

150 Attend Rally Prom

Rafael Flores Picked as 4th Man on 'Team'

Substantial business and professional backing for the incumbents in the April city election was forthcoming when a meeting to promote the candidacy of Mayor Phillip Boeye and three present commissioners was held Friday at the Elks Club. About 150 local citizens were in attendance.

At the meeting the fourth commission "team-mate" to fill out the ticket was formally endorsed—Rafael Flores, who had earlier been selected and recommended by some of the Latin American business and professional men.

Backers of the present city officials, calling their campaign "Eight Years of Progress in McAllen" had laid the groundwork to beat the drums for their candidates with research into city commission minutes of past years, amassing much of detail regarding city projects and how they were financed.

A desire for good government for McAllen was expressed by Horace Etchison, who presided and opened the session. "Groups such as this," he said, "have been meeting as the need arose as long as I can remember to try and get good men to run for public office in this town, to help these men get elected and to help them while in office in an advisory capacity."

He said "unfortunately" a group as large as this has to be assembled on short notice and if anyone interested had been overlooked it was not because they would not have been welcome.

"We have been criticized from time to time by some persons, mostly by these who felt hurt they were left out and not called."

Report Handed Out

He said McAllen had been fortunate in having good government in City Hall and that "prosperity, growth, good business, atmosphere, everything good that has happened can be traced to good, straight-thinking, honest men" who were chosen at the community meeting type operation.

O. Terry, who will head the publicity committee for the incumbent officer holders' campaign, had for distribution a 13-page mimeographed report on city improvement projects of the past



TO STATE CONVENTION — These three Valley men will attend the Woodmen of the World state convention at the Rice Hotel in Houston. Left to right are Carlos Salazar, national delegate; Ruben Serna, state delegate, and Baldomero Garza, alternate, all of San Juan. The Woodmen of the World hold state and national conventions every two years. Salazar has attended three state conventions and the national convention in Minneapolis in 1959. (Monitor Photo)

eight years.

In a brief speech he cited improvements in the city's sewer system, water distribution system, street paving, jail and corporation court structure, street lighting, recreational facilities, city beautification, parking facilities, garbage disposal facilities, fire fighting facilities, airport, trash collections, hospital improvements, water reservoir city hall expansion, radio equipment, civic center, golf course and golf pro shop, and acquisition of the international bridge at Hidalgo.

He stressed the financing of McAllen's growth taxwise, with a \$1 tax rate in 1953, reduction to 90 cents for a year or two and subsequently a rise to \$1.05 for improvement bonds, with the tax rate remaining constant for the past few years.

"Few cities in the United States," he said, "can make such a statement in the face of rising costs. The officials credit their success to the willing citizens who have participated and whom they have been as successful in getting, but the progress also stems from the long hours of work, the planning and the judgment of the officials. This is the reason for eight years of progress."

Terry said the commissioners met for 53 hours during 1960, slightly more than one hour a week. He said McAllen's government is broad-based with 15 advisory board on which 157 citizens serve.

Discusses Bridge

Of the international bridge now city-owned international bridge Terry said the profit the first year was \$70,000 and the auditor estimates this year the money which can be placed in the city's general fund after expenses and obligations is \$125,000. This, he said, is equivalent to a 20 cent increase in the tax rate (to raise that much revenue by taxation) or to adding \$12 million in total

valuations.

Scott Toothaker, well-known Valley attorney for management and business in labor litigation, was asked to speak in behalf of Flores and gave a whole-hearted endorsement in which he said rumors that Flores is associated with labor unions or labor organizers are unfounded. He said Flores was recommended to Toothaker's law firm by Esteban Garcia, former McAllen resident. He gave Forest, educational and legal background, with work as special assistant to the judge advocate of the Fourth Army.

Toothaker said the law firm represented the Mexican Consul for a time but found, as the bracero program continued, that this interest was in conflict with its representation of business firms, sheds, etc. He said they chose to discontinue representing the Mexican Consul and that the Consul then asked Flores to handle the bracero cases. This was the only reason Flores left the firm, Toothaker said.

Flores, asked to speak, invited any questions and added that he has been linked by rumor with the G.I. Forum, an organization to which he has never belonged and to whose thinking he has never subscribed. There were no questions, only applause.

A Pep Rally

The meeting had the aura of a pep rally as each of the office holders—Mayor Phillip Boeye, and Commissioners A. W. (Buster) Lewis, Paul Veale and Chris Carey were called upon in turn to speak briefly. Gilberto Garcia, retiring, was given a standing ovation for his 13 years of service as city commissioner.

Backers of the incumbents' ticket plus Flores were also prepared to meet head-on any attacks by opposition candidates, they indicated. Terry said no one on the city official list is connected with the Orange Ball Bus Line,

(which was sold by Joe Pate of Hidalgo when he disposed of his bridge holdings.)

He said he has on file affidavits regarding present ownership for inspection of any voter who seeks information.

As the meeting drew to a close several citizens including Fred Phillips Jr. and Bill Whalen made briefly temporary campaign speeches for the incumbents.

Lynn Boyd said the members of the ticket were asked to run by leading business and professional men, just as other teams have been asked in the past. He said for the first time there are a substantial number of opposition candidates.

"Individually and collectively," Boyd said, "we must get out support for our candidate and give them an overwhelming vote. Otherwise we will be continually challenged at every election."

"We do not care," he said, "for someone who has an axe to grind, or who has some personal grudge they would like to settle with our police department, fire department, city manager or mayor."