

POLICE DEPARTMENT — DENVER, COLORADO

No. 197551

197551

NAME: VASQUEZ, Mario Manuel

F.B.I. 192 819 K2

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W/M 19 5/6 155 Brn Blk 11/6/52 Mich

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DATE	NAME	ARRESTING OFFICERS	CHARGE	DATE	DISPOSITION
7/1/72	VASQUEZ	Metzler-Smith	(1) 822.2-1 Dk		
FBI RETURN SHOWS LOCAL RECORD ONLY					
5-17-73gd	VASQUEZ	Norton	(1) Inv. Assault (2) Inv. Bombing		
APR 15 1973	DRUNK				
4/22/73jg	VASQUES	Odell & Campbell	(1) Inv agg asslt		



Doyle Weeks

Marta Salinas: From farm worker to activist.

contaminated drinking water. McFarland, a farming town of about 6,550 in California's San Joaquin Valley, saw members of 155 families fall ill. Between 1975 and 1985, 10 cases of cancer were confirmed in children under age 20; the norm for a community this size would be three. Benzene was found in drinking water, toxic soil under a housing tract.

Residents received neither compensation for their illnesses nor relocation from their homes on a former dump site. Many still cannot afford to move; ignorant of their rights or fearing reprisal, they remain in the contam-

inated tract. Others have moved away, but are unable to continue payments on their old houses and fear losing them. The events have made an activist out of former farm worker Marta Salinas. Her youngest daughter, Melissa, now 9, still suffers intestinal problems more than two years after leaving McFarland. Now living in Fresno, Salinas is trying to mobilize support for a suit against the homebuilder, asserting that construction on that site exposed the residents to poison. Salinas' older two girls, Violet Rose, 14, and Lori,

15, toured the country with a group called Children Against War, speaking about their experiences with toxic hazards. "You learn that the place where you are living—your home, your part of the American dream—has become a nightmare and a death-trap," Salinas says.

Meanwhile, the EPA's long-awaited proposed farm worker protection regulations to safeguard the health of farm laborers have been repeatedly postponed. The agency most recently promised to issue them by this summer.

The growing *maquiladora* industry along the Texas-Mexico border is another potential source of pollution. The estimated 1,800 *maquiladoras*, or foreign-owned assembly plants, in Mexico swell border populations, putting stress on sanitation systems.



Marilyn Szabo

Manuel Vázquez: Urges communities not to give in.

This concern led to the first Bi-national Border Conference on Health and the Environment, held in Arizona last year. Its recommendation for a binational commission on environment and health was adopted by the annual Border Governors Conference this February and sent to President Bush and Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

Hispanic activism on issues of hazardous waste and potential health risks is starting to build toward real political involvement.

In 1983, a year before the Mothers of East Los Angeles rallied against urban hazards, Maria Elena Montes led a successful campaign to stop a 289-



Zachary Singer/Greenpeace

acre toxic waste landfill in her South Deering neighborhood on Chicago's Southeast Side. Montes and her mother both grew up in this community, where Mexicans first came in the early 1900s to work in the steel mills.

As the mother of three young children, her efforts truly started at the grassroots. She began by meeting with three other neighbors. "We even used an old organizing tactic to avoid being stalled by the Governor's staff," she recalls with a laugh. "We let our kids walk around [his reception room] with sticky taffy apples. They were such a nuisance that someone finally put me on the phone with the Governor." Montes credits rehearsals with trained activists for her ability to handle responses from then-Mayor Harold Washington at a public hearing on the same issue.

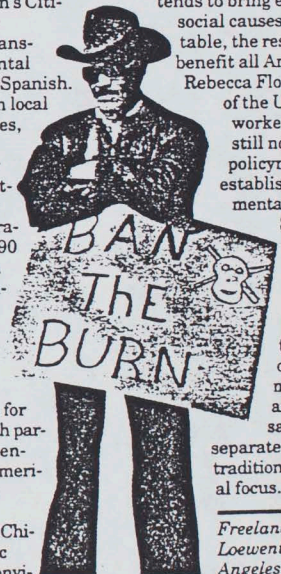
Now Montes, 32, is president of the Southeast Chicago

chapter of the United Neighborhood Organization, one of four groups she has helped form in the last decade, and she hopes to build on her activist experience eventually to run for elected office.

The Southwest Organizing Project (SWOP) and its Southwest Network for Environmental and Economic Justice in Albuquerque tries to be an umbrella coalition of minority groups against environmental racial discrimination. But Richard Moore, SWOP co-director, says neighbors who wish to do battle need training, legal help, organizing skills and savvy. "Even many of the environmental terms, such as 'aquifer,' are new to us," he says.

As an information and advocacy group, Milian's Citizens for a Better South Florida translates environmental information into Spanish. It also works with local and state agencies, neighborhood groups, industry and environmental organizations for greater cooperation. In April 1990 the organization sponsored an Environmental Awareness Congress and this past March held an Environmental Expo for the Americas, with participants from Central and South America as well as the United States.

The Southeast Chicago Legal Clinic has prepared an envi-



Zachary Singer/Greenpeace

ronmental law handbook to help citizens discover what toxic chemicals are being used by plants in their neighborhoods. The 100-member, two-year-old Southern California group Professional Hispanics in Energy will hold its first annual issues conference in July. This group helps minority small business owners understand and meet regulation, and acts as their advocate with the state's environmental regulatory agencies. Members also visit schools to promote careers in the energy industry and the environment.

Manuel Vázquez, executive director of the Maricopa County Organizing Project in Phoenix, teaches another lesson: self-assertiveness. He urges low-income, minority communities not to submit to economic blackmail.

Last year his group and members of other environmental coalitions helped citizens in the Yaqui Indian town of Guadalupe to thwart the construction of a recycling plant whose residue, residents feared, might contaminate the ground water.

"Just because there's high unemployment doesn't mean we have to accept recycling plants," says Vázquez, who supports recycling, but in facilities located away from residential areas.

If Hispanics' involvement tends to bring economic and social causes to the green table, the result might benefit all Americans.

Rebecca Flores Harrington of the United Farmworkers says she is still not included in policymaking of the established environmental groups like the

Sierra Club and the Audubon Society. But she thinks it's time. While acknowledging the importance of protecting animals, water, and soil, she says, "We cannot

separate people from the traditional environmental focus." ▽

Freelance writer Robyn Loewenthal lives in Los Angeles.

TO: RECORDS OFFICE (ER)

COLORADO STATE REFORMATORY

RE: MARIO MANUEL VASQUEZ, DPD # 197551, CSR # 73-737

11-13-

COLORADO STATE REFORMATORY RECORD OFFICE/OFFICER:

UNTIL OCTOBER OF THIS YEAR I WAS A RESEARCH ASSOCIATE EMPLOYED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO AND WAS AWARDED A FELLOWSHIP TO RESEARCH DEMOGRAPHIC, POLITICAL AND HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN THE LOCAL SPANISH-SURNAMED COMMUNITY IN DENVER AND COLORADO. IN THE COURSE OF DOCUMENTING LEGAL AND JUDICIAL ASPECTS OF MY STUDY I CAME ACROSS REFERENCES TO A NUMBER OF CRIMINAL CASES THAT GAINED WIDE-SPREAD NOTICE.

I HAVE COMPLETED MY GENERAL RESEARCH AND WOULD LIKE TO FURTHER DOCUMENT AREAS OF MY STUDY THAT ONLY RECEIVED CURSORY ATTENTION IN THE FIRST PHASE OF MY STUDY. FOR THIS REASON I ASK THAT YOUR OFFICE ASSIST ME IF POSSIBLE OR REFER TO THE APPROPRIATE OFFICE(S) REGARDING MY INQUIRY.

OF SPECIFIC INTEREST TO ME IS DATE REGARDING THE ABOVE-CAPTIONED INDIVIDUAL. FURTHER DATA ON THIS PERSON:

D.O.B. ---- NOVEMBER 6, 1952

PLACE OF BIRTH---- MICHIGAN, SAGINAW

CONVICTIONS ON 3 COUNTS OF FIRST DEGREE ASSAULT, ON 9/25/73 IN DENVER DISTRICT COURT.

I WAS ABLE TO ASCERTAIN SOME DATA ON THIS MATTER. I KNOW THIS INDIVIDUAL WAS SENTENCED TO THE STATE REFORMATORY AT BUENA VISTA IN LATE 1973 TO SERVE AN INDETERMINATE TO 15 YEAR SENTENCE. I HAVE FOUND NO TRACE OF THIS INDIVIDUAL AND NO DATA ABOUT HIS RELEASE AND/OR COMPLETION OF SENTENCE AND AM DESIROUS OF INTERVIEWING THIS PARTY.

I AM AWARE THAT THERE ARE PUBLIC RECORD LAWS AND CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING PRIVACY AND ONLY SEEK YOUR ASSISTANCE TO HELP ME OBTAIN DATA THAT IS APPROPRIATE GIVEN THE DICTATES OF LAW.

THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THIS PARTY MAY HAVE BEEN "RELEASED FROM CUSTODY WITHOUT PROPER CLEARANCE." DOES THIS PHRASE INDICATE THAT THE INDIVIDUAL HAS ESCAPED DETENTION? IF SO, WHAT CAN I DO TO GAIN FURTHER KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THIS?

DUPLICATE

AGAIN, I AM AWARE THAT THERE ARE PRIVACY AND OTHER CON-
SIDERATION AFFECTING THE RELEASE OF PUBLIC RECORDS IN-
FORMATION. I SEEK ONLY TO FIND INFORMATION RELEASABLE
BY LAW.

SHOULD YOUR OFFICE NOT BE ABLE TO ASSIST ME DIRCETLY, I
WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED OF THE PROPER CHANNELS AND
PROCEDURES WHERE I CAN TAKE MY INQUIRY.

I INCLUDE THE UNIVERSITY BUSINESS CARD ONLY TO INDICATE
THE NATURE OF MY EMPLOYMENT AT THE TIME I BECAME AWARE
OF THE CASE AND INDIVIDUAL IN QUESTION. THIS INQUIRY IS
NOT BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE UNIVERSITY BUT BY ME AS AN
INDIVIDUAL WHO FIRST BECAME AWARE OF THIS MATTER IN THE
CONDUCT OF MY STUDIES WHICH HAVE ENDED THIS OCTOBER PAST.

IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS PARTY MAY HAVE BEEN
IMPROPERLY SET FREE ON JUNE 17, 1974 AFTER BEING BROUGHT
FROM THE REFORMATORY TO THE COUNTY JAIL IN DENVER TO
FACE DISTRICT COURT CHARGES OF FIRST DEGREE ASSAULT.

IF MY ASSUMPTION IS INCORRECT AND THIS PARTY HAS COM-
PLETED HIS SENTENCE AND HAS BEEN DULY RELEASED FROM CUS-
TODY, I WOULD APPRECIATE BEING MADE AWARE OF WHERE I CAN
OBTAIN OFFICIAL AND RELIABLE DOCUMENTATION IN THIS REGARD.

THANKING YOU IN ADVANCE,

SINCERELY,

ERNESTO VIGIL
4423 ZUNI STREET, DENVER,
COLORADO 80211

DUPLICATE

11-13

Put your address in the "RETURN TO" Space on the reverse. Failure to do so will prevent this card from being returned to you. The return receipt fee will provide the name of the person delivered to and the date of delivery. For additional fees the following services are available. Consult postmaster for fees and check box(es) for additional service(s) requested.

1. Show to whom delivered, date, and addressee's address. (Extra charge)
 2. Restricted Delivery (Extra charge)

3. Article Addressed to:
 Buena Vista Corrections facility
 P.O. Box 2017
 Buena Vista, CO.
 81212

4. Article Number
 P324 707 581

Type of Service:
 Registered Insured
 Certified COD
 Express Mail Return Receipt for Merchandise

Always obtain signature of addressee or agent and DATE DELIVERED.

5. Signature - Addressee
 [Signature]

6. Signature - Agent
 X [Signature]

7. Date of Delivery
 DEC 11 1989

8. Addressee's Address (ONLY if requested and fee paid)

PS Form 3871 1989 *U.S.G.P.O. 1989-23

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 HISTORICAL

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REF: VASQUEZ, Mario
COR: 73-737
YOUR: BFD 8197551

Dear Captain Turrey:

On December 21, 1973 subject was received at The Colorado State Reformatory from Denver District Court on an indeterminate to fifteen-year sentence on Case #69292. On June 7, 1974, the Denver County Sheriff's Department removed Mr. Vasquez from The Colorado State Reformatory on a Writ of Habeas Corpus Ad Prosequendum in reference to Case #69738, CR 12. To date, the only correspondence received on subject is attached which indicates Mr. Vasquez was released from custody by the court while he still had a commitment to this institution. The Reformatory is still carrying subject on their count and as being under your jurisdiction.

In talking to Mr. Nelson, the previous records supervisor, he indicates he talked to Captain Hayes of The Denver County Sheriff's Department, and it was agreed Denver County would take the responsibility to find subject and return him to the custody of the Reformatory.

I would like to know what progress has been made by your department to apprehend subject and return him to our custody. Your assistance is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Mary J. Sharpe,
Records Officer

MJS:lx

MJS