



## Two 5th Grade Classrooms Win Project's Activities Contest

**T**wo Austin 5th Grade classrooms, at the same school, won the Project's first Classroom Activity Contest this spring.

Teachers Laura Landstrom and Susan McGinn, both at Allen Elementary, used the Project's educational materials to help their students create the winning classroom activities. Printing of trading cards and posters, featuring individuals from the Project's archives, was donated by KVUE-TV.

Those activities built on materials from the Project. Staffer Brenda Sendejo, a graduate student in anthropology, coordinated a pizza party on May 18 for the winning classrooms. She was able to secure many donations for the party. Pizza Hut, at 1811 Guadalupe, donated the pizza, Albertson's Grocery Store, at 1819 S. Pleasant Valley, donated the plates and napkins, and Party City, at 9333 Research Blvd., donated balloons to create a more festive atmosphere.

Austin magician and WWII veteran, Ramón Galindo, intrigued the students with his illusions. Mr. Galindo is one of the

Project's interview subjects, who served with the 571st Anti-Aircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion Self-Propelled, and is a member of the Project's Educational Advisory Committee.

Austin 5th grade social studies teach-

graders. Mrs. Amador is the mother of a former Project manager Yazmin Lazcano.

This year's winners all focused on writing "corridos," or ballads, on some of the WWII Interview Subjects. Teachers said that the activities fit into their social stud-

ies curriculum, as well as character education programs, which emphasize honesty, respect, courage, caring and perseverance. The trading cards are based on four former Interview Subjects: Richard Candelaria, a fighter pilot and ace, who grew up in the Los Angeles area; Carmen Contreras Bozak, of Cayay, Puerto Rico, who served as a nurse with



Ramon Gallindo entertains the winning classes with magic tricks  
Photo by: Brenda Sendejo

ers were provided with four trading cards per student, two posters per classroom, and a 100-page Educator's Guide, including suggestions for individual and classroom activities. The Project relied heavily on Diana Garcia, a 4th grade teacher, also at Allen, who developed several of the classroom activities. It was also fortunate to have the help of Edna Amador, an El Paso school teacher who piloted the materials in the spring of 2004 with her 8th

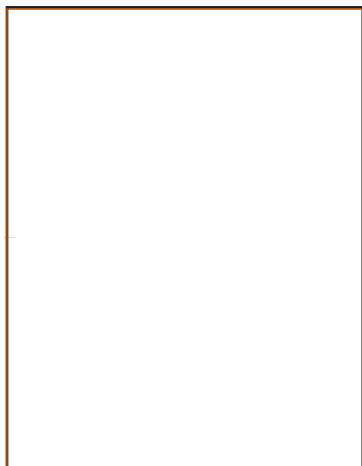
the Women's Auxilary Army Corps; Pete Moraga, a sailor from the Phoenix area who became a journalist; Beatrice Amado Kissinger, a native of Arizona who served stateside as a Navy nurse.

The Project plans to use the educational materials again in the 2006-2007 school year. It is also applying for funding to develop materials for high school 11th grade U.S. History classes.

**Editor's note:** This issue combines the Spring and Summer into one. Over the past several months, the Project's focus was on the many activities of the Spring: a play, a photo exhibit and the publishing of our new book. We will resume our quarterly publication schedule with the next issue.

# Featured INTERVIEWS

[www.utopia.utexas.edu/explore/latino/](http://www.utopia.utexas.edu/explore/latino/)



## **Fernando Bernacett**

Date of Birth: Aug 23, 1931

Location: Utuado, Puerto Rico

Fernando Bernacett, a native of Puerto Rico, came to New York City to find his father when he was just 6 years old. He worked for the Civilian Conservation Corps in Nevada when the Marines recruited him from the camp when he was 18.

Bernacett stood guard in Hawaii before his first combat action in Midway. He was promoted to corporal then sent to Johnson Island in Guam. He later moved to Kwajalein of the Marshall Islands to guard the airport, the prisoners of war and the atomic bomb as it made its way to Japan.

In 1945, he was discharged in San Diego, Ca., and worked as a tomato picker. He later contracted tuberculosis and was sent to New York City for quarantine, where he met his future wife. The couple lived in Colombia for 26 years before he settled in Miami, Fl., where his two children from that marriage now live.

Mr. Bernacett passed away on Jan. 25, 2003, leaving behind his second wife, Eddy Duque.

*Interviewed by: Paul Harrigan on Sept. 14, 2002, Miami, Fla.*



## **Tribute**

### **Al Cordova**

Date of Birth: April 21, 1914

Location: Montrose, CO

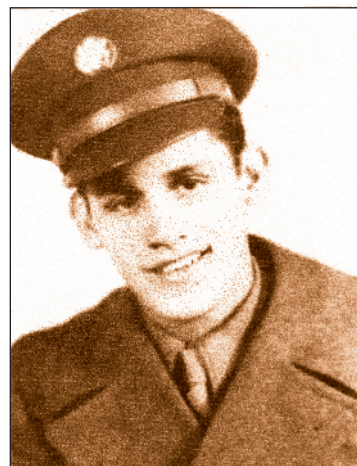
Alfred "Al" Cordova was drafted into the Army in April of 1942, two months after his younger brother Paul was drafted.

He first served in the Aleutian Islands and then, on his way to Fort Benning, GA., Cordova came home on furlough, married María Victoria Gallegos, and then reported to his new 71st infantry Division in 1944. The Division was deployed to Europe in early 1945. Later that year, he returned to Colorado where he fulfilled his final assignment at the Fitzsimons Army Hospital until his discharge in 1946.

After the war, Cordova farmed with his father and brothers. In 1958, he and his wife moved with their two children, Alfred and Theresa, from San Luis Valley, CO., to Colorado Springs. There he worked as a civilian at the U.S. Air Force Academy Hospital.

Alfred P. Cordova passed away on December 2, 1972, at the age of 58.

*Story based on information provided by Mr. Cordova's son, Alfred "Al" Cordova.*



## **Willie Murillo**

Date of Birth: Feb 10, 1924

Location: San Antonio, TX

Willie Murillo was the third of five brothers who served in WWII. Older brother David joined the Air Force; Gonzalo joined the Army; Mike and Mario, the two younger brothers, served in the Navy and Merchant Marines respectively.

Before the brothers left for service, their father took them aside and said, "I hope you never find yourselves on the front line; but if you do, always remember one thing: The enemy fires the shots, God is the one who separates them."

Willie Murillo was with the First Ranger Battalion. On January 30, 1944, the Germans captured the commandos of his battalion in Anzio, Italy. Murillo and the other American prisoners were taken to Hammerstein, Germany, and used as free labor on a local farm for 18 months. The Russian Army liberated the American prisoners in July 1944.

Murillo was honorably discharged on November 8, 1945. After the war, he returned to his job as a tailor working with his father in San Antonio, Texas.

*Interviewed by: Lynn Walker on Nov. 19, 2005, Dallas, Texas*

# Grant Creates a Major Redesign for the Project's Website

Through a grant from the UT Libraries, the U.S. Latino & Latina WWII Oral History Project has begun creating a 10-minute video, *Oral History: Step by Step*, which will be featured on a redesigned website, to be launched on Memorial Day 2007.

## The process

The grant, won through a competitive process, will create the video. The grant also provides funding for the digitization of 700 hours of video interviews and for the redesign of the Project's website.

Meetings began in the spring with the various teams of Library staff members to plot out the many details the work entails.

## Incorporating media

The UT Libraries already host the Project's website at [utopia.utexas.edu/explore/latino/](http://utopia.utexas.edu/explore/latino/), which contains training materials for would-be interviewers. The new video will

enhance existing training materials by demonstrating how to go about the actual work. The Project adheres closely to the Oral History Association's guidelines for interviewing and gathering information.

"We want the video to be accessible to elementary school children wanting to interview a grandparent, but sophisticated enough that adults will also be able to learn a thing or two," said Project Director Maggie Rivas-Rodriguez.

## Launch: Memorial Day 2007

*Oral History: Step by Step* will premiere over Memorial Day weekend 2007, at the same time that the entire Project website redesign will also be launched.

"When we first began in the spring of 1999, the only thing we had was a bare skeleton of a website, a telephone number and a brochure," Rivas-Rodriguez said. "We've been very fortunate to have many students work on our Website and it did get redesigned a couple of times. But as the Project grew, and added more and more components, we outgrew our design."

## New Features

Among the features of the new website: an index to easily locate interview subjects by military branch, by campaign, by place of birth, by medals won, and other categories. The site will have information posted about the various components of the Project: educational outreach, the play, our books, exhibits and a calendar of upcoming events. Sponsorships for the launch events will be sought in the coming months. The website's URL will also change, but traffic will be redirected to the new site.



Project's current website: [utopia.utexas.edu/explore/latino](http://utopia.utexas.edu/explore/latino)

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# ORDER A Legacy Greater Than Words

Since 1999, the U.S. Latino & Latina WWII Oral History Project at the University of Texas at Austin has captured the untold stories of this WWII generation. Altogether, the project videotaped more than 500 interviews throughout the country and in Puerto Rico and Mexico. This volume features summaries of the interviews and thumbnail photographs of the individuals. The stories featured in **A Legacy Greater Than Words** chronicle the lives of Latinos in the 1930s and 1940s—stories that generally have been omitted from historical accounts of either World War II or the Great Depression. Distributed by the University of Texas Press. All proceeds from sales of the book revert to the Project's ongoing work. A tax benefit form will be sent to you by the central UT development office.



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