



**A Saga of the Pan American Round Table
& Tribute to Founder Florence Terry Griswold**

**Written In Commemoration of The 100th Year of the
Founding of the Pan American Round Table Movement**

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“Mamacita we’re so hungry, greatly frightened and so far away from home.

“Please tell us, Mamita, are we ever to return?”

but home was in a whirlwind of political disorder.

and from Mexico they’re forced to flee across the northern border.

Through the years of revolution and the dictator on the run,

when banditry abounded -- all armed with loaded guns.

The Federales and Villistas unleashed their frightful might

which led to death and madness – inflicting untold strife.

The anguished mother wept aloud as she heard her children’s pleas.

bitter tears streamed down her face as she longed and prayed for peace.

“Oh Lord”, she cried, “where’s safety, where’s succor to attain?”

“Send down your tender mercy and solace for our pain.”

The Good Lord sent an angel who heard and saw their plight,

and knew of the upheaval that gave reason for their flight.

The angel’s name was Florence, her heart filled with compassion,

was deeply moved to right the wrongs and swiftly sprang to action.

She rallied 'round the refugees, gave them comfort, food and shelter
then called for reinforcements from close friends and other benefactors.
Thus, Griswold's dream of unity, through hardship and defiance,
an international movement forged- a Pan American alliance.

A recipe of friendship mixed in a cultural atmosphere
formed her vision for the Americas of the Western Hemisphere.
Sprinkled generously with knowledge, tossed with formal education,
simmered slowly through the years – an international sensation!

So that was the beginning in the year nineteen-sixteen,
In the town of San Antonio where the first Table was seen
of the Pan American Table Round where equality, like treasure,
When "One for All and All for One" became the one true measure.

The movement spread like wildfire and by nineteen-twenty-two
four Tables in the Lone Star State were joined by others, too.

Soon Washington, New Mexico and Oklahoma states
were joined by the Republica in nineteen-twenty-eight.

Central, North and South America not to be outdone,
rounded out the union and molded into one.

Building paths of understanding, of mutual respect and more.

thus, the Alliance was established back in nineteen-forty-four.

One hundred years have slipped away - a century full of wonder,
yet Griswold's ideals are living still while our hearts of her grow fonder.

We recognize her sacrifices, reap the fruits of said foundation.

Her great impact so deeply felt on past and future generations.

Yet even more needs to be said of much personal enrichment
that blesses members, one and all, through service and commitment.
Inspired by her example we hone our skills and talents,
so as to use them and to share them, thus attain life's perfect balance.

Two books have now been written and a documentary film produced
extolling all your virtues, Griswold, and the solidarity you fused.

Throw wide your heavenly window and receive earned adulation.

Bask lavishly in your achievements in meritorious celebration.

Florence Terry Griswold, you we honor, we applaud and we salute
for your courage and tenacity -- those essential attributes
that propelled you into awesome roles as a patriot, an idealist, a dreamer.

You will remain forever our role model and our true outstanding leader.

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