

...HUELLAS DE PAULINE

So much has happened since the last time I wrote this column...Lots of community interest in what we are doing and lots of sharing. Our continuing lecture series has been a great hit and both Jack Colligan and Marcos Favela were a fantastic boost for membership. New GSHA-SC member, Al Duarte from Santa Maria, CA, just returned a root-searching trip to Zacatecas and will be writing an article for Huellas concerning names and other information he found. My summer was taken up with family and other guests. They came in droves from Alaska, Louisiana, New Mexico, Arizona and South Africa...oh, yes, even from Whittier. We spent a lot of time running from airports and train stations as well as San Juan Capistrano, Disneyland, SeaWorld, Santa Ana...know what I mean?...it was GREAT! I hope all of you enjoyed the summer and are ready to get back to work on your root searching, because before we know it, the holidays will be coming up. I am still reeling from my near accident which kept me from attending the Marcos Favela presentation. Three angels appeared from nowhere and pushed my car out from the middle of the street. When I turned to thank them they were gone. **HOT OFF THE PRESS...**Family Connections in New Mexico by Zettie M. Garcia and New Mexican Generations by GSHA-SC member Charles C. Chapman. Support the efforts of these wonderful people by purchasing copies of their books. Thank you to Sandra Ornelas and Paul Luna for providing the refreshments for the August meeting...and before I forget...to Lucie's Delicatessan in Huntington Beach for providing the refreshments for Jack Colligan's lecture. My grandmother used to say "Con paciencia se gana el cielo"...Patience is it's own reward. Researchers know how true it is, so be patient, keep alert to all possibilities, attend GSHA meetings, network, write letters, read about the areas you are researching and study the history of the Southwest. But, best of all use the library. The resources are there for your pleasure.

BOOK SIGNING

A book signing for Denise Chavez' **FACE OF AN ANGEL** will be September 11, 1994 at 2:00 p.m. at Rueben Martinez Books and Art, 220 W. 3rd Street, Santa Ana, CA, 800-933-READ or 714-973-7900. **ATTEND!**

FROM THE EDITOR

July was a wonderful month! First with the Fourth of July, with the wonderful outpouring of patriotism, complete with our beautiful stars and stripes, which has been proudly flown at our home for 19 years, and for which many of our ancestors have so fiercely fought for from the beginning of time through the Revolutionary War and the Persian Gulf War. The family gatherings, the picnics, the parades and the always beautiful pyrotechnic displays. We also took a vacation to southern Colorado (Antonito, to be exact, a bustling town with 750 occupants). We stopped in Albuquerque on the way to stop at the Special Collections library (we found a motel a few blocks away!) so I could overdose on microfilm and microfiche! The library was closed on Monday...guess what day I was there? (Yep...Monday....) I will have to make sure I don't go to Albuquerque on a Monday again! While in Antonito, I spent a lot of time at St Augustine's Church, which houses the baptism, marriage and burial records for Conejos County and beyond from the year 1860 to the present. It is so breathtaking to hold 130 year old books in your hands! They are so much easier to read than microfilm. The books are so well preserved by the church headed by Father Felix Lopez and ably assisted by his secretary Bernadette Vigil, who graciously allowed me to go through the books, which have given me loads of information and clues in a short period of time. Many thanks to Father Felix and Bernadette! I was also able to visit several graveyards (C'mon kids! We're going to the park again!) and take a few more pictures. I definitely need some hiking boots though, as I am weary of picking those little thorny things out of my shoestrings! There must have been a million of those suckers on one shoelace alone! Martin and the kids were able to get some fishing in at the Conejos River, at Trujillo Meadows, Rio San Antonio, Platoro, and Mountain Homelake. The fish tasted great and so was the free time to research! Gilbert and Ruth (my in-laws) allowed me to take a few old pictures home to have copied, as did Gilbert's sister, Louise, so now I have pictures of five generations together! I was dreading the return of the pictures, as they were the originals (I know I had the negatives and the copies...but I would have felt terrible anyway!) Luckily Rosa (eldest daughter) and Rozlynn (eldest granddaughter) were flying off to visit Grandpa and Nana Salazar (continued on page 4)

FROM THE EDITOR (CONT.)

in August, so I had the perfect couriers! The photos made their way safely home and back into their respective frames and and photo albums! What a relief! Everyone has now arrived home and is back to work and school. Now we have the October Fiesta to look forward to! Start getting your wall charts and pictures together....we'll have a great time!

MNS

**MARTIN AMADOR
(1840-1903)**

Martin Amador was born in 1840 in the town of El Paso del Norte (now known as Juarez, Mexico). At the age of 6, he moved with his mother, Dona Gregoria Rodela and his brother and sister to Dona Ana, New Mexico. In 1846, Dona Ana was still a tiny community in the wild west of Northern New Mexico. By 1849 and after the United States had taken New Mexico as its own, the Amador family had relocated to a new town called Las Cruces. Dona Gregoria began operating a small mercantile business in which her children helped her. Martin worked in the store doing small jobs until he was old enough to shoulder more responsibility. In 1862, Martin was married to Dona Refugia, a girl from his home town of El Paso del Norte, and they became the parents of seven children; Julieta, Maria, Frank, Clotilde, Corrine, Emilia and John. As the people streamed into the Mesilla Valley, the Amador's business grew. Martin was able to take over direction of the mercantile business by 1870. The military forts that were located in the Rio Grande Valley between Socorro and El Paso were provided with provisions sold by Amador Mercantile. Martin thought that a freighting line was needed to provide services to a wider area and more people. His business flourished. He also used products grown and bred on his farm and ranch to sell to the nearby military personnel. He then expanded his freight service further north to Santa Fe and south to Chihuahua, Mexico, and added an office west of Silver City. Due to the scarcity of lodging in Las Cruces for travelers and freighters, Martin built a rooming house in 1870, known as Amador Hall. Martin (in addition to his other ventures) went into the hotel business. He had a Dallas, Texas construction company remodel Amador Hall into what then became Amador Hotel. The hotel was described as two stories tall, located

near the acequia, with beautiful flower gardens and foliage. The hotel housed forty rooms (twenty-five of them "elegantly furnished") and a theater, gallery, good dressing rooms and "everything which can be desired by a first class company". The Amador Hotel was constructed of 5 foot adobe walls built as a territorial style building complete with a front balcony. Inside were housed antiques from all over the world, collected by the Amadors. A painting by Bartolome Murillo hung in the lobby and was surrounded by other famous paintings. There were Pueblo Indian pottery artifacts, antique furniture, and other unusual items in the numerous display cases in the hotel. The Amador was a very important aspect of the social life in Las Cruces, with many theatrical performances and bailes (dances) held there. The Amador also became a courthouse and jail when Don Martin Amador became a probate judge and later a U.S. deputy marshal. Many political meetings were held at his hotel and he became very active in the Republican party in Dona Ana County. In 1880, the railroad arrived and along with it the need for Martin's freight service declined. Martin (along with his now grown sons) decided to incorporate the railroad as a means for distribution of mercantile goods and abandoned the now obsolete freight service. Martin was now able to contribute to many community functions, among them the educational activities of the Catholic girl's school run by the Order of the Sisters of Loretto. Martin, in his spare time, also designed the Amador combination plow in the 1880's which was adapted to other plows allowing for various size horse-drawn teams to be used in farming. When the Amadors weren't working, they were socializing and attending numerous parties and events in Las Cruces, Mesilla, El Paso, Texas and Juarez, Mexico. The Amadors were truly a pioneer family and an American success story!

Dates to remember for Texas research...first European exploration 1519; oldest settlement near El Paso 1682; Spanish colonization 1690; Hidalgo expedition 1716; San Antonio founded 1718; Canary Islanders arrive in San Antonio 1731; Louisiana Purchase 1803; Stephen F. Austin's first colony 1821; Mexican Constitution adopted 1824; Law barring further immigration from U.S. 1830; Texas Revolution 1835; Republic of Texas independence 1836; Austin established as capital 1839; Texas becomes 28th state 1845; Mexican War 1846-1848; Compromise cedes territory including CO, WY, KS & OK 1850; Texas joins Confederate States of America 1861; readmitted to the Union 1870; Capitol building burns 1888; Spanish American War 1898. (MA 5/93)