



Vigil Family Chatter



Volume 3

February 2008

**Juan De Jesús Vigil
Family Foundation
Board of Directors
2007-2008**

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our Family Foundation is directly connected to the dedication and support of our Board of Directors. As we start the second year of the Juan De Jesús Vigil Family Foundation, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board for their valuable time, dedication and contributions in the leadership and development of our organization.

Now, as we start the second year of fundraising so we can continue to provide grants and scholarships to deserving students who are seeking a better education, we turn to you, our family, for help. With your support, we are determined to continue to address this very important need within our Family. As my father, Alberto Vigil, used to say, **“Educación es la luz del mundo.”** (Education is the light of the world.)

In August 2007, the Vigil Family Foundation was extremely proud to award three \$800 scholarships to the following students: Michelle Hattan, medical biology major at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, IL; Kalee Salazar, engineering major at University of Colorado, Boulder, CO; and Jennifer Lucéro, nursing major, Emily Griffin School, Denver, CO. We are sharing some excerpts from their answer essay response to the question, “It is you twenty-year high school reunion and you are the guest speaker. Why?” Their answers are examples of how special these women are.

Thank you again for your generous support. You are helping to define our **Family as one that is recognized not only for its compassion but also for its vision, “one scholarship at a time”.**

Sincerely,

John H. Vigil

“Educación es la luz del mundo”



The Juan de Jesús Vigil Family Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization established in 2005 by the descendants of Juan de Jesús Vigil dedicated to maintaining opportunities for scholarship and grants to qualified descendants of Juan de Jesús Vigil.

www.juandejesusvigil.com

APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Descendant of Juan de Jesús Vigil planning to attend college or a trade school during the 2008/2009-year and who have a financial need may qualify for a scholarship or grant from our foundation. Individuals may request a scholarship or grant application by contacting John Vigil at jhvigil1440@msn.com or by calling 303.650.0470. The deadline for accepting applications is May 31, 2008.

“It is you twenty-year high school reunion and you are the guest speaker. Why?”



“...Soon enough, I began looking into starting my own oncology clinic, and from that point on, many opportunities came my way. With a fellow bioengineer from the University of IL, I started the Midwest’s leading oncology clinic right here in Chicago.... We focused our research to

start specific gene therapies for people who were found to have genes that would predispose them to certain types of cancer. This has been extremely rewarding work and I can only hope that as time goes on a cure for cancer will be in our grasp...”

Dear Vigil Family,

Thank you very much for the academic scholarship I received this school year through the Vigil Foundation. I am currently a sophomore at the University of Illinois studying biomedical engineering, and the scholarship paid for my engineering books this semester. I truly appreciate all of the support the Vigil family has given me throughout the years and this scholarship is a wonderful example of this support. I am blessed to have such a caring family.

Sincerely,

Michelle Hattan

“I am returning to speak at my 20-year high school reunion and addressing the 2006 Class, because I discovered a way to preserve water outside of the earth and save many lives. I am also CEO for a bottled water company. Who begins a journey in life thinking of this type of discovery or the titles



one will hold? Not many folks but it does come along when you are open to new ideas and experimental studies...”

Dear Vigil Family Scholarship Foundation,

I just wanted to say thank you all so much for the scholarship. It is greatly appreciated by both my family and me.

Sincerely,

Kalee Marie Salazar

“My name is Jennifer Lucéro and I am the guest speaker at my 20th high school reunion. Why? One of the main reasons would be because I was seen as most likely to NOT succeed.

I was faced with many obstacles. I became a mother at the age of 15. I had a negative attitude towards teachers and education. My attitude changed after having my son. I decided I wanted the best for my child and suddenly school and education became a #1 priority for me....I went on to fulfill another dream of becoming a Registered Nurse and managing an Alzheimer’s and dementia center to make a difference.....”

To the Juan de Jesús Vigil Family Foundation,

Thank you for the money to assist me in the pursuit to my LPN career. God bless all of you in your help for my education.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Lucéro

BE PART OF THE FUTURE

The Foundation is searching for three new board members who are willing to make a difference in the lives of the descendants of Juan de Jesús Vigil through the gift of education. We need people with expertise in website technology, finance or banking, and fundraising as well as people who are willing to just get involved. Call Carl Salazar at (303) 429-4105 for information.

We would like to welcome our two new Board Members: Beverly Sasse and Susan Herrera.

Beverly Sasse

I have three children: John, Benique, and Jennifer Lucero and five grandchildren.

I have been employed with Allstate Insurance as an insurance agent since 1976.

My prior experience, I have been on the Welby Glen Board of Directors as a management specialist from 2003 thru 2005.

I became involved as one of the members of Board of Directors for Juan de Jesús Vigil Family Foundation as a way to keep my beloved mother's memory alive. I am the daughter of Mary Alice Vigil, the daughter of Jose Alberto & Josie L. Vigil.

My goal is to raise money for the education of the Juan de Jesús Vigil Family Foundation to benefit the education needs of our Vigil family.

Susan Herrera



Born to Consuelo and Luis Fransua, Susan Herrera is one of seven children. She was raised in North Metro Denver/Adams County area attending Assumption Catholic School and graduating from Mapleton High School. Susan has two children and three grandchildren.

For the past 8 years, Susan has worked for Comcast Corporation as a Business Analyst for their Network Engineering & Technical Operations Department. She also volunteers for MS 150 Race, Comcast Care Days, and United Way Denver Council.

Susan devotes her personal time to her family, an extremely important part of her life and heritage. Her hobbies include attending sporting activities with her grandkids, reading, and attending theater and movies.

WE NEED YOUR RECIPES

For the *2010 Vigil Family Cook Book*. Please send them to Andrea Romero at 4745 Coffeetree Dr; Loveland, CO 80538 or email to Andrea at Carolyn.romero@comcast.net .



FAMILY NEWS

Rosemary Salazar

(Hilaria)

At the age of 3 months, I was left with my grandparents in Trujillo Creek. My mother, Lucy, was unable to get a reliable sitter for me in Denver while she worked to support me. I was raised with my grandparents, Fred and Sinforosa Vigil, and my great aunt, Maggie Passarelli, who was my grandmother's sister.



Little Rosita (L) from Trujillo Creek

My grandfather had every kind of animal you could think of at the Ranch: chickens, pigs, rabbits, cows, sheep, goats, horses, dogs, cats...

I was able to play and feed these different animals. It was always fun gathering the chicken eggs and watching baby chicks being hatched and feeding the pigs and rabbits. One special chore I had was raising a baby sheep with a bottle from the time of her birth. Her name was Betty. I remember feeding her with a big black nipple on a pop bottle. After her birth, her mother refused to feed her. She was a penca, the Spanish name for an orphan. She and I became very good friends. She would follow me everywhere and grow big and wooly.

I shared many wonderful memories with my cousins who would spend summers at the Ranch with us. Marylee, who is about 3 months older than me and the oldest of the grandchildren, and I were very good friends. She was like my sister. We played and fed

the animals together with our grandmother. It was a fun life living on a Ranch. We would also play on the hay in the barn, wade in the ditch and the creek, and jump on the beds. If we were caught jumping, we were in trouble.

My cousin, Marylee, and I continue to share a close relationship. She now lives in Houston TX. Marylee's dad (Elesido "Lee") and my mother were brother and sister.

Dorothy McQueen

(Celedon)

I hope everyone has had a good year. We have. My son, Joe, is in his second year of college and doing well. He is up at the University of Central Florida. He loves it. Joe is still majoring in film. He has 2 more basic classes to take and, as he said, he gets to start doing the fun stuff.

My husband, Bill, and I were in Colorado for a very short visit this summer. We had a very nice and relaxing time. We spent time with my sister Carolyn and family, and visited with Uncle Eloy (Vigil). Went down to Trinidad to spend time with my buddy, David Gallino, and also saw Aunt Ann and Uncle Vince (Cobo). The weather was very nice while we were there, just a little rain, but not all day.



Dennis and Carla Vigil came down to Florida for the first time and spent a couple of days with us. We got to show them ocean life. We enjoyed their visit.

I am getting ready to go to my 30-year class reunion. (Can't believe I am getting that old!) I know I will have a blast though. Always good to see old friends. I am looking forward to reading what everyone else has been up to. Take care.

Jeanette Fransua

(Decideria)

My Dad is looking for information on the Martinez side of our ancestors. This is the information we have already.

My Grandfather, Consuelo's father, was Theodoro Martinez. His father was Andres Martinez and he was married to Decideria Vigil. Andres was the son of Donicio Martinez and Maria Crucia Longe.

Andres was born in 1846 in Trujillo Creek. He died March 24, 1906. He was a victim of homicide along with Sam Vigil (the son of F.M. Vigil, the Justice of the peace in Aguilar.)

The town Marshall, James Davis, was in custody for killing them, he claimed it was in self-defense. He was later acquitted in a well-publicized trial in Trinidad courts. Andres is buried in Trujillo Creek cemetery.

Andres and Desideria's other children were Romanita, Juanita, Alcarila and Cesario. Section 75 – 79 on page 19 of your book, Living a Legend, has their family line up.

If you have any other information or know of anyone else who might in the Vigil Chatter be able to enlighten us with more information, we would be very appreciative to know.

Thank you, and hope you and your family are doing well.

AGNES BIROSAK

(Juan Bautista)

You are a very busy lady! Thank you for all your efforts in our (Vigil Clan) behalf.

Our grandson, Michael A. Oates and his fiancé, Erica Hein, are the parents of our first great grandchild, Serenity Renee Oates. She was born on March 13, 2006 in Albuquerque, NM. Michael is a policeman.



Carolyn Romero

(Celedon)

Things have been at their normal hectic pace here in the Romero household. We finally settled into our new house. I know – we moved in July 2006, but it just took a little while to get everything put into place. We had never purchased a new home before so there were lots of things to do. Our Arvada house was on the market for 360 days! It was a relief to get out of the double house payments.

If you were following the activities at Swift & Company, you may have noticed that a Brazilian company bought out Swift on July 12th. The next day, I was laid off. I ended up with a 5-week vacation – albeit a nerve wracking one, as I searched for a new job. I am currently working for Woodward Governor, a terrific company in Ft. Collins.

Andrea is a sophomore. Since November, she has been reminding us that she will soon be able to drive soon. I saw a magnetic sign on a car the other day identifying the driver as a “New Driver”. I may have to buy one for Andrea.

It’s been a tough year health-wise for Jerry. There were too many trips to the hospital and too much lost weight. Just before Thanksgiving we learned that Jerry has a rare form of inoperable liver cancer. There is no cure and no treatment. We don’t know how slow or how fast it will travel. The goal now is to control the pain. We have quickly learned how to help him get around, and prioritized what is important. Work has been very flexible. I have been able to take care of him. Andrea is being a real trooper. I wish she didn’t have to grow up so fast.

From our house to yours, may the New Year find you with good health, good friends, and a good life. We have our fingers crossed that 2008 will bring many happy moments for all of us.

Note: Jerry died on December 29, 2007

SAD GOOD BYES

Bob Vigil (5/10/2007)
Ruth Cordova (8/20/2007)
Alfonso Vigil (10/7/2007)
Jerry Romero (12/29/2007)

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

Serenity Renee Oates (3/13/2006)

Haditha Noelle Wynne (9/5/2007)

REUNION 2010 UPDATE

Start planning your vacation and join us in Taos, NM for the 5th Vigil Family Reunion in 2010. We need your help to plan this fun event. Be a part of the planning committee working in the Denver area or logistics committee in NM. Contact Carolyn Romero at 970.663.1430 or Carolyn.romero@comcast.net to volunteer join the fun. Also, send Carolyn updates to the mailing list so everyone gets an invitation.

A TRIBUTE TO RUTH CORDOVA

You sit by the window and wait for me. You know I will come. It breaks my heart because I am not able to be there for you more often.

Even though miles separate us, you are always on my mind and in my heart. Tonight I watched you sleep peacefully and I think back to my childhood days.

You were there when I spoke my first word and took my first step. You were so proud. When I fell, you picked me up and wiped the tears. You comforted me with kind words of encouragement.

You were so patient. You walked me to school and held my hand. You gave me so much confidence. You showed love for your family on a daily basis. Your smile brightened my day. You waited for me after school, always had time to make me a special snack. You were there to meet your family’s need with a smile.

You were there for every phase of my life, growing up and after. You showed love from your heart.

You were proud of all my accomplishments. When I failed, you were there to lend a helping hand. You never criticized me, even when I was rebellious. You understood my frustrations. You showed so much respect. You were always so positive. You worried about my safety. When I had a bad dream, you let me sleep in your bed.

Even when times were difficult, you found ways to make it easier for me. When times were tough and the family was in crisis, you knew exactly what to do. You have gone through so much in your life.

You have lost loved ones, friends; you are so strong.
You have sacrificed so much.

Even though I am grown, I still need your
admiration and respect.

I know who I am today because of your upbringing.
Let me hold your hand and let you know that I am
here for you. Today I want to express my love and
admiration for you. I want to thank you from the
bottom of my heart for your love, patience,
consideration, and respect.

I don't want time to slip away without telling you
how I feel. I want the very best for you and I want to
do as much as possible to make your life a little
easier. You have given so much to me. I wake up
every morning and think of you. I count my
blessings because I have you. You are my special
angel and I treasure your love. Madre te amo.
(Mother I love you.)

Florida Vigil 10/22/2005

IN LOVING MEMORY OF JEROME ROMERO

It won't be too long now:

My body's gone, my minds aware, it won't be too
much longer

My life on earth is ending soon, I am not getting any
stronger

My friends and family are here with me, to share the
moments we have left

And make those final memories, of love and
togetherness

Although I can no longer speak to you, I still love
you all very much

And I feel your presence next to me with your
assuring touch

To see me is so sad as well, it's hard for me to look
back

And see all your sad faces and hear your voices as
they crack

Don't forget the things I taught, or the jokes I told
For they will also bring me to you, cherish them like
gold

I lived my life for all it was, and really have no
regrets

My family and friends are incredible, you guys are

really the best

Remember me for who I was and know that I miss
you too

Live your life and carry on, as you always do.

I love you, goodbye.

By: Dennis Hattan 01/01/2008

FUN VIGIL HISTORY

I ran across the following from a book entitled What
Made Trinidad Trinidad by Louise LeBarre
Hanks.

"Other prominent citizens of Trinidad during the
1860s and 1870s included: Juan de Jesús Vigil, who
came to Trinidad in 1862, and hauled freight along
the Santa Fe Trail with a wagon and ox team. He
had a ranch at Thatcher, which he sold to Frank G.
Bloom. Señor Vigil was well known for his wagers
on elections. He once won, on a governor's election,
a new casket from R.S. Sipe, a local undertaker, and
\$100 in cash from Judge Jesse G. Northcutt.
General George Armstrong Custer asked him to join
the U.S. Army, but insisted that he learn to speak
English. Considering Custer's fate at the Little Big
Horn, it was to Vigil's good fortune he refused to
change from his native Spanish language."

SAVE THE DATE

September 19, 2008
1st Annual Golf Tournament

Contact Carl Salazar is chairing this event to be held
in Denver, CO. If you are interested in planning the
event, sponsoring a hole, or PLAYING, call Carl at
303-429-4105

Ascensión Vigil

Written by **Louis N. Ortega**

One in a collection by Allen Bachoroski, Local
Historical Writer, [Tales Along the Highway of
Legends](#)

The name Vigil first appears in the New Mexico
history in the late 1600's. Francisco Montes Vigil
and Maria Jimenez De Ancizo were colonists from

Zacatecas. In Santa Fe in 1695, he said he was a native of El Real De Zacatecas and thirty years old. In 1710, he received a grant of land at Alameda, but sold it two years later.

Their children were: Maria, wife of Martin Romero, and mother of Antonio Romero, Gertrude, Elena, Domingo, who married Maria Estela Marquéz, Francisco, husband of Lorenza Medina, Manuel, who married Manuela Sanchez, Juan, husband of Ynez Lopez and then of Nicolasa Lujan and presumably, Pedro who married Juana Trujillo.

Francisco Montez Vigil II and his wife, Antonia Jirón, were living in Santa Cruz, New Mexico when she accused a man of entering her home at midnight when her husband was away. On June 28, 1744, widowed of Antonia Jiron De Castillo, he married Lorenza Medina.

His son Francisco, when marrying Maria de Jesús Mestas, May 12, 1748 gave his name as Francisco Vigil De Santillana and Antonia Jirón De Castillo, a daughter of Francisco III, married Inocentrio Martín at Chama in 1776.

Manuel Gregorio Montez Vigil, who married Lorenza Fernandez Valerio, April 8, 1742, in Santa Cruz, was perhaps a son of Francisco II and brother of Francisco III. A Fernandez Valerio was the padrino for the wedding of Francisco Montez III and Maria Mestas in 1748.

Our great, great grandfather, Don Ramón Vigil was living in Santa Cruz in the early 1800's. Our great grandfather, Juan Vigil, was born at Santa Cruz in 1844. (*Editor's note – this is Juan de Jesús Vigil's brother.*)

He was in the freighting business between Santa Fe and Independence, Missouri. The trail was known as the Santa Fe Trail and passed through what is now Trinidad, Colorado. Because he saw possibilities for the land in Colorado, he decided to homestead there in 1862 before Colorado became a state. Our grandfather, Nicholas Vigil, was born in Trinidad, Colorado in 1869.

Juan Vigil served as sheriff 1879, county commissioner, director of schools and county assessor in Las Animas County, Colorado. He

returned to New Mexico in 1894 and was a resident when New Mexico became a state in 1912. Juan Vigil was affectionately known as "Juan Colorado" [John the Red], because of his fire red hair.

In 1891, in Trinidad, Colorado, our grandfather married Asención Santistevan, the daughter of Pedro and Concepción Santistevan, a rancher residing in Stonewall Valley, west of Trinidad. From that matrimony seven children were born, four of whom lived to adulthood: Domicinda, Monica, Juan Leo, Elenor. Juan Leo his only son, had one son, Leo Vigil, Jr.

In 1892, Nicholas Vigil went to New Mexico to live and engaged in the sheep business near Ute Creek country. He spent forty-two years in that place. While living in New Mexico, Mr. Vigil had several appointive positions, once as a Sheep Ranger, Dipping Inspector for cattle and sheep, and was at one time on the mounted police force in that state.

Asención Vigil died August, 1932, in Roy, New Mexico. She was buried in the family lot in Bueyeros, New Mexico. Nicholas Vigil moved back to Trinidad in November 1934 and resided with the Ortega family until his death. Story continues with Louis Ortega.

Donaciano Vigil, a descendant of the Vigil family, was appointed Governor of the territory of New Mexico by Brig. Gen. Price on December 17, 1847, after the death of Governor Carlos Bent. He was either the brother to Ramón Vigil or a brother to Ramón's father.

REQUEST FOR MORE ORAL HISTORIES

Since July 2005, we have obtained the oral histories for more than 45 people. If you are willing to participate in this project, please contact Jan Lindgren at jan@kidviewsz.com or at (303) 980-0432. Preference will be given to those over 50 years old or who are seriously ill **of any age**.

FUNDRAISING UPDATE

On behalf of the Juan De Jesús Vigil Family Foundation Board of Directors, I would like to thank you for your past support and contributions. Your gifts are important to our Foundation. As a result of your generosity, we awarded three scholarships totaling \$2,400 to three deserving students wanting to better their post high school education during 2007.

The Juan de Jesús Vigil Family Foundation is a non-profit 501 (c)(3) organization. The organization was established in 2005 by the descendants of Juan de Jesús Vigil, dedicated to maintaining opportunities for scholarship and award grants to qualified and deserving descendants of Juan de Jesús Vigil. The Foundation is governed by a volunteer board of directors that represent a cross section of our community and who are committed to making a difference for the educational success of the hundreds of Juan de Jesús Vigil descendants.



The Foundation honors the name of Juan de Jesús Vigil and promotes our Vigil family legacy into perpetuity. The Mission for our Foundation is to promote educational scholarships, grants, and to provide support to charitable causes that will benefit the descendants of Juan De Jesús and Maria Bustos Vigil.

Our goal for 2008 is to double the 2007 granted amount. Please help us by returning the enclosed donation envelope with your contribution. Any amount will help and your donation is tax deductible. Thank you again for your continued support.

We would like to thank our donors for their generosity and support of the Juan de Jesús Vigil Family Foundation. They are:

TORCHBEARER - PLATINUM (> \$500)

Carolyn Romero * John H. and Joyce Vigil

TORCHBEARER - GOLD (\$250 - \$500)

John Fransua

FINANCIER (\$150 - \$249)

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