

# LAREDO LADIES LUNCH BUNCH

On or about the year 2009, a few ladies, namely Norma Sandoval Brady & Dorothy Garza Lane, decided that it would be nice if former Laredo ladies residing in the San Antonio area could meet monthly at a local restaurant, primarily because of their connection to each other through family relations & schools, or just because they had something in common—Laredo! And so began the Luncheons, which continue to this day!



Volume 1, Issue 1  
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## Founders

Norma S. Brady  
Dorothy G. Lane

## Assistants:

Christina R. Tolin  
Diana S. Gonzalez

But first, here's a photo of old Laredo High School, now La Posada Motel! WE are all much too young to have attended this school, but we might know someone who did!



These lovely ladies met at The Chaparral in Helotes, April 14, 2009!



## Special points of interest:

- History
- Laredo Schools
- Membership

**'Ain't it funny, how Time slips away?!**

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# WHERE WERE WE?



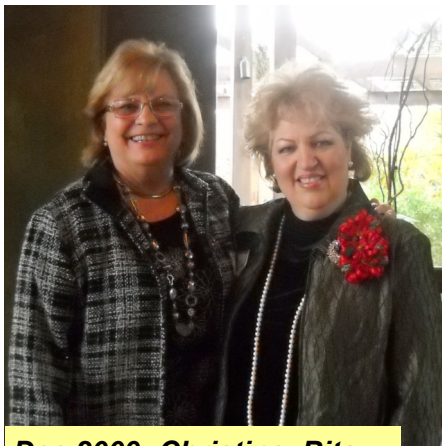
*Does anyone remember where this was taken and when? (Barbaresco, July 2011?)*



**Jan 2010; Yolanda, Olga Nella, Irma**



**Louis J. Christen,  
Superintendent**



**Dec 2009; Christina, Bitsy**



**Margie, Norma, Jeannie—Feb 2011—Irma, Yolanda**





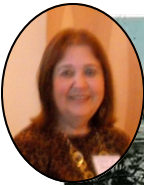
## ***Laredo is HOW old?***

*In 1745, as per the Texas Historical Archives, a fort was established along the Rio Grande River by a Spanish Army officer who called it “El Paso de Jacinto.” It was originally just a river crossing named for a descendant of Alfonso de Leon’s named Jacinto de Leon, who had discovered a place where a man on horseback might cross the Rio Grande.*

*The site was located near a Land Grant which was subsequently made by Spanish Royal Viceroy José de Escandón to Tomás Sánchez de la Barrera y Gallardo (another Spanish officer) who brought four families to the site in 1755 & founded the Villa de Laredo. It was part of the Nuevo Santander region in the Spanish colony of New Spain, & although the origin of the name is unclear, both Santander & Laredo are names of ports in northern Spain, so.....! (Between 1745 & 1755, the area remained in the hands of the native Indians....Karankawas, Lipan Apaches & the Comanches).*

*From four families to a population of approximately 250,000.....Laredo is now the third most populous city on the United States-Mexican border. This is the city where some of us grew up, where we have friends & relatives, and, for most of us, the place we remember with fondness!*

*It should be noted here that our own Delia Sánchez (Mrs. Cael González) is a direct descendant of Don Tomas Sánchez! Maybe there are other descendants in our group? We do have several SANCHEZes, after all!*



*Besides the Texas Archives, there are many good websites designed by folks like John Adams, Jr., Cuauhtemoc Rocha, & Maria Eugenia Guerra, to name a few, that document Laredo’s history with wonderful old photos going back in time. The two above are of the Federal (Post Office) building, left, & of ladies sitting in Jarvis Plaza, across from the old Hamilton Hotel (when it had just 3 floors).*

*The Federal Building was built in 1907 & has served as a Post Office, Courthouse & Custom House. Jarvis Plaza was named for Samuel Matthias Jarvis, a great-great grandfather of our own Nancy Foster Ager!*



*Mr. Jarvis was born in New York City, but joined Gen. Zachary Taylor & Winfield Scott’s armies & fought in Mexico. In Vallecillos, Nuevo Leon, he met & married Inocencia Flores & after the Civil War, they settled in Laredo. Samuel M. Jarvis served as Mayor, Webb County Judge, Customs Collector, & County Surveyor. As the County Surveyor, he named many of Laredo’s downtown streets in alternating fashion for Mexican & American political & military heroes; i.e., Zaragoza/Grant—Iturbide/Lincoln—Hidalgo/Farragut—Matamoros/Houston—Victoria/Washington, etc! (Now we know the rest of the story)!*

# Here, There & Everywhere!



**Josie Johnson, Angie Garcia, & Sue Nichols; May 2009.**



**Josie & Olga; Apr, 2012**



**Dorothy, Yolanda, Rosa Maria & Araceli; May 2009.**



**Diana, Margie & Jeannie at STONEWERKS?? Sep 2009.**



**Edna, Mary Lou, Norma & Olga Nella; May 2009**



**Olga Nella G. Ramirez**



**Christina R. Tolin**



**Mickey G. Idrogo**



**Dora S. Massey**

**Yes, we were at STONEWERKS when former SPURS star Malik Rose was nice enough to pose for a few pictures! (Sep, 2009)**



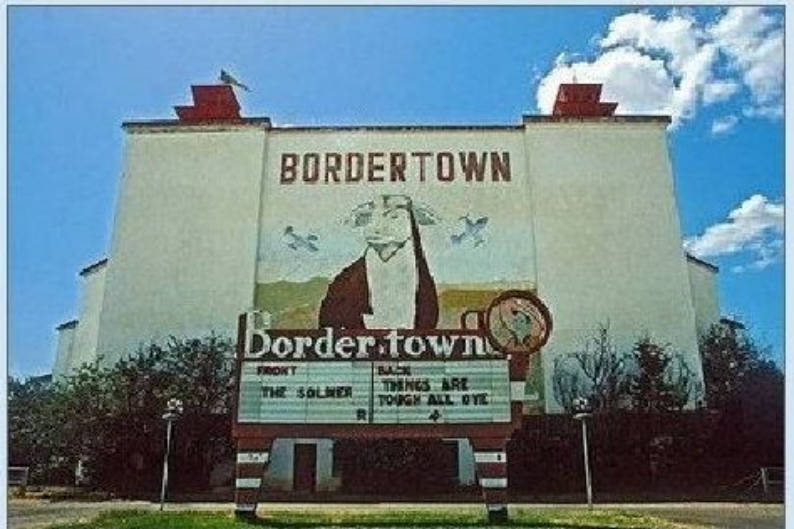
# Those Were the Days, my Friend!



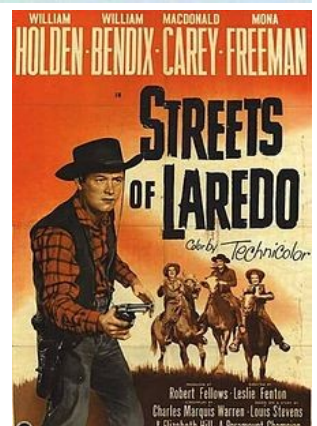
Dear old Martin High School!  
Most of us spent a few years at this school, & as the song says, "We thought these days would never end." Those days were actually not so bad....we had some good times, & maybe some bad test times, but most of all, we had fun, made many friends, & still had time for dates & movies, too!

And who can forget the first drive-in theater in town? The Bordertown, built in 1950, is now demolished, but was a great place for a whole family to enjoy a movie—especially before Speakers were installed! At first, you had to sit outside your car to hear the dialogue & could visit w/people in neighboring cars & everyone else! After the Speakers were installed: not so much!

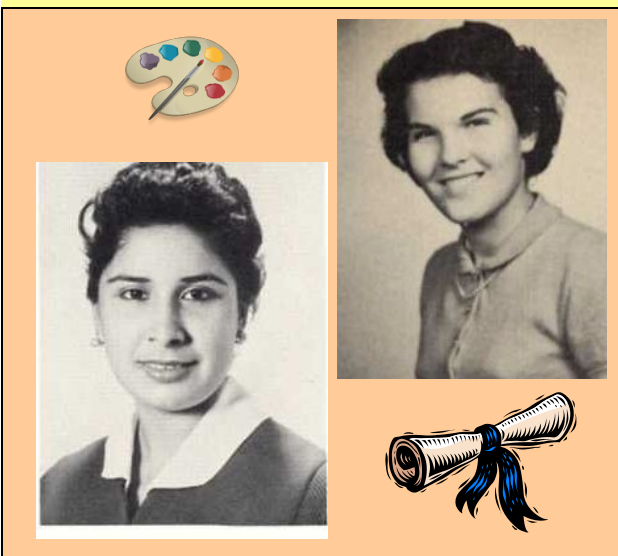
What about that Bull on the facade? Amazingly, our own Margie (Romo) Collazo, artist that she is, helped her father Eduardo Romo, paint the scene! The bull represents ranching interests in our area, & the jets, of course, represent Laredo AFB! Nice job, Margie!



Since there were no individual speakers available for each car when the Drive-in first opened, homes in the surrounding area could hear every word of every movie shown! Patsy (Sissell) Olson McIntire can attest to this, because she lived where Mall del Norte is now, & some nights she could hardly get her homework done because of the noise! (Of course, that didn't stop her from being CSC President, Class of '52 Valedictorian, etc., etc!). After graduating, she became the 1st female Customs inspector in Laredo! WOW!



....a movie made in 1949, and a TV Mini-Series in 1995!





# WONDERFUL CAVAZOS RANCH!



Oct 2009



A really nice change of venue was the Luncheon at the Tony Cavazos ranch, thanks to the hospitality of Araceli Cavazos' son! We even had a bit of entertainment, as Araceli & Christina performed a little Rock n' Roll for us!



We ate outdoors on the patio, & enjoyed the great view from the beautiful hill-top home!



Irma, Dora, Araceli, Christina, Margie, Diana



ALDACO's, November 2009

This was a very nice picture, with some ladies we unfortunately haven't seen again because either they moved out of town or just don't attend the luncheons!





## LAREDO UNDER SEVEN FLAGS

*Credit must be given here to whoever designed these two logos. They both depict Laredo, the International Bridge, San Agustin Church, & of course, the seven flags that have flown over the city: Spanish, French, Mexican, Republic of Texas, Confederate, & the United States of America. The seventh flag was that of the short-lived Republic of the Rio Grande, of which Laredo was the capital!*



Apr 2010; Margie

*Almost as colorful as the flags were these ladies in their suits of many colors!*



Garza sisters;  
Feb 2010



Feb 2010; Angie, Mary Lou



Dec 2013; Aurora, Jeannie



Dec 2009; Betty



Apr 2010; Norma



Feb 2011; Carmen



Feb 2011; Irma



Oct 2009; Licha



Feb 2011; Dorothy



Oct 2011; Noni, Irene



Are there any CANTU's in the group, besides Mine Cantú Barrera (on the left, below)? (And Mine, our sincere condolences on the recent passing of your husband, Ramiro!). On a historical note, there was a young man named David B. Barkley, born in Laredo to Josef & Antonia Cantú in 1899 who was the first Hispanic recipient of the Medal of Honor in World War One! Private Cantú performed heroically on a scouting mission by swimming the Meuse River in France to gather behind-the-lines information on German troops. He is buried at Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio after lying in State at the Alamo. (Dyess AFB near Abilene was once called Camp Barkeley & was later renamed Dyess AFB, after Col. William Dyess, an Abilene hero). (Nevertheless, Barkley was not forgotten in Laredo)!



Mine Barrera & Bitsy Lugo; Sep 2009



Until very recently, the tallest flag pole in the United States was at David Barkley Plaza in Laredo! The Plaza or Park, as some call it, is at BBVA Compass Bank near Int'l Bridge I. (Once LNB, I believe). (The pole is 308 ft. tall —now there's a 400 ft pole in Wisconsin!)



A few more Sanchezes: Yolanda Trevino & Dora Sanchez Massey (Feb 2010)! On the right, Christina Tolin w/Diana Sanchez Gonzalez & her daughter Cordy! (Dec 2009)



Esther; Mar 2010



Edna Justice, Betty DeWall (visiting from Omaha); Jan 2010



Irma, Olga, Sandra, Lucy, Josie; Paesano's, July 2010



Martha & Sandra; Aug 2014



Gloria; Feb 2013



**International Bridge, Laredo**



Does anyone remember this bridge? Like Barbara (Parker) Sander's dad, we, or some of our relatives, were Customs or Immigration Inspectors at the Port of Entry there, or like Jeannie, were Import Specialists, or Fines & Penalties Clerks, etc.



**Barbara, Nancy, Jeannie, Margie**

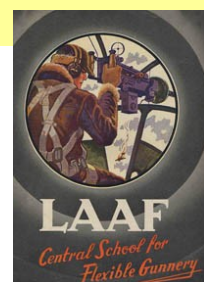


And then, of course, there was Laredo Air Force Base, where we might have worked, or where some of us met & married nice guys from everywhere else!



**Olga, Irma, Lydia; Jan 2010**

During WW II, there was a Gunnery School at Laredo Army Air Field (off of Saunders St.) & since there was no base housing, Laredo folks rented out rooms to men with families, while the single personnel lived on the base! (Do you know anyone who did that?)



**Noni, Priscilla, Olga Nella, Imelda, Elvira; Oct 2009**



**Olga Valadez & Norma Hagy (visiting from Laredo), Norma Brady & Lily Wright; Jul 2009.**



**Dolores & Enriqueta; July 2010**



**Patsy McIntire**



**Bitsy Lugo**



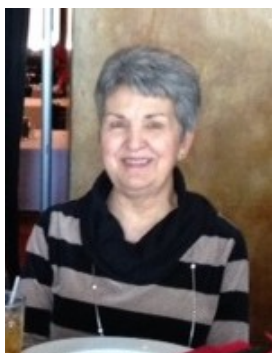
**Ladies at The Outback; Jan 2014.**





**Paesano's, Apr 2010**

Was anyone born in Mercy Hospital in Laredo? If so, it surely wasn't in THIS one, which opened in 1894 & was somewhere in the Heights area!



**Maria Elena (Nena)  
Dec 2013**



**Mickey, Adelfa; Nov 2010**



**Edna, & Molly;  
Mar 2011**



**Minne  
&  
Angie;  
Oct  
2009**



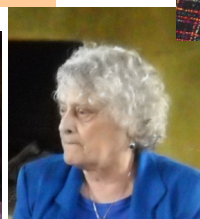
**?? & Yvonne; Nov 2010**



**Delia; Mar 2010**



**Irene & Yolanda;  
Jan 2010**



**??; July 2010**



**Tita;  
Dec  
2009**



**Ms. Gray & Olga Nella;  
Dec 2009**



**Noni; Oct 2009**



**Eva; Feb 2011**



Many thanks to Norma Brady, Dorothy Lane, Christina Tolin & Diana Gonzalez, for bringing us all together to enjoy a nice lunch & each other's company!