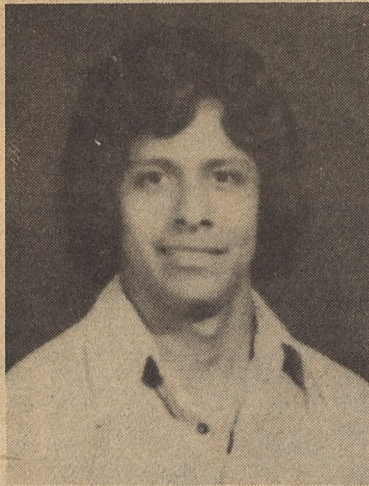


The President's Corner

As we, the members of the Pan American Student Forum of the State of Texas, begin another year 1980-81, let us look forward together toward accomplishment — accomplishment of goals previously set by our state organization and goals set by our local chapters — accomplishment of the increased membership we would like to have for our PASF, locally and statewide — and accomplishment of the goal we would like to reach in regard to our state projects which are La Buena Madre and Pesos for Braces.

Our theme for the 38th Annual Convention is "Panamericanismo: Nuestro Ideal," which is a very fitting theme. Let us achieve the ability to work together as PASF members and cooperate with our Club Sponsors and School Officials in every way possible. Let us demonstrate what the true meaning of Panamericanism is on a local level by our actions in our schools, our homes, our communities or wherever we go; the movement to promote peace, solidarity, security, prosperity and goodwill among all we meet and work with each day. We can accomplish a lot this year and it can be a very active and rewarding school year but it will take hard work and cooperation on everyone's part. I hope



President
Michael Juarez

that each Chapter will do its part to make this a year of accomplishing all of our goals whether local or statewide.

The countries of study for 1980-81 will be Spain, Paraguay and Honduras which I believe will be very interesting.

Since this is the beginning of a new school year let us each resolve to get more involved in our PASF Club activities and volunteer our time and talents.

Sinceramente,
Michael C. Juarez
State President—PASF

Dear Fellow PASF Members:

I would first like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support, encouragement and votes at the 1980 Convention. But I urge you not to cease your support now that the new officers are elected, because we need your help now more than ever. State officers were elected to plan and instigate new programs, but we need the support of all members statewide in order to carry out these programs properly and achieve full results. PASF belongs to every one of us and it is our responsibility to promote the ideals for which our organization stands.

The primary area in which concerned, enthusiastic PASF members can serve is in the area of membership. On an individual basis, this may mean speaking to the students in your Spanish class, urging them to get involved in the local PASF chapter. You may share with them the various projects and activities of your club, and the excitement of Convention.

An entire chapter can invite a neighboring school on a joint outing and encourage them to join State PASF; host an informational meeting for non-member schools in the area; or send representatives



1st Vice President
Kelley McLaughlin

to visit these schools. A PASF District can do these same things, but on a larger scale. With the support and involvement of each and every PASF chapter, the entire state could be covered within a matter of a few years!

But there is no single person or program that can achieve this high aspiration. It can only happen through the hard work and dedication of PASFers all over the state. I challenge everyone to get involved — no task is too small, and there is none too large. To find out what you and your chapter can do to help, feel free to call or write me as soon as possible.

Muchas gracias,
Kelley McLaughlin
211 Woodbrook
DeSoto, Texas 75115
214/223-8236



Sponsor Director
Assistant to State Sponsor
Elida Ramirez



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Pan American Student Forum

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Good Neighbor Commission, Austin, Texas

November, 1980

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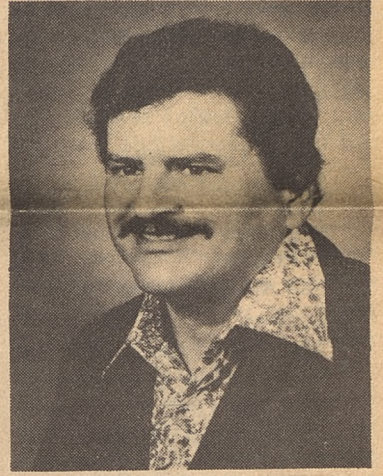
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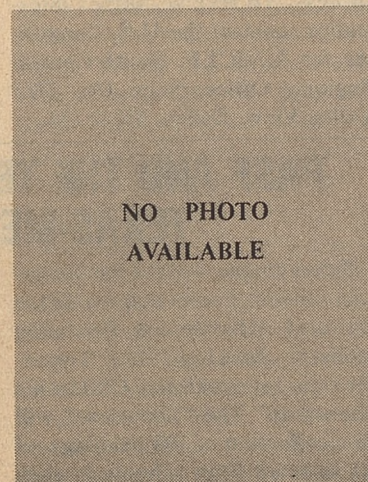
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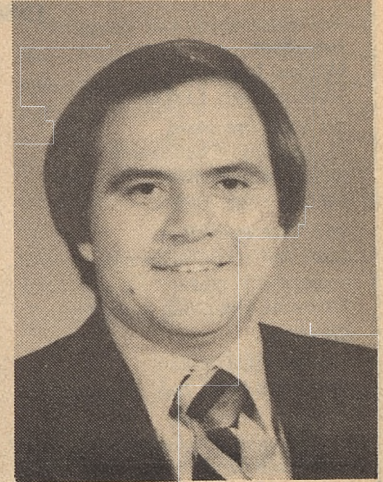
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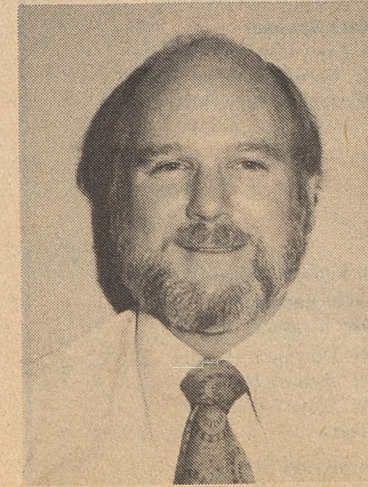
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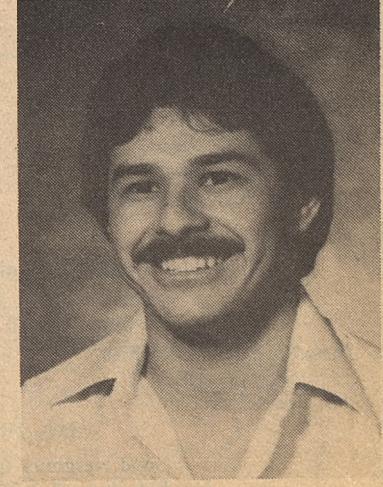
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Ruben Garza

Design Contest

Enter the contest of designing the 1981 PASF Convention program cover. Create an original design using this year's theme "PanAmericanismo: Nuestro Ideal" and follow rules set up as follows:

1. Use a white sheet of paper or poster board. (4 inches by 9 inches)
2. Create a design in black ink only. No other colors will be accepted.
3. Use the following caption: PASF 38th Annual Convention, March 26-27, 1981, San Antonio.
4. Use this year's theme as listed above.
5. Submit your entry design to Mr. George Arias, Madison High School, 3118 Elgin, San Antonio, Texas 78210. Entries must be in his hand by January 15, 1981.

"Workshops"

Muy Importante Para La Convención

It is now time to get involved and sponsor a Workshop for the State Convention. This is a very, if not the most, important segment of the State Convention and serves as a learning process along with creating a great deal of enjoyment. The Workshops have been a tremendous success in the past and we would like to expand the activities and scope for the ensuing convention. There were approximately 25 Workshops last year. We are anticipating an even larger membership and for that reason would like to present these along with many additional ones.

Our theme is Pan Americanism: Nuestro Ideal, and our course of study is Spain, Honduras and Paraguay. We would appreciate additional workshops to include these countries. Letters have been forwarded along with entry forms to all Sponsors and Chapters relative to the procedure and further information concerning entire. We would again like to list the Workshops sponsored last year and we do encourage any new ideas that you feel could be utilized. We would like to stress that this is "YOUR" Convention and will only be as successful as you make it. Think of this as an opportunity to express yourselves and help others in the process. It would be greatly appreciated if you would respond at your earliest convenience as it is imperative to complete our plans. Please forward your Workshop Form in duplicate:

To:
Bettye Green Henry
Educational Activities
Director
Highlands High School
3118 Elgin
San Antonio, Texas 78210

A copy to:
Mr. Jorge Garcés
Pan American Student Forum
P.O. Box 12007
Austin, Texas 78711

Remember that "Education is an Eternal Process of Knowledge" and we do have so very much that we would like to learn and share. Let's work together and make this one of the most successful Conventions in the history of the Pan American Student Forum of Texas.

Sinceramente,
Bettye Green Henry
Educational Activities Director

SPONSORSHIP IS NEEDED FOR THE FOLLOWING

1. Bailables Folkloricos
2. Guatemalan Exhibit
3. Sponsors Workshop
4. Parliamentary Procedure
5. Social Justice in Latin America
6. Guitar Workshop
7. Leadership Workshop
8. Latin American Dances
9. The Country of Jamaica
10. Ojos De Dios
11. Canciones Mexicanas #1
12. Canciones Mexicanas #2
13. Current Status of US-Mexico Relations
14. Piñata Making #1
15. Piñata Making #2
16. Scrapbook Workshop
17. International Fellowship Student Exchange Program
18. Running for State Office
19. Guatemala
20. Mexican Culture & Heritage
21. Benefits of Bilingualism
22. Paper Flowers
23. Opportunities to be an Exchange Student
24. How To Form a PASF District
25. Crafts
26. Foods of Latin America
27. Spain Exhibit
28. Honduras Exhibit
29. Paraguay Exhibit
30. Banner Workshop

Any additional Workshops would be most appreciated.

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Miss Carmen Zavala, PASF Assistant

UNICEF Mission: Saving the Lives of Children

If you had the chance to save the life of a suffering child, wouldn't you take it?

The chance — and challenge — are yours by becoming involved in the vital, worldwide work of UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund.

UNICEF was founded in 1946 as an emergency aid organization to help the children of war-devastated Europe. Today, it is recognized as the world's foremost humanitarian organization dedicated solely to the needs of children. With a child population exceeding 144 million, Latin America is the focus of a great deal of UNICEF activity.

Through the dedication of UNICEF's staff, and the generosity of UNICEF supporters in the world, boys and girls in over 30 Latin American and Caribbean countries are given the chance to enjoy the rights and opportunities that all children deserve. In Honduras, for example, one out of ten children die in infancy. UNICEF is helping to reverse this grim situation through health services for mothers and children and the training of community volunteers. Stipends are provided when necessary for the training of project personnel and community volunteers.

Anyone can become personally involved in these humanitarian efforts, and almost any activity can be turned into a UNICEF fundraiser. For example, a high school group can choose a specific country or project and organize a fundraising event for the benefit of its needy children. "Feast or Famine" banquets, dance contests, mini-olympics, shopping mall collections, and carnivals and fairs are only a few of the ways to help.

Just one dollar raised can provide enough vaccine for 20 children against the triple threat of diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. And \$100 means that 500 youngsters can be protected from nutritionally-caused blindness.

UNICEF produces a variety of audiovisual and print materials that can help make your event a success. To receive further information, contact the U.S. Committee for UNICEF, South-Central Regional Office, Suite 106, 2725 Valley View, Dallas, TX 75234.

PASF AND THE TEXAS CULTURAL ALLIANCE COORDINATE TEXAS-MEXICO STUDENT ART EXHIBITION

Texas chapters of the Pan American Student Forum and the Texas Cultural Alliance are finalizing plans to develop "The Texas-Mexico International Children's Showcase." The "Showcase" will be a collection of 100 paintings, of art selected from schools in each of the states of Mexico, mounted and framed for display in Texas public schools whose PASF chapters have co-sponsored the development of the exhibition.

Mexican student paintings will depict motifs or subjects reflecting the lives of people in the various Mexican states. Each painting will be labeled with the student's name, age, grade, school, city, state and a brief description of the motif of the painting. In addition, each sponsoring PASF chapter will be acknowledged with a small label in the framed picture.

The Texas Cultural Alliance, through the Good Neighbor Commission of Texas, has invited Texas PASF chapters to assist in the development of the exhibition by funding the framing of the 100 paintings. Each picture costs \$15



These attentive children are attending a recently-opened school in a rural area of Honduras. The school was built and equipped with assistance from UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund.



UNICEF not only helps children, it also gives assistance to adults who work with and for the benefit of children. In Paraguay, traditional midwives are trained with UNICEF's help in hygienic delivery methods. Here a midwife is shown how the umbilical cord should be tied to avoid infection, a frequent cause of infant mortality.

to mount and frame, and chapters are invited to fund or sponsor the development of five pictures each.

The Texas Cultural Alliance will conduct the collection of the Mexican art beginning in January 1981. Mounting of the exhibition will be completed in the spring semester. The tour of the art will be coordinated by the Texas Cultural Alliance and will begin its circuit in the fall of 1981.

The exhibition will be available for showing in Texas for the 1981-82 school term. Then the exhibition will be reorganized for touring Mexico for an equal period of time. Upon its return from Mexico in 1983 it is our hope to mount an exhibition of Texas student art for display in Mexico and then in Texas. The entire project, then, is a four-year program between Texas and Mexico.

Each school in Texas receiving the exhibition will be responsible for paying the shipment of the exhibition by commercial freight to the next host school. The Alliance will ask the Good Neighbor Commission of Texas to assist in the

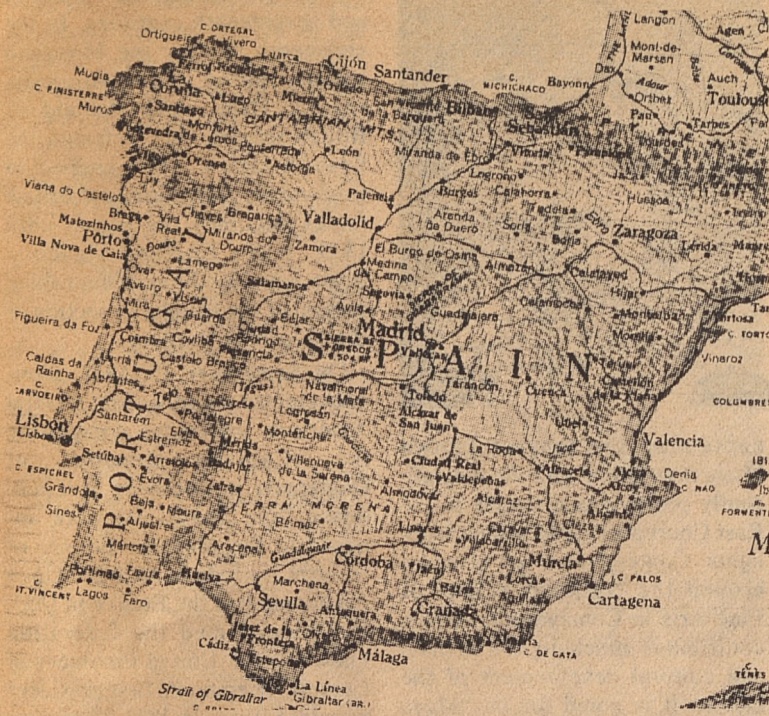
international shipment of the exhibition(s) to and from Mexico and will seek financial assistance for the project from the Texas Commission on the Arts to support the development of supplementary materials such as posters, crates, and explanatory panels.

At a time when relations between Texas, the United States in general, and the countries of Latin America are moving into a new era, communications between our people must remain open and opportunities for new growth and better understanding seized as they present themselves. We also must be willing to accept the responsibility personally within our given communities — school, city, and state — to promote such new growth and better understanding. The Texas Cultural Alliance is pleased to serve as a catalyst for such expression and experience.

If your Chapter is interested in participating, please contact:

Dr. Geoffrey A. Grimes
The Texas Cultural Alliance
223 Hanna Ave.
De Soto, Texas 75115

1980-1981 Countries of Study



SPAIN

Official name: Estado Espanol
 Location: Southern Europe
 Form of Government: Monarchy
 Language: Spanish
 Religion: Roman Catholic
 Area: 194,885 sq. miles
 Population: 33,823,918 (1970 census)
 Capital: Madrid (national), San Sebastian (summer)
 Monetary unit: peseta

Location

Country at the southwestern end of the European continent. It occupies 85% of the Iberian Peninsula, which it shares with Portugal (west), and borders France, Andorra and the Bay of Biscay (north), the Mediterranean Sea

(east and southeast), and the Atlantic Ocean (Southwest). The narrow Strait of Gibraltar separates Spain from North Africa. Also part of Spain are the Balearic Islands off the east coast and the Canary Islands off the coast of Africa.

Geography

The central part of Spain is made up of an extensive plateau extending to almost half its territory. This plateau is divided by the Central Mountains forming to the south the Toledo Mountains and Sierra Morena; to the northeast the Iberian Mountains; and to the northwest the Cantabrian Mountains. In addition, the Pyrenees Mts. are found in the north form-

ing a natural boundary with France.

The rivers in the area of the Cantabrian Mts. are generally short, but carry a high volume of water. In contrast, the rivers in the Mediterranean have less volume except during autumn when torrential rains usually create flooding. The rivers in the central part of the country are long and form large river basins. Among the largest are: Ebro (927 km), Duero (859 km), Tajo (910 km), Guadiana (820 km), and Guadalquivir (680 km).

Population

The population estimates for 1971 indicate a total population of 34,134,000 with a density of 175.2 inhabitants per square mile. Approximately 60.9% of the population is urban and 39.1% is rural, 48.8% is male and 51.20% is female. The ethnic composition in 1961 was Spanish 72.8%, Catalan 16.4%, Galician 8.2%, Basque 2.3%, and others .4%.

History

As early as 1100 B.C., Spain was explored by Phoenician seafarers. In 654 B.C., the Carthaginians began colonizing and remained in Spain until driven out by the Roman armies in 206 B.C. Roman rule lasted until 415 A.D. when, simultaneously with the collapse of the Roman Empire, the Visigoths conquered Spain and drove out roving Teutonic tribes. They held the country until 711, when the Muslim invaded from Africa and conquered Spain.

During the several centuries of Moorish dominance, Spain became a place of culture with a wide array of scientists, philosophers, writers and engineers who improved the land and rebuilt the cities. Slowly, Christian kingdoms began to develop in northern Spain, where the Muslim power was weak. These kingdoms waged centuries of relentless war against the Moors, until, by the late 13th century, only Granada remained in Moors hand. The uniting of the royal houses of Aragon and Castile by the marriage of Ferdinand and Isabella in 1479 also united most of Spain. Finally, the Muslims were driven out in 1492, the same year Spain launched its worldwide colonial empire by sending Columbus on his first exploratory voyage.

For most of the next century and a half Spain became the dominant nation in Europe and the leading imperial power. Within a few decades Spain had colonized the larger Caribbean islands, Mexico, most of Central and South America and the Phillipines. By the 16th century, Charles V became the most powerful ruler in Europe. After the death of his son, Phillip II (1598), Spanish power began to decline. By the end of the war of the Spanish Succession (1701-14), Spain was little more than an appendage of France, and England

controlled the seas. Spain made some recovery in the 18th century, but during the period of Napoleonic domination (1808-14) and its aftermath most of the New World empire was lost.

For the next century the forces of liberalism fought with the monarchists for the control of the nation. A short-lived republic, 1873-75 was abolished on the accession of Alfonso XII to the throne. The monarchy held on until 1923 when Gen. Primo de Rivera seized power and set up a dictatorship under Alfonso XIII. In 1931, when Republicans won the election, the King went into exile, and a short-lived, weak second republic was installed. The struggle between its supporters and opponents erupted in a long and bloody Civil War (1936-39), from which Gen. Francisco Franco emerged as dictator (1939-72). Franco's early years in power were harsh, and his support for the Axis Powers in WW II ostracized Spain from the Western nations until the 1950's. By then, his political control was firm, and economic conditions improved; by the late 1960's a gradual liberalization was under way. As his successor, Franco chose Juan Carlos, the grandson of Alfonso XIII, who became King at Franco's death in November 1975.

Economy

The Spanish economy is based on manufacturing and agriculture. In the manufacturing area the main products (1971) were: wheat flour, refined sugar, steel, cement, aluminum, and automobiles. In the agricultural area the main products (1971) were: wheat, corn, sugar, potatoes, grapes, oranges, and fish.

Approximately 13.3% of the GNP came from the agricultural sector and 26.8% from manufacturing in 1970. Services comprised 16%. Almost 30% of the labor force was involved in agriculture, while 27% were involved in manufacturing and 17.6% in services. Spain's main imports in 1970 consisted of machinery, fuel, chemicals, automobiles, fruits, coffee, tea, and aircrafts. Major import sources were the U.S., 18.9%; West Germany, 12.6%; France, 10%; United Kingdom, 7.1%; Italy, 5.2%; Saudi Arabia, 3.4%; Japan 3.1%; and others.

Exports for 1970 included machinery, animal and vegetable oils, ships and boats, preserved fruits, footwear, automobiles, fish, and iron and steel castings. Major export destinations were: U.S., 14.1%; West Germany, 11.8%;

France, 10.3%; United Kingdom, 8.8%; Italy, 6.6%, and others.

PARAGUAY

Area: 157,047 square miles
 Population: 2,400,000
 Capital: Asunción
 Currency: guaraní
 Languages: Spanish and Guaraní
 Independence Day: May 14
 National flower: flor de guayaba

Paraguay is a land of legendary fighting men whose brave stand against overwhelming odds during the War of Triple Alliance places them high in the ranks of the valiant. Though Paraguay won its independence from Spain without bloodshed, two later wars decreased its natural resources and diminished its population. The republic's wealth lies in its fertile soil but large deposits of iron ore, copper, and manganese have been reported. One of South America's two inland countries, it is not landlocked however, as the Paraná-Paraguay river system affords direct access to the sea. It is a beautiful land of towering palms, the spectacular Guairá, Acaray, and Monday falls, deep forests of flowering hardwoods, orchids, and ever present orange trees. Oil of petitgrain, distilled from bitter oranges and used as a base for perfume and flavorings, is one of the republic's leading exports.

Geography

Paraguay is divided into two regions. East of the Paraguay River are tropical forests, low-lying plateaus, and grasslands. In the forest clearings the soil is extremely fertile, producing crops of mandioca, cotton, tobacco, sugar cane, yerba mate — sometimes called Paraguayan tea — and various fruits. Most of the population is concentrated in this rich farming and cattle-grazing area. The sparsely-populated Chaco Boreal to the west consists of flat grassy plains, laced with a network of rivers, and dense forests. The plains along the Paraguay River provide excellent pastures for the raising of livestock.

Paraguay has three main rivers: the Paraguay, its foremost waterway and principal contact with the outside world, forms part of its western border; the Alto Paraná, merging with the Paraguay in the south, forms 400 miles of the southern and eastern boundaries; and the Pilcomayo, flowing across the Chaco from Bolivia, forms the southwestern border.

Culture

Paraguayans are for the most



1980-81 Willis Spanish Club Officers. From left to right: Top row — Rhonda Phillips, Todd Thorpe, Sherry McLin. Bottom row — Angie Patronella, Kim Bonner

'Los Gatos Salvajes'

WILLIS — The Willis High School Spanish Club, entitled "Los Gatos Salvajes," had a very rewarding 1979-80 school year. Serving as officers for 1979-80 were: President Todd Thorpe, Vice President Angie Patronella, Secretary Mandy Harness, Treasurer Camille Suggs, Reporter Lisa Humphries. This outstanding leadership inspired club members to work extra hard on money-making activities such as selling balloons at pep rallies. This turned out to be a big success as we have a very spirited school. We also took part in the Willis Halloween Carnival with a pie-throwing stand and selling balloons.

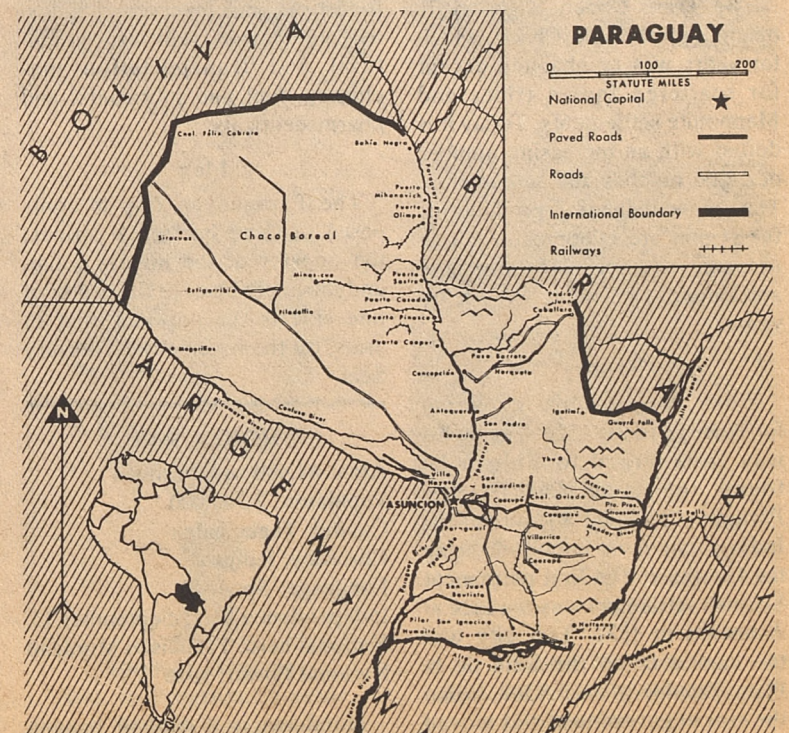
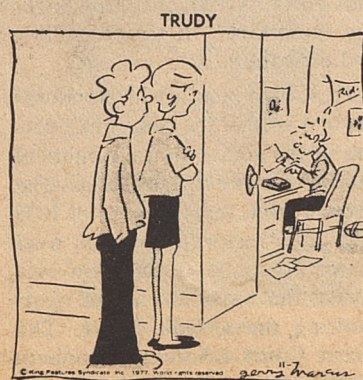
Last year was our first at the State Convention in San Antonio with the following six members attending: Becky Henderson, Rhonda Phillips, Todd Thorpe, Sherry McLin, Chris Turner, and Morty Chambers. We hope to have more attend this coming year.

We had a party at Christmas with piñatas. It was a lot of fun. We had our swim and ski party towards the end of the year. A trip to Astroworld highlighted the rest of the school year.

Our newly elected officers for 1980-81 are President Todd Thorpe, Vice President Angie Patronella, Secretary Kim Bonner, Treasurer Sherry McLin, and Historian Rhonda Phillips.

Our goal for 1980-81 is between \$1,000 to \$1,500. Some of our money-making ideas include selling balloons at pep rallies and football games. We will also be selling homecoming spirit ribbons with the names of football players, coaches, cheerleaders, and band members on them. We are also planning a Halloween Carnival.

We hope that the coming year will be prosperous and rewarding for everyone. ¡ Hasta Luego! — Kim Bonner, Secretary-Reporter



part well-amalgamated descendants of Spanish settlers and Guaraní Indians, people with a tradition of brave and disciplined courage. In more recent times some Argentines, Germans, and Italians have settled there. It is interesting to note that while Spanish is the official language and spoken everywhere, Guaraní is used almost as universally. A native Paraguayan skill is the making of *nanduti* lace which is weblike, delicate and intricate, and quite unlike other famous laces. This traditional craft is carried on almost entirely in the small, ancient town of Itauguá. Historical and legal writings occupy the leading place in Paraguayan literature; even poetry seldom loses touch with social realities. Paraguayan art dates from the colonial period when the Jesuit missionaries established art schools. Leaders in the field of modern art are Pablo Alborno, Juan Samundio, Julián Campos Cervera, Delgado Rodas, and Jaime Bestard.

The capital city Asunción is the center of most activities. Factories line the river bank. The oldest section borders a bay extending from the Paraguay River. Most public buildings in Asunción date from the latter half of the nineteenth century. Outstanding are the Congressional Palace, the Government Palace, the National Pantheon, and the church of La Encarnación. Among the modern buildings, the Hotel Guaraní and the bank building are outstanding. Historical collections, especially those connected with the War of the Triple Alliance, are in the Godoy Museum. In the nearby suburb of Trinidad, the estate of Carlos Antonio López has been converted into a botanical garden of tropical plants which is said to be one of the finest in America. Villeta, the most important orange shipping port, is also a center for the cotton and tobacco industries.

The major port on the Alto Paraná, Encarnación, is a commercial center and rail terminal. Villarrica is the republic's second city. Often called the city of hills and oranges, it is an important industrial, agricultural, and communications center. Trade and communication hub of the north is the colonial city of Concepción which is also an educational center. The surrounding territory produces much corn, grain, and yerba mate. To the northeast is a large, beautiful region, rich in timber and cattle. On the Asunción-Puerto Paraguá (Brazil) Highway, the new city of Puerto Stroessner is growing in importance. Situated on the Paraná River, it is linked with the Brazilian city of Foz de Iguazú by a monumental bridge across the river.

The Trans-Chaco Highway is opening up the vast Chaco, which for years was uninhabited except for scattered Indian tribes and Mennonite settlements. Today it is dotted with an increasing number of cattle ranches and settlements. The two outstanding products of the region are quebracho (source of tannin) and beef. Meat products are Paraguay's leading export, by value.

History

When Alejo Garcia, exploring for Portugal in the 1520's, made his way from Brazil to Bolivia he found the land that is now Paraguay peopled by numerous Indians, the most important being the Guaranís. The first permanent Spanish settlement was founded at Asunción in 1537. This city was the capital of all the Rio de la Plata Provinces until 1580, when the seat of government was moved

to Buenos Aires. The colonies of Paraguay and Argentina were governed by the viceroyalty of Peru from 1617 until 1776, when the viceroyalty of Rio de la Plata was established, and they came under its jurisdiction. On May 14, 1811, Paraguay gained its independence from Spain without bloodshed when the governor agreed to resign. A consular government was set up. Congress proclaimed Rodriguez de Francia, called "El Supremo," head of the government in 1814. He closed the country to the outside world and ruled it with an iron hand. In 1844 Carlos Antonio López became president and remained so until his death in 1862. He built roads and railroads, instituted many reforms, and promoted education. His son, Francisco Solano López, known as "El Mariscal" or the Marshal, succeeded him. Under his leadership Paraguay entered and fought the disastrous War of the Triple Alliance in which Argentina, Brazil, and Uruguay combined and fought against Paraguay for five years. War ended at the death of López in 1870, leaving the country ruined.

The Chaco War between Bolivia and Paraguay lasted from 1932 to 1935, when an armistice was signed. The peace treaty was not signed until 1938. It was costly to both countries in lives and money. Considerable part of the little explored Gran Chaco was in dispute, and as settlement Paraguay was given about three fourths of the disputed area, while Bolivia gained an outlet on the Paraguay River.

The Paraguayan government is divided into three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. The executive and legislative branches have an intermediate body called the Council of State composed of the president (elected for a five-year term), cabinet members, appointed representatives of commerce and industry, and certain other persons *ex officio*. The Council has an advisory function in both foreign and domestic affairs. Legislative power is vested in the Chamber of Representatives.

Economy

Paraguay is essentially an agricultural land. Stockraising supplements agriculture as an important economic activity. Manufacturing is concerned largely with the processing of raw materials for export trade. Paraguay's current economic and social development program calls for increased industrial production and a more efficient utilization of the country's natural resources. Principal exports are meat products, logs and lumber, quebracho extract, cotton, vegetable and essential oils, tobacco, yerba mate, coffee, and hides. Leading imports and foodstuffs, machinery and industrial equipment, vehicles, agricultural and transportation machinery, fuel and lubricants, and pharmaceuticals.

Flag

The Paraguayan flag is composed of three horizontal stripes, the upper red, the middle white, and the lower blue. In the center of one side is the national coat of arms, on the reverse the Treasury Seal.

HONDURAS

Area: 44,480 square miles
Population: 2,700,000
Capital: Tegucigalpa
Currency: lempira
Language: Spanish
Independence Day: September 15
National hero: Francisco Morazán
National flower: rose

Honduras is a land of banana



and coffee plantations, fields of cotton and sugar cane, rich mineral resources, and extensive forest regions covering roughly 45 percent of the total area. The country is one of the world's major producers of fine woods, notably mahogany. Two highlights of the country are the ancient Maya ruins of Copán and the Pan American Agricultural School, one of Latin America's most advanced agricultural colleges, located in the Zamorano Valley.

Geography

Wedge-shaped Honduras, second largest of the five Central American republics, is the most mountainous of all and is said to be the only one having no volcanoes. The Central American Cordillera runs through the country from northwest to southeast. Vast banana plantations are found on the broad northern coastal plain extending inland from the Caribbean. A great expanse of swamps, mountains, and forests covers the lower eastern coast called Mosquitia. The Central Plateau, with its high ridges and deep valleys, occupies about 65 percent of the national territory and contains 70 percent of the total population. Most of the arable land in this major region is under cultivation, producing coffee, tobacco, wheat, fruits, and vegetables. Honduras has several large rivers, countless streams, and several coastal lakes. Its pride is Lake Yajoa in the Jicoque Mountains. A major project in the settlement and reclamation of agricultural lands is being carried out in the Aguán River Valley by the National Agrarian Institute with the backing of the Alliance for Progress.

Honduras also has insular possessions including the picturesque Bay Islands, formed by the summit of a submerged mountain range. Honduras' only Pacific port, Ampala, is located on Tiger Island in the Gulf of Fonseca. The Bay Islands and the Mosquitia region were ruled alternately by Spain and Great Britain until 1859, and the majority of the inhabitants are descendants of the British, some of whom claim relationship with the freebooters and buccaneers of the Spanish Main who finally settled here.

Culture

The homogeneous population of Honduras is chiefly of Spanish and Indian descent. The nation has a firmly established tradition of racial equality, which emphasizes the importance of talent, ability, and education.

Pre-Columbian art in Honduras centers around the ruins of Copán, one of the great cultural centers of the Old Empire of the Mayas. The ancient ruin, rediscovered in 1839 and later restored, spreads over many acres; it is built on two levels, the upper on a cliff overlooking the Copán River. The Great Court where worshippers gathered, the Hieroglyphic Stairway, with its carved steps

containing the longest known Maya inscription, and the magnificently proportioned temple in the East Court are Copán's chief highlights. Contemporary art revolves around the National School of Fine Arts in Comayaguá, which contributes much to the artistic and cultural development of the nation. It is noted for its "Maya Corridor" with large frescos illustrating Maya life and culture.

Mountainous Tegucigalpa, Honduras' capital and chief commercial city, stands as it was originally built, quaint streets of stairs connecting one level with another. Tegucigalpa is one of the few world capitals without a railroad, but its air services are outstanding. It is the center of the silver and gold mining region and of a large sub-tropical agricultural zone in the interior. The republic's second city, San Pedro Sula, center of the banana and sugar-growing industries, is an important distributing point for the northern and western areas. Industries are more developed in this briskly modern city. Nearby are the ruins of Travesía, which show evidence of Maya origin. Choluteca, on the wide, beautiful plain of the Choluteca River, is a cattle and coffee center. La Ceiba is one of Honduras' principal Caribbean ports.

Comayagua, the first capital of Honduras, is also the site of the first Spanish colonial university in Central America, established in 1632. The purest examples of colonial architecture in Honduras are found in this city of Castilian atmosphere, with its massive one-story houses flanking cobbled streets. Today it is the distributing center for the great Comayagua Valley.

History

Columbus first landed on the North American mainland in 1502 at what is now known as Cape Honduras. It was he who gave the country its name; the Spanish word *honduras* (depths) was suggested by the deep waters found off the north coast. Attempts at conquest and settlement followed; but the Spaniards quarreled among themselves and the settlements they established engaged in continuous rivalry. In 1537 Comayagua was founded as the provincial capital. The Indians were not subdued until the late 1530's, when the Indian chief Lempira with 30,000 of his followers fought the Spaniards until he was treacherously assassinated at a peace parley. The name Lempira (now the name of the country's monetary unit) is a Honduran symbol of liberty and courage.

In 1539 Honduras was made part of the Captaincy-General of Guatemala, and for most of the period until 1821 it was divided into two provinces: Tegucigalpa and Comayagua. In 1578 silver was discovered in the hills around Tegucigalpa, probably accounting for its Indian name derived from Tegus Galpa, meaning Silver Hill.

Because of its mineral wealth and growing economic importance, Honduras was frequently attacked by French, British, and Dutch buccaneers during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. In the eighteenth century the Mosquito Indians retired to the Mosquitia region. Here, with the aid of British settlers, they defeated the Spanish forces. They applied to England for protection, and British forces occupied the region until 1859, when England signed a treaty with Honduras relinquishing control of the Honduran section of the Mosquitia territory.

On September 15, 1821, Honduras joined the other four Central American provinces comprising the Captaincy-General of Guatemala in declaring independence from Spain. All were annexed to the Mexican Empire of Agustín Iturbide in 1822-23. Upon the downfall of the Empire in 1823, Honduras joined the federation known as the United Provinces of Central America; its first president was José Arce. In 1830, Francisco Morazán, the Honduran national hero, became the second president of the Federation. Able, idealistic Morazán introduced many reforms, both social and economic. However, the rivalry between the Liberal and Conservative parties created great disorder and prevented elections in 1838. Despite Morazán's efforts to preserve the Federation, it disintegrated. On November 5th of the same year (1838), Honduras declared its independence. In January 1841, the first constitutional president Francisco Ferrera was inaugurated. Since then, political control has been held successively by Liberals and Conservatives for varying periods of time.

The Constitution of 1965 divides the powers of government into three branches: legislative, executive, and judicial. The legislative power is exercised by the unicameral Congress of Deputies. Executive power is vested in the president, aided by his cabinet, and in default thereof by one of three presidential designates. The president and presidential designates are elected jointly by popular direct vote for a six-year term. The juridical power is exercised by the Supreme Court, the Courts of Appeal, and lower courts. The Constitution also provides for Honduran participation in a Central American Union, should plans for such a union be perfected.

Economy

The Honduran economy is based almost entirely upon agricultural products. Lumber is an important source of wealth. Mining is the third most important industry. In Honduras, as in all the Central American republics, the increasing economic integration of the area is stimulating industrial growth. Likewise, trade has been strengthened greatly by the Central American Common Market. Honduras is the second largest banana-exporting country in the world, and this export crop is vital to its economy. Second in importance is coffee, followed by silver and gold, lumber, livestock, cigars and tobacco, cotton, coconuts, and beans. The principal imports are raw materials, vehicles and gasoline, manufactured products, machinery, fertilizers, and chemicals.

Flag

The Honduran flag consists of three horizontal stripes of equal width, the two outer ones blue, and the center one white. In the center of the white stripe are five blue stars representing the states that formed the Central American Federation.