

# WEST SIDE RECORDER

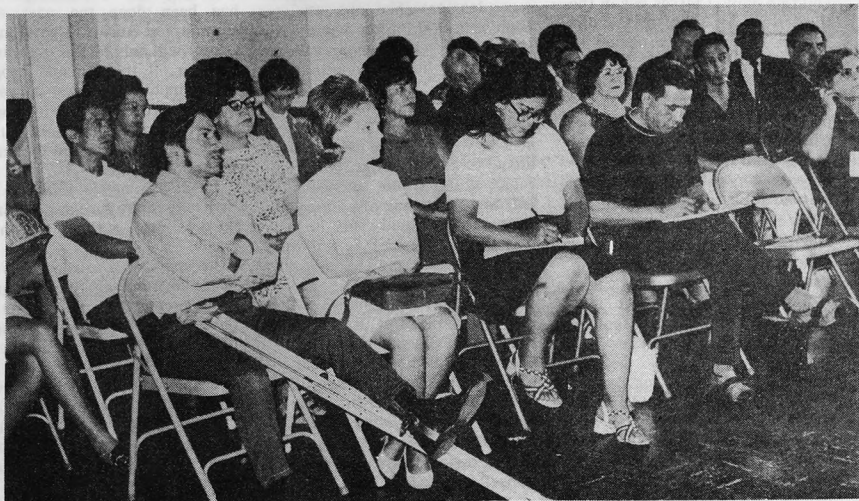
Volume 8—Number 4

Monthly Newspaper of the West Side, Denver, Colorado

September, 1971

## i Viva Nuestra Dia---Sept. 16!

Westside Chicanos, Hispanos, Mexican-Americans, whatever name you use, this is your day!



Some of the Westsiders who attended the orientation program on joining the Westside Action Council.

### FIFTY DOLLAR PRIZE OFFERED IN PARK NAMING

The West Side Coalition was given permission by the Parks and Recreation Department to host a contest to name the mini-park development at Fourth and Galapage. A committee made up of a youth, a religious, a legislator and a neighborhood resident will make a selection from the names submitted. The winner will receive a fifty dollar cash prize for his or her efforts.

There are several limitations as to what or who the park may be named after. Those names that are submitted must comply with the following city regulations: If the name requested is that of an event, it shall be an event which directly affected or affects the citizens of the City and County of Denver, a facility may be named for important persons in Denver, State of Colorado, national or international history.

A facility may be named for the area in which it is located, or for geographical features of an area in which it is located. If a name is submitted which commemorates an historical event, the event shall be one of significance to a substantial portion of the Denver community and this

fact will be documented. A park cannot be named for service clubs, lodges, fraternal organizations, religious or educational institutions, or any other society. The park may be named for living persons whose ultimate place in municipal, regional, national or international affairs can be fully assessed.

If the name is to be after a dead person it shall have to comply with the following regulations: A period of seven years shall have elapsed from date of death before application for naming of a facility will be considered. The dead person shall be someone who has contributed in some definitive and outstanding manner to the betterment of the Denver community and its citizens, the dead person's race, religion or national origin shall have no bearing whatever upon approval or disapproval of the proposed name, the dead person shall have been of good character, and not convicted of any felony during his lifetime.

If the park is named after a dead person his living next of kin shall be notified regarding such a request. If approved by next of kin, written letter shall be submitted showing approval.

If disapproved by next of kin, no further consideration of the deceased's name will be undertaken by the Board. The exception would be in the case of an historical figure whose death is extremely remote in history.

You are asked to either mail or drop off your suggestions for the naming of the park at the Coalition office, located at 910 Galapago Street.

### APARTMENT HOUSE CAUSES FRICTION IN COMMUNITY

The apartment house at 480 Galapago St. that has been causing a great deal of turmoil on the West Side remains a problem. Efforts by community people to ease the tensions that exist have proven fruitless.

Neighborhood families used to live in the complex and paid \$85.00 per month rent, until the apartment owners signed a contract with Denver Auto and Diesel College, agreeing to house students. Then the rent skyrocketed to \$240.00 per month a unit, forcing the residents out and bringing in some 60 students from outside the community. This continues to be problem in maintaining the residential make up of the community, and it will be one that the West Side will have to deal with more and more as the Auraria Higher Education Complex is built and completed.

The apartment has begun to be an eye sore to the community, as the students work on cars there and leave debris scattered about. The West Side Coalition has received complaints that the

On September 16, 1971, from about 8:30 a.m., many school children and members of the Mexican American community will be participating in an observance of the traditional day of the Independence of Mexico, on the downtown streets of Denver. There will be a massive parade from Civic Center commencing at 10:00 a.m. with floats and thousands of marchers, terminating at the State Capitol grounds with some speakers. The observance is to express unity by the Mexican American people and for a show of protest against failures of the educational system to provide good education to Mexican American children. Moreover, this year's theme is "Cultural Awareness" which includes a parade, a protest and a celebration with culture activities during the evening.

A committee has been formed to coordinate activities on the 16th of September. The Committee meets on a weekly basis with various sub-committees dealing with specifics, such as speakers, floats, finance, etc. Within the committee there are some forty different organizations participating to bring about another successful 16th of September occasion. This will be the third year that the Mexican American community in Denver has come together on this day.

In order to comprehend what the 16th means to the contemporary Chicano, one must have some understanding of the meaning of the day, and how it relates to the Chicano of today.

Following Hernando Cortez's landing in North America in 1519, a ruling class soon emerged from the Spanish-born population in Mexico. They were known as Gachupines. For nearly three hundred years Mexico was dominated and ruled by the Gachupines while the Mestizo population (Spanish-Indian) continued to increase much faster than the Gachupines and Creoles (a person born in America with parents from Spain).

In the early 1800's it became apparent to some people that Mexico's tyrannical government could be overthrown by the Mestizos and Creoles. In order to accomplish this, some intellectual leaders emerged. One of the leaders was a man who came from clerical ranks, Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, a parish priest from the town of Dolores. A plan was set up for a declaration of Mexican

Independence from Spain in December of 1810. Information of this clandestine plan leaked out and the government ordered the arrest of conspirators. Father Miguel Hidalgo soon heard of this. At that point an ammediate rebellion was stressed and in order to summon his parishioners at daybreak Father Hidalgo rang the bells of his church. When assembled he gave his famous "Grito de Dolores" or battle cry. This began the movement and struggle for independence from Spain. Many battles were fought before Mexico, finally gained its freedom, in October of 1821 the long struggle was over, Mexico gained its independence.

Father Hidalgo's "Grito de Dolores" of September 16, 1860 was really an expression of dissatisfaction with the conditions that his people were confronted with. His "Grito" was heard and answered.

In order to bring this historical meaning into contemporary times, one must not view the historical aspect of it, but what relevance this date has upon us, the Mejiancos of today.

The similarities of today as compared to the past are that we too are dissatisfied with injustices experienced by our people such as lack of opportunity and poor treatment in the job market, the educational institutions, the judicial courts and other areas.

(Cont. on Pg. 3)

### ATTENTION PLEASE

Evidently some of our readers who mail us items, agencies in particular, failed to note that our mailing address changed some months ago. We hope you will see this note and make the necessary change. Our new address is 910 Galapago St., 80204. We also have two telephone numbers for greater convenience to you. Daytime calls should go to 244-2636 (Inner City Parish) and ask for Jerry Garcia. After 5 p.m. and on weekends call 266-1445 (the Guedea residence).

### CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THIS ISSUE OF THE WEST SIDE RECORDER

Basic Cost - \$532

American Lutheran Church	334
William Funk - United Bank of Denver	100
Patrick Burcham	20
First Avenue Presbyterian Church	10
Germaine Aragon Family & Friends	10
First Bethany Lutheran Church	10
First Mennonite Church	10
Inner City Parish St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church	20
St. John's Lutheran Church	10
St. Joseph's Catholic Church	20
Wesley United Methodist Church	10
West Side Coalition	10

Gifts under \$5 - Lorraine Morgan

(Cont. on Pg. 8)