

SAN ELIZARIO HISTORY  
THE ROOTS OF EL PASO



# *Los Portales Newsletter*

February, 2012

Greetings members,

The year 2011-2012 has been unforgettable for me. It has had its rewards and challenges. Challenges because my parents, Raul and Marta Garcia have had health & medical issues and I have had to devote a large portion of my time to take care of them.

Our yard sale fund-raiser in October 2011, was a success and I want to thank all the volunteers who helped.

I want to extend my thank you to the San Elizario Veterans Committee, Ray Borrego, Chairman and SEGHS vice-president for putting on a great celebration on Nov. 5, 2011.

On December 17, 2011, we had the annual Luminarias/Posadas at la Placita and Los Portales Museum. This event's experience allowed me to try my culinary skills by making the tamales and menudo for the event, which went very well. I had a great team of SEGHS kitchen volunteers and would like to express my appreciation to them. Thanks also to those people who participated in one way or another. Examples of this are the people supervising the pageant, volunteers setting up the luminarias and Christmas decorations, the San Elizario Church confirmation classes, the High School's ROTC, Tito Lujan who provided the sand for the Luminarias and numerous other people.

In conclusion, I certainly advocate that we continue on this mission of preserving our heritage and culture and hopefully count on everybody's participation on this journey. For this reason, I am inviting everyone to participate in next First Thanksgiving Conference on April 28, 2012.

## News

Good news for everyone that is interested in the preservation of the San Elceario Presidio Chapel. Work has begun on restoring the inside of the church. Jorge Virgen, of the El Paso Catholic Diocese authorized all renovations. The project is headed by Organización Progresiva and its Director Mr. Tony Araujo. They have been counting on volunteers from the community to assist in this holy task and they are accomplishing great strides but no one knows what they will encounter with this historical building. Even though the church received a small grant, donations are still being accepted. You may send your donation to San Elceario Church, PO Box 910, San Elizario, Texas 79849.

Currently, weekly mass is being held in the old Hijas de Maria Hall and Saturday and Sunday masses are in the Church Parrish Hall.

**New Members:** Lisa Abouhamad, daughter of William Ross and Teresa Macias, Teresa Clapper (unfortunately we don't have her parents names, yet); Jesus M. Galvan, son of Ann Lara Galvan and Gilbert Galvan, Transito James, daughter of David O. Macias and Betty Farris.

**Prayers for our dearly departed:** Kathryn Aguayo wife of Humphrey Aguayo and granddaughter of Higinio Zuniga and Andres Garcia son of Jose Garcia and Ana Carreon. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

### **.Prayers for the III:**

Marta Garcia & Raul Garcia, Richard Madrid, Ida Castellano, and Kila Sanchez

**Greetings from Stella Borrego Frazier, N. Carolina**



Stella is a current SEGHS Member & daughter of Eva Maese & Juan Borrego

### **Los Portales Office Hours**

**Tuesday – Saturday:** 10 am - 2 pm

**Sunday:** 12 – 4 pm

**Closed Mondays**

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## Luminarias /Posadas

The event took place December 17, 2011 at the Veterans Memorial Plaza and the Los Portales Museum. It was a great time for the children that participated in the event. It all started on Dec. 10 when all the student volunteers met at Casa Ronquillo to make the luminarias.

The task of making luminarias is tedious and labor consuming, especially if you are making 3000 of them. To make 3000 of them you need a lot of volunteers: folding bags, filling bags with sand and inserting the candle, but it does not end there; then you have to transport those prepared luminarias to their destination . The destination is the historic plaza and surrounding areas. To accomplish this task volunteers with trailers are needed. Again, volunteers are requested for the lighting of the 3000 luminarias and this has to take place before dusk. By nightfall the plazita, the church grounds and the other areas will be glowing for the entire evening. Needless to say , all the hard work that went into creating this heavenly ambiance gives a new meaning to Christmas.

We had a group of 100 + volunteers completing the luminarias project (3000). The volunteers came from the San Elizario confirmation class, Hanks High School ROTC, San Elizario High School ROTC, members of the West Texas Community & Corrections Dept., as well as San Elizario Genealogy and Historical Society and members of the El Paso Mission Trails.

The entire process begins, (weather permitting) two or three weekends in advance. The activities scheduled for the evening include a "Posadas Pageant" which begins at 5:30 PM . The children participate as wise men, angels, Joseph & Mary characters and shepherds. The story of " A Child is Born " was narrated by Lillian Trujillo an avid SEGHS volunteer, while the children act out the story. After the pageant, a drawing for twelve donated new bicycles was held and there were a lot of happy children and parents. Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus distributed candy bags to the children, while SEGHS served chocolate and cookies to the public attending the event. I can not speak enough about the lady volunteers in the kitchen making the tamales, menudo, champurrado, etc. They do an excellent job.

Finally, at the end of the evening the bicycle drawings kept going till they were gone, the food kept going till it was all gone, the electric lights kept blinking on and off till they were gone but the luminarias glowed radiantly through out the night. All in all, the Luminarias/Posadas event is always a joyous occasion.

By Eloisa Levario, Director

## Veterans Talk

San Elizario celebrated its 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Veterans Day Parade and Ceremonies on Saturday, November 5, 2011. The event started with the parade at 9:00 am. The parade participants included bands and JROTC from San Elizario High School and neighboring school districts. There were antique cars, motorcycle groups, cheerleaders, school organizations, law enforcement and fire department vehicles and many other parade participants. Our 2011 Grand Marshalls were Robert "Bobby" and Saul Pedregon. Later during the Ceremony, five veterans were honored for their service to the nation, Florentino "Tino" Gonzales, Manuel Alvarado, Patricia Cruz, Reynel Martinez and Alejandro "Alex" Payan. Special tribute was given to Manuel "Manny" Navarette for his long dedication and devotion to soldiers, veterans and POW-MIA's. Masters of Ceremonies were Maya Sanchez and Ray Borrego. As with prior years, complimentary food and beverages were given to all in attendance.

**Eduardo M. Pedregon Veterans Museum:** We continue to get very good compliments of our Museum from visitors and tourist.

**Veterans Memorial Walk:** As of January 2012, we have 276 bricks on the ground and they continue to come.

**Veterans Cemetery Monument:** In October, the Veterans Committee and some of the members laid new cement, painted and did some improvements to the monument. More improvements will be done in the months to come.

**Veterans Memorial Plaza:** The Pedregon family donated the plaque to the Veterans Committee that the County (Commissioner Willie Gandara Jr.) had presented to the Pedregon family. It is the Veterans Committee intention to place the plaque on the monument located at the Veterans Memorial Plaza.

No Veteran Committee meetings were held in December and January due to the holidays. Our meetings will start again on Tuesday, February 7, 2012, at 6:30pm, at the Veterans Museum, 1501-B Main Street, San Elizario. Any questions regarding our events, projects, programs, meetings, purchasing memorial bricks, t-shirts, or becoming a member, please contact Ray Borrego at 383-8529 or Ann Lara at 345-3741.

Ray Borrego, Chair, SEVC



Veterans parade Nov. 5, 2011



Volunteers serving hotdogs to the attendees

## Lopez Family Tree

Great-Great Grandparents (Paternal)  
Felipe Lopez & Ceferina Jelles

B.

D.

J. Pedro Lopez

B. 1826 (San Eli)

D.

Great-Great Grandparents (maternal)  
Episidio Bustillos & Juana Ignacia Montes

B.

B.

D.

D.

Maria de Jesus Bustillos

B.

D.

married Jan 6, 1851

Guadalupe Lopez & Maria del Pila  
Gandar

Maria Guadalupe Lopez

B. 1857 ?

D. July 16, 1931 (San Eli)

& Jose Bravilio Lopez

B. Mar. 26, 1852

D. Jan. 1, 1885

Pedro Lopez (B. Feb. 21, 1873)

Luciano Lopez (B. Nov. 24, 1874)

Santos Lopez (B. Nov. 1, 1876)

Maria Concepcion Lopez (B. Dec. 6, 1878)

Maria Concepcion Lopez (B. July 31, 1882)

Maria Guadalupe Lopez (B. Jul 21, 1884)

Vicente Lopez (B. July 19, 1880) (D. 1918)

Jose / Maria Lopez (B. July 21, 1884 - twins) ←

↑ (D. Aug 10, 1884)

Twins

José Lopez (B. July 18, 1888) (D. Sept 1964)

Manuel Lopez (B. July 18, 1888) (D. )

Santiago Lopez (B. July 24, 1895) (D. Mar 29, 1986)

{ No father listed on Baptismal certificates

Note: As per Eddie; our father was fathered by a married man with surname of "Munoz".  
Our uncl Santiago - by a man with surname of "McFarle"

Information gathered from  
Anna Oporto, Church records  
secretary of San Elizario's Parish  
P.O. Box 910, San Elizario, TX 79849  
(915) 851-2333

Submitted by  
Tere Lopez  
Payan



San Elizario Genealogy/Historical Society

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