

Suggested for use
Week of Sept. 8.

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS-----"Diez y Seis de Septiembre" means, in Spanish, the date of September 16, and this South Texas coastal resort city knows it well as the anniversary of Mexico's Independence Day, the time in 1810 when the nation south of the border was first proclaimed free of Spain.

There are still more Smiths than Garcias in the Corpus Christi phone book, but the Gonzalez entries have long outnumbered the Joneses, and the Mexican influence is felt in the area's life in more than the ethnic background of its population. After all, little more than 100 miles separate Corpus Christi from the Mexican border and not much more than 100 years have past since the city at the mouth of the Nueces River was part of Mexico.

At the city's Memorial Coliseum on the night of Sunday, Sept. 15, the occasion will be marked by a public celebration sponsored by the Mexican Consulate here and large sections of the community. The U.S. Naval Air Station Band will play both the American and Mexican national anthems, and an entertainment program will conclude with delivery of "the grito" or "cry of freedom," an adaptation of the proclamation spoken 164 years ago by Padre Miguel Hidalgo, which touched off the first Mexican Revolution.

For the third time, the "grito" this year will be delivered here

by Sra. Ernestina Fernandez, the only woman to be ranked as full consul-in-charge of a Mexican consulate in the U.S.

The "grito" has changed through the years. Padre Hidalgo began his "cry" with "Viva Fernando VII!", a reference to the heir to the Spanish throne who had been deposed by Napoleon Bonaparte and whom revolutionary "intellectuals" in Mexico supported. Hidalgo belonged to a group of these in Queretaro and touched off the revolution prematurely by calling together his parishioners at the village of Dolores in Guanajuato province. Replicas of the bell of the church at Dolores now sound in unison in the state capitals throughout Mexico as midnight begins the date of September 16.

"We hope to finish the Corpus Christi program well before that," Sra. Consul Fernandez says.

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For additional information on other events and attractions in the Corpus Christi area write the Convention and Tourist Bureau, P. O. Box 1147, Corpus Christi, Texas 78403.