

*Personal
Correspondence*

Mr Charles Rodgers.
20 Crest Drive
Briarcliff Manor, New York.

Dear Charlie:

Indeed I was thrilled and very glad to hear from you again, it certainly seemed so long ago that I wrote to you that I am really ashamed. Please forgive me. My wife and children send you their regards and certainly all of us are glad to know that you and your family are in the best of health. I am typing this letter myself.

Charlie I am sending you an old picture of the family. This was taken about one year ago and the baby Patricia is missing but then she is always missing at home anyway. Incidentally I am sending you some of the old pictures that I found and you are certainly want you to have them.

I guess you have one more child than I do, but after all my Wanda is a little older than yours. Now that I have your adress I promise to write oftener. I will send you some more pictures later and please let me know which you like so that I can try to find the negatives and send you. I guess the most important thing that I have done is the American G.I. Forum which is a group of Veterans (Americans of Mexican Origin) which I founded and which I will explain as we go along. In fact I will send you several copies of our news bulletin and also put you on the mailing list so you can see what I have done. We have groups in 24 States and the Dist of Columbia. I am sending you a copy of Congressional Record which will also help you understand what I am doing.

But thats enough about myself now my wife and I would like to hear more about yourselves. Incidentally exactly is Briarcliff Manor a Suburb of N.Y.City? Please send me the adress of Father Quinlivan so I can write to him. Our plans to Europe are not that far definite but we will keep you posted. I have done allright in my work and profession and have expanded my business into other fields like partowner of a RadioStation and some drugstore business. However I hage spent very much time with my work and also very much money. I guess that more or less you understand that here in Texas for many years we (Americans of Mexican origin) were the outcasts and victims of prejudice both because of our origin and secondly because we were Catholics. My main devotion after the war was to overcome that. That I did in less than 10 years with my work and my American G.I. Forum. Now we are doing good although I am not satisfied yet since we want more representation and more opporuthity to work in goverment. I will be able to do this within the next

eight to ten years.

Certainly the war served as the basis to overcome this prejudice. Of course I never said anything about those things during the War because my job then was to help win the war, and then again I have never felt an inferiority complex. But for instance in Texas although we were approximately twenty percent of the population we (our Mexican American Soldiers) soldiers received over 50% of the Congressional Medal of Honor Winners.

Then of course you possibly heard about the Three River Case wherein a Veteran of Mexican Origin was refused burial in Three Rivers because of his origin. I handled this case and with the help of my good friend Senator Lyndon Johnson we buried Felix Longoria the deceased Veteran in Arlington. After that we moved in on prejudice and discrimination and segregation in schools. In a series of cases in Federal Courts involving about eight or ten Schools in Texas we won every case and put an end to the illegal segregation of the Spanish Speaking children. We went further and took a case to the Supreme Court of the United States in the "Hernandez Case" in order to be allowed the opportunity to serve in the Juries. This may shock you but such was the case. We were refused services in many restaurants, drugstore, stores, theatres etc. Even one of our Congressional Medal of Honor Winner was refused service while in Uniform and while wearing his Medal.

Well after ten years of litigation, work, sacrifice, thousands of dollars, insults, threats, etc. we completely liked the problem 100%. I do not want to appear pretentious but that was my work. By legal means and help and by political action we proved conclusively that the Democratic System could also work for us. It was a great victory not only for our people but for ourselves but more than that for our Country.

My wife has been very good about this and although at first the deal was dangerous and ugly she was good enough and brave enough not to try to stop me and keep me from spending some of our money in this type of work. Today we enjoy the respect of all state government and Federal officers. I mention this so that you will not feel for a moment that I let you down and that I became fat lazy. Right now I am working on the Migrant problem and also hoping to have some of our American People of Mexican Origin who are bilingual and bi cultural and Catholic appointed to Ambassadorships and consulships in Mexico, South and Central America. I'll explain later. For now let me hear from you and may the Good Lord Bless you and your family. Please rush your answer.

