicitas Mendez, who was present everyday during the trial can recall the remarks the superintendents made about the Mexican children being dirty, not taking baths and not speaking English. Of course our parents knew this was brought on by the Anglo feelings of superiority. I can remember sitting in the witness chair and answering questions. I was only 8 years old and don't remember the questions. But it did serve to dismiss the language barrier as an excuse.

A top-notch Psychologist testified that, "you can not help children with a supposed language handicap by keeping them together with children who suffer the same purported language handicap."

Mr. Marcus accused the Superintendents of demonstrating an attitude of racial superiority such as Hitler and had a world famous anthropologist testimony that was in direct conflict with the Superintendents.

On March 21, 1945, Judge Paul McCormick ruled that segregation of Mexican children found no sanction under California laws and school codes and that it also violated the "equal protection" clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. McCormick stated that segregation bred hostility and said it had the effect of depriving them of a common cultural attitude, which is imperative for the perpetuation of American institutions and ideals. He stated the segregation of public grade school children of Mexican or Latin descent is contrary to general requirements of the school laws of California.

On Feb. 18, 1946, Judge McCormick's judgement was appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court. The school districts contended that the Federal Courts had no right of jurisdiction over school systems maintaining that this prerogative of the state, and they still contended that segregation was necessary because of learning ability of the children. The three points given for appeal were (1) If segregation existed in violation of the state law, the remedy lies in the state courts and not in the federal. (2) The only way in which the Federal Courts could assume jurisdiction is where infringement of the 14th Amendment rights could be shown. (3) The 14th Amendment does not guarantee social equality.

The Ninth Circuit Court affirmed Judge McCormick's ruling on April 14, 1947.

When the decision was appealed to the Ninth Circuit Court, amicus curiae briefs were filed on behalf of Mendez by the American Jewish Congress, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Lawyers Guild, the American Civil Liberty Union, the Japanese-American Citizens League, and by Robert W. Kenny as attorney general of California.

The headline on the front page of the Register read: "SEGREGATION CASE IS LOST" Justice Albert L. Stephens wrote the court's opinion and was joined in a separate and concurring opinion by Justice William Denham. Nowhere in any California law is there a suggestion that any segregation can be made of children with one of the great races. Justice Stephens wrote: Observe how the Anglo race was described as the Great Race by Justice Stephens.

The School Board did not accept the decision of Non-Segregation until June 6, 1947.

The Santa Ana Board of Education is not going to appeal the decision of the U.S. Appellate Court which enjoined the local board

My Friend

It seems like yesterday we met behind those plastic faces we front to gesture our nimble hellos

Probing with well sterilized words that say nothing about nothing of ourselves like introductions to empty rooms

We continue on resting on the minutes like play actors weary from the overly stagnated lines poised to exit

And yet, unbeknowning to why! we carry on past the shelters and stop signs ever so slowly revealing tinted glimpses of ourselves

Behind the beyonds and mountains of lies in between the debris of shattered dreams and nightmare tattered minds is our fear to love again

For just a whisper we lay bare like newly born reflections of our souls to expose the emptiness of our loneliness

So yesterday you sprinkled yourself on my life and left as fast as you came

Paul J. Gonzales

Don Cacaguate



Why should I give those Chicano positions, they vote Democratic anyway.

Courtesy of Larry Labrado, and Enrique H. Zúñiga, (Editors and Publishers of EL QUETZAL newspaper. This edition offered significant information in the article by Sylvia Mendez about her parents, champions for civil rights Gonzalo Mendez and Felicitas Mendez and the landmark lawsuit.

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and three other Orange County school districts from segregating children of Mexican descent from other pupils. Superintendent Lynn Crawford and Asst. Supt. Carl O. Harvey asserted the Santa Ana board should never have been a party to appealing the district court injunction, and they and President George Busiecker said they had conferred with leaders of the Mexican-American organizations in Santa Ana and "established good relations."

I would like to bring up the point that because of this good relationship (as mentioned above) the Mexican-American organization had not become involved except for 1 or 2 members. But they wanted to take the full credit for the final outcome of the Westminster Case.

Another point I would like to establish is the guilt that the Anglo-Saxon harbors that California belonged to the Mexicans and was stolen. The last paragraph in the court records stated as follows:

This court judicially is aware that a century ago when California was taken over by the United States, the majority of its population was Mexican. Four generations of these people have been educated in English speaking schools. To these should be added the third and second generations of succeeding Mexican immigrants to California. A very large percentage of the present day school children descended from Mexican nationals is English speaking. Many of those of older established families do not speak Spanish. All such children are discriminated against by the impaired facility of the teacher, occupied with teaching English to their classroom associates - as compared with those attending schools of English speaking pupils.

The third point I would like to emphasize, that is not known, busing of Anglo students into the Mexican barrio school in Westminster was started immediately after McCormick's verdict in 1945. As far as I know this is the first time busing of Anglos into a Mexican barrio was used to integrate a school. This was accomplished by mixing two grades of Hoover School, of course it only lasted for a short time. Hoover School in the barrio was soon turned into the city's City Hall. This of course proves that the discrimination continued. The city preferred to have their City Hall in the mist of Chicanos then the school. Here is my contribution to further disqualify the myth of 1960 as the starting point of the Chicanos struggle. As Chicanos we know the struggle started in 1848 if not earlier. In *Occupied America* Rodolfo Acuna comments on Juan Cortina's resistance in the 1850's.

A factor that has helped to promote this myth has been the news media and to prove this point, I went to the library and read several of the newspapers published during the court trial. The Los Angeles Times, a very popular news paper didn't mention the case or the verdict at all. "La Opinion" a Chicano news paper had the verdict on the front page. Although the case was fought in Los Angeles, the Santa Ana Register, the leading Orange County newspaper did mention the case, but did not mention the person directly responsible for the action.

Gonzalo Mendez died in 1964. Mendez vs Westminster was the first case in the U.S. in which a Federal Judge denounced segregation in public school, according to an article written in the Westminster Herald. A case marked by the State Board Assoc. as one of the six most important law cases affecting law in California. Mr. Mendez left his mark to affect all future generations throughout the state.

This has greatly affected me to the extent that I have kept on struggling to get an education even when the pressures of this hostile society attempted to make it impossible to succeed. To the Chicano community I would like to say intelligence and superiority is not the determinant factor for liberation of the oppressed but education.

Emidigo Vasquez

CHICANO ARTIST

Una exhibición de pinturas recién hechas por el artista local, Emidigo Vasquez serán exhibidas en la biblioteca de Santa Ana empezando el 11 de enero hasta el 7 de febrero, 1977.

Aunque su trabajo cubre una gran variedad de materia, la mayor parte de su arte es caracterizada por su intenso contenido social y la representación dramática del imagen humano como es aparente en todas facciones de la vida Chicana.

Su trabajo ha recibido aclamación por todo el estado de California, se ha exhibido en varias galerías y exhibiciones.

El Señor Vasquez y su trabajo también aparecieron recién en el programa K O C E canal 50 "por su información" quienes hicieron un perfil sobre este artista contemporáneo Chicano.

Sus pinturas serán exhibidas en el Spurgeon Room de la biblioteca de Santa Ana durante horas regulares de la biblioteca.

An exhibition of recent paintings by local artist, Emidigo Vasquez will be featured at the Santa Ana Library from January 11, to February 7, 1977. Although, his work covers a wide variety of subject matter, most of his art is characterized by its strong social content and the dramatic depiction of the human image as it is apparent in all facets of Chicano life.

His paintings will be on display in the Spurgeon Room of the Santa Ana Library during regular library hours.

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Sylvia, Gonzalo Jr., and Geromino during the court trial.



Apoco se Creleren?

La novela, Pocho, de José Antonio Villarreal fue publicada en 1959. Describe la vida de los chicanos en los Estados Unidos.

La novela Pocho, de José Antonio Villarreal fue publicada en 1959. Describe la vida de los chicanos en los Estados Unidos.

El símbolo del movimiento laboral chicano es el Thunderbolt. Tiene una función simbólica de espíritu, símbolo de México y de los aztecas.

The symbol of the Chicano labor movement, the Thunderbolt, is similar in function to the powerful symbol of Mexico and the Aztecs (the eagle).

Emiliano Zapata (1853-1919) fue un popular revolucionario de origen mestizo que guió a los pobres bajo el lema de "tierra y libertad".

Emiliano Zapata (1853-1919), was an illustrious revolutionary mestizo who led the poor with his battle cry, "Land and Liberty."

En 1962 el Congreso de los Estados Unidos aprobó el "Migrant Health Act", reconociendo por primera vez, las necesidades de salud de los trabajadores migrantes mexicanos.

In 1962 the U.S. Congress passed the Migrant Health Act, recognizing for the first time health needs of migrant farm workers.

En enero de 1971, Lope Aquilino fue nombrado responsable en derechos civiles en la sección educacional de la Secretaría de Educación, Educación y Bienestar social.

Lope Aquilino was assigned as the Civil Rights Specialist in the Education Branch of SEW in January, 1971.

Benito Juárez (1866-1872) fue un gran político y reformador social mexicano. Era de origen tepehuatl. Fue responsable de la promulgación de la Ley Juárez que abolía los terrenos militares y religiosos.

Benito Juárez (1866-1872) was a popular Zapotec Indian statesman and reformer. He abolished, in the Law Juárez, social courts and restricted powers of the military and clergy.

Néstor P. García (nacido 1906-1972) fue el primer comisionario de la Comisión Estadística de Derechos Civiles en 1965. En el Consejo Calificativo, sirvió la vice-presidencia a cargo de los chicanos.

Néstor P. García (born 1914), was the Commissioner of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in 1965. He was vice president of the Council Council for Spanish Speaking People in the Southwest. He was also a physician and civic leader.

Lorenzo de Zavala, un mexicano-americano, fue el primer vicepresidente de la república de Texas.

Lorenzo de Zavala, a Mexican-American, served as the first vice-president of the Texas Republic.

Daniel Fernández (1844-1948) fue condecorado postumamente con la Medalla de Honor por su valiente acción en el Viet Nam. Pudo la vida al instante sobre una granada para salvar a sus compañeros.

Daniel Fernández (1844-1948) was awarded the Medal of Honor and seven other medals for his action in the Viet Nam, social courts on a grenade, dying in order to save others.

En 1957 como resultado de un caso (Hernández vs. Driscoll), un tribunal Texas declaró que los niños con dificultades lingüísticas pueden ser colocados en grupos especiales dentro su primer año escolar, si así lo estimaran las autoridades escolares.

In 1957 in the case Hernández vs. Driscoll, a Texas court held that children with language deficiencies could be grouped the first year with approval of school authorities.

En 1960, para proteger de abusos en regiones rurales del estado de Nuevo México, los mexicano-americanos se agruparon bajo la organización laboral de los "Knights of Labor".

In an effort to overcome rural depredation, the Mexican-Americans living in New Mexico formed the Knights of Labor in 1960, a mutual assistance and protective organization.

En 1924 se creó una policía fronteriza con la intención de disminuir la entrada ilegal de mexicanos a los Estados Unidos.

In 1924 the Border Patrol was established to curb the illegal entry of Mexicans into the U.S.

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estudiantes americanos-anglosajones. Concluyendo que esta costumbre había permanecido por demasiado tiempo, Mendez solicitó una demanda en la corte federal el 2 de marzo de 1945, en nombre de algunos cinco mil residentes mexicanos del distrito, contra los dignatarios de las escuelas del Condado de Orange.

Quisiera relatarles como este incidente empezó y la lucha que mi padre encontró durante los tres años que duró la corte para llegar a una decisión.

Mi padre, un inmigrante mexicano, vino a los Estados Unidos en 1919, como muchos inmigrantes en aquel entonces, fue a trabajar en los campos en Westminster. Ahorro suficiente dinero para comprar un café en Santa Ana en 1942. Mi padre pertenecía al LULAC y al S.P.L.A., en los cuales era un miembro activo. Las escuelas en Santa Ana estaban segregadas y fulmos a Fremont porque era el distrito al que pertenecíamos. Yo estaba en el ningún primer año, y recuerdo. No había niño anglosajón en la sala escolar.

En 1944 tuvimos que irnos a vivir a una granja en Westminster y era tiempo de inscribirse. Nosotros pertenecíamos al distrito de la calle 17. Mi padre le pidió a mi tía que nos llevara a la escuela. El director de la escuela dijo que permitiría que sus hijos asistieran a la escuela pero a nosotros no. Mi tía estaba casada con un chico de apellido frances y mis primos eran muy blancos.

Durante este tiempo Westminster tenía dos escuelas con instrucciones ofrecidas del jardín de infancia al octavo año. En la escuela de Westminster (de la calle 17) estaban inscritos 642 alumnos de los cuales 14 eran de descendencia mexicana. La escuela Hoover tenía 152 alumnos, todos de descendencia mexicana. Esta práctica obvia de segregación había precipitado protestas vigorosas por residentes mexicanos del distrito. En enero de 1944, la junta de instrucción pública resolvió unir las dos escuelas e eliminar las prácticas odiadas que habían permanecido en las escuelas del distrito por mucho tiempo. Una emisión (de bonos) fue sometida a los electores para levantar fondos para subvenir los gastos contemplados en la junta de las escuelas. La proposición fue derrotada fuertemente y nada cambió.

En Westminster, mi padre formó un grupo que constaba de padres chicanos. Esta organización fue conocida como la "Association of Fathers of Mexican-American Children." El 8 de septiembre de 1944, mi padre, sus amigos y vecinos mandaron una petición al tendor del Consejo de Educación en Westminster. El único resultado de esta carta fue que solamente unos cuantos chicanos, incluyendo fulmos permitidos a asistir a la escuela.

Mi padre pidió ayuda a las organizaciones chicanas, pero ellos no quisieron verse comprometidos directamente aunque si le dijeron que estaba haciendo muy buena obra. Mi padre ocupó a un abogado llamado David C. Marcus de Los Angeles. El 2 de marzo de 1945 solicitaron una demanda en la corte federal contra los dignatarios de las escuelas de los distritos de Westminster, Garden Grove, Santa Ana, y El Modena.

El 7 de julio de 1945, la demanda contra la discriminación en las escuelas empezó en Los Angeles: Mendez contra el distrito de las escuelas de Westminster del Condado de Orange. Lo que no se sabe es el hecho que mi padre, a pesar de pagarle al abogado, tuvo que pagarle sus salarios a la gente que testificó contra la discriminación, porque no podían permitirse faltar el día de trabajo. También tuvo que proporcionar la transportation a los Angeles y dinero para los gastos. Además tuvo que actualmente hacer algunas investigaciones necesarias para que el abogado tuviera un caso válido.

Marcus puso de manifiesto el hecho de que los mexicano-americanos no reclamaban que el derecho de sus hijos, de poder asistir a las escuelas públicas, había sido violado. Su reclamación era que el derecho a la protección mutua, de las leyes estatales, había sido infringido por reglas segregativas, discriminativamente arbitrarias e irrazonables. Marcus usó diciendo que "tales reglas son repugnantes a sus derechos al privilegio de asistir a las escuelas en su distrito sin consideración a tales reglas discriminatorias y la inmunidad que afirman ser libre como otros niños no mexicanos, de regulaciones que se basan en la raza del individuo, cual privilegio e inmunidad están dentro la clausa de la protección mutua de la enmienda 14."

Se demandó que las leyes alegadas, regulaciones, costumbres y usos sean declarados inválidos e inconstitucionales y que un entredicho sea expuesto refrenando la continuación de tales reglas, regulaciones, costumbres y usos por las autoridades escolares demandadas.

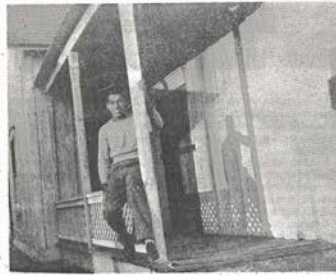
El 11 de julio de 1945, el "Santa Ana Register" publicó un artículo con esta cabecera: "First Round in Segregation Suit Lost by County." Kent defendió la segregación por motivos sociales y educativos. Dijo este, "si se les manda a las mismas escuelas, el mexicano-americano se sentiría inferior por la ropa que se pone y su situación económica impediría su participación en actividades escolares."

El juez Paul J. McCormick negó la moción por Joel E. Ogle de que destiera el entredicho. Un tesis escrito en 1939 por el superintendente James L. Kent, así como es mencionado en el libro *Norah From Mexico* por Carey McWilliams, se leyó en voz alta en la corte:

"Por (1) las diferencias sociales de las dos razas, (2) tener mas alto porcentaje de enfermedades contagiosas (entre niños mexicanos), (3) tener mas alto porcentaje de conducta indeseable, (4) progresar mas lentamente en la escuela, (5) ser mas bajos moralmente, pareciera mejor que donde fuera posible, los niños mexicanos sean segregados y que se encarguen de ellos maestros bien calificados."

Ustedes comparen la declaración de Kent en la corte y la tesis que hizo y determinen la clase de persona que era.

Otra excusa para segregar era el idioma. Reclamaban que todos los niños mexicanos estaban desventajados por su idioma y el propósito de instrucción especial y escuelas separadas es asistir a los alumnos en su conocimiento del inglés.



Gonzalo Mendez at his asparagus farm house in Westminster.

He Fought in the Mexican Revolution

Company "L" has an interesting history. Under General Robert Wankoushi, it was sent to Nogales, Arizona to keep watch at the Arizona-Mexico boundary. In October, of the same year, it returned to Orange County.

On two different occasions, Mexican-Americans served in Company "L". Company "L" received orders to report on the morning of March 3rd, 1941, for induction into Federal Service for one year's intensive training. Several men of the Company were killed in action during the Second World War, among whom were Privates First Class Charles O. Olcott and Daniel Arbo, a Chicano from Orange County. Other Chicanos from Orange County on the roster were Corporal Benjamin Rubio, Private First Class Gerald J. Garcia, Richard S. Luna, Privates Frank Chavez, Bernardo J. Andreas and Joseph Francisco.

During the Korean War, when Company "L" was then part of the Fortieth Division, three Orange Countians lost their lives in this engagement: Lieutenant James Ingelsby, Sergeant Will L. Cross and Corporal Raymond Mendoza, a Chicano. The roster of Chicanos from Orange County inducted with the Company were: Sergeants Louis Arminadiaz, Jr., Wallace B. Dominguez, Raymond S. Lucio, Teddy C. Trujillo, Privates, E. J. Flores, Alphonso Guerrero, David Matta, Fabian C. Gallegos, Ruben Gomez, Salvador G. Lujan, Richard M. Baiza, David M. Fernandez, Edward G. Gonzales, Edward T. Grijalva, Robert F. Oliveras, Rudolph P. Rivera, Arthur C. Trujillo, Mike M. Villa, Joseph Cardillo, Jr., Joe S. Gandara, Manuel V. Gonzales, Manuel Gutierrez, Mike Lucio, Joe P. Lozano, Edward Montejano, Andrew Nunez, Tony C. Perez, Antonio N. Rios, Salomon R. Rocha, George J. Vieira.

After a few gorilla hit and run engagements with General Pershing's forces, Don Juan went to El Paso, Texas, and signed up with the railroad. He wound up in Kansas working for the Santa Fe. Like many early Mexican settlers who had come to Orange County, he had been injured (a flesh wound on the head) in the battle at Celaya where Villa's forces were defeated by forces of General Oregon, consequently, it was assumed that he had been killed. Thinking that Don Juan had been killed, Juan's father and family moved to a small neighborhood (vecindad) called El Sol in El Paso, Texas.

One cold day in December 1917, while working on the railroad Juan overheard two fellow workers mention his father and mother's name. It was Christmas time and the two fellow workers were chatting about sending Christmas presents to their parents who also lived in the same vecindad in El Paso. After finding out that it was them, he wrote them a letter telling of his whereabouts. His father was reluctant in believing that Juan was alive.

Don Jose asked for a snapshot as further proof that this Juan was his son. Juan and a good friend, Ventura, who he came to know in the revolution, went into town and had a picture taken which he then sent to his parents along with a personal letter and money. Two weeks later, Ventura saw a man walking towards them on the railroad tracks and said, "Juan, doesn't he look like your father?" A very joyful reunion followed at El Paso, where Don Jose worked. He lived there a short time before coming to La Habra, California.

Under very strange circumstances, Don Juan and a man named Don Ramon Miranda (a story about him will appear in our following publication), met at Saucillo, Chihuahua in 1913. They did not meet again until the summer of 1968.

Don Juan was president of the Corona Neighborhood Improvement Association. One day he was selling raffle tickets from door to door, for queen contest held every year. At the Alta Vista Barrio, Don Juan ran into Don Ramon. He didn't recognize him. Having a small chat about their war stories, they realized that they had once met at Saucillo. Don Ramon was a Sergeant at that time and was in charge of a firing squad detail. It was on its way to execute five of the town's political figures. Juan who was a ranking officer, stopped the detail. Orders were out from Francisco Villa that they were to stop all executions.

In Don Juan's life, there exists a curious fact. Two revolutionaries who had fought alongside one another and against one another, met once again after so many years.

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El Corrido Del G.I. Forum

La siguiente ballada o corrido fue compuesta por uno de nuestro talentoso miembro personal, Rodolfo Escalante. El Corrido Del G.I. Forum fue escrito por el señor Escalante en mil nueve cientos y setenta y uno alrededor del mismo tiempo que el capítulo Guadalupe Hidalgo estaba organizándose en el Condado de Orange. El Corrido relata la historia de un veterano Chicano que dio su vida peliando contra un regimen racista durante la Segunda Guerra Mundial.

Felix Longoria fue ese veterano Chicano, que como muchos de nuestros hermanos pelearon y dieron sus vidas en el servicio de su patria, y todavía muchos estaban regresando a sus hogares y enfrentandose con el mismo tipo de racismo que pelearon y murieron. La rechazada del entierro del soldado raso Longoria en su pueblo natal de Three Rivers, Tejas, causo una tremenda controversia por todo el suroeste que un medico muy conocido Hector P. Garcia, decidió de remediar este acto deplorable de racismo. El Doctor Garcia, que cumplio como Mayor en el ejercito Cuerpo Medical de los Estados Unidos, con un grupo de veteranos Chicanos de Corpus Christi, Tejas, fundaron y organizaron el American G.I. Forum por todo el estado de Tejas y despues se extendio por todo el suroeste.

Ya hace vintiocho años desde el incidente infamioso, sin embargo, la memoria de el soldado raso Felix Longoria vivira para siempre en la mente de todos los Chicanos y Chicanas que crean en la igualdad y justicia para todos. Todos los años en Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C. veteranos Chicanos de Capitulo desde todos los Estados Unidos se reunen para conmemorar nuestro heroe caido, Soldado Raso Felix Longoria.

El Corrido Del G.I. Forum

Año de mil novecientos cuarenta y ocho
Presente lo tengo yo
En el estado de Tejas,
El G.I. Forum nacio

El nacimiento del Forum
creció por las injusticias
y la discriminación en
contra los mejicanos

En los años del cuarenta
muchos chicanos murieron
peliando contra el racismo
en el país de alemania

Los veteranos chicanos
siguieron con la pelea
el racismo que lucharon
lo tenían en sus pueblos

En la ciudad de Three Rivers
la infamia de cometiò
encontra de un veterano
mejicano de valor

El nombre Felix Longoria
siempre lo recordaremos
solo por ser mejicano
fue negado el entierro

Mucha furia sentio
el doctor Hector Garcia
que decidió combatir
estos actos prejuicios

Ya han pasado veinte y ocho
años
y los tiempos han cambiado
pero lo que nunca cambia
la actitud de los racistas

Adios todos mis hermanos
solo quiero recordarles
que no dejen de luchar
por sus derechos civiles.

Courtesy of Larry Labrado, and Enrique H. Zúñiga, (Editors and Publishers of EL QUETZAL newspaper. This edition offered significant information in the article by Sylvia Mendez about her parents, champions for civil rights Gonzalo Mendez and Felicitas Mendez and the landmark lawsuit.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Page 7

El Quetzal

January 1977



El Senor Gonzalo Mendez speaking before the S.A. Council.

Gonzalo Mendez
Continue from page 6

En Westminster, el superintendente testifico que el motivo para la segregacion era la cultura de los mexicanos. Continuo diciendo que se necesitaba saber el ingles para comprender completamente los "Mother Goose Rhymes". Tambien dijo que porque nunca se les habian leido estos cuentos en ingles, no tenian concepto de ellos y por eso deban tener clases especiales. (de los anales)

Mi madre, Felicitas Mendez, quien estaba presente cada dia del proceso, recuerda lo que dijo el superintendente de los ninos mexicanos: que eran sucios, no se banaban y no hablaban ingles. Por supuesto que mis padres sabian que eso venia del sentimiento de superioridad sentida por los anglo-sajones. Recuerdo testificar. Solamente tenia ocho anos de edad y no recuerdo las preguntas, pero lo que hice sirvio para deshacer el idioma como excusa para la segregacion.

Un psicologo testifico: "no se pueden juntar ninos que se cree que tienen la misma desventaja del idioma con otros ninos que se cree que sufren la misma desventaja."

El senor Marcus acusó al superintendente de mostrar una actitud de superioridad racial tal como Hitler. Marcus luego mostro un testimonio de un antropologo famoso que contradice el del superintendente.

El 21 de marzo de 1945, el juez Paul McCormick dijo que la segregacion de ninos mexicanos no se justificaba bajo las leyes de California o los codigos escolares y que la segregacion tambien violaba la clausa de proteccion mutua de la enmienda 14. McCormick dijo que la segregacion creaba hostilidad y dijo que tenia el efecto de negarles una actitud cultural comun, lo cual es imperativo para la perpetuacion de las instituciones e ideales americanas. Declaro que la segregacion de ninos, mexicanos o de descendencia latina, contradice los requisitos de las leyes escolares de California.

El 18 de febrero de 1946, hubo apelacion a la decision del juez McCormick. Los distritos escolares mantenian que las cortes federales no tenian jurisdiccion sobre ellos. Mantenian que la segregacion era necesaria por la habilidad de aprender de los ninos mexicanos. Los tres motivos para la apelacion eran: (1) Si la segregacion existia en violacion de la ley estatal, el remedio estaba en las cortes estatales y no en las federales, (2) la unica manera que pudieran tener jurisdiccion las cortes federales era si se pudiera enseñar donde se abusaba del derecho de la enmienda 14, (3) la enmienda 14 no garantiza la igualdad social.

La corte afirmo la decision del juez McCormick el 14 de abril de 1947.

Cuando la decision fue apelada, mostraron su apoyo a favor de Mendez el "American Jewish Congress", el "National Association for the Advancement of Colored People," el "National Lawyers Guild," el "American Civil Liberty Union," el "Japanese-American Citizens League," y Robert W. Kenny, el procurador general de California.

La cabecera de la primera pagina del Register decia: "SEGREGATION CASE IS LOST." El juez Albert L. Stephens escribio la opinion de la corte y luego dio su propia opinion el juez William Denham. En ninguna ley de California se sugiere que alguna segregacion se puede hacer de ninos con una de las razas grandiosas, dijo el juez Stephens. Fijense como se refiere a la raza anglo-sajona como la *grandiosa raza*.

La Junta de Instruccion Publica no acepto la decision contra la segregacion hasta el 6 de junio de 1947.

La Junta de Instruccion Publica no acepto la decision contra la decision de la corte de los Estados Unidos, la cual junto a la junta local y tres mas distritos escolares del Condado de Orange quitandoles el derecho de segregar a los ninos mexicano-americanos. El superintendente Lynn Crawford y el asistente al superintendente, Carl O. Harvey, afirmaron que la Junta de Santa Ana nunca deberia haber sido parte de la apelacion a la decision de la corte y que ellos y el presidente George Busdiecker dijeron que habian conferido con los lideres de las organizaciones mexicano-americanas en Santa Ana y habian establecido buenas relaciones.

Quisiera darle enfasis a este punto. Por esas buenas relaciones, la organizacion mexicano-americana no se habia envuelto excepto uno o dos miembros. Pero ellos querian atribuirse el merito del resultado del caso Westminster.

Otro punto al cual le quisiera dar enfasis es el delito que el anglo-sajon tiene porque California era de los mexicanos y fue robado. El ultimo parrafo de los anales de la corte fue asi:

"La corte reconoce que hace un siglo, cuando los Estados Unidos tomo a California, la mayoria de su poblacion era mexicana. Cuatro generaciones de esta gente han sido educadas en escuelas de habla ingles. A estos se les debe anadir las

segundas y terceras generaciones de los inmigrantes a California. Gran porcentaje de los hijos descendientes de mexicanos son de habla ingles. Muchas familias ya no hablan espanol. A todos esos ninos se les discrimina por las deterioradas facilidades del maestro, ocupado con enseñarles ingles comparado con esos asistiendo escuelas de alumnos de habla ingles.

El tercer punto, al cual le quisiera dar enfasis, es el de la llevada de estudiantes anglo-sajones a una escuela dentro del barrio mexicano-americano en Westminster inmediatamente despues de la decision de McCormick en 1945. Pienso que ésta es la primera vez que llevan a anglo-sajones a una escuela predominante mexicano-americana para integrarla. Esto se llevo a cabo con la junta de dos anos de la escuela Hoover. Por supuesto, solamente duro poco tiempo. A la escuela Hoover se la convirtio en la casa consistorial. Esto prueba que la discriminacion continuo. La ciudad prefirió tener su casa consistorial entre los chicanos que tener la escuela. Aqui esta mi contribucion para descalificar el mito que 1960 fue el empuje de la lucha del chicano. Como chicanos, sabemos que la lucha empezo en 1848 o antes. En *Occupied America*, Rodolfo Acuna habla de la resistencia de Juan Cortina en 1850.

Un factor que ha ayudado a fomentar este mito han sido los periodicos y para probar este punto, fui a la biblioteca y lei varios periodicos publicados durante el proceso. El "Los Angeles Times", un periodico muy popular no menciona el proceso o la decision. "La Opinion", un periodico chicano tuvo la decision en la primera pagina. Aunque la causa se averiguo en Los Angeles, el "Santa Ana Register", del Condado de Orange si menciona la causa, pero no menciona la persona directamente responsable por la accion.

Gonzalez Mendez murio en 1964. Mendez contra Westminster fue el primer caso en los EEUU en el cual un juez federal denuncio la segregacion en una escuela publica. Segun un articulo escrito en el "Westminster Herald", fue un caso conocido como uno de los mas importantes en afectar la ley en California. El senor Mendez dejo su marca para afectar las generaciones futuras por todo el estado.

Esto me ha afectado mucho hasta que he continuado luchando para obtener una educacion aun cuando los obstaculos impuestos por esta sociedad hostil intentaron hacerlo imposible tener exito. A la comunidad chicana quisiera decirles que la inteligencia y la superioridad no son los factores determinantes para la liberacion de los oprimidos sino la educacion.

Rvdo Bazan

Continue de la pagina 1

Sobre el Movimiento Asambleas de Dios, donde y dije dirijio por diecinueve anos, es el cuerpo Evangelico Latino mas grande en Estados Unidos de America, tiene cerca de 500 iglesias y Misiones, mas de mil ministros, Tres Institutos Biblicos con un promedio de Asistencia anual de cien alumnos, cada uno y ha cumplido cincuenta anos de actividad.

Recentemente hemos sido divididos en toda armonia y alegria en cinco Distritos con sus debidas sedes para mayor progreso del trabajo. De igual modo en Mexico y en todas las republicas e Islas de Habla Hispana. El trabajo de las Asambleas de Dios abunda en conversion de miles de almas y formacion de centenares de iglesias.

Las Doctrinas de Las Asambleas de Dios son sencillas, pero muy fundamentales, plenamente apegadas a las Santas Escrituras. Sus principales Doctrinas son:

1. Cristo Salva: Pues su sangre que derramo en la cruz del calvario es enseñada en las Escrituras como la unica eficaz para la expiacion de los pecados de la humnaldad. "Sin derramamiento de Sangre no hay remision de pecador". Heb. 9:22.
2. Jesu Cristo Sanador del cuerpo Fisico tambien: Su misericordia Sanadora es enseñada en muchas porciones del A.T. y en mas de una tercera parte del N.T. pues el es el mismo ayer, hoy y por los siglos.
3. Jesu Cristo Bautiza con el Espiritu Santo: Pentecostes, Libro de Los Hechos, fundacion de la verdadera Iglesia de Jesu Cristo, pero enseñanza olvidada en diferentes epocas, en nuestro tiempo del 1900 al 1950 fue poco aceptado, aun por fuertes iglesias Evangelicas, pero en cumplimiento a las profetas, que en los

El Corrido Del G.I. Forum

The following ballad or corrido was composed by one of our talented staff member Rodolfo Escalante. El Corrido Del G.I. Forum was written by Mr. Escalante in 1971 around the same time that the Guadalupe Hidalgo Chapter was being organized in Orange County. The Corrido relate the story of one specific Chicano veteran who gave his life fighting a racist regime during World War II.

Felix Longoria was that Chicano veteran, who like so many of our brothers fought and gave their lives in the service of their country, and yet many were coming home to face the same type of racism that they fought and died for. Pvt. Longoria burial refusal in his hometown of Three Rivers, Texas created such tremendous controversy throughout the southwest that a well known Chicano Physician, Hector P. Garcia, decided to remedy this deplorable act of racism. Doctor Garcia, who served as a Major in the United States Army Medical Corps, with a group of Chicano veterans from Corpus Christi, Texas, founded and organized the American G.I. Forum throughout the state of Texas and later spread throughout the southwest.

It's been 28 years since that infamous incident, however, the memory of Pvt. Felix Longoria will live forever in the minds of every Chicano and Chicanas who believes in equality and justice for all. Every year in Arlington National Cemetery, Washington, D.C. Chicano veterans from Chapters throughout the United States gather to commemorate our fallen hero, Pvt. Felix Longoria.

El Corrido Del G.I. Forum

Año de mil novecientos cuarenta y ocho
Presente lo tengo yo
En el estado de Texas
El G.I. Forum nacio

El nacimiento del Forum
crecio por las injusticias
y la discriminacion en
contra los mejicanos

En los anos del cuarenta
muchos chicanos murieron
peleando contra el racismo
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lo tenían en sus pueblos
lo tenían en sus pueblos
En la ciudad de Three Rivers
la infamia se cometo
encontra de un veterano
mejicano de valor

Continued on page 8

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Courtesy of Larry Labrado, and Enrique H. Zúñiga, (Editors and Publishers of EL QUETZAL newspaper. This edition offered significant information in the article by Sylvia Mendez about her parents, champions for civil rights Gonzalo Mendez and Felicitas Mendez and the landmark lawsuit.



Delia (Aurelia) Peña,
mother of Mrs. Tomás Estrada,
who along with others
led the Westminster group for the lawsuit.
Photo: courtesy of granddaughter
Amanda Mendez Martinez.

*PATRIOTS
WITH
CIVIL RIGHTS*

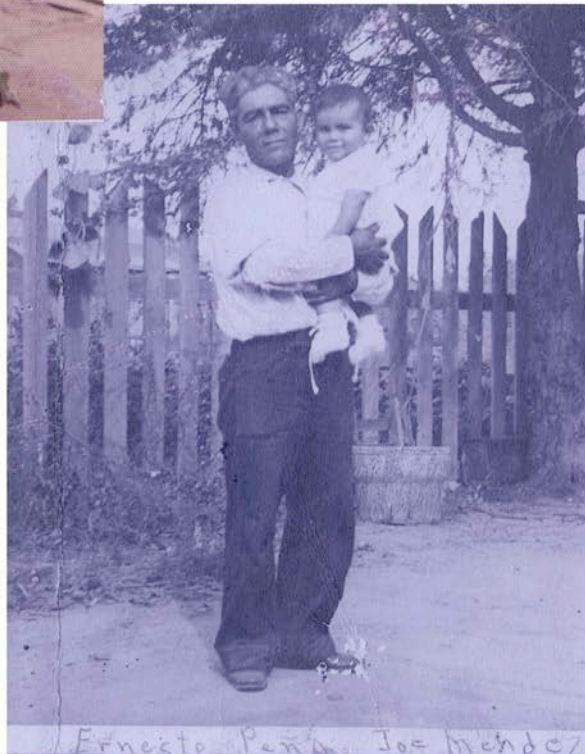


Photo of Ernesto Peña and Joe Mendez (child). Mr. Peña supported his wife, Delia (Aurelia) and others in Westminster, the group referred as the “Hoover School Mexican colony” at the Westminster School Board meeting of September 19, 1944 where they were represented by founders of LULAC in Orange County Manuel Veiga Jr., Cruz Barrios and Hector Tarango. Photo: courtesy of granddaughter Amanda Mendez Martinez.



Photo of Dolores Méndez brother of Gonzalo Méndez of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* Dolores Méndez also ran the Méndez farm. Photo: courtesy of daughter Amanda Mendez Martinez.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



American patriot with civil rights Sylvia Méndez and cousin Alicia Méndez Vidaurri.



Bottom photo (left to right):

Santana Ruiz of UCI Division of Student Services, Alicia Méndez Vidaurri, Plaintiff Sylvia Méndez, daughter of Gonzalo and Felicitas Méndez of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*, Manuel Gomez Ph.D., Vice Chancellor, Division for Student Services, University of California, Irvine.

Photos taken by Margie Aguirre of LULAC at Harvard Educational Review forum co-sponsored by UCI, 1998.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



In photos left to right: Emcee Jess Araujo, Esq. Felicitas Méndez of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* and Mrs. Vera Marquez, California State Director, Saturday, April 13, 1996, Hyatt Hotel, Anaheim, California for *California LULAC 13th Annual Black and White State Ball and Recognition Awards*. California LULAC in 1996 under State Director Vera Marquez and during the administration of National LULAC President Belen Robles was first in recognizing and honoring Felicitas Gomez Méndez. Mrs. Méndez was truly honored by LULAC and was happy to receive the LULAC COURAGEOUS CIVIL RIGHTS AWARD as can be seen in photos. Gonzalo Mendez once “belonged to the LULACs and was an active member.” (See interview of Felicitas by Alfredo H. Zúñiga pp. 18-24 and article by Sylvia Mendez pp. 253-257). Photos courtesy of Mrs. Vera Marquez.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Attorney Cory A. Aguirre, Margie Aguirre and Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez stand behind Felicitas Méndez wife of Gonzalo Méndez of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*

Photo taken at groundbreaking ceremonies for Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez Fundamental Intermediate School, December 3, 1997.

MARGIE AGUIRRE COLLECTION.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



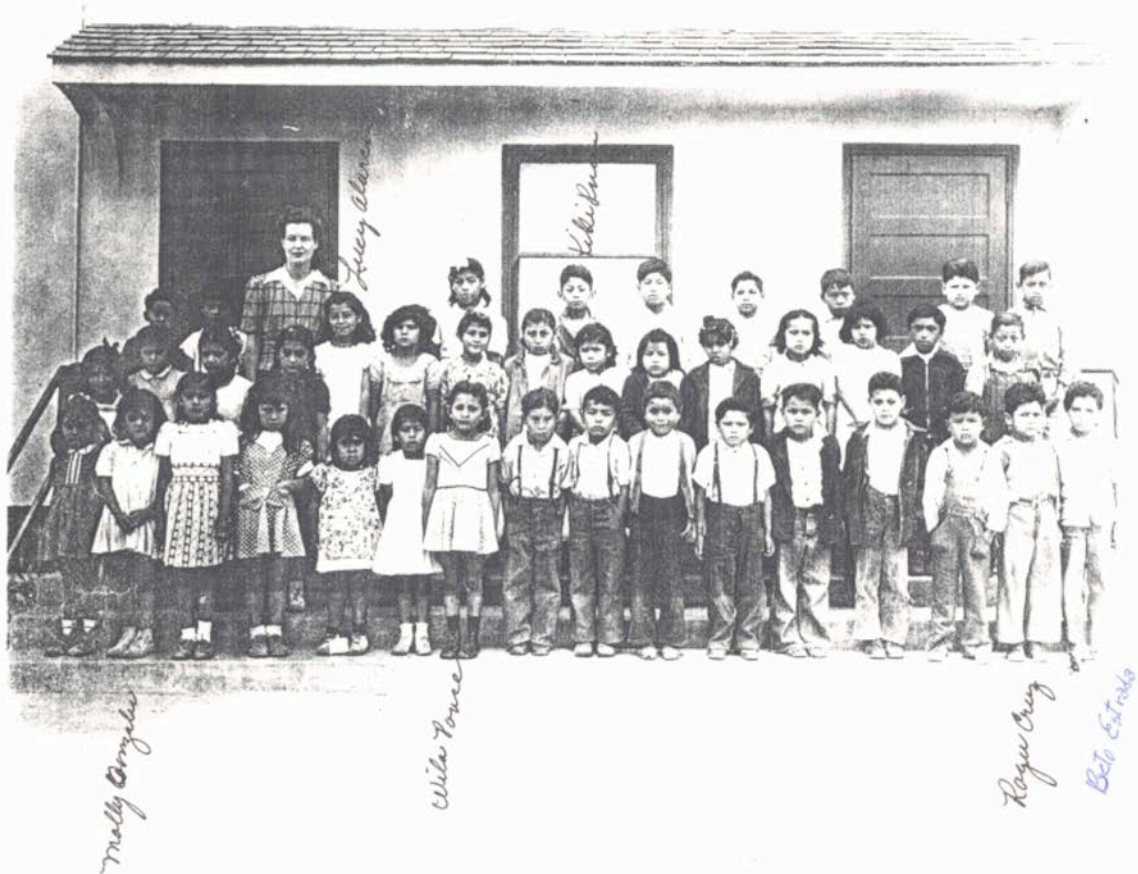
PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Photo of family of Gonzalo and Felicitas Méndez, left to right:
Geronimo, “Jerome” (plaintiff), Sylvia (plaintiff), Sandra, Gonzalo Jr. (plaintiff) and Phillip.

MENDEZ v WESTMINSTER 1947 Commemorative Stamp, First Day of Issue Ceremony
held at Gonzalo and Felicitas Mendez Fundamental Intermediate School,
September 14, 2007.

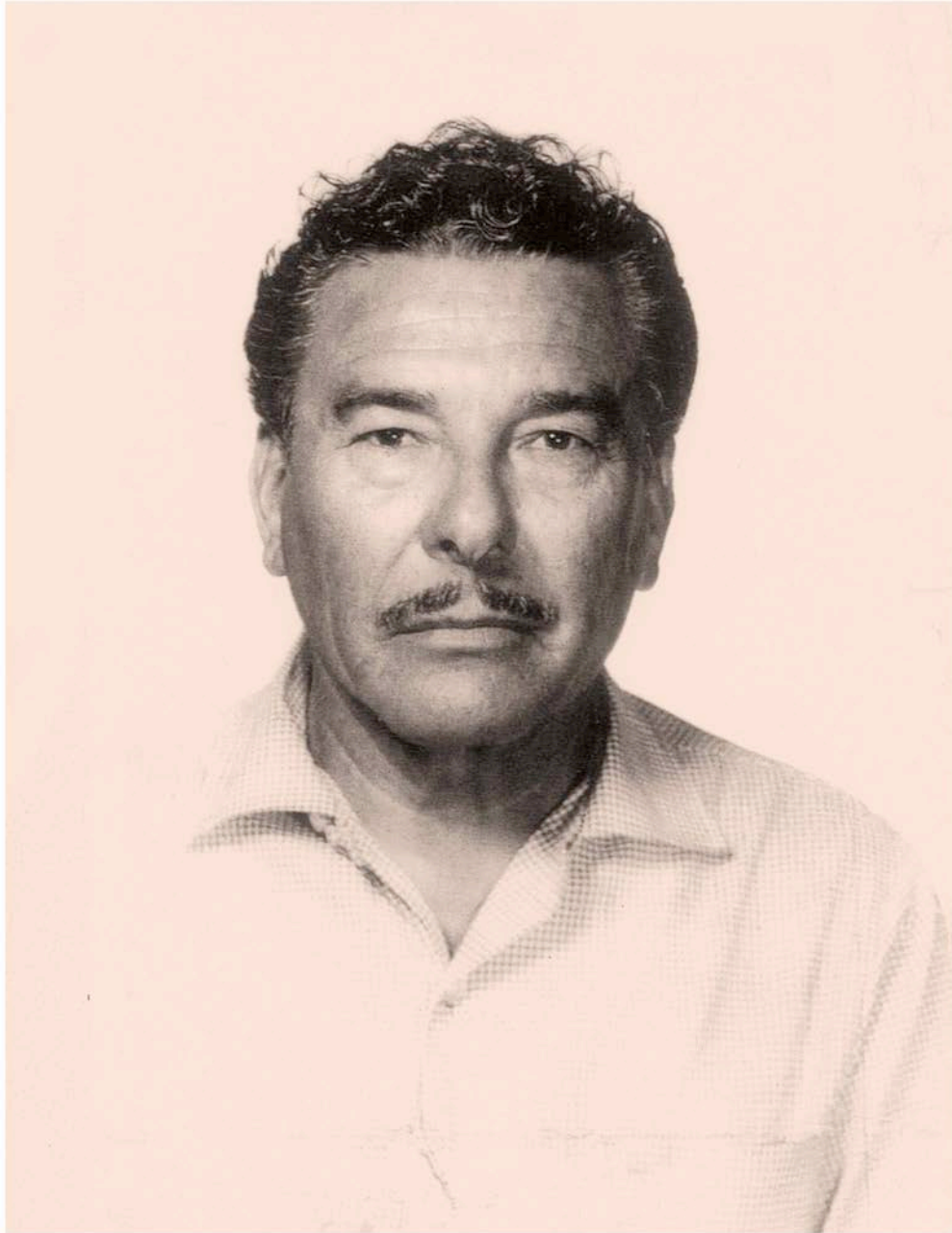
Photo taken by and courtesy of Maria T. Solis-Martinez (Collection).

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



HOOVER SCHOOL 1944
 FIRST GRADE CLASS
 TEACHER: MRS. ALICE JOHNSON

Photo: Combination first and second grade
 (right to left front row first grade identification of only the boys provided by Albert V. Vela:
 (1) Rudy Arganda, (2) Roger Cruz, (3) Tanis (Stanislaus) Avalos (4) Herman Alarcón,
 (5) Alfred "Chino" (6) Albert Vela, (7) Dickie (Richard) Bermúdez,
 (8) unknown, (9) Chente (Vicente) Herrera.
 Photo: courtesy of Albert V. Vela, Ph.D.



Thomas Estrada, representative plaintiff of Westminster in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* attended LULAC event *Reception in Honor of Champions for Civil Rights in Education*. held March 15, 2003.

Photo: courtesy of Syria Estrada Pimental.



Mary Louise Peña Estrada wife of Thomas Estrada plaintiff of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* and daughter of Delia Peña.
Photo: courtesy of Syria Estrada Pimental.



Delia Peña, a civil rights leader from Olive Street, Westminster with grandson Frank Estrada, plaintiff and son of petitioner Thomas Estrada of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*

Photo: courtesy of Syria Estrada Pimental.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



In photo are plaintiffs in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* The children of Thomas and Mary Louise Estrada are (left to right and in front, Syria Estrada and Daniel Estrada (baby) and behind them Clara Estrada, Robert Estrada, Frank Estrada, and their Uncle Richard Peña. The Estrada children are plaintiffs who lived also in the City of Westminster along with the Mendez family and thus they also represented the children of Mexican descent in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* This photo was taken a few years before case was filed.

Photo: courtesy of Syria Estrada Pimental.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



The Estrada family, sons and daughters of Thomas and Mary Louise Estrada many years after they as plaintiff children represented the civil rights of Westminster school children of Mexican descent in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*

In photo (left to right) Clara Estrada, Robert Estrada, Syria Estrada, Daniel Estrada and Evelyn Estrada.

Photo: courtesy of Syria Estrada Pimental.



Lorenzo Ramirez, a lead plaintiff in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* and father of Ignacio, Silverio, “Jimmy” and Jose, three of his children and also plaintiffs.

Photo: courtesy of Mrs. Josefina Ramirez.



Photo of Josefina Ramirez and Lorenzo Ramirez with two of their children.
Mr. Lorenzo Ramirez is a plaintiff in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*

Photo: courtesy of Mrs. Josefina Ramirez.

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ORANGE, CALIFORNIA, NOVIEMBRE 3 DE 1967.
VOLUME II — No. —5—



LIDER de LIDERES

Este gran señor y líder vino al Condado de Orange en el año 1923, cuando era un jovencito de 13 años. Procedentes de Guadalajara, Jalisco, México y Sr. Rosario y Sra. Santos Ramirez llegaron a radicarse antes al pueblo El Modena, California con sus tres hijos LORENZO, Sylvestre y Eluterio y dos hijas Cecilia y Matilde. LORENZO ya había obtenido estudios escolares de Secundaria en México cuando obtuvo su matrícula en la escuela de El Modena para aprender el idioma Inglés.

En 1927, cuando asistió a la escuela en 1927 de El Modena Lincoln Grammar School con altos honores. Inmediatamente Lorenzo se propuso para estar a las órdenes de todo aquel quien necesitara su ayuda. Un Señor

En el año 1943 fue muy activo en exponer la mucha discriminación que había contra el mexicano. Con el Licenciado General de México Sr. Esquivel Padilla asistió a un examen de testigos en San Francisco ese año. En su trabajo con Murphy Ranch en Whittier, Calif; fue el encargado del Bracero Program por varios años. Mas después fue mayordomo en el Control de Plaga del Condado de Orange.

Sus muchas actividades de honradez le llevaron al puesto de Tesorero de La Logia Progresista No. 43 en el año 1951. En 1953 fue electo para que sirviera como Presidente de la misma. Era miembro de la Unión de Trabajadores No. 652 de Santa Ana, Calif. En un cambio de Administración que hubo en el año 1959

In 1923, when he was only thirteen years of age this gentleman, who later was to become a leader among the Mexican-Americans came to Orange County. With their three sons LORENZO, Sylvestre and Eluterio Mr. Rosario and Mrs. Santos Ramirez came to reside in the little town of El Modena. With them also were two daughters Cecilia and Matilde. LORENZO had already had Secondary Schooling in Mexico when he enrolled in the El Modena school system to learn the English Language. He attended school for three years and graduated in 1927 from the El Modena Lincoln Grammar School with high honors. Lorenzo proposed to help anyone so he made himself available to whomsoever needed his help.

Article about Plaintiff Lorenzo Ramirez, a Mexican immigrant and one of five father plaintiffs of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*

This article was written on the anniversary of his death in 1967. The article in the El Modena area Spanish/English language newspaper, "El Politico" reveals that Lorenzo Ramirez was involved in fighting discrimination in 1943 when he went to hearings held in San Francisco with the Consul of Mexico. At the time the Mexican Consulate had established the Comisión Honorífica to help Mexican people with civil rights and legal matters. Mr. Ramirez immigrated into U.S. with his parents in 1923 at the age of thirteen and attended the elementary, unsegregated school at the time in El Modena, to learn English although he already had a secondary school education at a seminary in Guadalajara, Jalisco Mexico. Lorenzo Ramirez was in charge of the Bracero program and worked at Murphy Ranch. He became president of Laborer's Local Union No. 652. Mr. Ramirez testified at the trial in 1945. He stated that his children should be allowed to attend the same elementary school that he himself had attended, Roosevelt. (Transcripts of case, National Archives, and Records Administration Pacific Region Laguna Niguel). Article of "Lider de Lideres" in *El Politico* courtesy of Lorenzo Ramirez Family.



Photo of Josefina Ramirez, champion for civil rights, wife of plaintiff Lorenzo Ramirez and mother of Ignacio, Silverio, (Silvino also called “Jimmy”) and José three children who were also plaintiffs in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* Photo: courtesy of Mrs. Lorenzo Ramirez.

Mrs. Ramirez recalls that her husband was very active in fighting the discrimination held against Mexican people in El Modena. She stated that her husband was fighting together with Mr. Manuel Veiga, Mr. Torres and others for the legal case against schools that were unjustly discriminating against the Mexican people who live here in the United States. She stated that her husband was a Mexican citizen. She recalled that her husband had to attend many meetings for the school case and that with others he fought for the cause of a better education for their children and other children. At the time the school case was not yet known as the *Mendez case*.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Photo: Mrs. Lorenzo (Josefina) Ramirez and her three plaintiff sons, Jose, Ignacio, Silverio "Jimmy" of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* Reception In Honor of Champions for Civil Rights in Education, Garden Grove, California, held March 15, 2003 by California LULAC Heritage Committee-- Margie Aguirre, Chair, and Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County.

Photo: taken by Rebecca Farnbach and courtesy of Margie Aguirre Collection.

Reproduced from the holdings of the National Archives
Pacific Region, Laguna Niguel Office

501

1 A The Board members.
2 Q All of them?
3 A Always. They all meet together.
4 Q Did you have some discussion with respect to the
5 segregation of the Mexican children?
6 A Not especially, no.
7 ✓ Q Now, to your knowledge, then this policy has been
8 in existence and been carried out since you have been there?
9 ✓ A That's correct.
10 ✓ Q And that has been at least seven years?
11 A That's right.
12 Q Do you know how long it has been in existence prior
13 to that time?
14 ✓ A I have been told that the overall program had been
15 carried on for about 15 or more years, something like that.
16 Q Now, is that segregation in the Lincoln School
17 100 per cent, to your knowledge?
18 A You mean if the Lincoln School, the enrollment
19 there, is 100 per cent of Mexican descent?
20 Q Yes, children, that is right.
21 A Yes.
22 ✓ Q Regardless of where the other children reside, these
23 children other than of Mexican descent, they are all sent to
24 the Roosevelt School, are they?
25

Testimony of defendant Harold Hammersten, Superintendent of El Modeno [sic] School District, Friday July 6, 1945: answers to questions made by attorney David C. Marcus, counsel for the plaintiffs, trial of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*

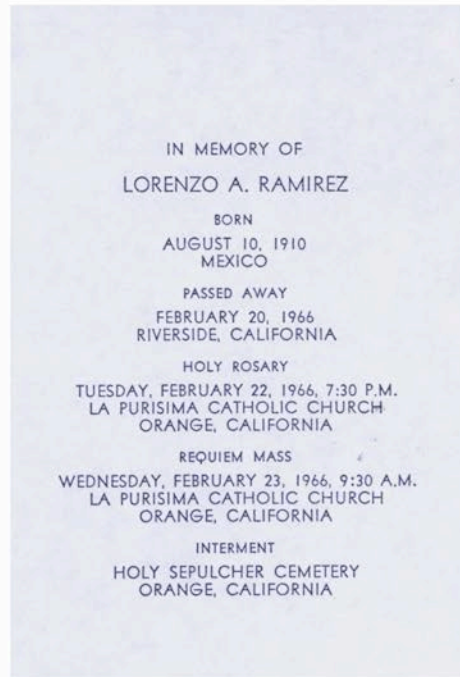
LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Photo of Mrs. Josefina Ramirez holding a photograph of her husband Lorenzo Ramirez, a plaintiff of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*

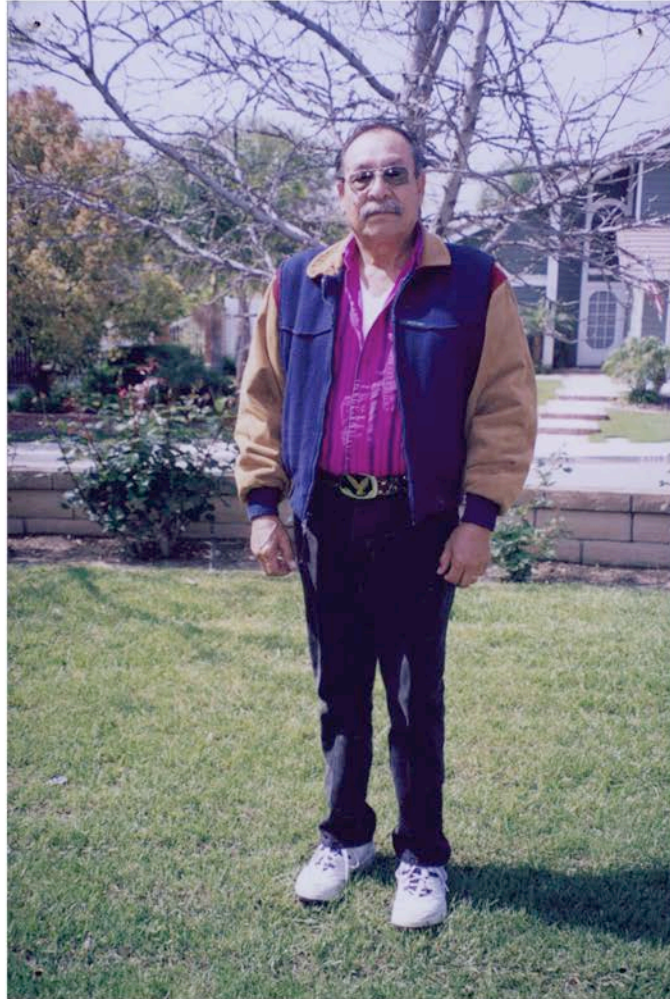
Photo: taken by Margie Aguirre at the home (beautiful garden) of Mrs. Ramirez, for her interview by Mrs. Aguirre (author) and Carol Torres (first president of El Modena Junior LULAC council and witness in case trial driven to trial by Mr. Lorenzo Ramirez in 1945), Interview held Spring, 2003.

Photo: courtesy of Margie Aguirre Collection.



Funeral prayer card courtesy of Jose Ramirez, son of Lorenzo Ramirez,
plaintiffs of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Jose Ramirez, plaintiff and son of Lorenzo Ramirez,
Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs Westminster School District of Orange County et al.
Photo taken by Margie Aguirre, at her residence,
Yorba Linda, California, Spring 2003.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Ignacio Ramirez



Silverio (Jimmy) Ramirez

Photos: Graduation pictures of plaintiffs and sons of Lorenzo Ramirez,
Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.
Photos: courtesy of Mrs. Lorenzo Ramirez.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

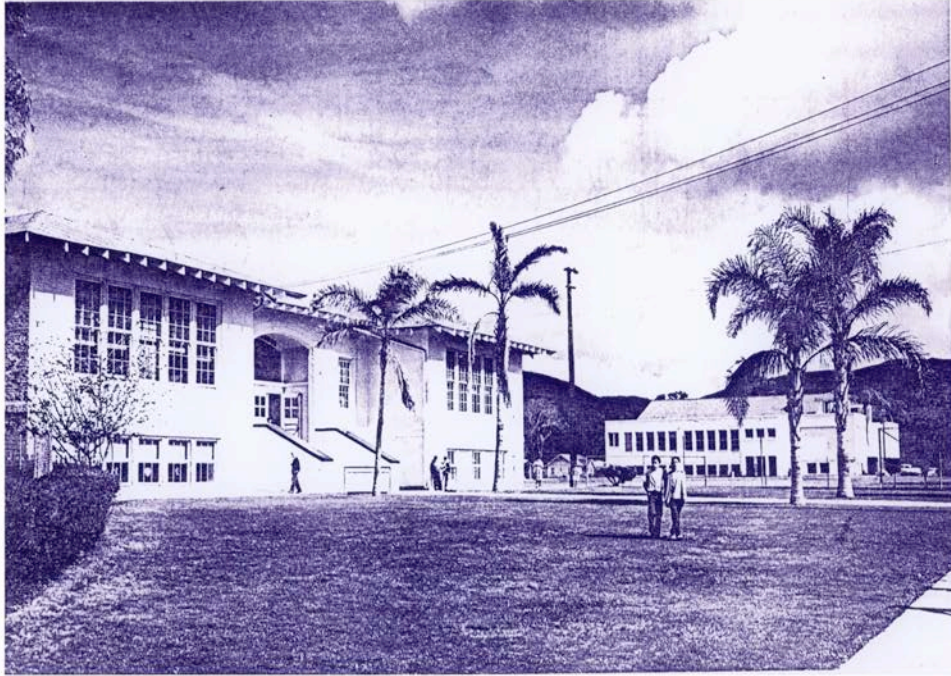


Photo of Ignacio Ramirez, plaintiff and son of plaintiff Lorenzo Ramirez,
Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.
Photo: courtesy of Mrs. Lorenzo Ramirez.

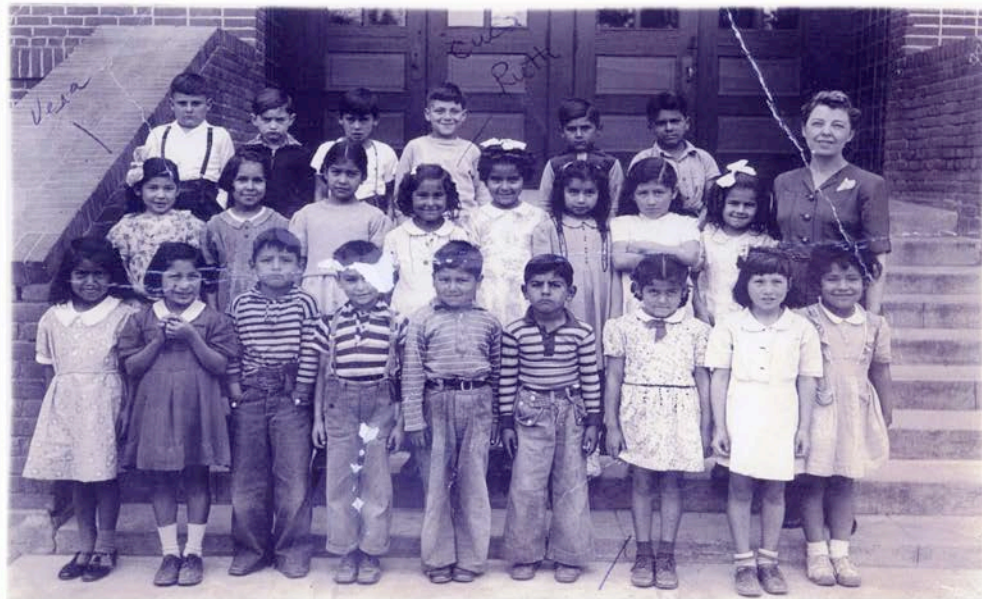


Photo of Silverio, (Silvino) "Jimmy" Ramirez, plaintiff, son of Lorenzo Ramirez, *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*
Photo: courtesy of Mrs. Lorenzo Ramirez.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Schools located in the City of Orange in a part also known as El Modena. During the time of segregation, English speaking students were to attend Roosevelt (forefront) and Mexican children were to attend Lincoln. Courtesy of Jose Ramirez.



El Modena school children attend school in late 1940s. Photo courtesy of Mrs. Vera Guzman, wife of plaintiff Billy Guzman and in photo second row first girl at left.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

FRANK PALOMINO-REPRESENTATIVE PLAINTIFF-GARDEN GROVE.



Photo of Mr. Frank Palomino plaintiff and son Arthur, plaintiff, taken a few years before their class action lawsuit, *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* Frank Palomino was a LULAC Santa Ana Council No. 147 charter member who seconds a motion to meet again at the first recorded meeting. The minutes of this meeting that were taken by Hector R. Tarango.

Photo: courtesy of Arthur Palomino.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

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Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel)

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v44

1 A I could not tell you the name, because that was the
2 first time I walked in that office, where he was.

3 Q Well, do you know the name of the school at the
4 present time?

5 A No, I don't. That was the first and last time I
6 ever been in there in my life.

7 Q What did he tell you at that time?

8 A He said my children was of Mexican descent and
9 wasn't allowed there until they were in the sixth grade, that
10 I had to send them to Hoover School. And I told him if I had
11 to send them to Hoover School, where nothing but Mexican
12 descent, I would send them to a private school, and what I did.

13 THE COURT: Read the answer, please, Miss Reporter.

14 (Answer read by the reporter.)

15 Q BY MR. MARCUS: Now, did you at that time advise Mr.
16 Emley --

17 MR. MARCUS: Is that his name, counsel?

18 MR. HOLDEN: I don't know the name of the person he is
19 referring to.

20 Q BY MR. MARCUS: What is his name?

21 A The superintendent?

22 Q Yes.

23 A Emley.

24 Q Did you at that time advise Mr. Emley where you

Testimony of Frank Palomino July 5, 1945, a plaintiff in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* and a founder of Orange County LULAC; charter member of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

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Pacific Region (Laguna Niguel)

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Zv48

- 1 A The same year, 1941, in November. I just wanted
- 2 to be sure where my district was, and he told me to go see
- 3 Mr. Emley in Garden Grove, so I did.
- 4 Q And that is the result of your conversation?
- 5 A That is the result of my conversation.
- 6 Q Did you at any time put your children in the Hoover
- 7 School?
- 8 A No.
- 9 Q Now you are sending them to a private school, at
- 10 the present time?
- 11 A At the present time -- he was there about, I will
- 12 say, two or three years, that Arthur was there. But now
- 13 just the little girl is there in the private school, and my
- 14 little boy, as I said before, is in the Fremont School.
- 15 Q Is it your desire at the present time to send your
- 16 children to the Lincoln School?
- 17 A Yes, sir.
- 18 Q That is the school where the Anglo-Saxons go?
- 19 A Yes, sir. Being in this country, as I am, I want to
- 20 live and I want to raise them as a good American, if they give
- 21 us a chance.
- 22 Q Now, prior to the time that your children attended
- 23 the school, what language did they speak?
- 24 A Just speak English.
- 25 Q Did they give your children any tests at all, before

Testimony of Plaintiff Frank Palomino July 5, 1945 that indicates discrimination with questions by attorney David C. Marcus, counsel for plaintiffs for trial of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*



PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Photo of Frank Palomino, plaintiff, *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* with his wife Irene.

Frank Palomino was born December 3, 1906 and died April 24, 1999

Mr. Palomino testified "I want to raise my children as good Americans if they give us a chance." Frank Palomino filed on behalf of son Arthur and daughter Sally and on behalf of 5000 similarly situated.

Frank Palomino was a charter member of Santa Ana Council No. 147.

He seconds a motion to meet again in their first meeting. His son Arthur, a plaintiff, states "My father spoke well. He spoke like a man in politics. He spoke with a big voice to defend our rights." Frank Palomino was born in Kansas.

Photo: courtesy of son Arthur Palomino.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Photo of Arthur Palomino and his sister Sally Palomino. Both Arthur and Sally were child plaintiffs in the class action lawsuit *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* This photo was taken about 1942 a few years before the case was filed in 1945. Photo courtesy of Arthur Palomino.



Photo: Arthur Palomino at work. As a child Arthur Palomino was a plaintiff of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* Arthur is the son of Frank Palomino plaintiff of the desegregation case and Irene Palomino.

Photo: courtesy of Mr. Arthur Palomino.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Photo: (left) Plaintiff Arthur Palomino of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* and his brother Frank Palomino Jr. Photo taken by Rebecca Farnbach at the event held by California LULAC Heritage Committee, Reception in Honor of *Champions for Civil Rights in Education* organized by Margie Aguirre which took place March 15, 2003 in Garden Grove, California. The two brothers are standing in front of honoree: "Frank Palomino Family" display.

Photo: courtesy of Margie Aguirre Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Photo: Left to right, Mrs. Frank Palomino, Mr. Frank Palomino and Mr. William Guzman. Both Mr. Palomino and Mr. Guzman were plaintiffs in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* and they were also friends. Photo: courtesy of Mrs. William Guzman.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Photo of plaintiff William Guzman (left) and plaintiff Frank Palomino of class action lawsuit *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* Photo taken at the home of Frank Palomino in Santa Ana, California. For a period of years they both worked at Disneyland. Mr. William Guzman once worked under LULAC member Manuel Veiga Jr. at the Veiga Funeral home in Santa Ana. Medical conditions kept both from serving in the military. Date of photo unknown.

Photo: courtesy of Mrs. Virginia Guzman.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Mr. William Guzman and Virginia Guzman went before the Santa Ana School Board of Education, October, 1944 to ask that their son “Billy” be allowed to transfer into the integrated school. Mr. William Guzman was a plaintiff representing Santa Ana in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* on behalf of their son Billy.

Photo: courtesy of Mrs. Virginia Guzman.



Photo: Billy (William) Guzman (top row from right third boy) a plaintiff in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*, First Holy Communion group picture in mid-1940's.
Photo taken in front of St. Anne Catholic Church in Santa Ana, California.
Billy attended a private catholic school because he was not allowed to transfer into the Franklin school an integrated school that was located nearer to his home.
Before being enrolled at St. Anne's school Billy had been attending Fremont Elementary School where only Mexican children were enrolled. (Interview: Virginia Guzman, 2003).

Photo: courtesy of Mrs. Virginia Guzman.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Virginia Guzman and William Guzman.



William "Billy" Guzman Jr.

Son of William and Virginia Guzman.
Plaintiff as a child in
Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs.
Westminster School District
of Orange County et al.

Photos: courtesy of Mrs. Virginia Guzman.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

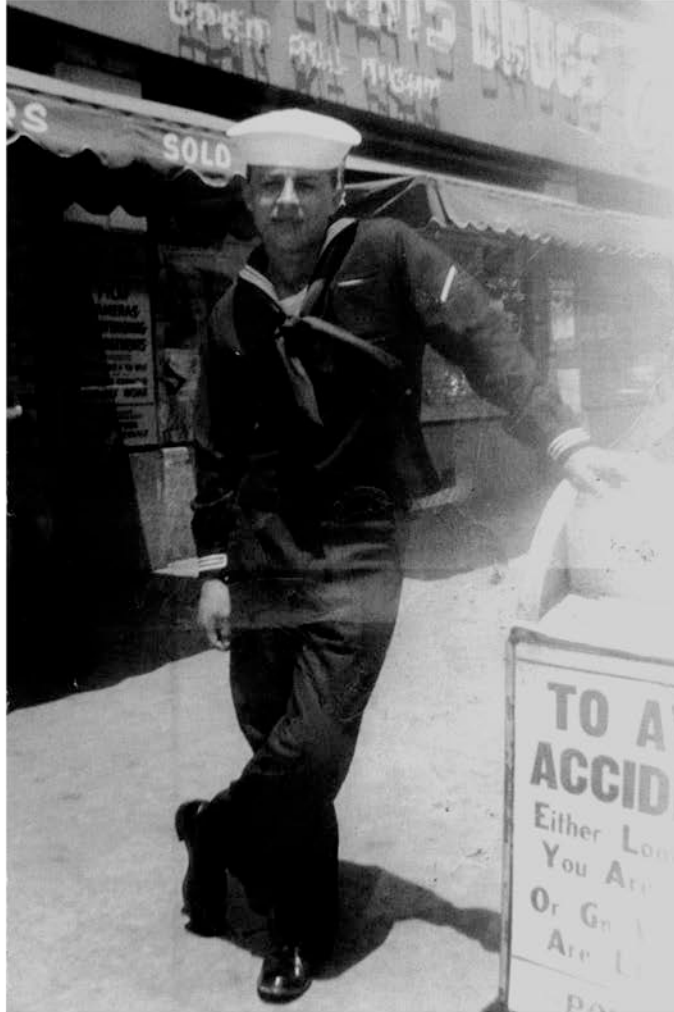


Mr. William Guzman, a plaintiff in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* filed in 1945 was a radio ham operator by hobby.
Photo: courtesy of Mrs. William Guzman.



Mrs. Virginia Guzman (right), a champion for civil rights in education, is a role model for her daughter Beverly Guzman Gallegos (left). Photo taken at interview held by Margie Aguirre & Cory Aguirre, Esq. 12/28/02 for *LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS*.
Photo: MARGIE AGUIRRE COLLECTION.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



"Billy" William Guzman Jr.
a child plaintiff of
Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.
serving (years later) in the U.S. Navy.

Photo: courtesy of Mrs. Virginia Guzman.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Top photo:
taken by Harvey Tarango
(left to right) Mrs. Lorenzo Ramirez,
plaintiff Thomas Estrada,
Hector Tarango LULAC founder,
and plaintiff Arthur Palomino.

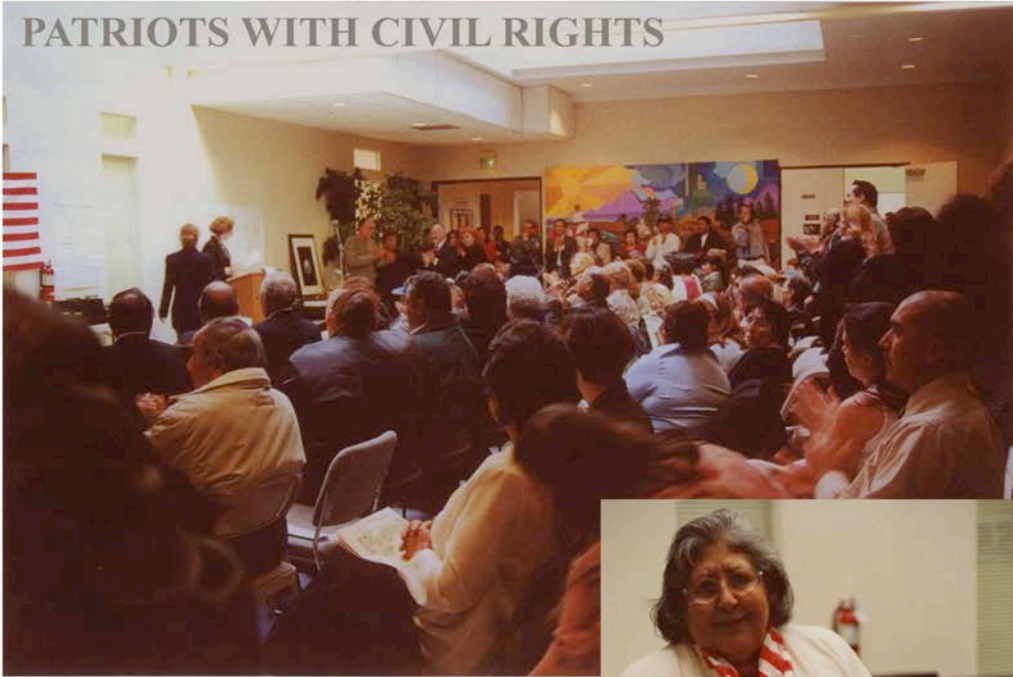
Bottom photo:
taken by Rebecca Farnbach
Plaintiff Thomas Estrada and daughter
Syria Estrada Pimental, also plaintiff.

Photos: courtesy of Margie Aguirre.



Champions for Civil Rights in Education
Reception held March 15, 2003 in Garden Grove, California.
Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.

PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Judge Frances Muñoz explains the issues of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* to plaintiff families and LULAC member families involved.

Photo: taken by Rebecca Farnbach, courtesy of Margie Aguirre Collection.



LULAC Reception in Honor of Champions for Civil Rights in Education held March 15, 2003, Garden Grove, California.

Maria T. Solis-Martinez member of California LULAC Heritage Committee prepares U.S. flag as symbol of honor for *Reception in Honor of Champions for Civil Rights in Education* held March 15, 2003, Garden Grove, California.

Photo: taken by Rebecca Farnbach, courtesy of Margie Aguirre Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Margie Aguirre explains history chart of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* to plaintiff families and LULAC families involved and others.



Plaintiff in *Méndez et al. case*, Tomás Estrada asks Margie Aguirre, Chair of *Reception in Honor of Champions for Civil Rights in Education*, “¿Usted es la que me llamo? (Are you the person who called me?) as event committee member Maria T. Solis-Martinez listens. Mr. Estrada expressed his gratitude in his greeting. He had never been called before to attend an event where he was honored for being a plaintiff in the *Méndez et al. case*. He was 95 in the year of event.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Margie Aguirre explains history chart of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* to plaintiff families and LULAC families involved and others.



Plaintiff in *Méndez et al. case*, Tomás Estrada asks Margie Aguirre, Chair of *Reception in Honor of Champions for Civil Rights in Education*, “¿Usted es la que me llamo? (Are you the person who called me?) as event committee member Maria T. Solis-Martinez listens. Mr. Estrada expressed his gratitude in his greeting. He had never been called before to attend an event where he was honored for being a plaintiff in the *Méndez et al. case*. He was 95 in the year of event.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Photo left to right: Honorees Arthur Palomino, Virginia Guzman, Carol Torres, Alex Maldonado, Mary Godinez, Ralph Perez, Norma Mendez Martinez, and Frank Veiga, son of Manuel Veiga Jr. Margie Aguirre, Chair of California LULAC Heritage Committee (in the forefront) expresses her gratitude and explains the exhibits on the first floor and second floor that show the work of the families who themselves represent champions for civil rights. Not present at event and not in this photo but also honored was the Alex Lievanos family and the John Gonzales family.

Photo taken by Rebecca Farnbach. Event held March 15, 2003 by California LULAC Heritage Committee and Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County, RECEPTION IN HONOR OF CHAMPIONS FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN EDUCATION, (*Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*, Garden Grove, California.

Flowers presented to honorees were a donation by Maria T. Solis-Martinez, member of California LULAC Heritage Committee.

MARGIE AGUIRRE COLLECTION.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Honoree family of Cruz Barrios, founder of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147, and organizer of class action lawsuit *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* The late Mr. Cruz Barrios is here represented at this LULAC event by his wife Ruth Barrios and son Russ Barrios and daughter Genevieve Barrios Southgate.

*Reception in Honor of Champions for Civil Rights in Education,
California LULAC Heritage Committee and Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County.
March 15, 2003, Garden Grove, California.*

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Photo: Mrs Cruz Barrios (Ruth), Mrs. Lorenzo Ramirez (Josefina), Mr. Tomás Estrada and Mr. Hector R. Tarango at the event *Reception in Honor of Champions for Civil Rights in Education, (Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.,* March 15, 2003.

Photo: taken by Harvey Tarango.

Margie Aguirre Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

Special Comments

Made on March 15, 2003

Reception in Honor of Champions for Civil Rights in Education

Sponsored by California LULAC Heritage Committee and Hispanic Bar Assoc. of Orange County

"It was that same 1944 in September that --Mr. Mendez and Mr. Estrada who had children at that time in the Westminster Hoover School--they were accompanied by Mr. Cruz Barrios, Manuel Veiga and Mr. Hector Tarango representing the organization at that time called the Latin American Voters Counsel. They attended the school Board meeting. They presented a petition to the school Board protesting the segregation of the American children of Mexican descent and requested that the Hoover School be united with the Westminster School which was at that time all Anglo. The school Board heard them and they said to them: 'Well we inherited the problem. We didn't cause the problem, we inherited it and we'd like to fix the problem but we don't have any money to fix it at this time and the problem therefore will not be fixed. Your children will have to continue going to segregated schools.'

It should be noted that the group that went Barrios, Veiga and Tarango, that formed this organization called the Latin American Voters and the reason they formed it is because they were aware of this segregation and they said that their stated purpose on the record, 'to see if they could by means of making a society or groups amongst the Mexican quarters to have interviews to unite and have interviews with the superintendents and to see and have interviews and see whether or not they could come to some understanding.' So they united to make this presentation to the school Board. They had the foresight to recognize that in groups united you have a larger voice.

They were denied their petition and the same scenario took place in the segregated schools throughout Orange County. In the city of Santa Ana there was segregation as well and William Guzman went to the school Board and protested the segregation of his son Billy. In Garden Grove, Frank Palomino protested the segregation of his children Arthur and Sally. In El Modena, Lorenzo Ramirez made the same protest in behalf of his sons, Ignacio, Silverio and Jose who are here today. All the schools boards denied their requests and said the schools will remain segregated.

After exhausting all of their administrative remedies they contacted David Marcus, who was I believe at the time affiliated with consulate of Mexico located in Los Angeles. He filed a class action on behalf of five families and the 5,000 Orange County children of Mexican children who are similarly situated, March 2, 1945."

--Frances Muñoz, Orange County Superior Court Judge (Retired)

Reception in Honor of Champions for Civil Rights in Education, March 15, 2003.

"The HBA of Orange County wishes to personally thank the LULAC Heritage Committee, personally thank Margie and Cory Aguirre, who really spear headed this and made it possible. The Hispanic Bar Association, 150 strong wants to personally also thank the five plaintiff families, Gonzalo Mendez family, Thomas Estrada family, William Guzman family, Frank Palomino family and Lorenzo Ramirez family, and the LULAC representatives who helped them. It's ordinary people that stood up that created the quality educational opportunities for Latinos to enter the professions such as lawyers and judges.

We truly owe a great debt of gratitude to those that went ahead of us to open doors and made it possible for us to enter the professions."

--Fabio Cabezas, President of Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County

Reception in Honor of Champions for Civil Rights in Education, March 15, 2003.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



Photo: (Top)
Vera Marquez National LULAC Vice President for Women, congratulates Mrs. Josefina Ramirez, wife of Lorenzo Ramirez, plaintiff *Gonzalo Méndez et al. v Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* while plaintiff and son Ignacio Ramirez looks on.

Photo: taken by Rebecca Farnbach, courtesy of Margie Aguirre Collection.

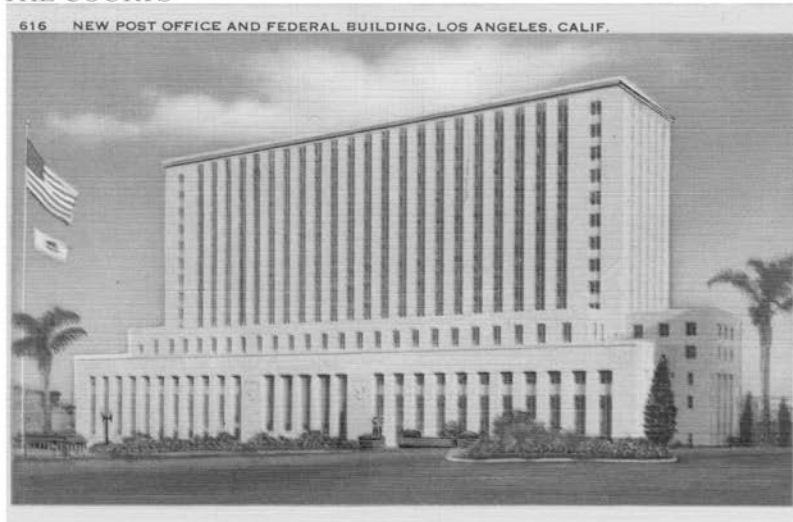
Photo: (right)
Cory A. Aguirre, Esq. Past President of Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County (HBA) and legal counsel for LULAC explains the legal process of the lawsuit.
Photo: taken by Harvey Tarango, courtesy of Margie Aguirre Collection.



RECEPTION IN HONOR OF
CHAMPIONS FOR CIVIL RIGHTS
IN EDUCATION,
March 15, 2003.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

THE COURTS



DISTRICT COURT OF U. S. FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA IN LOS ANGELES WHERE MENDEZ ET AL. CASE WAS HEARD IN 1945. PLAINTIFFS WON THE DECISION IN *MENDEZ ET AL. VS WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY ET AL.* WHEN JUDGE PAUL J. McCORMICK RULED IN THEIR FAVOR.

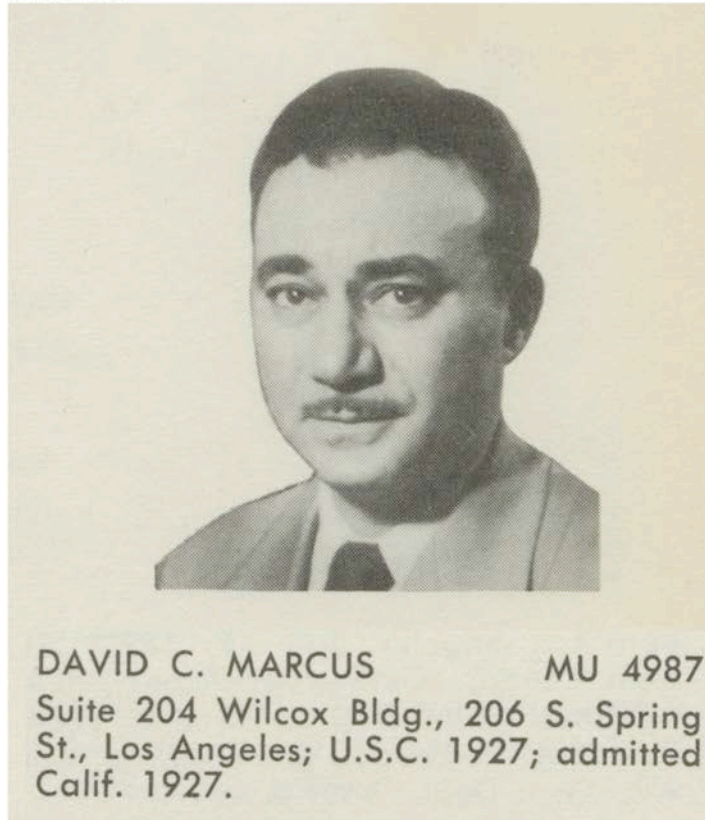


NINTH CIRCUIT OF UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS HEARING OF *WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY ET AL. V MENDEZ ET AL.* WAS HELD HERE IN 1947. DECISION WAS RENDERED APRIL 14, 1947. DECISION OF THE LOWER COURT WAS UPHELD. THIS COURT IS IN SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA.

Postcard and Photo: courtesy of Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

ATTORNEY



David C. Marcus Esq. was born in Iowa. (Des Moines). He was born May 24, 1904. He died December, 5, 1982. His father was Benjamin Marcus from Russia. His mother was Mary Cohen from Iowa. He received his law degree in 1927 from U.S.C. He practiced law in California. He entered the American Bar Association in 1927. He worked for the Mexican Consulate and was thus known as the "Mexican lawyer" and as such in 1945 he represented *Gonzalo Méndez et al. in the class action lawsuit Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* Marcus also represented LULAC members in the time period of appeal *Westminster v Mendez* in 1947. (Information obtained from County of Los Angeles Hall of Records and from Los Angeles County Lawyers Directory and from LULAC persons involved in the case.

Photo with caption: David C. Marcus, *Los Angeles County Lawyers Directory 1949-1950*, courtesy of Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society.

ATTORNEY



WILLIAM STRONG MA 6-0411
923 Chester William Bldg., 215 W. 5th
St., Los Angeles. Born April 17, 1909;
BA, Rutgers Univ.; JD, N.Y.U. Law
School; admitted N. Y. 1936, U. S.
Sup. Ct. 1942, Calif. 1946; Asst. U. S.
Atty. L. A.; Spec. Asst. to U. S. Atty.
Gen.; Principal Attorney Appellate Sec-
tion, U. S. Dept. of Justice, D. C.

David C. Marcus hired William Strong as support counsel for the appeal of the case which now has the title of *Westminster School District of Orange County et al. vs. Méndez et al.* The higher court upheld the lower court decision.

Photo: courtesy of Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

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Pacific Region, Laguna Niguel Office

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1 MR. WIRIN: We shall accept that responsibility, and we
2 realize that the case shall not be tried in a constitutional
3 vacuum but to be based upon the presentation of evidence which
4 will appear in the record.

5 MR. MARCUS: May I make inquiry of the court on a matter
6 of guidance in the presentation of the evidence: As the court
7 suggested at the pre-trial, it would be in the interests of
8 orderly procedure, at least, to limit the number of witnesses
9 in the case. I have accordingly selected a few witnesses
10 from each of the respective districts involved. Would it be
11 agreeable to the court to proceed with each separate district
12 and present a representative witness from each such district?

13 THE COURT: Without limiting the other side to any
14 acquiescence which they may not desire to assume, I think that
15 would be an expeditious arrangement.

16 MR. MARCUS: Now, as a matter of personal privilege, I
17 have present in the court room the consul of Mexico represent-
18 ing the Consulate General at Los Angeles, and the consul of
19 Mexico representing the Consulate General of Orange County,
20 and with the court's kind permission, I would ask that they
21 be permitted within the bar of this court, as a matter of
22 courtesy to the Mexican government.

23 THE COURT: That is perfectly agreeable.

24 MR. MARCUS: If your Honor please, this is Mr. Campbell,
25 Santiago Campbell. Mr. Campbell is from the consulate of

MARIE G. ZELLNER

David C. Marcus has selected the representative witnesses and asks as a *personal privilege* that "the Consul of Mexico representing the Consulate General at Los Angeles and the consul of Mexico representing the Consulate General of Orange County. . . be permitted within the bar of this court, as a matter of courtesy to the Mexican government." This page records the first day of trial in July, 1945.
(Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al., 1946).

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

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Reproduced from the holdings of the National Archives
Pacific Region, Laguna Niguel Office

1 Los Angeles, and Mr. Alcozar is the consul of Mexico in Santa
2 Ana, Orange County.

3 THE COURT: I am very glad to see you, gentlemen, and you
4 may be seated.

5 MR. HOLDEN: If the court please, there is just one little
6 error that I noticed in the pre-trial.

7 THE COURT: I did not get my copy of the pre-trial
8 transcript. You have received yours?

9 MR. HOLDEN: Yes.

10 THE COURT: Do you have a copy, counsel?

11 MR. MARCUS: No.

12 MR. HOLDEN: Then I am fortunate in being the only one
13 to have received one. However, I made the statement that the
14 Santa Ana District had meandered the Fremont line, the line
15 of the Fremont zone. I was mistaken in that, and I want to
16 correct it to show that the Santa Ana District did not
17 meander the line so far as the Fremont School is concerned,
18 and that I was mistaken in the school there, and I want the
19 privilege of explaining that when we come to the school where
20 that condition may exist.

21 THE COURT: In other words, as I understand you, Mr.
22 Holden, you think that you misspoke yourself?

23 MR. HOLDEN: That is right, your Honor.

24 THE COURT: But not that the reporter did not get what
25 you said?

MARIE G. ZELLNER

The names of the representatives of the Consulate General of Mexico are for Los Angeles Mr. Santiago Campbell and for Santa Ana, Orange County, Mr. Alcozar. The fact that David C. Marcus worked for the Mexican Consulate demonstrates that those who sought his legal assistance were people who were of Mexican lineage as was the case in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*

JUDGE



JUDGE PAUL J. McCORMICK
Chief Judge, U. S. Dist. Ct., 312
N. Spring St., Los Angeles. Born
April 23, 1879, New York City;
Loyola Univ. LLD. Admitted Calif.
1900; former Judge of the Su-
perior Ct., Los Angeles County.

Honorable PAUL J. McCormick ruled in favor of plaintiffs
in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*
March 21, 1946.

Photo: Courtesy of Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

JUDGES



Honorable Homer T. Bone



WILLIAM DENMAN
1872-1959



HONORABLE CLIFTON MATHEWS



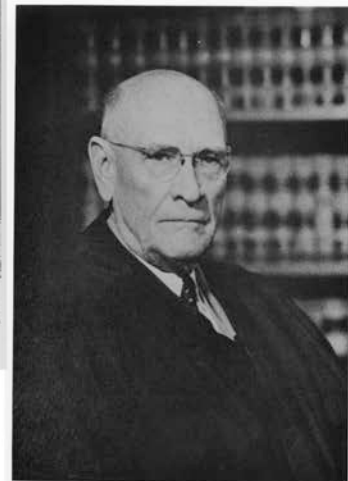
JUDGE WILLIAM HEALY



27. The swearing-in ceremony of Homer T. Bone, appointed to replace the deceased Bert E. Haney on the Ninth Circuit. (left to right) Clifton Mathews, Francis A. Garrecht, Curtis D. Wilbur, Homer T. Bone, William Denman, and William Healy. (San Francisco Public Library)



HONORABLE WILLIAM E. ORR



HONORABLE ALBERT LEE STEPHENS, SR.

JUDGES OF THE NINTH CIRCUIT U.S. COURT OF APPEALS (SAN FRANCISCO 1947)

AS PICTURED IN DIFFERENT YEARS
OF THEIR SERVICE. CASE HEARD AND DECISION:
*WESTMINSTER SCHOOL DISTRICT OF ORANGE COUNTY ET AL.
VS. MENDEZ ET AL., 1947.*

PHOTOS COURTESY OF NINTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT HISTORICAL
SOCIETY.

FOUNDING AND HISTORY OF LULAC

(Continued from Page 3)

the League with volumes of its work that much harder, especially when Lulac's enemies misrepresented the organization and its objectives in hopes of destroying its power in order to continue their un-American activities that Lulac abhors and fights relentlessly.

Many are the activities that Lulac has participated in and still participates in today in its struggle to bring about an equality of opportunity, privilege, and responsibility. As early as 1931, an Educational Committee on a national basis had been set up for the purpose of keeping a vigilant lookout for educational opportunities for all, to work hand in hand with educational agencies in the diffusion of educational information, and to co-ordinate the wide-spread work of individual councils along lines of education. Lulac has made possible many scholarships to worthy individuals for a continuance of higher education; it has been vigilant in all instances where in there appeared any inkling of curtailment of the educational opportunities of children of Latin Americans. Examples of this can be found in the activity of Lulac in the segregation school cases of Hondo, Ozona, Texas, and Orange County, California, where Lulac won a federal court decision condemning segregation. A similar case was won at the federal court in Austin when Judge Ben Rice rendered a decision also against segregation in any shape or form.

On an informal basis, Lulac has been responsible for making available home training in child care, personal hygiene, health problems, and food preparation. Within its own councils Lulac trains its members in public speaking, parliamentary procedure, assumption of responsibilities, and citizenship. Another phase of educational work of Lulac is its "Back-To-School" campaigns that it carries out throughout the various communities in which it operates, using every available means of appealing to the people to send their children to school. The effectiveness of this program can be seen in the increased attendance at schools and less withdrawals.

Other activities of Lulac have carried it into the field of Scouting where it is doing a good job, doing to its great interest in the welfare of its youth.

Another field is that involving Bracero and migrant labor as well as illegal labor. Lulac has opposed all three on different grounds. The Bracero labor is opposed only so long as it constitutes a source of cheap labor thereby lowering wage standards of resident laborers. The migrant labor has been opposed because

living quarters, educational opportunities, and health facilities, the oppositions are removed. The last, illegal labor, has been opposed for obvious reasons. Persons employing such labor can afford to pay cheap wages and keep the laborers in virtual peonage with the threat of denouncing them to the immigration authorities. Such an activity has carried Lulac through its representatives to the capitals of Mexico and the United States.

In general fields of endeavor, Lulac has played important roles in civic affairs through its various members who serve their communities loyally and well; through participation in various civic and welfare drives of all kinds; through bringing about better understanding of peoples, problems, and possible solutions; and through the encouragement of citizens in more assumption of responsibilities. Many other fields of endeavor have been opened to Lulac, but time does not permit details.

The presentation of Lulac in this short history has been limited to a few pertinent phases, because a short presentation of an organization's activities as varied as Lulac's would require untold numbers of volumes. At any rate the above will suffice to show how Lulac has contributed to the amalgamation of a group of people through one form or another of education and understanding as it has striven in the past and is striving now, to reach certain self-imposed objectives destined to bring about socioeconomic betterment of a people, the safe-guarding of their political and civil rights, and the emphasis of their duties and obligations as citizens.

Education is the foundation of all of Lulac's activities and objectives, and education in turn, as George J. Garza, Past National President of Lulac says "... is the foundation of culture, progress, liberty, equality, and fraternity which in turn form the basis for peace, security, and happiness, the goals of our people, our country, our world."

Round About

By Virginia Avalos

The stork visited the following: Mr. and Mrs. Diaz, 10931 Harcourt St., Anaheim, in Orange County Hospital, Jan. 21, 1955, a daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Fernandez, 11811 Santa Rosalia St., Anaheim, in Santa Ana Community Hospital, Jan. 11, 1955, a daughter, 7 lbs., 9 oz.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Turrey,

Article, "FOUNDING AND HISTORY OF LULAC" by George J. Garza, LULAC National President. In middle column second paragraph he explains LULAC's battle for educational opportunities for Latino children by ending segregation. President Garza adds, "and Orange County, California where Lulac won a federal court decision condemning segregation."

LULAC NEWS pg. 6 February, 1955. (Publication of Orange County).

Joe O'Campo Collection.

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS



BANNER

LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS LULAC NATIONAL CONVENTION ORLANDO, FLORIDA 2003

Margie Aguirre, Chair of California LULAC Heritage Committee, presents banner for LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS before Hector Flores, National LULAC President (in picture with hat) at National LULAC Convention, Orlando, Florida, 2003. Cory A. Aguirre (right) and other LULAC member help raise banner. The 10 feet in width and 5 feet in length banner shows copies of documents pertinent to the history of LULAC in the 1940's, including photos of plaintiffs and LULAC participants in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*, the landmark school case for civil rights for Mexican families which LULAC helped win through the efforts of founders of LULAC in Orange County, California.

Also in 2004 at the National LULAC Convention, San Antonio, Texas, Margie Aguirre was a panelist for a seminar on civil rights for the anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education* and presented and explained the history of LULAC and *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*

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PRIMARY SOURCES: ARCHIVES AND INTERVIEWS

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LEGAL CASES AND DOCUMENTS

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The University of Texas at Austin. LULAC Archives.

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LULAC NEWS. Publications of Orange County LULAC.

Dora S. Hanning (O' Campo) Collection.

Alex Maldonado Collection.

Manuel and Vera Marquez Collection.

Joe O'Campo Collection.

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Urban Archives Center, Oviatt Library, CSUN.

County of Los Angeles Hall of Records. (Birth and Death Certificate Information).

Ninth Judicial Circuit Historical Society (Mr. Brad Williams, Archivist).

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Orange County Planning Department.

Orange County Records Office.

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Placentia Yorba Linda School District: Office of the Superintendent; and Records Department. Minutes of meetings of Board of Trustees, Placentia Unified School District (1940 – 1950).

Stanford University Special Collections and University Archives, Green Library, Stanford, Calif.

Santa Ana Community College History Room.

Santa Ana School District Archives. Minutes of the Santa Ana School Board (1940s).

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University of California,
Department of Special Collections, Charles E. Young Research Library, UCLA.

University of California,
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Saturday, April 22, 1944.
UC Irvine Libraries Special Collections and Archives, California Newspapers Collection, MS-R 70, Box 28, OS, Folder No. 3 and Folder No. 4.

EL ESPECTADOR. Ignacio López, editor and publisher.
Personal courtesy of Leonor Varela López.
Pomona College Special Collections (microform).

EL POLITICO. Printed in Mexico.
(A Spanish and English bi-monthly publication with coverage of City of Orange)
Vol. II No. 5, November 3, 1967.
Courtesy of Lorenzo Ramirez Family Collection.

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(April 7, March 24, 1949, May, 12, 1949, and May 19, 1949).
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**Mr. Alfred Aguirre, Collection & Interviews, 2002-2007, *Mrs. Julia Aguirre, 2002-2003, (residence in Placentia, California).*

**Mrs Cruz Barrios, Interview, (residence in Santa Ana, California, 2003). Honored at event LULAC Champions for Civil Rights in Education in 2003.*

Mrs. Alice Gallardo Carlson, daughter of Amado "Bill" Gallardo, Collection & Interview 2008 (held at Law Offices of Cory Anthony Aguirre).

Mr. Joe Cruz, Collection & Interview August 13, 2007 (residence in Orange, California).

Mr. Gerry Duran, son of Ted Duran, Collection & Phone Interview, 2008.

Mr. Mike Duran, son of Ted Duran, Collection & Phone Interview, 2008.

**Mr. Manuel Esqueda, Interview by phone, 2003.*

**Mrs. Dora S. (O'Campo) Hanning Collection & Interview, (residence in 2003).*

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Mrs. Bill Gallardo, Collection & Phone Interview, 2008.

Mr. Nash Garcia & Mrs. Mary Garcia, Collection & Interview 2002 (residence in Riverside, California).

**Mr. Hector Godinez and Mrs. Mary Godinez, Interview September 6, 1996 (residence in Santa Ana, California). Honored as LULAC Champions for Civil Rights in Education. Present at event Mrs. Mary Godinez.*

**Mr. Jack Gomez Family Collection (J. & B. Gomez Collection, B. Gomez interview (residence of author in Yorba Linda, California).*

**Mr. Edward Gonzales and Mrs. Madeline Gonzales, Interview 2002 (residence in Placentia, California).*

**Mr. John O. Gonzales Collection & Interview, 2003 (residence in Dana Point, California). Honored as a LULAC Champion for Civil Rights in Education in 2003 at the time of his interview.*

Mr. Rosalio Gonzales and Mrs. Margaret Diaz Gonzales, Collection and Interview 2002 (residence in Placentia, California).

**Mr. Tony Luna and Mrs. Tony Luna, Interview Fall, 1996 (held at Law Offices of Cory Anthony Aguirre, Fullerton, California).*

Mr. Alex Maldonado, Collection & Interview 2002 (residence of author in Yorba Linda, California, and after that year, more interviews in person and by phone up to 2008). Honored as a LULAC Champion for Civil Rights in Education in 2003.

**Mr. Manuel Marquez and Mrs. Vera Marquez, Interviews 2002 - 2008 (residence in Stanton, California,).*

Mrs. Diane Olivas Montano, (Daughter of Danny Olivas and Aileen Olivas) Collection & Interview 2002 (residence in Brea, California).

Mr. David Ortiz, Collection and Interview, Friday August 1, 2008 (residence Orange California).

Mr. Charlie Rodriguez Moreno, Interview by phone 2008 (residence of Carmen Moreno, in Placentia, California).

Mr. Edward Morga, Past National LULAC President Collection & Interview(er) (residence of John O. Gonzales).

Mr. Joe O'Campo Collection & Interview(s), by phone in 2003, and personal interview at residence in Santa Ana, California in 2008 and at business residence Broadway Billiards

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225 ½ Broadway St. Santa Ana, California where Council No. 147 held installation ceremony June 9, 1946. Collection articles obtained with the assistance of Mrs. Milagros “Millie” O’Campo in 2003 (residence Santa Ana, California).

Mrs. Aileen Olivas, Interview 2002 (residence in Placentia, California).

Mr. Ralph Perez, Family Collection & Interview 1996, 2002 (held at Law Offices of Cory Anthony Aguirre, Fullerton, California). Honored as LULAC Champion for Civil Rights in Education in 2003.

Mr. Jackie Rodriguez, Interview, 2008 (residence Placentia, California).

Mr. Rudy Rodriguez, Collection & Interview 2007 (residence, Placentia, California).

**Mr. Hector R. Tarango and *Mrs. Rebecca Tarango, Collection & Interviews 2002-2006, (residence in Santa Ana, California). Honored as LULAC Champion for Civil Rights in Education in 2003.*

Ms. Carol Torres, Collection & Interview 2003 (residence in Orange California). Honored as LULAC Champion for Civil Rights in Education in 2003.

**Mr. Gualberto Valadez, Interview 2003 (residence in Placentia, California).*

Mr. Eliseo Vargas, Collection & Interview 2007 and 2008 (in person in Placentia, California and phone interview).

Mr. Frank Veiga, son of Manuel Veiga Jr., honored representing family of Manuel Veiga Jr. at event LULAC Champions for Civil Rights in Education in 2003.

Other Special Interview:

Margarita “Leonor” Varela Lopez, Collection & Interview July 26, 2008 (in Pomona, California).

(2) Plaintiff Families of Class Action Lawsuit–Special Interviews

Mr. Thomas Estrada, plaintiff: Interview, (phone conversation) 2003 and personally honored by LULAC as Champion for Civil Rights in Education in 2003.

Ms. Evelina Estrada, plaintiff: Collection and Interview, 2003 in Anaheim and at residence of author in Yorba Linda, California. Honored by LULAC event Champions for Civil Rights in Education but did not personally attend event.

*Mrs. William Guzman: wife of plaintiff *William Guzman and mother of child plaintiff “Billy”: Family Collection and Interview, 2002-2003 and personally honored by LULAC event Champions for Civil Rights in Education in 2003.*

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**Gonzalo, plaintiff and *Felicitas Mendez Family—Sylvia Mendez, Gonzalo Mendez Jr. and Jerome Méndez: Honored by LULAC Reception to Honor Champions for Civil Rights Education but were not present. Representing the Mendez family at event was their relative Mrs. Amanda Mendez Martinez.*

Mrs. Amanda Mendez Martinez, daughter of Dolores Mendez and Sophie Peña and niece of Gonzalo and Felicitas Méndez and of Thomas Estrada and Mary Louise Peña: Collection and Interview, 2003 and personally acknowledged as family member of honoree family of Gonzalo Méndez, at LULAC event Champions for Civil rights in Education in 2003.

*Ms. Norma Mendez, daughter of Dolores Méndez and Sophie Peña Méndez, niece of Gonzalo, plaintiff and Felicitas Méndez and niece of Thomas Estrada, plaintiff and *Mary Louise Peña Estrada: Interview, 2003.*

*Mr. Arthur Palomino, plaintiff & *Frank Palomino Jr. (Sons of Frank Palomino): Collection & Interview, 2002-2003 personally honored by LULAC as honoree family of Frank Palomino, event Champions for Civil Rights in Education in 2003.*

Mrs. Syria Estrada Pimental, plaintiff. daughter of Thomas, plaintiff and Mary Louise Estrada: Collection and Interview (phone conversation) 2003 and personally honored by LULAC event Champions for Civil Rights in Education in 2003.

*Mrs. Lorenzo Ramirez wife of plaintiff *Lorenzo Ramirez, and mother of three sons also plaintiffs, Ignacio, Jose, & Silverio “Jimmy”: Family Collection & Interview, 2003. Mrs. Ramirez and her family were personally honored by LULAC event Champions for Civil Rights in Education in 2003.*

Mr. Ignacio Ramirez, plaintiff: Personally honored by LULAC as Champion for Civil Rights in Education 2003.

**Mr. Jimmy Ramirez, plaintiff. Interview, 2003, and personally honored by LULAC as Champion for Civil Rights in Education in 2003.*

Mr. Jose Ramirez, plaintiff: Interview, 2003 and personally honored by LULAC as a Champion for Civil Rights in Education in 2003.

**Now Deceased.*

All formal and informal interviews in person or by phone conversation were held 1996-2008. Interviews for fiftieth anniversary celebration of Santa Ana LULAC Council No. 147, 1946-1996, “Que Viva LULAC” which took place in Fullerton, California were those held first: Mr. Hector Godinez and Mary Godinez, 1996, and Mr. and Mrs. Tony Luna 1996, and Mr. Ralph Perez in 1996 additionally interviewed 2002 and 2003. Because informal interviews were held there are no transcripts. Transcripts of videotaped interviews are presented in the narrative. The content of report is comprehensive and

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thus no separate and additional transcripts of interviews are available. As cross reference of statements made by interviewees, documentary sources were extensively provided.

Historians

Francisco Balderrama, Ph.D., Professor of History and Chicano Studies, California State University, Los Angeles. (Interview held at CSULA, 2002).

Vicki L. Ruiz, Ph.D., (Presently Dean of School of Humanities, UCI), Professor of History and Professor of Chicana(o)/Latina(o) Studies, University of California, Irvine. (Interview by author at residence of author in Yorba Linda, California and co-interviewer in 2003 with author, and Ed Morga, Past National President of LULAC of John O. Gonzales, Past National Vice-President General of LULAC, held at residence of Mr. Gonzales in Dana Point, California).

Thomas Tomlinson, (Former) Dean of USC Gould School of Law. (Interview by phone 2003).

Legal Consultants

Cory A. Aguirre, Esq., Law Offices of Cory Anthony Aguirre, Fullerton, California California LULAC Adviser, Placentia LULAC President, Interview and Interviewer, 2002-2008.

Corina A. Aguirre, law student, Trinity Law School, Santa Ana, California, Bachelor of Arts in Law and Society, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2006, member of Placentia LULAC Council No. 174.

Researcher

Margie de la Torre Aguirre, Owner of Abrazo Productions, Bachelor of Arts in Combination Social Science, Emphasis, Political Science, University of California, Santa Barbara, 1975, M.A. Political Science, California State University, Fullerton, 2000, Chair of California LULAC Heritage Committee–member of Placentia LULAC Council No. 174.

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298. Photo: Judge Frances Muñoz explains case of *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* to plaintiff families and LULAC families involved at *Reception in Honor of Champions for Civil Rights in Education* March 15, 2003, Garden Grove California held by LULAC and Hispanic Bar Association of Orange County.
Photo: Maria T. Solis-Martinez, member of California LULAC Heritage Committee under Chair Margie Aguirre preparing U.S. flag for display at *Reception in Honor of Champions for Civil Rights in Education* March 15, 2003.
299. Photo: Margie Aguirre explains chart of the case, *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*, to the plaintiff families and LULAC families involved at *Reception in Honor of Champions for Civil Rights in Education* March 15, 2003.
Photo: Margie Aguirre greeting plaintiff as father of six plaintiff children Thomas Estrada, in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* at *Reception in Honor of Champions for Civil Rights in Education* March 15, 2003 as Maria T. Solis-Martinez looks on.
300. Photo: Margie Aguirre, Chair of California LULAC Heritage Committee and organizer of event *Reception in Honor of Champions for Civil Rights in Education* March 15, 2003 welcomes honorees.

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- Photo: Plaintiff from Westminster, Thomas Estrada and daughter Syria and son Daniel in forefront and in background Mrs. William Guzman and next to her, Mrs. Vera Guzman wife of Billy Guzman and others in attendance at event *Reception in Honor of Champions for Civil Rights in Education* March 15, 2003.
301. Photo: Group photo of honorees with Margie Aguirre at event *Reception in Honor of Champions for Civil Rights in Education* March 15, 2003. In photo honorees are Arthur Palomino, Virginia Guzman, Carol Torres, Alex Maldonado, Mary Godinez, Ralph Perez, Norma Mendez Martinez, and Frank Veiga, son of Manuel Veiga Jr.
302. Photo: Honoree family of the late Cruz Barrios who represented LULAC efforts in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.* event *Reception in Honor of Champions for Civil Rights in Education* March 15, 2003. In photo are the wife of Cruz Barrios, Ruth Barrios, and daughter Genevieve Barrios Southgate and son Russ Barrios.
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304. Text of Comments by Judge Frances Muñoz and president of Hispanic Bar Association Fabio Cabezas at event *Reception in Honor of Champions for Civil Rights in Education* March 15, 2003 to honor the plaintiff families and LULAC families involved in *Gonzalo Méndez et al. vs. Westminster School District of Orange County et al.*
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LULAC PROJECT: PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS

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Thank you all, and may God also show you His blessings,
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CSUF, and resident of Yorba Linda, CA., Chair of California LULAC Heritage Committee, and devoted member
of LULAC and Co-founder Hispanic Education Endowment Fund (HEEF).
CALIFORNIA LULAC WOMAN OF THE YEAR, 2003.
FELIX TIJERINA NATIONAL LULAC AWARD, 2003.
NATIONAL LULAC WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME, 2004.
LULAC PATRIOTS WITH CIVIL RIGHTS AWARD, 2004.
Owner of Abrazo Productions, a small business specializing in bilingual/bicultural presentations
(Spanish/English) of music, poetry, drama, creative works in digital video, graphic design and colored pencil artwork.

Photo: Author at interview of LULAC patriot with civil rights John O. Gonzales, Dana Point, California in 2003.



