

BIOGRAPHY
OF
CLOTILDE P. GARCIA

Clotilde P. Garcia was born January 11, 1917 in Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico. She graduated from Mercedes High School in Mercedes, Texas and in 1930 she received an Associates of Arts degree from Edingburg Jr. College in Edingburg, Texas and her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Texas at Austin in 1938. She received her Master's degree in education also from the University of Texas at Austin in 1950. She reached the position of principal before receiving her Doctor of Medicine degree at the University of Texas School of Medicine at Galveston where she was named Outstanding Medical Student in 1950.

Dr. Garcia was the first Mexican-American female physician to practice in Corpus Christi at Memorial Medical Center in 1955. She still is in the active pursuit of her profession as a general practitioner. Among the numerous medical organizations to which she presently belongs or has belonged to in the past include the Association of American Physicians and Surgeons, American Medical Association, Texas Medical Association, Nueces County Medical Association, Texas Rehabilitation Association, and the American Academy of General Practitioner. In addition to these professional organizations, her concern for the health of the community in general is reflected by her service as the National Health Director for the League of United Latin American Citizens. In 1967 she was a national member of the program review committee for the Nurse Training Act of 1964. Her expertise in the medical field added depth to her tenure as a Regent of Del Mar College of Corpus Christi from 1960 to 1982. To recognize her contribution to the considerable expansion of the Health Science Division of Del Mar College, the newly constructed Health Science Building was named in her honor in 1983. Dr. Garcia was also a member of a task force to evaluate medicaid.

"Dr. Cleo" as she is affectionately called, has always exhibited concern for the economically deprived. This can be measured by her service on the numerous organizations whose goal is to help the needy. For example she has served on the Board of Directors of the Nueces County Anti-Poverty Program, the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, SER Jobs for Progress, and the Advisory Board of the Coastal Bend Manpower Consortium. In 1968 she founded the Carmelite Day Nursery Parents and Friends Club to help in the education of underprivileged children. In 1970 she advocated to the

Nueces County Commissioners the establishment of a food stamp program. Furthermore, her concern for a wide variety of issues exemplified by her membership on the Governor's Advisory Committee on Aging. She was also a member of the Senior Community Services Advisory Committee in Corpus Christi.

In the political arena Dr. Cleo is tireless. It is impossible to distinguish her political contribution from her civil rights contribution. She saw early on the clout carried by political arena, and saw it as a means to fight discrimination against minorities. As early as 1971 she denounced the poor condition of several schools on the west side of Corpus Christi. She pointed out that a State Department of Health study had characterized those schools as a health hazard to people. She took the opportunity to point out that there would be no need for busing in the Corpus Christi Independent School District if the schools were equal in quality. In 1972 she rallied families to protest the inferior education their children were receiving at Miller and Moody High Schools, with predominantly Hispanic enrollment. She pointed out to them that they would be competing with other students from Carroll High School, King High School and Ray High School which were predominantly Anglo and where student were receiving a better education. In 1973 she was in a coalition to plot an offensive against violations of civil rights of Mexican Americans as guaranteed under the Title 7 of Civil Rights Act such as failure to promote and unequal pay. Her accomplishments have included being involved in 1970 in a White House Conference on Women in the War on Poverty.

Not content to be a tireless fighter for equal rights for mankind, she constantly voices a need for the Mexican American woman to get an education, stressing the need for their financial independence. Her direct political contribution has been serviced as the 20th Senatorial Democratic Committeewoman, and membership of the Electoral College. She was also on the Texas Constitutional Revision Committee. In her efforts to enhance the image of Corpus Christi she has served on the People to People Sister City Committee.

Another facet of Dr. Cleo is her interest in history and this is reflected by her membership in the Nueces County Historial Society, the American Revolution by Centennial Commission, the Nueces County Historical Survey Committee, the Texas Historial Foundation, the University of Texas Centennial Commission, the Nueces County Sesquicentennial Commission and the Nueces County Historical Commission. Not content to study history and to preserve it she has also authored the following publications: "An Indian Uprising in Camargo, 1812." Seige of Camargo, Cartas y Documentos del Capital Pedro Lopez Prieto, Padre Jose Nicolas Balli, Captain Alonzo Alvarez de Pineda and Captain Blas de la Garza Falcon.

Her accomplishments have been chronicled in Who's Who of American Women and Who's Who in the Southwest. Her many impressive achievements have been widely recognized and consequently she has received the Community

Leader of American Award given by the Educational Board Commission of Latin American News Publishing Company, the Outstanding Citizen's Award of the United Married Couples of Corpus Christi, the Founder's Award of the American G.I. Forum of the United States, and the Appreciation Award bestowed by the American Bicentennial Research Institute, the Appreciation Award from the Carmelite Day Nursery Friends, the Young Women in Careers Award and an award by the American Bicentennial Research Institute for Human Resources of the United States of America.

1984 JULY APPOINTED BY GOVERNOR MARK WHITE TO THE NEWLY CREATED TEXAS WOMENS HALL OF FAME FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE STATE.