

Jackie Jaramillo

Chicana(o) Movement



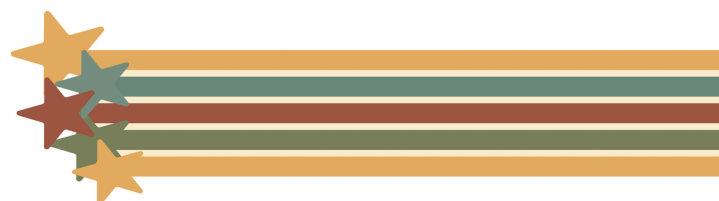
Amidst the Civil Rights Movement of the mid-twentieth century, Chicana/o activists throughout the state advocated for a variety of issues including: educational reform, improved living and working conditions for farmworkers, political representation, an end to racial/ethnic discrimination, and the reinstatement of ancestral land rights; all while encouraging cultural pride of Hispana/o people, language, and history.

While individuals might identify as Hispana/o, Spanish, Hispanic, Chicana/o, or Latina/o; they have deep roots in Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico. The town of San Luis, founded in 1851 by Hispana/o settlers, is the oldest continuously inhabited town in Colorado, and the Spanish street names in downtown Colorado Springs represent the long presence of Hispanic people in the region.

Jackie Jaramillo spent the first five years of her life in the tight knit colonia of Salt Creek, southeast of Pueblo. She was surrounded by loving family, including uncles who played beautiful mariachi music. After her father returned from serving in the Korean Conflict, the family moved to Colorado Springs. As a teenager, Jackie joined the small local anti-Vietnam War movement and spoke at a rally outside the El Paso County Courthouse (this building).

Impressed with her speech, a Colorado College (CC) student encouraged her to learn about the Chicano Movement and handed her *La Raza* by Stan Steiner. From then on, Jackie worked to create, "...a movement for Latinos in Colorado Springs," and was a MECHA (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicanx de Aztlán) leader at CC. In June 1970, she helped organize food and supplies for the "Chicano Rights March" from Pueblo to Denver and served as emcee for the rally of 10,000 people outside the Colorado Capitol.

While Rodolfo "Corky" Gonzales was the highly visible leader of El Movimiento in Colorado, and Magdaleno "Leno" Avila was a beloved organizer, women were at the heart of the grassroots activism. During the 1968-1969 Kitayama Carnation Strike in Brighton, Colorado, Guadalupe "Lupe" Briseño, Rachel Sandoval, Martha del Rael, Mary Silas, and Mary Padilla chained themselves to the flower farm gates after 221 days on strike. They were asking for \$1.60 an hour (the federal minimum wage) and sanitary working conditions. After Weld County officers cut the chains off and tear-gassed the women, the strike ended.



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Chicanos Plan March From Pueblo to Denver

By RAY BROUSSARD
Gazette Telegraph Staff Writer

Chicanos from throughout Colorado, "brandishing a symbolic torch that might someday free migrant workers from the slave bondage they are manacled to now," celebrate a Roman Catholic Mass in Pueblo Sunday morning and then begin a march to Denver that is expected to end on the steps of the gold-domed state capitol next Saturday.

There, following a grueling march to "dramatize the plight of migrant workers," Chicanos expect to confront Republican Gov. John Love and "eficit some evidence of his sympathy for our cause."

Chicano leaders from Colorado Springs Friday said at a press conference called at Lareda headquarters, 111 E. Costilla St., that the marchers would "depart from Dogpatch, a squalid ghetto in east Pueblo that is called by the pretty name of Eastwood Heights, and begin our march to Denver to symbolize the putrid working conditions of migrant farm workers and to gain whatever measure of aid we can from our freedom-loving brothers

throughout the nation and state."

The marchers will stop overnight in Colorado Springs Tuesday and Wednesday. To spark some financial support and "attempt to get some needy food for our marchers," Chicanos have managed to acquire the efforts of Teatro Campesino for one performance Wednesday, Aug. 5, at 7:30 p.m. at Shove Chapel."

The group, favorably reviewed by a number of national critics, has its origins in the California farm workers revolt led by Cesar Chavez. Since then, the group has left the Delano (California) area to tour the U.S., giving their own brand of improvisational theater.

"Using no props other than simple signs hung around the necks of members of the troupe," Chicano leaders said here Friday, "the group por- (Turn to Page 2A, Column 3)

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Chicanos Plan March From Pueblo Sunday

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trays scenes from the life of the migrant worker. They also satirize the happenings along the picket lines during the early days of the Huelga, or strike, and boycott against grape workers."

Chavez, the group here said, "inspired our march and gave us some of the great leadership that we must have in order to show the people, our people, and the gringos what must be done to aid the cause of oppressed minorities everywhere."

Campesino de la Nacion, striking farm workers and farm trucking operators will provide much of the "impetus for the march," Jose Ortega and other leaders said here Friday. Also participating in the march will be candidates from La Raza Unida Party; Brown Berets; various Chicano student organizations; CU students who have worked on the farms "and just about any sympathizers who want to participate."

However, the group made it clear that "because of logistics, we must restrict the select marchers to about 50 or 60. That's the amount that we will be responsible for food and places to sleep overnight. Anybody else who marches with us is welcome but must provide for themselves."



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