

Nov. 19, 1977

Dr. Hector P. Garcia
1315 Bright St.
Corpus Christi, Texas 78405

Dear Dr. Garcia:

You will remember my visiting you on a couple of occasions in my research of the life of our great President, Lyndon Johnson.

The work goes nicely and the collection of data is in the final stages.

Listening to the tape which we did and recently "running across" your name in a page (copy enclosed) of a recent Texas history book with the middle initial incorrect, brings me to the following request.

Hector P. Garcia has led a very active and dedicated life, a life of service to his profession and to "his people" and a life of service to his country.

In my studies and research, and I don't want to embarrass you but I find that, in my and other's opinions, you have done more in a positive manner for the Mexican-American people than any other Texan. From what little I know I could continue with some of the things that you have done, but I would rather hear you talk about yourself.

Therefore, I would like to come to Corpus for a couple of days, possibly Saturday and Sunday, between Christmas and New Years, my school holiday, and spend them with you doing a taped recording of your life—a sort of "Hector P. Garcia talks about Himself, his childhood, his family, his career, etc."

Dr. Hector Garcia

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I realize that an individual is caused usual personal embarrassment in talking about himself; but your story, your career and accomplishments and "your people" should be known as only you can do because of your expertise on the subjects and from your vantage point.

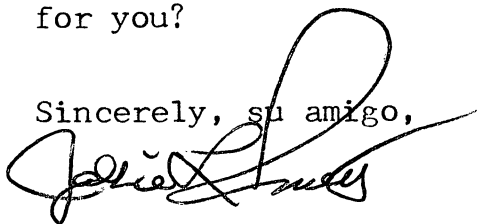
Hopefully, your wife could be imposed upon during this visit to "sit-in" with us, telling her views of Hector P. Garcia's work and of their life together.

I'm collecting this information from other men whose great accomplishments and life's work will be engulfed in the mist of time and many facts will be forgotten—all to be possible published works in the future. I'm interviewing Speaker McCormack soon, and have spent some time with him already doing research for his life story. Over the Thanksgiving Holidays I'm taping an interview with Joe Tonahill, East Texas attorney who defended Jack Ruby in Dallas. Within the next few weeks I begin interviews with Astronaut "Deke" Slaton on his life story.

I feel that "The Life of Hector P. Garcia: His work, His People" needs to be written.

Can we get together for this purpose over the Holidays? If so, what days and what time during the days, would be most convenient for you?

Sincerely, su amigo,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jackie L. Pruett', with a large, looping flourish extending from the end of the name.

Jackie L. Pruett
713 West Mahan St.
Clute, Texas 77531

Dr. Garcia

See next page

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TEXAS AND TEXANS

Illustrated by DON COLLINS



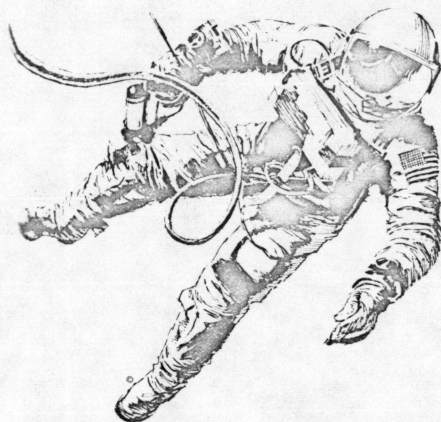
smaller towns and communities that
in areas. Some of the smaller towns
near large cities; others are not.

contain most of the people living
belt which extends along the Gulf
mont, Port Arthur, Houston, Gal-
Brownsville. The other which ex-
stretches includes San Antonio, Austin,
Meridian, and Denison. Each of these
a number of smaller communities.
and elsewhere in the state.

the interesting contrasts in the state.
Harris County, where the city of Hous-
The POPULATION DENSITY, or num-
ber, was about 982. Loving County,
had a population of 164 people in
population density of about .25 per
square mile. Thus, the
Loving County was almost four thousand
square miles.

Today, Texas today remains a land of
where foreign lands still make their way
and retain their cultural heritage.
The many non-Anglo ETHNIC MINOR-
ities, Mexican Americans and the Negroes.
These peoples have made many con-
tributions to Texas. Achievements in recent
years are more important in the progress of the

the Negroes of Texas live in urban
areas in a wide variety of occupations.
They are active in political affairs. In recent years
they have been elected to school boards, to city councils,
state agencies, and to the state legislature.
In 1962, Curtis Graves of Harris
County and Curtis Graves of Harris
County were elected to the state legislatures. Z. H. Holmes, Jr.
was elected to the house of representatives in
Harris County. In 1962, the first Negro woman elected to that
office presided over the senate and was
elected to the senate in a special resolution.
They have also moved in considerable numbers



to urban areas. Through such organizations as LULAC, PASO,
and the G I Forum, the Mexican American has gained an active
voice in the economic, social, and political life of the state and
the nation. Henry B. Gonzalez became the first citizen of Mexican
descent to be elected to the Congress of the United States from
the state of Texas. Eligio ("Kika") de la Garza represents the
Fifteenth Congressional District in the United States House of
Representatives, and Dr. Hector D. Garcia, founder of the G I
Forum, served as an alternate representative of the United States
to the General Assembly of the United Nations.

TEXANS AND THE SPACE AGE. Texans have shared in one of the
most exciting achievements of modern times—man's travels in
space around the earth and to the moon. In 1962 the National
Aeronautics and Space Administration established the Manned
Spacecraft Center near Houston. Since then thousands of scientists,
engineers, and technicians at the center have designed spacecraft,
trained astronauts, and directed missions in space.

Education Today



A MODERN CLASSROOM

THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS. Great progress has been made in public
education in the twentieth century. Funds spent in support of
education have increased steadily over the years, and for more
than fifty years a compulsory attendance law has required regular
school attendance for the children of Texas. One- and two-teacher
schools, common in earlier days, began disappearing in the 1920s
and 1930s with the development of paved highways and the use
of school buses. Today nearly all children attend large modern
schools built in urban areas or similar consolidated schools built
in rural communities. School terms have been lengthened from
five or six months in 1900 to about ten months today.

Texas schools are divided into twelve grades. The first eight
are elementary grades and the last four are secondary grades.
Often grades seven, eight, and nine are located together in a junior
high school, and grades ten, eleven, and twelve make up a senior
high school. Arrangements of grades in junior and senior schools
differ somewhat from one community to another, however.

The public schools are a good example of local and state govern-
ment working in a partnership guided by the people of Texas.
Since the system was reorganized in the Gilmer-Aikin Law of
1949, voters have elected the twenty-one members of the State
Board of Education. The Board appoints the Commissioner of
Education who is in charge of the Texas Education Agency. The

MORE FACTS: Occupation and motor fuel
taxes are the primary sources for funding of
the public schools. The interest earned by the per-