

La Prensa San Diego April 5, 1985

Nick Baca Hawaii Bound

Seaman Nick Baca, of National City flew off to a 3 year tour of duty in balmy Hawaii. Baca will do a tour of duty at Barbers Point attached to Commander Patrol Squardons Pacific. Nick Baca is the son of Herman and Nadine Baca.

Photos by Barbara Avalos

San Diegans Raise Funds For Leukemia Victim



Julio and Lydia Villanueva, Grandparents of Christina Silva.



Christina con su Mama



George Villaseñor; Local popular orchestra leader of COLOUR.



Mrs. Villanueva, Mrs. Arciaga, and Mrs. Ardella, miembros de la Familia. (L—R)



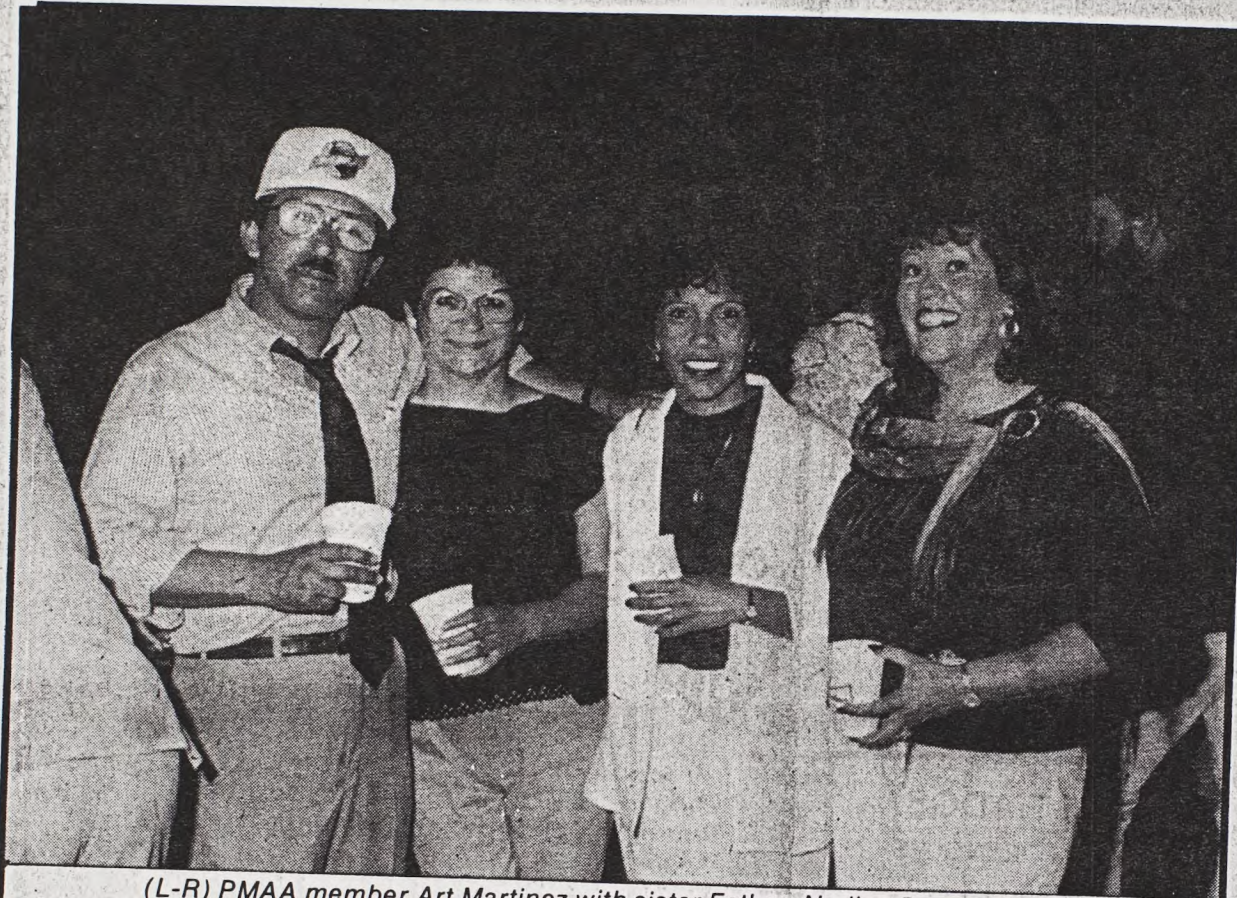
Local band provides entertainment at Silva fund raiser



Supporting the local effort: (L—R) Esther Gonzalez, Lydia Munoz, Herman and Nadiene Baca.

programming changes and be known as XTRA, Newstalk 690 AM. According to Tom Jimenez, vice president and general manager of the station, the changes will take place within the next 30 to 60 days.

market. XTRA, Newstalk 690 AM will introduce an exciting lineup of personalities and information-oriented programming unique to San Diego," Jimenez said.



(L-R) PMAA member Art Martinez with sister Esther, Nadine Baca and wife Becky Martinez raise scholarship funds (see page 2).

NEA Delegates Endorse Learning Laboratories

New Orleans- Delegates to the 1988 annual convention of the National Education Association overwhelmingly adopted plans to create a national network of innovative school districts.

These innovative districts, pledged NEA President Mary Hatwood Futrell in her convention keynote address, will serve as "learning laboratories" that "will seek to restructure how our schools function."

Over 8,400 delegates, representing more than 1.9 million NEA members nationwide, debated Futrell's learning labs proposal and a host of other education issues during four days of convention sessions.

"The time has come to restructure America's schools and prepare them to meet the great challenge of the 21st century," said Futrell. "A nation-at-risk will be saved only by a nation of risk-takers."

The new NEA plan calls on each state to designate at least

one school for learning laboratories. Teachers will take the lead in American education.

NEA, Futrell said, will already gain expertise on effectively restructuring schools and experiences sponsored by the organization for school-borne innovation. "Now it's actually important to learn lessons taught from these people and put them out on a national level. Innovative learning laboratories in school districts," Futrell said.

To begin the laboratory effort, NEA will provide state affiliates with a technical support fund of \$450,000 for the project.

PMAA Scholarship Cruise Success

Professional Chicanos Cruise for Scholarship Benefit

The members of the Personnel Management Association of Aztlan (PMAA) held a special cruise for

members and guests within the harbor of San Diego. Barbacoa dinner, refreshments and dancing to Sammy Vasquez and his special sound were on tap for the 400 guests that joined in on the Harbor

Excursion.

According to Art Martinez, the funds raised were for the PMAA Scholarship Fund. Among the guest were members of the Chicano-Latino Community from San

Diego, Chula Vista, National City, Bonita, Imperial Beach, Otay and University City.

Though some of the guests somehow did manage to get sea sick, the cruise by all accounts was enjoyable



The Baca's take in the sea breeze on PMAA cruise



Roger Cazares and wife Norma (c) dance for scholarships



Party goes (l-r) Chris Martinez, Manuel Cavada, Charlie (Chuck) Vazquez.

Now Sandburg Principal Believes In Strong School

by Dawn Gutierrez

John Sullivan, the new principal at Sandburg Elementary School could possibly be walking into one of the biggest challenges of his career.

a larger school assignment and the district made 30 to 40 principal moves this summer. Since I was Vice Principal here at Sandburg before (for two years) and had experience, I was a logical placement. Mr. Giafaglione was promoted and moved on. I was absolutely elated to start back here," explained Sullivan.

He plans to continue Sandburg's programs that are in place and build on them. "My goal is to wave the California Distinguished School Flag (an award given to the top elementary school in the state) here at Sandburg," he continued.

Sullivan plans to not only continue restructuring efforts which were started prior to his arrival, but also continue efforts that he started himself at Sandburg. Two of these projects are the Annual Science Fair and the 6th grade hill. Sullivan planted the first tree on the hill which is used as a lunch area for sixth graders only.

He believes there are two strong ingredients for a strong school; a strong staff and an

involved community. "We have both, plus a dynamic partner in education with Fieldstone," said Sullivan.

Sandburg's current enrollment is at 685 students, considerably lower than last year's 847 students. The new district boundary line was the major cause of the enrollment drop but with ongoing housing development to the north of the school, enrollment should increase considerably.

Sullivan and his wife Cathryn, who is a teacher at Currie Elementary, live in the Clairemont area. They have two grown daughters, Teresa and Rosemary. The Sullivans are avid campers and John runs three miles every other day. He's not only anxious but physically ready to take on the challenge of filling the shoes as Sandburg's new principal.

Assisting Sullivan with this challenge is Sandburg's new VP, Christine Baca. This is Baca's first job as a vice principal and she's eagerly looking forward to her new assignment.

Baca has a background in planning and research administration with an emphasis on institution programs. She's the past administrator in charge of the San Diego School Districts VEEP program (volunteer ethnic enrollment program). She's also held the position of administrator of all the ASB's (asso-



Sandburg Elementary School's new principal, John Sullivan, and new vice principal, Christine Baca, look forward to getting to know their students. (Sentinel photo/Jim Papulas)

ciated student body) for the school district.

Baca specifically applied for Sandburg because of the community itself and the commitment the parents make to this school. "The parents are very involved, it's a nice community and there's a lot of exciting things happening here. The community and staff are committed to education and the kids are achieving. I'm real excited, I've wanted this school all year!" exclaimed Baca.

Baca, a single mom of 19-year-old Regina, lives by San Diego State. She believes that if you have a good school program and start it at the ele-

mentary level, the foundation will be laid. I want kids to leave this school saying, "I'm

special, I can succeed . . . regardless of family life . . . I will succeed."

"I'd expressed an interest in



Nick & Eloisa; a Moment in History



Sgt. Nicolás Baca, 82nd Airborne, Commandos, 1942.



Mr. and Mrs. Nicolás Baca celebrate 50th Wedding Anniversary.



Eloísa Carrasco Baca, 1941.

National City -- Memories form the tapestry of life as they bring forth the good times as well as the worst of times.

As Nick and Eloisa Baca stood before the altar of St. Joseph's Cathedral, this past November 30th, their shared memories flooded forth as they recalled a time fifty years ago when a shy 19 year old farm boy from Los Lentos, New Mexico, asked his neighborhood girlfriend for her hand in marriage. Soon thereafter, Eloisa Carrasco, and Nick Baca recited their vows of marriage.

That memorable date would forever be etched in their hearts and minds; December 12, 1941. Five days earlier, Pearl Harbor had been disastrously attacked by elements of the Imperial Japanese Navy.

"We had barely been married," relates Nick Baca, "when the draft was initiated. One month and a half later I became one of the first draftees from New Mexico to be called to active duty." It was February 1942 neither Nicolas nor Eloisa had ever travelled far from their small farms in Los Lentos, New Mexico. Little had prepared them for the shock of war. Their newly created life suddenly had to suffer the first of many shocks. Torn from his bride, Nick left wondering what would happen to them. It would be nearly three years before he would return.

It was not a marriage to be taken lightly in New Mexican society. Left alone, Eloisa kept her mind clear and free of fear, by devoting herself to the building of their future family home. When Nicolas would return, she would be ready for him and her future family. These thoughts went through her mind as she knelt before Bishop, Gilberto Chavez and repeated the same sacred vows that she had sworn 50 year ago.

"After becoming a Commando, I was quickly sent to the invasion force that landed in Sicily on July 22, 1943. I fought the battles at Palermo, Mount Cassino and Anzio Beach. Then I became part of the first wave of Rangers that breached the cliffs of Normandy on D Day, June 6, 1944. It was our job during Operation Overlord to scale the big cliffs on Omaha Beach and knock out the German pill boxes that were shooting down on our troops.

Nick Baca, and the 82nd Airborne Commandos soon were airlifted to be dropped behind enemy lines during the battle of the Bulge. "The Germans had pushed us back to Luxembourg and were threatening the whole front line. I was dropped behind with my detachment to scout the German forces." It was Christmas 1944. With 95 percent of his unit killed, Baca found himself

be as good as new. They new that he would be by the side of his wife no matter what for he came from a long line of Conquistadors that had dared the unknown lands of Nueva Hispana to come conquer and colonize. He would be here. His heritage and pride demanded it.

"I rested for a week after I returned to our side of the line. But it wasn't over. For 155 days I fought with elements of the 20th Armor Division, the 91st Infantry Division, and elements of the 5th, 7th and 1st armies. Eventually, my unit parachuted into the "Eagles Nest," Hitler's mountain top lair and then into Nuremberg where we captured Herman Goring and his staff on April 20, 1945," said Baca. By the time the war ended Nicolas Baca had been in five major battles and innumerable commando assignments. He was honored with Silver and Bronze medals with clusters, the European Campaign Medal for each of the major campaigns he participated in.

came to California with his best friend Joe Luna and sought employment. He found it and sent for his family. In 1953, the family made their home in Old Town National City. Eventually, we moved to our present location, on Harbison Street, where the family was raised. Fifty years of marriage has brought my Mon and Dad, six children, seventeen grandchildren and 3 great grand children and a host of memories that will forever be with us. Thank you Mon --thank you Dad for 50 wonderful years," Herman Baca concluded.

Bishop Gilberto blessed the Bacas and their family members and concluded the Holy Mass. The newly remarried Bacas filed out of the St. Josephs Cathedral followed by Tommy & Josephine, Diane, Steve, and Anthony and Michael Artiaga; Herman & Nadine, Andres, Adrian, and Sarita Baca; George & Beatrice, David & Katrina; Robert, Daniella, Tanya, Marissa, and Robert Jr.



Nick Baca Sarita Valenzuela Eloisa Baca



Mr. & Mrs. Nicolas Baca celebrated 50th Wedding Anniversary. Marriage vows reconfirmed at St. Josephs Cathedral.



Nick & Eloisa enjoy wedding feast

"I reported for training and was assigned to the First Cavalry Division, 200th Coast Artillery. At first, we were assigned to go immediately to the Philippines. But at the last moment, I was reassigned to the U.S. 2nd Airborne Ranger Battalion, Commandos. I could have ended up in Corregidor and been part of the Bataan death march.

"As part of the commandos, my assignment was to be dropped behind enemy lines and collect military information on the enemy forces. Then filter back to our lines and report to my unit," said Baca.

Eloisa, a very traditional Hispanic woman, was the fruit of the union of Thomas Baca and Rosalia Montoya Carrasco of Los Lentos, New Mexico. She married into an old line New Mexican family that traced its roots to the Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca family who first came to New Mexico with the Panfilo de Navaraz 1527 expedition.

surrounded. "The Germans caught me. They didn't kill me. They took me as a POW and placed me in a prisoner of war camp. I stayed there for four or five weeks. Then I escaped and found my way back to our lines," recalled Baca.

Childhood friend Joe and Pauline Luna, his brother Isidro and Eva Baca, Joe and his sister Connie Baca Meza, his brother Felix and Polly Baca, stood behind Nick and Eloisa as they bowed their heads in prayer on this Saturday afternoon. They came to witness their older brother, and Eloisa exchange their marriage vows. They had the singular honor of being Nicks and Eloisa "Padrinos." They knew that it was only by the will of God that Nicolas was even present.

The war had taken its toll. Nick would never walk without his brace and his spine would never



*(l-r) The Baca Family:
Robert, Herman, Rosalie, Nick & Eloisa Baca, George, Tommy.*

On November 28, 1945, Nicolas Baca returned to his bride that he hadn't seen since February of 1942. His first act: to remarry his bride at the local Catholic church.

"My father and Mother bore six children," said Herman Baca, as he spoke from the church lectern. From their marriage was born: Robert, Jose (Dicky), (deceased March 18, 1966), Rosalie Ortega, George, Herman Baca and Tommy Artiaga.

"After the war my Dad returned to farm but later he became a plasterer. He then became involved in the affairs of Los Lentos, Las Lunas, and Albuquerque. He became a "Mayordomo" and took over the post as Precinct Chairman for the Democratic Party. He held that position along with the position of Justice of the Peace.

"However, times were not good in New Mexico. And my Dad decided to go West. In 1952 he

Baca; Rosalie & John, Ronnie, and John Jr. Ortega.

The day was not over for Eloisa and Nick. The family had prepared a wedding feast at the VFW hall in Logan Heights. The reception, catered by Vasquez Catering Service, featured traditional Mexican dishes. A three tier wedding cake awaited the Bacas. Prior to the cake cutting a toast was made by long time friend Jose (Amado) and Aurora Berrellez. The more than 300 guests were serenaded by the Mariachis "Los Aventureros." "Latin Image," directed by Bobby Baca provided music for the dance that followed. Not to be out done by the younger set, the Bacas had the traditional "Dollar Dance." Much to everyone's surprise, the Bacas lasted through it all with grace and aplomb. Gifts and final farewells were given at the home of Nicolas and Eloisa over a hot bowl of homemade Posole.

Que Dios los Bendiga!

Devers pays surprise visit

By Phillip Brents
Sports Editor

NATIONAL CITY — Mark Baca was still in his pajamas when the telephone rang at 9:30 a.m. Saturday.

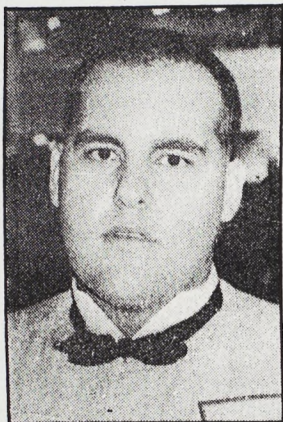
"I had just woke up. I was still a little groggy, and what I was hearing on the other end just blew my mind," said Baca, a 1984 graduate of Sweetwater High.

Making the early morning wake-up call was the Rev. Larry Devers of the Mount Erie Baptist Church, father of women's 100 meters Olympic champion Gail Devers, another 1984 graduate of Sweetwater High and honoree of Saturday night's "Welcome Home Gail" reception hosted by the church at the Town and Country Convention Center in Mission Valley.

"He said, 'Mark, I have Gail with me. We're coming over in 10 minutes. Get dressed,'" recalled Baca, who served as the high school's Associated Student Body president in the pair's senior year.

True to his word, father and daughter arrived within the 10-minute span and spent the next 45 minutes at Baca's home at the east end of Plaza Boulevard.

"I was nervous," admitted Baca, who had kept in continuous contact with the Olympian since her graduation from Sweetwater and subsequent collegiate track and



Mark Baca

Please see Visit: A-7

Visit

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field career at UCLA. And it was as friends that the two celebrated their reunion Saturday morning.

"She was in street clothes and we just relaxed around the house, drank lemonade and reminisced about old times," explained Baca, who attended that night's reception.

Baca, 25, accomplished what the city of National City and administrators at Sweetwater High had been unable to do in over a month of negotiations with Devers' agent and family members: Bring the track star back home.

"We embraced and it was a very emotional moment for both of us. We both had tears in our eyes," explained Baca. "I knew exactly what she had been going through with her Graves disease. She came within two days of having her feet amputated and here she is now an Olympic champion."

Baca credited the surprise visit to his long-standing friendship with the world's fastest woman.

"We had kept in touch since '84. We've been in touch with letters. It's one of those rare situations," said Baca, who erected an elaborate sign proclaiming Devers' accomplishments in his front yard following her Olympic victory. He said now that Devers has returned to her roots, the sign will finally come down.

"We decided to surprise him," Larry Devers said with a smile, when asked about the impromptu visit later that evening.

Waiting for Devers in Baca's back yard were two 3½-foot tall trophies donated by local businesses, which Baca said were gifts from the Sweetwater High senior class of 1984 — as well as citizens of the city at large — in appreciation of what Devers had accomplished in Barcelona. Devers won the gold medal in the 100 meters Aug. 1 with a career-best time of 10.82 seconds.

One trophy was inscribed: "To Gail 'Sweet Polly Purebred.' From the senior class of '84."

The other inscription read: "To Yolanda Gail Devers. We are the senior class of '84 and it's like that and that's the way it is. We love you. From Beef Daddy (aka Mark Baca) and the entire senior class of '84."

Following the private presentation — Baca said he understands the trophies will eventually be displayed at the high school — Baca and Devers posed for

photographs to commemorate the special event.

"She was ecstatic when she saw the trophies," said Baca, who explained that Devers is fully aware of and looking forward to attending the festivities planned in her honor by National City and Sweetwater High for the school's homecoming Nov. 13.

"She doesn't want the city of National City to feel she is avoiding them," Baca said. "There is going to be a parade. They're just going to have to wait their turn because of her busy schedule. She'll be back."

During the informal photo session, Devers sat on Baca's lap and the two took turns holding Devers' gold medal, which Baca called "exciting."

"When we were holding the medal, she was telling me, whispering in my ear, 'This medal is not just for me but it's also for Sweetwater High and National City,'" Baca said.

Said Larry Devers: "It was really nice how Mark had everything set up in the back yard. I know I enjoyed it. I know Gail enjoyed it."

Baca also gave Devers a brand-new copy of the high school's 1984 yearbook, in which Devers inscribed the following now-famous words: "Follow your dreams wherever they may lead."

At Saturday night's reception — which drew an audience estimated at 800 — Devers' accessibility was limited by bodyguards. But she did take time to personally autograph a memento for her longtime friend, which read: "To Baca, the ultimate Beef Daddy. Thanks for all your support. You're one of a kind. I love you. Your friend. Gail Devers."

"I have to sit here and read it to really believe it," said Baca, with a laugh to punctuate the seemingly incredible story.

Baca said he would like to help coordinate National City's "Welcome Home Gail Devers" festivities and, with his direct pipeline to Devers and her family, help ensure that the citizens of National City receive their fair share in welcoming home their most famous athlete.

"I'd like to set something up where anyone who lives in National City can come and pay tribute to Gail without paying a dime," said Baca.

"She wants to give back to the community. She hasn't forgotten her roots. She wants to be a role model. She's extraordinary."

La Familia Baca Celebra el Cumpleaños del Patriarca Nicolas Baca



El Sr. Nicolas Baca, celebró su 72avo cumpleaños.



(Izq.-der.) La Sra. Esther Martinez, el matrimonio Rebeca y Arturo Martinez, y el Sr. John Ortega, amigos y familiares del Sr. Baca.



La Sra. Lydia Muñoz y la Sra. Norma Cázares esperando el brindis.



Amigos y familiares celebraron con mucha alegría el "birthday" party.



Con emoción y cariño, Don Nicolás Baca leyó sus tarjetas de felicitación.

Traditional Baptismal Celebration for Daniel Joseph Gongora



Sarita Baca with cousin Daniel.



Baby Daniel Joseph Gongora, Baptized April 26, 1997.



Godmothers, with Daniel, Nadine Baca (left) and Carol Ulibarri

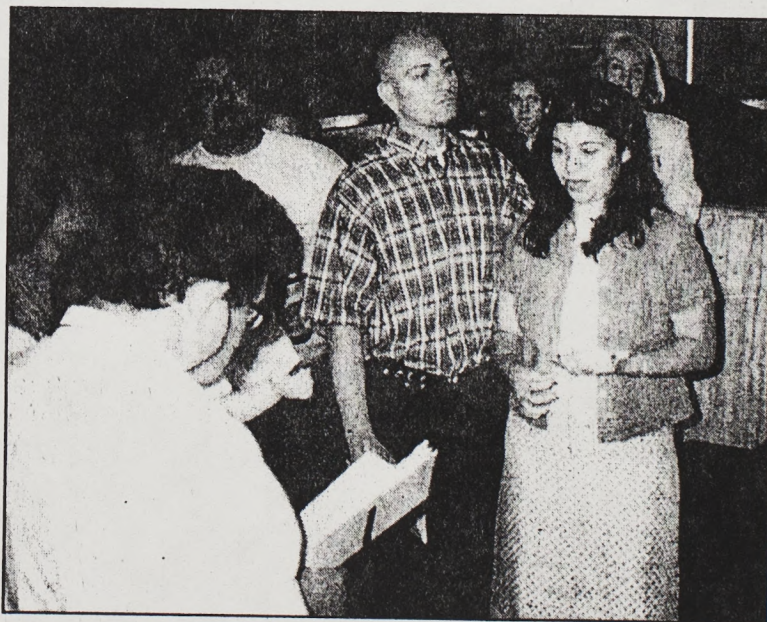
The large group of family and friends, that attended the pool side party, were treated to the culinary skills of the Vasquez family who assured that just the right taste was given to the Barbacoa that formed the main dish of the Baptismal Lunch.

Enjoying the Baptism were Great Grand Parents Nick and Eloisa Baca and Danny and Bonie Delgadillo. Recently arrived from Texas were Gus and Victoria Chavez, former President of AMAE. Gus told this reporter "He was home for good"! Also seen were Jose and Aurora Berrellez, Katrina and Peter Meyerchick, Mark

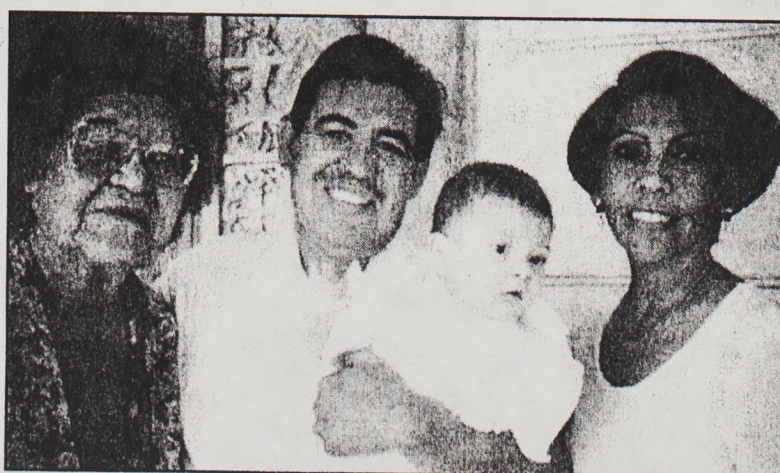
Daniel Joseph Gongora took his first step in the Catholic ritual of Baptism this past Saturday, April 26, 1997, at the Baptismal font at St. Joseph Cathedral in San Diego.

As the proud Godparents Nadine and Herman Baca and Carol Ulibarri and Johnny Vieyra assisted the baby through the various rites of passage, the Most Reverend Auxiliary Bishop Gilberto Chavez officiated and blessed the child.

Daniel Joseph is the son of Marissa A. Baca and Manuel Gongora. Marissa is the niece of Herman and Nadine Baca and John and Rosie Ortega who provided the home setting for the reception which followed.



Pictured from left to right, facing camera: Johnny Vieyra, Manuel Gongora and Marissa Baca.

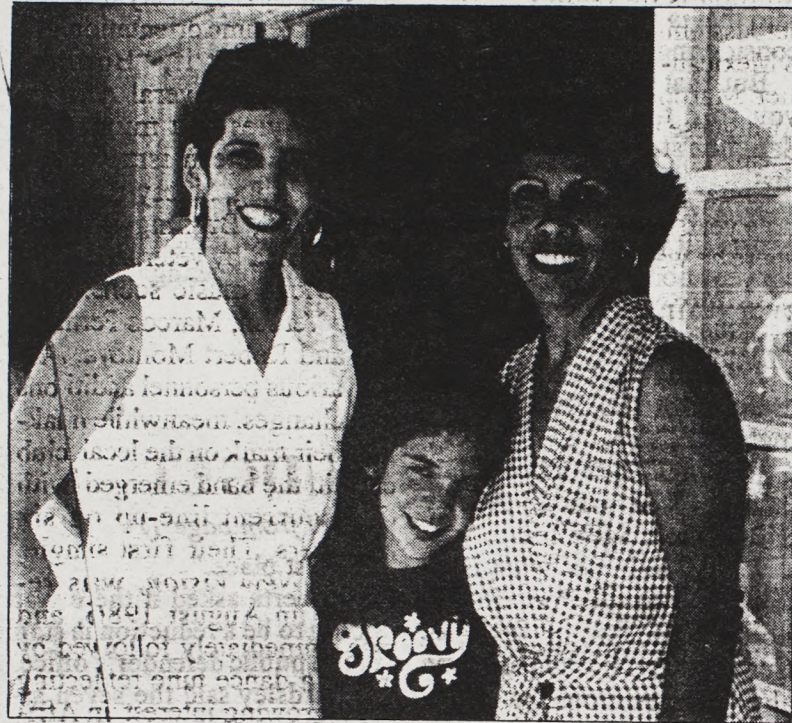


Godparents Herman and Nadine Baca with great grandmother Eloisa Baca

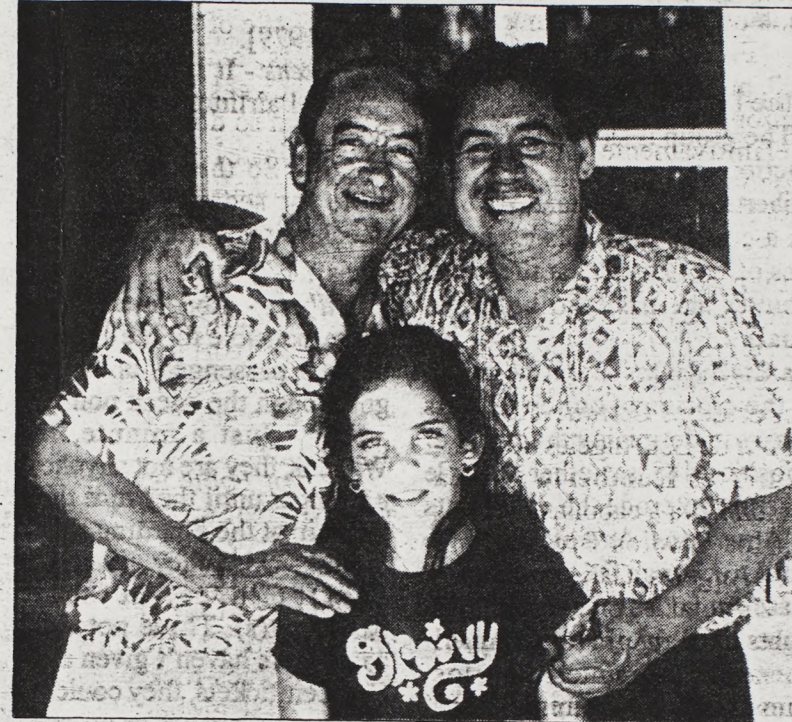
and Tanya Chavez, Gloria Vega Juanita, Daniel and Isabel Cantero. Helping with the refreshments was Tony Millan. A surprise guest not seen lately was Richard and Lupe Inzunza. Richard, now retired, is still managing to look fit and trim.

Dancing music was provided by the great sounds of Sal Salinas TEX-MEX sound for the guests enjoyment. The younger set danced by the pool side patio to Salsa, Merenque and other musical treats. The more mature guest (anyone over 40) gyrated to the magic of their favorite Cumbias.

Fiestas de la Comunidad Mexicana



Comadres Norma Cazares and mama Nadine, become joined with Sara Baca.



Godfather Roger Casarez and papá Herman Baca contract a "Compadre" association with Sara Baca.



Lisa and daughter learn about Mexican culture at First Baptism of Sara.

Jim Estrada & son, owner of Estradas Public Relations firm, Austin, Texas, joined in the celebration of Sara Bacas' First Communion party at the home of Roger & Norma Cazares home in Chula Vista.



Joining the Baca-Casarez festivities are Jerry Apodaca, Jose Berrellez, Jimmy Nieto, and Carmen Vasquez.



Woes of wealth

Many new millionaires tormented by anxiety, guilt. **Currents&Arts, E-1**



Pump crunch

Independent dealers also hurt by gas price surge. **Business, C-1**



Hooping it up

UCLA, Gonzaga win, St. John's nearly upset in NCAA tourney. **Sports**

Friday

March 17, 2000

The San Diego

Union-Tribune.

City Final

35¢

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Map

Survey of National City charts residents' opinions

Continued from B-1

100 people to vote.

Speaking through half-open front doors or, when lucky, seated on cozy living room couches, the students ask what people are doing to improve their neighborhoods and who they are working with. They ask where they have been successful and where they have failed.

Mark Baca, leader of the National City Youth Organizers Project, said the "asset map" will eventually bring together like-minded people from all over the city, encouraging collaboration across social boundaries and a heightened level of civic engagement.

"The people who are affected by problems are the ones who are going to fix those problems," said Baca, a National City native who took on the project as a community organizer with the Consensus Organizing Institute.

Baca said the project could have a particularly powerful impact in National City, where social divisions between ethnic groups, immigrants

and her friends could help with the survey.

"When people come together you can get a lot done," she said.

In addition to putting together the asset map, the National City Youth Organizers Project aims to increase the political awareness and leadership skills of the student volunteers, Baca said.

"Youth are more than just a problem," said Baca. "Youth are organizers and actors who can systematically make community change."

The students say working on the asset map was a daunting task at first, but one that opened their eyes to the political realities of their city.

"We didn't really know what was out there," said senior Felipe Garcia. "It was kind of like stepping into this complete open field."

The students said they were amazed at the array of opinions to be found within just a few city blocks, ranging from people with urgent complaints to people who couldn't think of a single problem, and simply entertained the students with happy memories.

"It's a grueling process," Garcia said. "Now I realize that if change is going to happen it's going to take time."

But the students have already seen how the work they are doing can make a difference.

Sophisticated survey: Lilian Gonzalez, 17, a student at Sweetwater High, interviewed Lupe Aragon as part of the National City Youth Organizers Project. Said Sweetwater Principal Ralph Mora, "This is a group of students with a passion to improve the community."

Students put National City on the map

Complex project aims to chart people as well as streets

By Ben Lumpkin
STAFF WRITER

NATIONAL CITY — Long after most Sweetwater High School students saunter off into what remains of a balmy, blue-skied afternoon, a small group gathers in a windowless classroom to plot a revolution.

Taped on the wall is a map of National City. It's a basic map, black lines on thin white paper. But it serves as the prototype for what may be one of the most sophisticated maps ever made of the city.

Beyond just the names of streets and neighborhoods, this map will tell the story of the people living there. Choose a street, and it will tell you about some of the families, what they like about National City and what they would like to see change.

And the map soon will be posted on the Internet

for all to see.

It's all the work of the National City Youth Organizers Project, an after-school program initiated through a partnership between the school and the nonprofit Consensus Organizing Institute and funded by a \$10,000 grant from the San Diego Foundation.

The youth organizers have been going door to door in each National City neighborhood since October. Armed with a list of questions and their own curiosity, the students have knocked on thousands of doors and completed more than 500 surveys.

Along the way, they've helped register more than

See MAP on Page B-4



More than a map: Project leader Mark Baca displayed the work of his student volunteers.

Bad data on poverty spoil comparable-school ranking

By Jill Spielvogel
STAFF WRITER

State rankings that compared schools whose students have similar backgrounds were based on data with so many errors that state officials have axed them and plan to release new ones next month.

The recalculated rankings likely will change San Diego County schools' picture of how their test scores stack up.

The state released the similar-schools rankings in January as one part of the Academic Performance Index, a benchmark of school quality based on standardized test scores. The state used the index to rank schools against 6,700 schools statewide as well as with 100 schools that were supposed to have similar characteristics.

Some educators consider the similar-schools rank fairer than the statewide

rank because studies have shown test scores are influenced by ethnicity, poverty levels and English-language ability of students who take the exams.

But the state Education Department removed the like-schools rankings from its Web site last week after learning about half of the schools — including hundreds in San Diego County — wrongly reported the percentage of students on the free and reduced-price lunch program, a measure of poverty. The information was a key factor used to determine which 100 schools would be compared, and errors may have significantly skewed the rankings, said Pat McCabe, senior demographer with the state Education Department.

"We decided this was such a widespread problem that we would pull the

See ERRORS on Page B-4

20,000 EGGS UNDER THE SEA



JOHN GIBBINS / Union-Tribune

Stephen Haynes, an amateur photographer and avid scuba diver, looked at patches of eggs deposited by California market squid off La Jolla Shores. Story, B-3.

and nonmigrants, young and old, Spanish speakers and non-Spanish speakers, make coordinated movements for change difficult to organize.

"It's not about brown, black or white," Baca said. "It's about neighborhoods coming together and finding similarities."

In a recent day of surveying, students Steve Rodriguez and Jessica Garcia found a family new to National City eager to talk about how to make things better.

"Get us something more in the neighborhood for the kids to do after school, to keep them out of trouble," said Marcos Salgado, 44.

Salgado's wife, Alma Ramos, 40, said in Spanish that she had been disappointed to learn that the Boys and Girls Club of National City has a policy of allowing kids to come and go, making it impossible for parents to know for certain where their kids are during the critical interval between the end of school and the end of the parents' workday.

(Greg Beatie, executive director of the club, said the policy keeps the club from being required to become a licensed day care center, a move that Beatie said would both decrease the number of kids the center could serve and raise the price for services.)

Salgado and Ramos also called for more English classes, like those currently offered by the Family Resource Center at Kimball Elementary School.

"Most everybody here speaks Spanish and they need the English to help build themselves up," Salgado said.

Ramos was so excited by the students' visit that she later contacted the youth organizers to ask how she

and middle-class people who are busy doing other things, like working two jobs to support a family, Garcia said. "In a way, these people are being cheated because they don't know what's going on. But (the asset mapping) is putting the ball back in their court."

In the course of the last year, Baca has lost some of his student volunteers. But for those who have remained, the asset mapping seems to have taken on the character of a crusade.

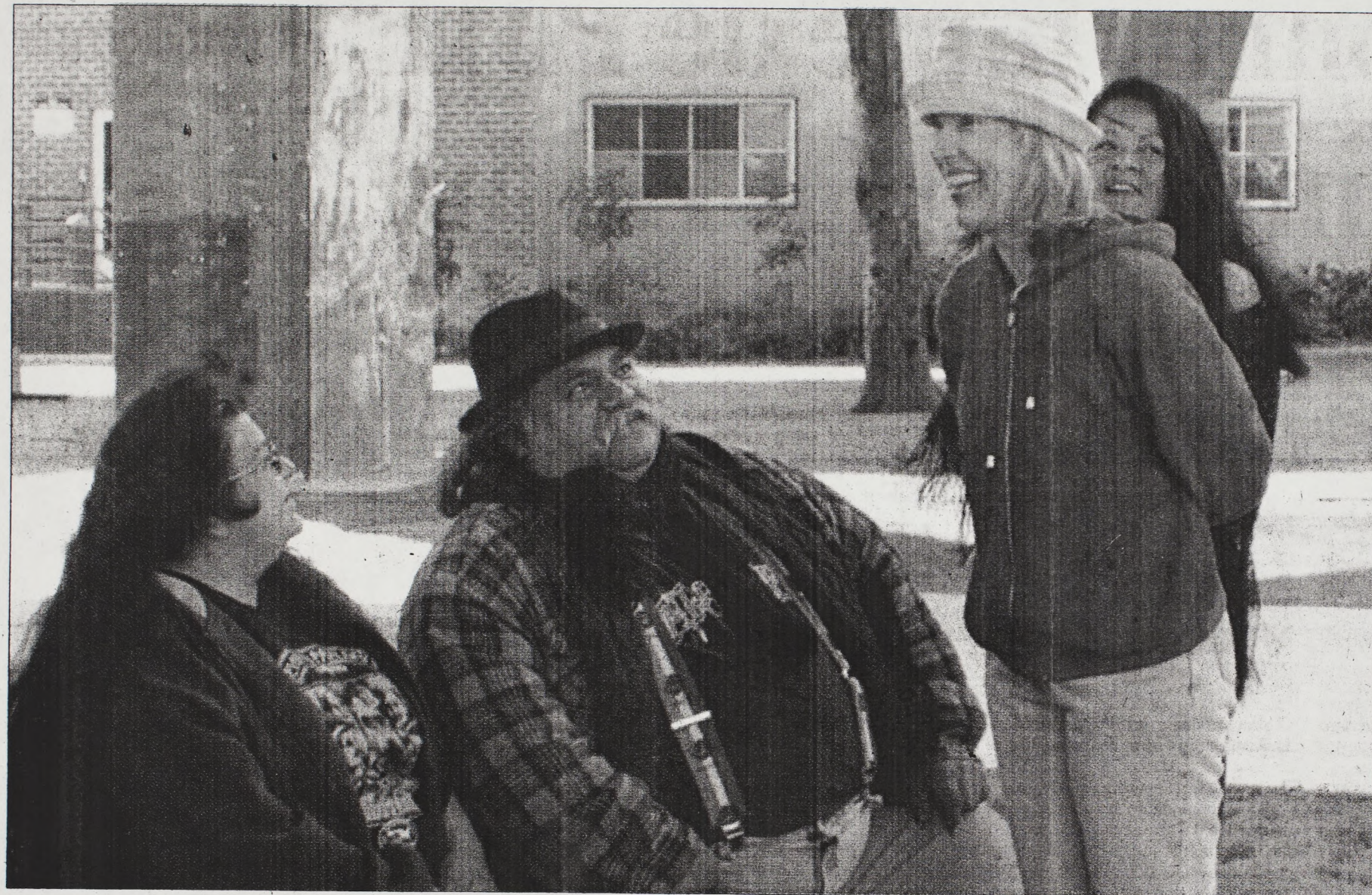
"This is a group of students with a passion to improve the community," said Sweetwater High School Principal Ralph Mora. "But in order to do that, you have to have access to the community."

Youth organizer Iriz Lomeli agreed: "We've become more informed citizens. And since most of us are reaching legal voting age, that's going to help out."

National City Councilman Ron Morrison helped the Sweetwater students at the beginning of the project, giving a tour of the city with information on its history and current events. He said the asset map, when complete, could become an important tool for both the public and city government.

"Too often, people don't know what's available and how it can be used. ... And a lot of times we (politicians) are out there working blind and we have these assumptions about what's important to people. A lot of times we might be wasting efforts."

Baca said the National City asset map should be posted on the Consensus Organizing Institute Web site (<http://www.consensusorganizing.com>) by early next month.

Hispanos
influyentes
EN SAN DIEGO**RAMÓN
SÁNCHEZ
"CHUNKY"**

- Toca varios instrumentos, pero se enfoca en la guitarra acústica.
- Recibió una licenciatura en Estudios Chicanos de San Diego State University.
- Participó en la toma de Chicano Park en los setenta.
- Era uno de los músicos favoritos del líder campesino César Chávez.
- Su más reciente disco se titula "In Good Company".

MIRAMÓN "CHUNKY" SÁNCHEZ CON LA MÚSICA EN LA SANGRE

ES LA VOZ

de los chicanos

DE LOS CHICANOS

A través de la música narra los obstáculos que viven los chicanos al no ser aceptados ni por la sociedad "gringa" por ser morenos, ni por los mexicanos por no hablar español

Por Pablo Jaime Sainz
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA (PH)

Ramón "Chunky" Sánchez recuerda como de pequeño, al entrar al kínder, todo el mundo lo llamaba por su nombre en español, Ramón. Pero cuando ya estaba en tercer grado de primaria, era conocido por su nuevo nombre en inglés, "Raymond".

Experiencias como ésta son comunes entre los jóvenes chicanos, incluyendo a "Chunky", vocalista del cuarteto san-dieguino, Los Alacranes. Desde hace años, la confusión que crea vivir entre dos culturas, de hablar dos idiomas, ha llevado a los chicanos a buscar una identidad propia.

Y son precisamente estos temas los que han usado Los Alacranes para darle voz a la comunidad chicana en Estados Unidos por casi 30 años.

A través de las canciones de Los Alacranes se narran los obstáculos que viven los chicanos al no ser aceptados ni por la sociedad "gringa" por ser morenos, ni por los mexicanos por no hablar español.

"Son expresiones de experiencias vividas aquí en California", afirmó "Chunky" acerca de la música de Los Alacranes.

"Es parte de la historia", agregó.

Representantes de la música chicana de protesta, Los Alacranes continúan mostrando una conciencia social en sus melodías, convirtiéndose en la banda chicana más importante en San Diego.

La historia de Los Alacranes

"Chunky" unió las tres pasiones de su niñez para crear a Los Alacranes junto a su hermano Ricardo en 1976, aquí en San Diego: El campo, la música y la lucha por los derechos de los mexicanos y chicanos en Estados Unidos.

Y vaya que le ha dado resultado: Gracias a temas bilingües como "Chicano Park", Los Alacranes son considerados clásicos dentro de la música folklórica chicana debido a que siempre han estado presentes en las manifestaciones y causas donde se busca ayudar a la gente.

Nacido en Blythe, California, una comunidad que depende de la agricultura, "Chunky" relató que empezó a usar la música como forma de protesta desde los 15 años, cuando se unió a la huelga de César Chávez en 1965.

Hay necesidad de crear conciencia en la juventud. Siempre hay porque levantar la voz. Los jóvenes de hoy no están tan activos como antes. Sin embargo, pueden hacer mucho por ayudar a la comunidad. La música de Los Alacranes trata de motivarlos



Desde 1976 hasta la fecha, Los Alacranes han grabado cuatro discos.

"Se ponían tristes las cosas durante la huelga, y ahí es cuando sacábamos la guitarra para entonar canciones y seguir adelante. La música nos dio inspiración. Hay fuerza en la música", expresó.

"Chunky" llegó a San Diego en 1970, cuando ingresó a la Universidad Estatal de San Diego (SDSU). Aquí se involucró con grupos de activistas sociales, incluyendo el Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán. En ese entonces fue parte en la toma de Chicano Park, cuando estudiantes y activistas chicanos desafiaron a la ciudad de San Diego para tener un espacio para la comunidad.

Desde 1976 hasta la fecha, Los Ala-

cranes han grabado cuatro discos, participado en docenas de protestas y ganado varios reconocimientos por su labor social.

Los otros integrantes del cuarteto

"Chunky" Sánchez es el vocalista principal y guitarrista de Los Alacranes; Rick Sánchez toca el requinto y el acordeón; Miguel López es uno de los pocos músicos chicanos que dominan el arpa paraguaya; y Don "Güero" Knapp se ocupa del guitarrón.

El caso del "Güero" merece mención aparte.

Si ya es sabido que Los Alacranes representan la voz de los chicanos que se encuentran entre dos culturas, "El Güero" representa al "gringo" con alma mexicana.

"Yo crecí siendo el niño blanco que hablaba inglés con acento mexicano", comentó "El Güero", quien es de sangre sajona, pero de corazón chicano.

"Mis padres adoptivos eran de Jalisco. Y como dicen, es más padre el que cría que el que engendra. Por eso yo me considero chicano", indicó "El Güero" en un perfecto español.

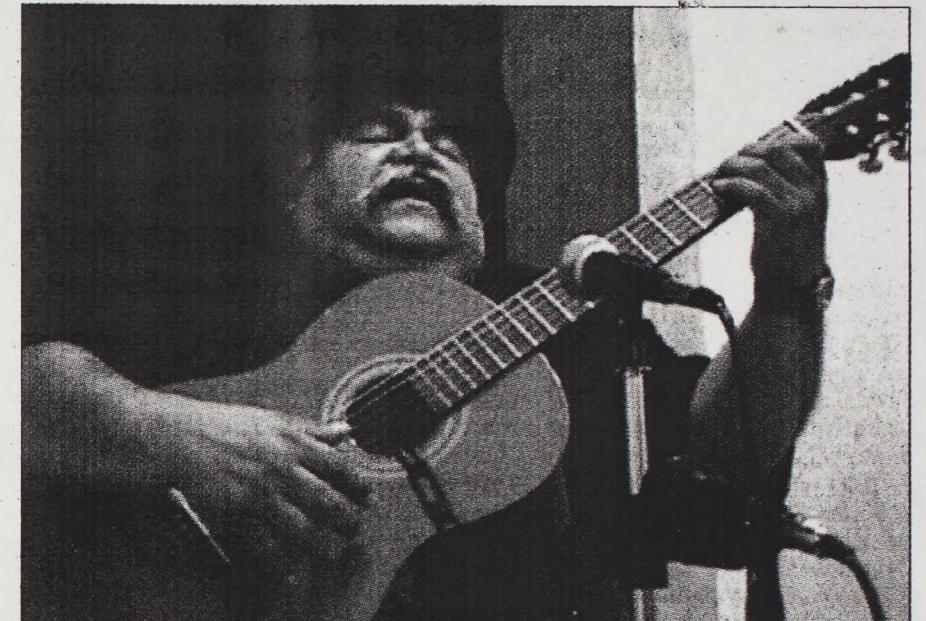
"La gente tiene estereotipos de los mexicanos. La gente que no me conoce no sabe como mirarme, no saben que pensar de mí", mencionó.

El Güero también ha incursionado en Los Alacranes como vocalista en algunos temas, en su mayoría boleros.

"Canto en español y se quedan con la boca abierta", reveló "El Güero".

La música

El más reciente disco de Los Alacranes, In Good Company, incluye tres canciones escritas por "Chunky":



"Chunky" unió sus tres pasiones, el campo, la música y la lucha por los derechos de los mexicanos y chicanos en Estados Unidos.

FOTOS: Cortesía

Se ponían tristes las cosas durante la huelga y ahí es cuando sacábamos la guitarra para entonar canciones y seguir adelante. La música nos dio inspiración. Hay fuerza en la música

Ramón "Chunky" Sánchez
Cantante

"Corrido del Fil", que trata sobre los problemas de los campesinos en California; "Bandoleros", un tributo a su bisabuelo que peleó al lado del líder Joaquín Murrieta; y "Fire in the Sky/A Desalambrar", un himno bilingüe para

el pueblo.

En una de ellas, "Chunky" toma la palabra "pocho", usada por los mexicanos para insultar a los chicanos que no hablan bien español y le da un significado de orgullo.

"Pocho, un nombre que me llamaban durante mi niñez con la intención de hacerme menos y de humillarme. Pocho, promovía el odio hacia mí mismo y la confusión de ni yo mismo saber quien era yo ni que estaba haciendo aquí", dice la canción, que es un poema musicalizado.

La música continúa

"Chunky", de 53 años de edad, señaló que los jóvenes de hoy no están tan activos como antes. Sin embargo, él piensa que los jóvenes pueden hacer mucho por ayudar a la comunidad. La música de Los Alacranes, trata de motivarlos.

"Hay necesidad de crear conciencia en la juventud", aseguró "Chunky".

"Siempre hay porque levantar la voz. No hay que dormirse", finalizó.

PARA MÁS INFORMACIÓN:

Los Alacranes pueden entrar al siguiente sitio de Internet: www.losalacranes.com

UNSUNG HEROES: PAUL AND LORETTA BACA

Couple share tradition of helping kids, community

BY T.S. LAST

News-Bulletin Staff Writer
tlast@news-bulletin.com

BELEN

Paul and Loretta Baca are the kind of married couple who finish each other's sentences.

"It's nice that people recognize us," says Paul of the couple being selected as being among Valencia County's Unsung Heroes.

"But that's not why we do it," adds Loretta, Paul's wife of 16 years.

It's not surprising they speak with virtually one voice. The Belen natives have known each other practically all their lives.

"We went to elementary school together and high school together and then college, and now we have four children — two boys and two girls," says Paul.

The children range in age from 10-year-old Emilio to 3-year-old Eli. In between are the girls: Alexa, 7, and Joely, 6.

Born and bred in Belen and the operators of two businesses on South Main Street, the Bacas are prominent members of the community. Paul's grandfather, M.C. Baca, founded Baca Auto in 1939. The business was later handed down to Paul's father, LeRoy, who, in-turn, handed the keys over to Paul.

LeRoy is still very much involved in the dealership as a buyer. Paul manages the business operations, but spends most mornings attending to the Bacas' latest business venture — a travel center located right across the street.

"This property is part of the original Belen Land Grant, so it's been in our family for hundreds of years," says Paul. "My grandfather built a hotel here and a restaurant, the White Way Café."

The hotel and café are gone, replaced two years ago by the travel center, which includes a convenience store and restaurant



T.S. Last-News-Bulletin photo

LORETTA AND PAUL BACA pose for a photo on the sidewalk in front of the travel center they opened two years ago. The travel center is located directly across the street from Baca Auto, which has been in Paul's family for more than 60 years. The Baca name remains prominent in Belen and all around Valencia County through Loretta and Paul's business and community involvement.

serving Long John Silver's and A&W Root Beer fare.

Paul oversees the operation of the store. Loretta manages the restaurant.

"We decided to do this travel center because we're right at the first Belen exit from the south," says Paul, adding that the center also serves customers from Jarales and Veguita and communities south of town. "There's opportunity here."

Loretta also believes in Belen. "It's a great place to grow up in

and a great place to raise your kids," she says.

Aside from being a mother of four, Loretta knows about kids. Before she started raising her family, she was a kindergarten teacher.

"A lot of the kids we employ are my former students. Some of them I haven't seen since they were 5, and now they're teenagers," she said.

Loretta says it's the first job for many of the kids they hire. She takes satisfaction in seeing them

earn a paycheck and learn skills and values that prepare them for the future, such as teamwork, communication skills, responsibility and work ethic.

Many of those same values she helped instill in them a decade ago.

"One day I was telling one of my cooks making burgers, 'Are you doing your very best job?' and that's the same thing I'd ask them when they were in kindergarten," she says.

Loretta says she has a great

group of kids.

"A lot of times all you hear about is the bad things that are going on, but there's a lot of good too," she says. "We have some really neat kids. Our employees are the best."

The Bacas have invested in Belen's future in other ways. Paul serves on the board of directors for the Valley Improvement Association and the Wells Fargo Community Board. Loretta is an active parent at Jaramillo Elementary School.

But the couple admits they've cut back on their community involvement.

"It seems like we were involved in everything a few years ago," Loretta says, adding that they knew opening a new business would cut into their spare time. "We understood how much work it would take and how much time it would take, so we had to scale back a bit because of our children. We have a limited amount of time to spend with them."

Paul, a past president of the Belen Chamber of Commerce and Rotary Club and former chairperson of the community development and lodger's tax boards, agreed the couple's priorities have changed.

But they still maintain the same order.

"Our first priority is our relationship with the Lord — that's the most important," says Paul, who, along with his family, attends Calvary Chapel. "Our next priority is our relationship with each other and our children and our family and friends."

Their faith is the real reason why they do it, Paul says. "We really feel that God put us here to touch lives. Sometimes we get caught up in our own little world and we forget that there's somebody else that has a need out there."

They may have cut back, but the Bacas still finds ways to contribute to the community. They donate food to Adelante Development Center and feed Habitat for Humanity workers and Boy Scout troops. Through their businesses, they contribute to local causes whenever they can.

"Of course, we'd like to help everybody," Loretta says. "Whoever we can help, if it fits into our budget for that week or that month, we're glad to donate what we can."

Emerging Christian Left To Challenge The Right

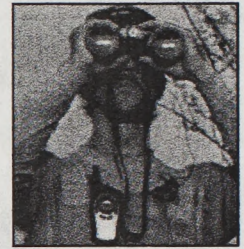
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On This Day –We join with our Irish Compatriots in Honoring St. Patrick's Day

see Editorial, page 8

Crossing Arizona turns heads at the San Diego Latino Film Festival

see page 10



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IMMIGRATION MATTERS:

Test Newcomer Kids, But First Give Them a Break

By Cecilia Muñoz
NEW AMERICA MEDIA

Editor's Note: Immigrant kids are being blamed for pulling down some schools' No Child Left Behind test scores, but this doesn't mean these kids aren't academically up to par; they just don't know English well enough yet. The law allows states some alternatives while the children are learning English, writes Cecilia Muñoz, vice president of the National Council of La Raza's Office of Research, Advocacy and



Supervisor Cox: "Horn is not a racist."

By Pablo Jaime Sainz

"You only need to look south to see how vulnerable we are... Shots have already been fired in Texas from the Mexican side of the border. These thugs must be dealt with forcefully. The border has become a war zone..."

"Shooters at the border end up on our streets shooting kids."

"We must secure our border. I think the completion of the triple border fence is critical. We're working with the Department of Homeland Security to get them the land they need. I say build it all the way to Texas!"

man Supervisor Bill Horn on February 7, are racist, you're not alone.

At a South Bay Forum meeting that took place on Monday, March 13, Supervisor Greg Cox said: "I can't explain why Bill Horn said what he said... But I honestly don't think he's a racist."

Cox, who represents the County's District, which has an estimated Hispanic population of 50%, was at the meeting to respond to Horn's speech.

At the beginning of the meeting with Cox, South Bay Forum President Norma Cazarez said that the forum found Horn's remarks insulting and anti-Mejicano.

"We were very insulted," she said. "I think his purpose was to instill fear



Norma Cazarez, South Bay Forum, president. File photo.

In his speech, Horn linked illegal immigration to gang activity in San Diego County. This was unnecessary, Cazarez said.

"The so-called address failed to address more important and real issues such as health, affordable housing,

Thousands march for immigrants' rights in Chicago, DC



Immigrants and supporters marched and rallied in Chicago on March 10 to demand legalization for out-of-status immigrants and oppose anti-immigrant legislation currently being considered by the Senate. Organizers estimated the crowd at 130,000, while Chicago police estimated 75,000 to 100,000 people took part, making it one of the biggest pro-immigrant demonstrations in US history, according to national advocates.

The march was dominated by Mexican immigrants but also included Irish, Polish, Chinese and African-American participants. The protesters stepped off shortly after noon for a two-mile march to Federal Plaza, followed by a rally; The march was so long that many participants had not yet reached the plaza when the rally ended at 4 pm.

Illinois governor Rod Blagojevich and Chicago Mayor Richard Daley were among the politicians who spoke at the rally in favor of immigrant rights, along with US Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL), a longtime advocate for immigrants. According to a report in the *Chicago Tribune*, whole shifts of workers left their jobs in Chicago and the surrounding areas, and thousands of students walked out of class to attend the demonstration.

Los Mexicanos en Chicago Reclaman Reforma Inmigratoria



Frente a más de 130 mil inmigrantes que llenaron varias calles en el centro de Chicago, el Senador Dick Durbin puso a votación popular el que habrá de ser su voto sobre la reforma migratoria que se debate en Washington. Por una unanimidad festiva que incluyó a decenas de miles de mexicanos, irlandeses, polacos e inmigrantes de casi todo el mundo, así como al gobernador del estado, al alcalde y buena parte de la clase política local, Durbin aceptó el mandato de la multitud y ofreció que en su calidad de segundo líder demócrata del país, que votará en contra de la Ley Sensenbrenner y a favor de la propuesta Kennedy-McCain.

Según versiones de la propia policía, fue la mayor concentración política en Chicago desde las luchas obreras, también de inmigrantes, de finales del siglo XIX.

Los organizadores, más de un centenar de organizaciones comunitarias, clubes y federaciones de oriundos, afirmaron que habían alcanzado el medio millón de personas.

En el mismo sentido se manifestaron las casi dos docenas de oradores—incluidos activistas, líderes religiosos, personalidades de medios y políticos—a lo largo de las varias horas en que, sin incidente alguno, recorrieron las calles de la ciudad desde un parque cercano al consulado de México y el corazón financiero de Chicago.