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"He trusted me, and I'm very thankful," Quiros said of Gonzalez.

### Intriguing

"One thing that intrigued me about these annuals is that up until 1965, there was only one public high school in Laredo, so everyone knew everybody," Quiros said.

"It was a different era. Kids knew each other, parents knew each other. Laredo was a small town."

Quiros wanted these online copies to be free and available to the general public.

"If something happened, how could you replace these Pitahayas?" he asked.

"I was astounded Martin High School even had the first one from La Posada in 1916," Quiros said. "I had to do something because there are no copies."

Going back through those annuals, Quiros said he was able to travel back in time and acquaint himself with the friends of his youth.

"This is our past, and we tend to forget the high school friends



Photo by Cuate Santos | Laredo Morning Times

DVD versions of the yearbook are available at the Martin High School library.

we had," he said.

The 1937 edition, which the school dedicated to English teacher Elizabeth Sorrell, was also scanned with the commencement exercises booklet for that year.

"It was inside the annual when I got it, so I published it as a companion," Quiros said.

The project was handled by his employee Raquel Cruz, who had to scan, rotate and crop each page of every annual.

### St. Joseph's

Quiros and Cruz are now at work scanning all the annuals of

St. Joseph's Academy — an all-boys school that closed in 1974 — with the help of Brother Phillip, one of the last who taught at the school and the *de facto* keeper of the annuals.

Quiros attended the Catholic school for eighth, ninth and 10th grade.

"But I became enamored with Martin," he said, recalling lunchtime escapades with classmate John Talcott.

"Back then we always carried a sack lunch, and he and I would run all the way down to Martin High, eat our lunch on the steps and watch the girls, and run back to St. Joe's — all in 45 minutes," Quiros said.

"The power of the hormones," he mused.

It soon dawned on Quiros that if he left St. Joseph's, he wouldn't have to go on these lunchtime runs.

He finished his junior and senior years as a Martin High Tiger.

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## NUESTRA BELLEZA 2006



Photo by Miguel Timoshenkov | Laredo Morning Times

Mónica Quevedo Cortázar, left, was selected Nuestra Belleza Nuevo Laredo 2006 this past Wednesday. The pageant was held at Nuevo Laredo's Centro Cultural auditorium. Quevedo Cortázar was also named Miss Photogenic.

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Mrs. Lacey is credited for the successful programs for the Colonial Ball sponsored by the Society of Martha Washington.

Society of Martha Washington members also cited the work of Edith Clark Lowry prior to Mrs. Lacey.

The decades of the 1960s and 1970s already featured the dance talents of people like Ruby Roy Galo (Mrs. Freddie Galo of Galo Optical), Maria Luz Marulanda (Mrs. George Ballas of Houston), Blanche Flores Leyendeker, Sylvia Zuñiga, Altagracia Azios Garcia (Mrs. Hector Garcia) and Mrs. Werner Offer.

Historical material in the archives of Laredo Little Theatre traces its roots to the year 1911 when amateur thespians appeared on stage in "Down In Dixie." The leading roles were handled by Etta Thaison (Mrs. Ed Russell) and Aloys J. Notzon. The play was directed by Notzon himself.

The production drew such public support that, according to the Sanchez material at the Laredo Public Library, it was staged several times.

Most of the same cast was instrumental in the presentation of "Applesauce." The cast in leading roles included Myrtle Barnett Brennan, Edna Wright Deats and Corinne Dallmer. Miss Dallmer was described as "an excellent actress who skillfully handled several roles."

Ms. Dallmer worked with Laredo Little Theatre most of her adult life.

Other stage productions of that early era were "The Mikado" and "American Beauties." The leading roles were assigned to Mrs.

George C. Woodman and Beaumont B. Buck. The presentations were at the Heights Park (Loma Vista Park).

According to the archived material, actor William Morgan had worked in other parts of the country and abroad before he came to settle in Laredo.

### Early productions

One of the mid-1920s productions was a three-part play staged at the Royal Opera House (the Royal Theater on Hidalgo Street). History buffs told stories of the props for the play titled "The Barker." One of the props was a calliope (musical instrument used in carnivals and circuses) fixed on stage courtesy of George Loos. It was the George Loos Midway Shows that became a regular carnival feature of the Washington's Birthday Celebration for decades on the grounds of the City Park spread that had a baseball park (Washington Park) and a Texas Highway Department tourist information building on San Bernardo. Another landmark at the corner of San Bernardo and Garden streets is an existing city fire station.

The Loos carnival became a celebration fixture for decades until the appearance of the 20th Century Rides of Corpus Christi.

The performers for "The Barker" included Frank Dickey, Otis McCauley, Edna Deats, Tommie

Simpson, Edith Clark Lowry and one of the town's premier showmen, Bud G'Sell. G'Sell served as manager of the new Plaza Hotel (the LNB Tower) at San Bernardo and Hidalgo.

G'Sell was a leading business and civic leader, and an excellent promoter. He worked tirelessly for Community Chest (United Fund, later United Way), Chamber of Commerce, Laredo Hotel-Motel Association, Washington's Birthday Celebration and Border Olympics. Under his management, the hotel provided space in the hotel lobby for offices of Laredo Civic Music, United Fund and WBCA.

He developed close ties with college and university sports information officials, athletic directors, coaches, and upstate sports-writers. G'Sell and others who contributed to the success of the Laredo Quarterback Club (Dr. Al King, Nolan "Doc" Adams) went on to become honorary football coaches at Texas during the Darrell Royal years.

Laredo Little Theatre became synonymous with the Washington's Birthday Celebration from the beginning. Right after the WBCA was chartered (1924), the celebration sponsored the Laredo Little Theatre production of "Her Song" in 1928. The musical production featured a cast of more than 80 musicians, singers and dancers. The show was choreographed by Edith Clark Lowry.

### Producers and plays

The microfilm material tells of Bill Morgan's work with Laredo Little Theatre in subsequent years. He went on to produce "The Bad Man," with Joe Puig in the top role. Morgan also had a hand in the production of such plays as "The Brat," "Three Wise Fools" and "The Trial of Mary Dugan." The lead roles were assigned to Tommie Simpson, Corinne Dallmer and Jack Taylor.

Bill Morgan's interests, however, were not confined to the fine arts and the theater. He took an interest in politics and went on to serve as a justice of the peace in the late 1920s and early 1930s. The difficult times of the Depression caught up with Laredo and the Rio Grande frontier, causing a decline in the project until the Rev. Father Dan Lanning — probably inspired by a motion picture ("Young Abe Lincoln") brought to Laredo by George Spence — encouraged the organization of the Society of Martha Washington and a restart of the theatre group.

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