

September 28, 1990

Dr. Hector P. Garcia
American G.I. Forum
1315 Bright St.
Corpus Christi, TX 78405



Dear Dr. Garcia:

When Dr. Arnolde De Leon was in Corpus Christi last summer to research some topics in your Papers at the University Library, he mentioned a conference next year on "Mexican Americans in Texas History," and we discussed the appropriateness of presenting a paper regarding the availability and content of the Garcia Papers. Subsequently, he wrote me and sent a brochure on the conference, which is jointly sponsored by the Texas State Historical Association, the Center for Mexican American Studies-U.T. Austin, the Center for Studies in Texas History-U.T. Austin, and the Institute of Texas Cultures at San Antonio, to be held in San Antonio, April 12-13, 1991.

I have sent the conference organizers an abstract of a proposed paper I would like to present. I'm enclosing a copy of that abstract and wonder if you would review it to determine if you have any objection to my stated intentions. Since it is my understanding that anyone using your Papers at the University must receive written permission from you, I assume that a presentation about the Garcia Papers would fall under the same rule. If you have no objection, would you please send me the necessary authorization. If you have an objection, please let me know and I will simply withdraw the proposal from consideration. If you would like to review the paper before presentation, please let me know and I will gladly furnish you a copy. If you have suggestions for inclusion, I would like very much to hear them.

Both Dr. Pulte and Dr. Robert Kemper, who are teaching in Bilingual Education as well as Anthropology, were happy to know of your offer to speak at S.M.U., as was the Secretary of Mexican American Studies here at SMU. (The Director was out of town when I contacted them.) No doubt you will hear from them soon, if not already.

Dr. Garcia, as always, thank you so much for your kindness toward me. I welcome any comments you may have.

Very best regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Eugenia".

Eugenia Landes

cc Mr. Richard O'Keeffe

THE HECTOR PEREZ GARCIA PAPERS: UNTAPPED RESOURCE

Paper proposed by

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for the

Mexican Americans in Texas History Conference
April 12-13, 1991
San Antonio, Texas

THE HECTOR PEREZ GARCIA PAPERS: UNTAPPED RESOURCE

Abstract

Dr. Hector Perez Garcia, founder of the American G.I. Forum and prominent Corpus Christi physician, for a number of years has been donating his papers and other materials to the University Library Archives of Corpus Christi State University. Lack of publicity due to legal and institutional restrictions on its use has caused this rich resource to be relatively untapped by researchers. Now, more readily available to the public, these materials can offer opportunities for discovery or appraisal of the development of an important Mexican American activist movement, as well as unique insight on the history and culture of the southwestern United States and South Texas in particular.

The aim of this paper is twofold. First, the content of the Garcia Papers will be examined in light of its potential usefulness by historians and social scientists, with particular emphasis on the issues of education, gender, religion, and socioeconomics. Second, some suggestions will be offered regarding the effective utilization of the askSam data base text retrieval system on which a majority of the materials are catalogued. The author, an anthropologist, will base her comments on the year spent working toward the conservation and cataloging of these materials.