

A chance meeting in Mexico in early 1969 between two women from Del Rio and two women from Eagle Pass resulted in the formation of the Pan American Round Table of Del Rio.

Carolina Cerna and Ruth Riskind of the PART of Eagle Pass told Zina Worley and Libbie Stool of Del Rio about the Eagle Pass Table. The Del Rio women were excited about the possibility of starting such an organization in Del Rio to answer a long-felt need for a means of the women in Del Rio and Ciudad Acuna, Mexico, to get to know each other in a social atmosphere.

Mrs. Stool and Mrs. Worley organized a luncheon meeting for interested women from Del Rio, Laughlin Air Force Base and Ciudad Acuna on March 31, 1969. Miss Cerna, then International Director of Zone One of the Alliance of PART, described the goals and the makeup of Pan American to those gathered.

The next months were spent in study and letter exchanges. In addition to the guidance of Miss Cerna, there was also direction from State Director Nita Harmon and the First Assistant Director, Mary Emily Reigle. With their help, the group also wrote a constitution for future guidance. This document was specifically constructed with the intent to provide for continuing provisions for the inclusion of women from both Laughlin Air Force Base and from Del Rio's sister city, Acuna, Mexico.

A little more than a year from the time the dream began, the Pan American Round Table of Del Rio became a reality when State Director Harmon presented the charter to newly-elected Del Rio Director, Julia Beavan on February 27, 1970.

Monthly meetings were established on the second Friday of each month from September thru May. During several meetings of each year, a member presents a program highlighting one of our sister countries of the Americas. The program is focused on influential women from that

particular country.

The Del Rio Table activities also include fund raising by holding an annual Holiday Home Tour, Brown Bag Lunches, and Basket Auctions. The monies raised are used as educational scholarships to deserving single-mother, head-of-household women to help them graduate and better their lives and that of their families. The Del Rio members also celebrate and support Pan American Day, Founder's Day, A Christmas Fiesta, and make donations to the Ciudad Acuna's Orphanage and Del Rio's Toy Drive.

Members of the Del Rio PART have also over the years volunteered for and served as members at the State and Area levels. Ann Beitel served as Alliance Board Member. Berta Garcia served as State Director. Annalice Castro served as Area Director, and Ann Beitel, Dee Moore, Lisa Romero, and Frances Rodriguez as State Board Members.

Through monthly meetings and a variety of activities and programs, the women of the Pan American Round Table of Del Rio have enjoyed the organization its' founders hoped it would be.....one of lasting friendships across cultural, language, and international borders while contributing to the needs of the Del Rio Community.

We, members of the Pan American Round Table of Del Rio, promote the philosophy and objectives of Pan American through Knowledge, Understanding, and Friendship, as we are "One for All and All for One". "Una para Todas y Todas para Una".