Supplemental Guide to:
Shaping the Law of the Land:
Hispanics in the Colorado Legislature

Denver Public Schools
In partnership with Metropolitan State College of Denver
Supplemental Guide
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Section I

Richard Thomas Castro: Colorado Statesman and Civil Rights Activist
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“Liberty and justice for all, no exceptions!”

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History Through Museums
Dr. Ellen Fisher

August 1, 1991
Richard Castro was a phenomenal man with numerous attributes and interest that he used in his role as a Chicano leader. According to former Denver Mayor Federico Pena, Richard was warm, humorous, and a tireless champion of “the little people.” Castro served in the Colorado State Legislature from 1974 until 1983 and as the Executive Director for the Agency for Human Rights and Community Relations for the City of Denver from 1983 until his death on April 13, 1991. As a statesman and human rights advocate, Castro championed many causes including bilingual education, equitable re-apportionment, Denver’s equal protection ordinance, public school improvement, immigration, voter registration, and the campaign against the “English Only” amendment to the Colorado Constitution.

Richard Thomas Castro, who was raised in Denver, was born to Archie and Josephine Castro on September 29, 1946, the oldest of four sons. His stable home life exposed him to the “traditional” Chicano values in which the parents spoke Spanish and placed a great emphasis on the Catholic religion. His mother was a patient and kind woman who didn’t work outside of the home and raised the Castro children to respect others. Archie Castro was an industrious man who worked his way up to the position of Sales Manager for the Eaton Metal Company. The elder Castro retired after thirty-five years of service with the company. Castro always felt fortunate to belong to a large extended family and would often spend time at family gatherings listening to the adults converse in Spanish.

Unfortunately, this was during the post World War II ear, where there was a great deal of social pressure for Chicano families to assimilate into the mainstream society. The speaking of Spanish was not commonly encouraged. Castro’s grandmother counseled him not to speak Spanish because she felt that he must speak English to be successful in school. This event had a major impact later in Castro’s life because he strongly believed in bilingual education. Frustration arouse during his adult life because, although he could understand Spanish and speak it conversationally, he failed to learn to write Spanish or be as fluent as he wished.

While attending Annunciation Catholic High School, Castro proved to be an outstanding athlete and student leader. Although not tall in stature and weighing only 135 pounds, he was an exceptional baseball player – his first love. He was a first class boxer and played on the varsity basketball and football teams. Even at a young age, Castro appeared to have developed a fine sense of humor and a well-balanced ego. Younger classmates, such as Andy Lovato, commonly looked up to Castro.

Upon his high school graduation in June 1964, Castro enrolled at the St. Thomas Seminary in hopes of becoming a Catholic priest. After one year, however, Castro became disillusioned with the politics of the seminary and decided to continue his scholastic career elsewhere. Consequently, in September 1965, Castro enrolled at Trinidad State Junior College in Trinidad, Colorado where he was a good student and played on the college baseball team. He received an Associate of Arts degree in Education from TSJC in 1967.

Castro returned to Denver to continue his education at Metropolitan State College in the fall
of 1967. This era proved to be the formative years of his political ideology. It was during these years at Metro that Castro became a leader in the struggling Chicano student movement. He and a handful of fellow students stared the Hispano Youth Congress, which was organized to unify the small number of Chicano students at the college and to develop political clout necessary to make positive educational changes for the Chicano people. In 1969, the Hispano Youth Congress joined the statewide Chicano student movement and changed their name to the United Mexican-American Students (UMAS). With Castro in a leadership role, the students became more involved in Denver’s Westside, a predominantly low-income Chicano neighborhood, assisting area residents in social reform. During this time, Castro also edited and contributed to the Chicano student newsletter *UMAS SPEAKS*.

Before receiving his Bachelor of Arts degree in Behavioral Science in 1970, Castro met Virginia Lucero, a colleague in the student movement. Virginia and Rich were later married.

The following September, Castro enrolled at the University of Denver in a Masters of Social Work program. As one of two Chicano students in this program, Castro actively recruited ten more Chicano students to the university in the fall of 1971, including Virginia.

During his academic career, Castro refused to neglect his community activism and remained involved in the political and social arena in Denver. As early as 1968, Castro had been employed within the poor communities, such as the Curtis Park area where he worked with small groups of youth providing counseling, cultural and recreational activities. In 1969, Castro worked for the Denver Youth Services Bureau counseling youth who were involved in the court system. In 1970, he served as a mental health counselor at the Longmont Mental Health Center.

Castro became the Director of the Westside Coalition Neighborhood Planning Organization in 1971, where he further developed his political savvy with regard to Denver city government and state and federal agencies. He proved instrumental in developing local recreational and health facilities, securing funds for parks, including citizens in the Community Renewal Program, and organizing an effort to preserved the unique character of the Westside neighborhood. Castro quickly developed a reputation for listening and addressing citizen’s concerns. Likewise, members of the community felt that he was not afraid to challenge the bureaucracy for the need of the common man.

Castro received his Master of Social Work degree from the University of Denver in June 1972 with an emphasis on Community Organization and Administration. Earlier that year, on April 17, he and Virginia were married and moved into a modest home at 159 West Ellsworth in a low-income Westside neighborhood. Castro became the stepfather to Christopher, Phil, Ronnie and Brenda. Later that year, Richard Thomas Castro, Jr. was born. Years later, Castro would call “Richie” his greatest personal achievement.

Castro was working as Director or the Westside Coalition at times running it out of his garage due to lack of funds, when he was approached to run for political office in 1974. Castro’s early
introduction to politics was made at an extreme personal sacrifice, however, when he was shot from behind by a member of an opposing Chicano political faction in the summer of 1974. The outraged Westside population rallied to his support in his bid to the Colorado State House of Representatives, which he won in November 1974. At age 28, Richard Castro became one of the youngest legislators in the history of Colorado, representing a population segment of mainly low to middle-income Chicano constituents.

Castro firmly believed that education and information was knowledge, and that knowledge was the key to power. As a legislator, he became a one-man crusader to ensure that all people, regardless of economic background, became empowered. During his legislative career, he placed a strong emphasis on education and social reform. In 1975, with assistance of then-private citizen Federico Pena, Castro helped to get the state’s Bilingual-Bicultural Education Law passed in the house. In 1977, Castro became the assistant minority leader in the house and continued to sponsor legislation in support of youth, penal reform, juvenile justice and educational reforms. Castro was also instrumental in assuring that Chicanos were included in the 1980 Census count, which had a direct affect on the representation of Chicano communities throughout Colorado. Castro became very involved in the state Reapportionment Committee, making sure that Chicanos were given an effective and collective voice in government. He later lamented, “All the areas (in Colorado) you can think of that had significant numbers of Hispanics, we were gerrymandered out.”

In 1975, while still in the legislature, Castro became a Community Relations Consultant at the Denver Commission on Community Relations, a coveted position of city and state politics. Castro refined his knowledge of city government while working with all ethnic groups in Denver to identify inter-cultural problems and develop solutions to those problems. Castro’s approach towards community involvement was maturing, as he now believed that solutions came from working within the system. Castro’s ability to work with all populations segments within the city quickly earned him a reputation of being a coalition builder who could bring opposing sides of an issue to a compromise agreement. His outrageous sense of humor, which was usually directed at himself, aided him in this cause. In 1982, however, the bottom fell out of the Denver economy and staff cuts caused Castro to be laid-off of his job, by then director Minoru Yasui.

Castro continued at the legislature, grooming young interns and assisting Chicano freshmen representatives. Committed to representing his constituents, he faithfully published a newsletter on a regular basis. He expanded his reports on the legislature to the community through La Voz, Denver’s largest bilingual newspaper, for whom he remained a contributing writer until his death. It was largely acknowledged that Castro took it upon himself to inform the community of local, state and national issues. He was well-informed and well-read, reading all of the major national news publications, such as Time Magazine, U.S. News and World Report, Newsweek Magazine and the Wall Street Journal, thus keeping abreast of all national trends that might affect his constituency such as immigration, education, civil rights and pending legislation.

Castro also developed a well-tuned network of information gathering form all parts of the
United States. He received newspaper articles from large and small towns across the nation, and especially Colorado. He was constantly in contact with the staff of the congressional representatives from Colorado and he would relay this information to fellow legislators and concerned citizens. Castro also wrote editorials to the two major Denver daily newspapers, The Rocky Mountain News and The Denver Post. He later hosted two Hispanic informational television programs, Mi Linda Raza on Denver’s KCNC television station and Hispanics Americanos on Denver’s Mile High Cablevision channel. Castro was known as one who did his homework prior to the introduction or passage of any legislation.9

On October 1, 1983, Denver Mayor Federico Pena appointed Castro to head the Agency for Human Rights and Community Relations for the City of Denver. Castro was honored by the sub-cabinet position and eager to return to the commission. He resigned as state representative because he believed he could be more effective working in civil rights.

At the Agency for Human Rights, Castro began an all out campaign to end discrimination for all people and to open up city government to the common citizen. He feverishly worked on establishing the Chicano/Jewish dialogue. He was a champion of women’s rights and founded the Women’s Commission, which was a linking of all city services to assist battered women and their children. He had a profound impact on the Domestic Violence policy, which was enforced by the Denver Police Department and city judges. Castro was instrumental in the Equal Protection Ordinance passed by City Council and later upheld by Denver voters that outlined the law that outlawed discrimination against individuals due to race, religion, sexual preference or gender.10

Castro was very concerned with the low academic test scores and achievement rates of minority students in Denver Public Schools. He was equally apprehensive with the district’s commitment towards bilingual and bicultural education. Consequently, when school board member Paul Sandoval resigned his elected seat in the fall of 1988, Castro applied to fill the vacancy. He commented, “I believed my broad educational and work experience would be an asset to the Denver Public School system. …I could provide a wide range of input on various problems confronting the educational system in our city. I would very much like to be a solution to these problems.”11 In November, the school board appointed Castro to fill the vacancy and he campaigned in the following spring to hold the seat.

Castro was viewed by minority communities as one who could lead the charge in school reforms to restructure Denver Public Schools in which a vast majority of minority students were failing and dropping out. Castro campaigned on a platform that included expanded early childhood education, extended day care, taking positive action to curb the high drop out rate, gang violence, and increased funding for support services, such as social workers and nurses.

Castro campaigned vigorously for the unpaid seat on the school board. He was endorsed by several organizations such as the Denver Board of Realtors, the Greater Chamber of Commerce, and a coalition of Hispanic and non-Hispanic community groups. He was also endorsed by The Denver
Post. Unfortunately, Castro lost the race by only 281 votes. This was a crushing defeat for Castro, who had never lost an election in this career. He was disheartened because he saw the district would have no Chicano representation for its largest ethnic student population. Many say that Castro never got over this defeat.\textsuperscript{12}

Two years earlier, in 1987, Castro passionately aimed his efforts to defeat the “English Only” bill that has been introduced by Barbara Philips, of Colorado Springs. She hoped the house would pass the legislation to declare English the official language of Colorado. Castro was successful in helping build a legislative coalition to kill the bill in the legislature. Governor Roy Romer had gone as far as to vow that he would veto the bill if it crossed his desk. Philips, knowing the bill would die in the legislature, and her supporters, spearheaded a petition drive to put the issue on the ballot as a constitutional amendment for the state general election of 1988.

Castro was afraid of the long-range implications of such an amendment on the individual rights of citizens and contended that the English Only movement represented “…a backlash against the civil rights movement of the 1960’s and 1970s.”\textsuperscript{13} He was also concerned that the amendment could be used to prevent public employees from communicating with each other or with the public in Spanish. He was apprehensive that the English Only movement would lead to society treating non-English speaking people as second-class citizens who would face discriminatory acts such as not having a Spanish “911” emergency response line or translation services in court.

Castro quickly organized a group, “The Coalition Against the English Only Bill,” that was comprised of every ethnic group and religious affiliation across the state. He campaigned against the amendment throughout Colorado. One person who he particularly admonished was former Colorado Governor, Richard Lamm. Castro contended that Lamm was trying to “build a case that Hispanics pose some potential threat to this country’s national unity, and has gone on previous occasions so far as to infer that we might possibly form a Hispanic Quebec in the Southwest.”\textsuperscript{14} Castro went on to give testimony before the U.S. Civil Rights Commission:

“The English Only movement has equated language ability to loyalty to this country. They have attempted to create the impression that language minorities, Hispanics in particular, are resisting assimilation into the mainstream of the U.S. They have even went as far as suggest that Hispanics pose a deadly threat of disunity to this country and might one day create a Hispanic Quebec in the Southwest United States.”\textsuperscript{15}

Castro had another concern with the amendment in the area of education. Contending that it would have an adverse affect on school districts that had developed a comprehensive bilingual education policy. Although the amendment passed in November 1988, Castro was instrumental in later passing a resolution by the Denver School Board in January 1989, preventing any discriminatory effects in Denver due to this amendment. Castro was further committed to not allowing Denver to undergo English Only problems as in other states.
Castro continued to work on social reform issues on civil rights for Colorado citizens until his death. While having lunch with Denver City Councilman Hiawatha Davis, Castro had a stroke. He was rushed to Aurora Presbyterian Hospital where he died of a cerebral hemorrhage on April 13, 1991.

Castro’s funeral service reflected how effectively he had represented the community. Over 2,000 people, representing the Jewish, Hispanic, Black, Asian, American Indian and Anglo communities attended his services. He was eulogized by close friends Denver Mayor Federico Pena, Denver Post writer Tomas Romero and his son Richie.

Richard T. Castro lived a life full of compassion and love and saw as his duty the fight to improve the human condition. His death especially brought concern within the Chicano community. A wonderful leader had been lost. Tomas Romero put these feeling into words, “Most of all, Castro was a friend to the friendless, a tireless champion of the underdog who never let his passion of justice overwhelm his genuine affection for people of all races and creeds.”

1  Alan Gottlieb, “1500 Mourn Rich Castro,” The Denver Post, April 18, 1991, page 1
4  (Andy Lovato)
6  Ibid
12  (Vicky Calvillo)
Section II

Hispanic Legislators in Colorado:
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CCC-Colorado Constitutional Convention; H-House; S-Senate; TC-Territorial Council; TH-Territorial House
Section III

Selected Biographies of Hispanics in the Colorado Legislature
April 2003
Biographies selected and written by Steve Garner
in conjunction with The Alma Project, Denver Public Schools,
for the unit of study: *Shaping the Law of the Land: Hispanics in the Colorado Legislature*
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Polly Baca

Born 1941, La Salle, Colorado

Dates served in Colorado Legislature:
1974-1976 House
1978-1986 Senate

A member of the Colorado State Legislature for twelve years representing Adams County, Polly Baca served as a Democrat both in the House from 1974 to 1976 and in the Senate from 1978 to 1986. In 1977, she was elected the first woman chair of the House Democratic Caucus, and in 1985, she was elected chair of the Senate Democratic Caucus. She was the first minority woman to be selected to the Colorado Senate and the first Hispanic woman to serve in leadership in any state senate in the United States. Ms. Baca served as Chairperson of the Minority Caucus, as well as on the education and finance committees.

Ms. Baca was born on a small farm in Weld County, Colorado and grew up in Greeley and Thornton, Colorado. Her great-great-grandfather, Manuel Baca, was the father of Felipe Baca, who served in the Territorial House from 1870-72 as a Republican from Las Animas and Huerfano Counties. She graduated from Colorado State University with a B.A. degree in political science and subsequently did graduate work at Colorado State University, the American University in Washington, D.C., and the University of Colorado at Denver. She received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa in May 1989, in addition to an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree from the University of Northern Colorado.

Ms. Baca has been a significant leader of both national and local scope on behalf of the Democratic Party. She served as Vice Chair of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) from 1981 to 1989 and as a member of the DNC from 1973-1989. She has also served on numerous nominating and investigative committees. She has demonstrated a consistent and active commitment to local, regional and national civic groups, providing valuable leadership as founder of the Colorado Hispanic League, Vice Chair of the Americans for Democratic Action and member of the Colorado Women’s Forum. Ms. Baca has traveled extensively in Europe, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East as a member of official delegations, professor, peace advocate, and foreign policy specialist.

Nationally known for her leadership skills and motivational presentations, she served the Colorado Institute for Hispanic Education and Economic Development as Executive Director during the Clinton administration. She was appointed Director of the Office of Consumer Affairs, before being named Administrator of the General Services Administration Rocky Mountain Region. She is currently Executive Director of LARASA—the Latin American Research and Service Agency.
Casimiro Barela

Born 1847, Embudo, New Mexico  
Died 1920, Trinidad, Colorado  
Dates served in Colorado Legislature:  
1872-1874 Territorial House  
1874-1786 Colorado Constitutional Convention  
1876-1915 Senate

Aptly named the “Perpetual Senator”, Casimiro Barela served the state of Colorado in various legislative capacities for forty-four years. He began by serving from 1872 to 1874 as a Democrat in the Territorial House. Later, he was chosen as one of forty-nine men to represent the people of Colorado in writing the state constitution—a labor that lasted intermittently for much of 1874 and 1875. Senator Barela was instrumental in having the state laws printed in Spanish, German, and English—a practice which lasted thirty years, so that a new generation would have adequate time to learn English yet no excuse for not obeying the laws. In 1876 he was elected to the Colorado State Senate, representing Las Animas County, a post he held continuously through 1915. Along with Juan Antonio Baca, he was among the very first Hispanic senators in the state of Colorado and in 1886 he became the first Hispanic to run for a seat in the United States Senate.

Barela was one of Colorado’s most popular Democratic Party leaders. He served as President pro tem of the Senate in 1886 and again in 1901. During his tenure in the Colorado General Assembly, he served on several committees, including corporations, irrigation and agriculture, and accounts. The Biographical Compendium Of Colorado described him thus: “Mr. Barela is a man of keen perception and analytical mind, and one whose words are listened to with more than ordinary attention when he rises in his place to speak in the Senate. Although he speaks the English language with much difficulty, his ideas are always those of a close thinker.”

Senator Barela’s forbears can be traced to a party of seventy Spaniards that arrived in San Jose, California in 1777. Reputedly fleeing troubles with Indians in the region, they later moved to New Mexico. Senator Barela spent his childhood in Mora and was educated under the tutelage of Archbishop Salpointe, before moving to Colorado with his family in 1867 at the age twenty. They settled in the San Francisco Valley and became engaged in freighting and stock raising. In time, his stock ranch in Barela, twenty miles east of Trinidad, became noted as one of the state’s finest.

Senator Barela demonstrated a strong lifelong commitment to civic involvement and public service. He was a firm believer in education and used his two printing businesses to help educate his people. Las Dos Republicas served the Denver community, while El Progreso served the people of Las Animas County. He was a prominent attorney and for many years held the position of Consul at Denver for both Mexico and Costa Rica. He served Las Animas County in a variety of capacities during his lifetime: as justice of the peace (1869), sheriff (1874-1876), assessor (1871-1872), treasurer (1894), and judge. Additionally, he was named a delegate to several national conventions of the Democratic Party.
Roger Cisneros

Born 1924, Questa, New Mexico
Dates served in Colorado Legislature:
1965-1976 Senate

Roger Cisneros is often remembered for his lengthy service in the Colorado State Senate—1965-1976—during a contentious and tumultuous period in the history of our nation and state. Cisneros was the fifth child born to his Questa, New Mexico parents and began his education in a one-room schoolhouse. While for some this may have been a liability, he took the opportunity to learn from his older peers and indulge his passion for reading. With the dedicated support of his family behind him, he went on to graduate from Menaul High School in Santa Fe, earning honors in academics and athletics. During World War II he served in the Army Air Corps and was posted to Okinawa. Upon returning to Colorado, he earned a B.S. degree from the University of Denver in Business Administration and graduated the Westminster Law School in 1957, earning his Juris Doctorate Degree. Subsequently he started his own law practice in Denver.

With his election to the State Senate in 1965, Cisneros broke a thirty-year hiatus of Hispanics in that legislative body. During his twelve years in the Senate he focused on school financing, juvenile delinquency, pornography, job training, death penalty and abortion issues. He was also instrumental in crafting new bilingual education legislation and passing more stringent regulations for driving under the influence. During his tenure, he held committee appointments in appropriations, business affairs, local government, education, and judiciary.

Mr. Cisneros served on numerous commissions and committees including the 1972 Colorado Olympic Commission. He was the first president of the League of United Latin American Citizens, president of the Latin American Education Fund, chairman of the Denver Human Relations Commission, and member of the Colorado Civil Rights Commission, Mexican-American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Small Business Administration and Job Corps. He was appointed a Denver District Court Judge, serving from 1978 to 1986.

In a 1978 dinner honoring Cisneros the following words were spoken: “The name of Roger Cisneros stands for good judgment and wise decisions coupled with compassion for the poor and forgotten and with dedication to the cause of justice. In these traits lies the success of this modern-day Solomon who stands tall in the eyes of the community.” Indeed, Cisneros’ career was marked by a respect for the rule of law, initiation of reform from within institutions, and an open-minded evenhandedness.
Celestino Dominguez

Dates served in Colorado Legislature:
1864-1865 Territorial House

Celestino Dominguez holds somewhat of a special position in the history of the political development of the state of Colorado. Not only did he serve in the Territorial Council from 1864 to 1865 representing Conejos County, he also served as an interpreter for the Territorial House of Representatives and the Colorado Constitutional Convention from 1875 to 1876. Why was this so important? Dominguez provided a vital link between his monolingual Spanish speaking brethren and the majority of convention attendees. As such, he helped to see that the interests of Colorado’s Spanish speaking residents were represented in the crucial days when the state was first taking shape. The published *Proceedings of the Constitutional Convention for the State of Colorado* show that Dominguez was administered the oath as official interpreter to the convention. The record also shows that Dominguez was paid the humble sum of $7.00 a day for his interpreting services throughout the proceedings of the convention.

As the Constitution approached its final form, Dominguez considered his role as translator. The following note conveys the seriousness with which he approached his task:

*Denver, February 29, 1876*

**To the Honorable Chairman of the Committee on Printing of the Constitutional Convention:**

Sir—Having taken into consideration the matter of translating the Constitution of Colorado into Spanish language, beg leave to report that on account of there being no Spanish printer in the city an immense amount of labor and waste of time is occasioned to the translators after their literary work is done, and therefore we consider that to make a correct and creditable translation of the State paper in contemplation, to attend to the proofreading and revisions of the same in a proper manner, can not be done at a price of less than $2 page.

Very Respectfully,

C. Dominguez & A. R. Dyer

Dominguez demonstrated his advocacy and support for the Spanish speaking community in other ways. In 1872, he opened a class for the teaching of Spanish, urging the businessmen of Denver to take up the Spanish language. He remarked, “with Denver’s central position and her commanding and growing influence on the southern trade, it will be of great advantage to our businessmen to understand the Spanish language.” As a graduate of the Royal College of Barcelona, Spain, Dominguez was well qualified to take up this role. It also complemented his business interests—a monthly commercial report that he published in Spanish—and his regular advocacy on behalf of miners and support for the importation of experienced silver miners from Mexico to work in Colorado’s galena loads. Also of note, Dominguez was one of the first Hispanic incorporators and governors of the University of Colorado.
Celestino Jose Garcia

**Born 1861, Conejos County, Colorado**

**Dates served in Colorado Legislature:**
- 1893-1911 House
- 1915-1919 House

Celestino Garcia was a native Coloradan, growing up and spending most of his life in Conejos County. He was the third of eleven children in the family of Jose Victor Garcia. Educated in the English and Spanish schools of Conejos, Mr. Garcia was fully versed in both languages, enabling him to serve his community in a variety of posts throughout his life. (He acted as an interpreter for the Conejos County Commissioners from 1886 to 1892, an interpreter in the Senate in 1885, and an interpreter in the House in 1887.) He finished his schooling at the Jesuit College in Pueblo under Father Pinto, an early Colorado pioneer. Upon completion of his studies he moved to Alamosa, where he worked as a clerk for over ten years before returning to the livestock industry near Antonito. Being reared on the rough frontier, Mr. Garcia became familiar early in life with the particular needs and characteristics of his district. This fact coupled with the esteemed position of his father in state and local politics helped to launch the young man on his own career.

He commenced his political career as a page in the First General Assembly and held office almost continuously from that time through 1919. He was elected to the Ninth and Tenth General Assemblies as a Democrat and enjoyed the endorsement of all other parties. He returned to the Eleventh, Twelfth, Thirteenth and Fourteenth Assemblies as a Republican nominee and again received the endorsement of all other parties. As noted in the *Official Roster of the Fourteenth General Assembly of Colorado*, published in 1903:

> Mr. Garcia holds his seat in the legislature more by appointment than election as he is the unanimous choice of the people regard-

less of party affiliation; never, but one time has he received a dissenting vote. As a legislator he is aggressive and alert that no move of the opponent escapes him. Of strong personality, well grounded in parliamentary tactics he is thoroughly qualified to wield the gavel. He is one of the most influential members and that his ability and good judgment are recognized is evidenced by him being placed on the most important committees.

Mr. Garcia wielded much influence as chairman of the railroads and corporations and judiciary committees, among other appointments. He went on to serve as a Democrat and as a Republican in the House from 1915 to 1919 representing Conejos County, rounding out a career of twenty-two years in the Colorado General Assembly.
Jose Amarante Alejandro Garcia

Born 1858, Conejos, Colorado
Died 1918, Conejos, Colorado
Dates served in Colorado Legislature:
1881-1883 House

Jose A. Garcia, son of Jose Victor, brother of Celestino, first tested the waters of politics at the tender age of fifteen. It was at that age, while attending public school in the city of Denver, that the House of Representatives elected him as interpreter. He again fulfilled that role in 1877 for the Senate, but not before returning to Conejos County where he took up farming and ranching with his father. In 1881 he bought property of his own, which ultimately grew to a spread of some nine hundred acres on the Conejos River, where he engaged in the raising of both sheep and cattle.

In the same year he returned to the legislature. This time, however, he was representing Conejos and Costilla Counties on the Republican ticket. His legislative contributions dealt mainly with law enforcement, care of stock and agricultural matters. One term proved enough for the stockman and he returned to Conejos. In 1887 he continued his career of civil service as Conejos County Sheriff, a post which earned him much esteem and respect in the community for twenty years. Frances Harvey Mead, in her book entitled Conejos County described him thus: “He dealt out justice with boldness. Hanging horse thieves and outlaws was no problem to him! He was the sheriff officiating at the last hanging in Conejos County. From his first victory of winning the office of sheriff in 1887 to the last victory, he won easily.” It was said that Sheriff Garcia was very good at tracking down criminals. They rarely escaped the San Luis Valley if he went out after them. He died on August 17, 1918 while still in office.
Jose Victor Garcia

Born 1832, County of Taos, New Mexico
Died 1918

Dates served in Colorado Legislature:
1861-1864 Territorial Council
1867-1868 Territorial Council
1872-1874 Territorial Council

Jose Victor Garcia served as a Republican in the Territorial House from 1861 to 1864 as well as in the Territorial Council from 1872 to 1874, representing both Conejos and Costilla Counties. Interestingly, though a lifelong Republican, he also served as a Democrat from Conejos County from 1867-1868 in the Territorial House. Additionally, he served in the territorial legislature of New Mexico in 1859-1860, prior to the firm establishment of territorial lines between the two future states. In 1872, Governor McCook commissioned him as a brigadier-general of the Colorado National Guard, second division—the first Hispanic to take such a position in the state.

Mr. Garcia is considered one of the pioneers of Conejos County. He was born in 1832 in New Mexico, just forty miles north of Santa Fe, and traced his lineage to early Spanish settlers there. At the age of twenty-eight, he began to trade with Apache, Navajo and Ute Indians—a business he continued for seven years. Indeed, his familiarity with Indians at a young age may have been invaluable, as he and his family struggled to control a ranch of some 940 acres. Reports of his time indicate that early settlers faced significant peril. A biography written on Jose Victor Garcia found in the Walsenburg Library notes: “Indians were very troublesome. In 1858 the Utes destroyed his crops and killed five of his cows, while three years afterward the Arapahos killed thirteen of his cows; and at other times they destroyed other stock and valuable property.” Strangely enough, he is mentioned in Major Lafayette Head’s List of Indian Captives as having purchased three Indians: Maria Gertrudis, a Navajo, Maria also a Navajo and Jose Antonio, a Ute.

Mr. Garcia made a living ranching on the Conejos River, where he took a squatter’s claim on a section of government land. He was the first individual to appeal to the national government to have the San Luis Valley surveyed, which was done in 1861, and he appealed to Governor Gilpin in 1862 to have the line between New Mexico and Colorado firmly established. Among other roles, Jose Victor Garcia also served his community as justice of the peace and commissioner and inspector of roads for Conejos County.
Reginaldo Garcia

**Born 1888, Carnero, Saguache County, Colorado**  
**Dates served in Colorado Legislature:**  
**1927-1929 House**

Reginaldo Garcia represented the third generation from his family to serve in the Colorado General Assembly. His grandfather, Jose Victor Garcia, came to Colorado in 1853 and served nine years in the Territorial House and Territorial Council during the 1860’s and early 1870’s. His father, Jose A. Garcia, held the post of Conejos County sheriff for nineteen years and also served as a Republican in the House from 1881-1883. Thus, Reginaldo Garcia traced his roots to some of Colorado’s earliest pioneers and belonged to a family held in high esteem throughout the region.

He was educated in the public schools of Conejos and subsequently pursued a course of study at Barnes Business College on the Regis University campus. Upon completing his studies, he returned to Conejos County, where he pursued the raising of both sheep and cattle along the Conejos River. He served several terms as Secretary of the Conejos County Sheep Growers Association and served as Vice President of the Commercial State Bank of Antonito.

Mr. Garcia held a variety of public offices during his lifetime, including Conejos County Sheriff, Conejos County Judge, and County Treasurer, in which capacity he was reelected for several terms. Volume five of the *History of Colorado*, published in 1927, noted that he had made “a splendid record in that capacity.”

In 1926 he was elected as a Republican to serve in the House, representing Conejos County. In the twenty-sixth session of the Colorado General Assembly he was responsible for carrying House Bill No. 58—“an act relating to the drainage of the state lands and providing an appropriation to carry out the provisions hereof” *(House Journal of the General Assembly of the State of Colorado: Twenty-Sixth Session, page 1131)*. He also forwarded legislation for the maintenance of Pike Memorial Park and for the regulation of fish and game.
Juan Bautista Lobato

*Born 1833*
* Died 1872

**Dates served in Colorado Legislature:**
1867-1868 Territorial Council
1879-1881 House

Juan Bautista Lobato was one of the original settlers of Conejos County. The events of his life remind us of the difficulties and hardships endured by Colorado’s first pioneers. A cattle and sheep rancher by trade, Lobato was also responsible for establishing the first Pony Express route from southwestern Colorado to Denver—a route which he often rode himself. Evidently, this was not done without facing some personal peril, for he was known to carry the broken shafts of three Indian arrowheads in his body. According to the stories handed down, he often rode by night and slept by day to avoid Indian attack.

A 1989 article published by *Nuestras Raices*—*The Genealogical Society of Hispanic America* stated:

Juan Bautista was a colonel in the United States Reserve Forces. In 1864 he sued the United States because of his loss of 64 mares in an Indian raid by the Sioux Indians. Since the Indians were then wards of the United States other members of the family sued the United States Government for their losses of cattle and horses due to Indian raids. These cases are well known and are referred to as the Indian Depredation Cases which have been documented in a legal entry book and can be found at the National Archives in Washington.

The Lobato family, like many other Spanish/Mexican families, found themselves in a predicament as the western expansion of the United States led to conflict with Mexico. The Lobatos had much to lose, for they had an established holding of lands that stretched from the Arkansas Valley to northern New Mexico. After this land became incorporated into the Territory of Colorado, Juan Bautista attended the 1864 and 1865 sessions of the Territorial House on the Union Ticket, representing Conejos County. Aside from vainly fighting to see that the territory officially bear the name “Lobato”, he fought for the land rights of his constituents and introduced legislation that would lead to the formalization of the existing holdings of the original Spanish and Mexican settlers. Mr. Lobato served once again in the House as a Republican from 1879-1881.
Andres Lucero

Born 1857, Mora County, New Mexico
Died 1932, Trinidad, Colorado
Dates served in Colorado Legislature:
   1917-1919 House
   1922-1923 House
   1929-1933 House

Andres Lucero served as a Democrat in the House from 1917 to 1919, 1921 to 1923 and 1929 to 1933, representing Las Animas County. He was a native of Trinidad, Colorado, where he earned a living as a farmer. Thought little biographical data is extant on Mr. Lucero, we are able to make several deductions regarding his interests and accomplishments from examining the House Journals of the General Assembly, which record in detail the actions of our legislators during their tenure in office.

Mr. Lucero was a lifelong advocate of education in general, and higher education in particular. He was instrumental in introducing House Bill 181, a bill to establish the State Normal School near Trinidad (later known as Trinidad Junior College) and also House Bill 556, which was a bill for levying an annual tax, commencing in 1929 and continuing in the consecutive years, for the construction, purchase of equipment, furnishing, maintaining and repairing of buildings and grounds.

In the twenty-first session of the General Assembly, commencing in 1917, Mr. Lucero introduced House Bill No. 371, which concerned the regulation of the sale, distribution and use of “cannabis indica”, or marijuana, that it might be added to other opiates and derivatives of cocoa leaves in the list of regulated substances. This bill was passed without opposition, indicating that it addressed a concern widely perceived as important to the health and welfare to Colorado citizens. Perhaps influenced by the events of the Great Depression which had begun two years earlier, Mr. Lucero also introduced legislation that required the making of provisions for persons who were both aged and indigent, so that they might be properly and humanely cared for despite their individual circumstances and the desperate state of the national and state economies.
Jose Miguel Madrid

Born 1863, Mora County, New Mexico
Died 1944, Trinidad, Colorado
Dates served in Colorado Legislature:
1902 House
1903-1905 Senate
1932-1936 Senate

Born in Mora County, New Mexico, Jose Miguel Madrid first came to Colorado when barely a child of one year’s age. His father moved to join his brother’s family, who had established the flourishing settlement known as Madrid Plaza on the Purgatory River, eight miles west of Trinidad. He was educated in a one-room schoolhouse there until the age of thirteen, when his family moved back to New Mexico. After attending private school for about three years, he took the teacher’s examination and secured his certificate. When not in school, Madrid engaged in freighting, transporting goods over the old Santa Fe Trail through Willow Springs, New Mexico to Puerto de Luna or Las Vegas, then through the “Uncle Dick” Wooton tollgate to Trinidad and El Moro. It was an exciting and colorful life for a young man, as he drove slow moving teams of two and four oxen on treks lasting as long as four weeks across the old frontier.

Madrid taught for five years until he was nominated Colfax County School Superintendent in New Mexico. When offered a teaching position in Colorado, he moved back to Madrid Plaza, where for twelve years he taught from 45-67 children in the very room where he received his early education. At this time, he also acted as a court interpreter under Jesse G. Northcutt, Third Judicial District Judge in Trinidad.

J.M. Madrid was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives in 1902 representing Las Animas County. In 1904 he moved to the post of Las Animas County Superintendent of Schools—a post he held for eight years. In 1903 he returned to the Colorado General Assembly as a Republican senator. The Official Roster of the Fourteenth General Assembly of Colorado, 1903 promised “he will champion the cause for which he has devoted much of his life, believing that the more thorough and comprehensive the education of the present generation, the more progressive the future of the state.” In 1913 he retired from public life and opened a real estate and insurance office in Trinidad, which flourished through a repeat term as Republican senator from 1932-1936.
Jose Eliseo Martinez

Born 1899, Weston, Colorado
Dates served in Colorado Legislature:
1929-1933 Senate

Jose Eliseo Martinez, represented Las Animas County as a Democrat in the Senate from 1925 to 1933. Though his tenure in that body was not lengthy, he left a lasting mark in two terms. In 1927, he was nominated to be the first Hispanic Speaker of the House for the State of Colorado, but lost to Mr. John A. Holmburg by a vote of 43 to 22. Mr. Martinez was also given a commendation for the passage of the bill establishing Trinidad Junior College on April 20, 1925. His legislation passed on the third reading by a vote of 37 to 21, demonstrating the legislator’s skill at working both sides of the aisle. The measure carried an appropriation of $2,500 to cover preliminary costs associated with developing the educational institution in Trinidad. However, this was but the beginning of a long and uphill battle to break the funding monopoly held by the “Education Bloc,” a powerful lobbying group of the four large northern universities that controlled the state Republican Party and thereby the appropriation of moneys for the state’s northern colleges. Mr. Martinez argued vehemently and tirelessly for the establishment of Trinidad Junior College “so that the Americans of Spanish surnames can be educated.” Two years later he fought for additional appropriations of $75,000 so that the work of building a college could begin in earnest, and though defeated, his diligence and persistence inspired others to take up the ultimately winning cause.

Mr. Martinez carried another important bill in the Twenty-Sixth General Assembly. This concerned the repeal of the “Ranger Law,” which had established a state police force in the shadow of World War I. Inadvertently, and against the intentions of the original legislation, a military force was created that was often used to break strikes and fight unionizing efforts, a key constituency of Mr. Martinez’s district. Though he faced significant opposition from the Klan-dominated Republican Party, he was successful in his effort and the Colorado Rangers were disbanded. Through his rigorous training in law at the University of Colorado and service to the country in World War I, he forged a determination and character capable of fighting consistently for civil rights, education, labor reform and veterans’ rights.
Juan de Dios Montez

Born 1851, Taos, New Mexico
Died 1938
Dates served in Colorado Legislature:
1887-1891 Senate
1897-1899 House

Juan de Dios Montez traced his roots to a poor New Mexican farming and ranching family that was among the first to settle that state. When he was approximately six years old, he moved with his family to Costilla County, Colorado, and finally settled in Huerfano Canyon in the county of the same name. He received a public school education in his native language of Spanish, while simultaneously learning and mastering English through self-study.

Mr. Montez was unable to overcome serious Democratic opposition for county posts as assessor and sheriff, but ultimately won his way to the Colorado State Senate in 1886 as a Republican. He was defeated for reelection, but secured the post of County Commissioner in 1891—a post which he held until 1904, and returned to the House again as a Republican from 1897-1899. During his tenure, he submitted several bills for road improvement in the county, while his secondary focus remained education. He went on to serve as county clerk and recorder from 1905 to 1912.

Mr. Montez’s primary business was in raising stock on his substantial farm, but he also conducted a general store. Both operations were highly successful and enabled him to enjoy some material comforts. He was highly regarded by his constituents as someone who had risen from a very humble beginning to the heights of success through his own determination and hard work. He was a politician who managed to stay above the fray, maintaining both his independence and convictions. In the January 1, 1903 edition of the Walsenburg World he was described thus:

When he enters its [the county’s] political councils his words are heeded by American political managers. His manners are suave and courteous. There is nothing of the political swaggerer about him. He is a fine speaker in his native tongue and in English presents his views in a concise and effective way. Though violently opposed one time, he today controls the Mexican people and has the confidence and respect of all who know him.
Francisco “Paco” Sanchez

Born 1915, Guadalajara, Mexico
Died 1973, Denver, Colorado
Dates served in Colorado Legislature: 1969-1971 House

Paco Sanchez exemplifies those Mexican immigrants who become productive citizens of the United States through hard work and personal initiative. Perhaps remembering the difficulties of coming to this country and not speaking English, Sanchez made every effort to communicate with the Spanish-speaking community over the airwaves. Loyal listeners enjoyed his broadcasts made up of equal parts folk humor and self-help advice. He started in 1949 with a weekly half-hour-Spanish program on KTLN, an English-language radio station. In 1954 Sanchez gave Hispanics their own broadcast voice through the first Hispanic-owned radio station in Colorado, KFSC AM. Many Hispanic radio broadcasters in Colorado got their start with Paco Sanchez including Andres Neidig, owner of KJME in Denver; Veronica Sanchez, Paco’s daughter who owns KVVS radio in Windsor; and the late George Sandoval, who went on to work in television.

Mr. Sanchez’s on-air popularity probably made possible his election to the House of Representatives in 1969. He served the Seventh District in Denver County as a Democrat through 1971, taking up membership on the agriculture and livestock, health, welfare, and institutions, and labor and employment relations committees.

Sanchez built an extensive commercial and entertainment network based in the Hispanic community. It included the radio station, a 200-unit, low-income and senior’s housing project, Coronado National Bank and the Good Americans Organization—an entertainment and social service organization. Mr. Sanchez also served the community as a member of the Denver Urban Renewal Authority and as a director of the Balarat Center for Environmental Study.

In a hotly contested reelection bid he voiced strong concern over the neglect of low-income families and pledged to work on a number of public welfare issues. However, when his radio station was attacked with Molotov cocktails, he withdrew his candidacy, leaving Betty Benavidez to take the top line designation in the Democratic primary.
Agapito Vigil

Born 1833, Taos County, New Mexico
Dates served in Colorado Legislature:
1874-1876 Colorado Constitutional Convention
1876 House

Agapito Vigil was a native of New Mexico, where he received his introduction to political office by representing Mora County in the Territorial Assembly of 1859. Though he only possessed a common school education and spoke little English, this was but the beginning of his career, for he went on to serve as Mora County Justice of the Peace as well.

In 1870 he moved to Las Animas County, Colorado, where he worked as a stock raiser and farmer. From 1872-1873 he served the community as county assessor. In 1875 and 1876 he attended all but seven sessions of the Colorado Constitutional Convention, representing the counties of Huerfano and Las Animas as a Democrat. In so doing, he became one of only three Hispanics to serve at the Colorado Constitutional Convention. He signed the Colorado Constitution by proxy.

In 1876 he was elected to the First Session of the Colorado General Assembly, representing a united district made up of Huerfano and Las Animas Counties. Vigil enjoyed a substantial margin of victory over his Democratic opponent, Gerald Austin, winning with 342 over 198 votes. Vigil had great influence in the Hispanic community and vigorously represented the interests of his constituents, especially in the areas of civil and religious liberty and other inalienable rights. Due to his limited proficiency in English, his committee participation was limited to the one that prepared the rights of suffrage. That did not prevent him, however, from making a lasting and courageous statement. He and H. P. H. Bromwell are the only legislators to sign the Minority Report of the Committee on Suffrage, which advocated for women’s voting rights. In part, that report stated:

It is false that Woman is inferior to Man. This capacity of Woman to govern has been shown. There is hardly a kingdom or empire…which does not point out to a reign when the scepter was held by women in war or in peace. The truth is we are a human race. Part of us are men, part of us are women; both equal, each superior, and each inferior; each is part and parcel of the same humanity.
Section IV

A Short History of the Hispanic Experience in Colorado from the First Settlers to the Present
A Short History of the Hispanic Experience in Colorado from the First Settlers to the Present

Written by Jose Aguayo, Executive Director
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Edited by Steve Garner, Polyglot, Inc.

April 2003
A Snapshot in Time: The Barela Ranch at Rivera, Colorado

Photographs of the ranch and home of Casimiro and Damiana Rivera Barela from the early 1900’s bring alive the life and times of one of Colorado’s longest-serving and most respected legislators. Six miles east of Trinidad, the Colorado and Southern Railroad stopped at the Rivera Ranch station. Senator Barela named the ranch Rivera after his wife’s family. The September 18, 1917 issue of the Evening Picketwire describes the ranch in an article about the Barela’s offer to donate it to the Little Sisters of the Poor, a Catholic order of nuns. “Mrs. Barela and I could give money to charity,” said the Senator, “but we would rather give this home, the work of our own hands.” They envisioned the ranch, then valued at $50,000, as a home for the aged. The newspaper notes that the ten-room main house and a seven-room addition would be ideal for this purpose.

Built in the old Spanish style, almost every room had a fireplace and a separate entrance from glass-enclosed porches on the north and south sides. The ranch had its own generating plant that supplied electricity to power up to fifty lights, including two large post lamps illuminating the concrete walks leading from the railroad station to the house. In this and other respects, Casimiro Barela was something of an innovator. He used concrete for many purposes including the construction of ranch buildings, water tanks, and lining irrigation ditches that fed the surrounding alfalfa fields with a regular supply of water. Señora Barela added beauty to the ranch grounds by landscaping with various types of flowers, trees, and flowering bushes.

1780-1846: The First Hispanic Settlers in Colorado

Not all of Colorado’s Hispanic settlers were as wealthy as Casimiro Barela, but others who were elected to the early territorial and state legislatures were prosperous landowners, ranchers, and merchants.

As early as the 1780s, Hispanics from northern New Mexico tried to settle the San Luis Valley in Southern Colorado. Ute Indian raids made permanent settlement impossible until the 1830s when the region was under Mexican control. To encourage settlement, the Mexican government granted large sections of land to individuals and families. Hispanic settlers occupied the Maxwell-Beaubien, Miranda, Sangre de Cristo, Conejos, and other land grants to establish towns like San Luis, Costilla, La Plaza de los Manzanarez, San
Acacio, Chama Guadalupe, and Los Sauses. By the early 1860s, Hispanics settled the Arkansas and Purgatory River valleys as well.

1846-1861: Land, Religion, and Civil Rights in the Mexican War Era

Anglo-Americans expanding westward saw opportunity in the large land grants used by Hispanics for stock raising and agriculture. Contact brought conflict as the United States went to war against Mexico in 1846. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo ended the Mexican War in 1848 and transferred nearly half of Mexico’s land to the victorious Americans, including the present-day states of California, Nevada, Utah, most of Arizona and New Mexico, and parts of Colorado, Wyoming, Kansas, and Oklahoma.

The new national borders set by the treaty cut off thousands of Hispanics from their native land. By staying in what was now part of the United States, they became citizens and received assurances that their personal and property rights would be respected. The opposite was true, as most land grants were reduced or lost. Still, some Hispanics prospered as they adapted to new laws and a different system of government. When Colorado became a territory in 1861, Hispanics were elected to serve in the first territorial legislative assemblies, the Colorado Territorial House and the Colorado Territorial Council.

1861-1876: Maintaining Land Rights and Culture Under Pressure from Anglo Settlers

Drawn by the allure of wide open spaces, land for the taking, and mineral riches, European settlers flocked to the American West in the years from 1850-1890, but especially after 1870. This brought additional pressure to bear on Hispanic settlers already in place, who had in many cases become an insular, marginalized group. Anglo-Americans were often disdainful of the Mexican system of property laws, which tended to be less formal, and ousted many Hispanics from some of the better lands. Here the Spanish-Mexican tradition of subordinating individual rights to the general good of the community and the reliance upon binding verbal agreements and long-standing traditions clashed with and lost against the “rugged individualism” of the new Anglo settlers.

Since such important issues were at stake, Hispanic representation in the Territorial assemblies was crucial to buffering the pressures and dangers brought by European settlement. Between 1861 and 1876, thirty-eight Hispanics served
in either house of the state assembly. Agapito Vigil was one of three Hispanics who had a hand in drafting the state constitution. His regular participation in the Colorado Constitutional Convention is no less remarkable for his reliance on an interpreter, as he did not speak English. Vigil was well known and respected for his vigorous advocacy for civil and religious liberties and actively fought in the drive for women’s suffrage. At the same time, Territorial Council representative Celestino Dominguez played an instrumental role in getting session laws and proceedings printed in Spanish so that they would be intelligible to the broader Hispanic community.

1876-1920’s: Land Rights and the Interests of Mexican Immigrants

After the turn of the century (1900), Hispanics displaced from their land became increasingly dependent on wage labor. Some herded sheep where once they owned them. They left the security of extended family *placitas* and went to live in the company coal mining towns of southern Colorado and the agricultural towns along the Platte and Arkansas Rivers.

Still, there were not enough laborers to meet the need of agriculture, mining, and railroad industries for cheap labor as post World War I prices fell. Company agents recruited workers throughout the Southwestern United States and across the border, hiring Mexicans fleeing the terror of a bloody revolution.

As the number of Hispanic representatives and senators dwindled, Hispanic influence in the legislature declined. The *Ku Klux Klan* heavily influenced Colorado government in the early 1920s, as it spread in popularity and strength across the country in the years of political, economic and social unrest following World War I. Hispanics increasingly relied on *mutualista* organizations for protection and support services. Hispanics called on the *Sociedad Proteccion Mutua de Trabajadores Unidos* (S.P.M.D.T.U.) for help to fight discrimination. In small communities *Penitente* (Fraternidad de Nuestro Padre Jesus Nazareno) chapters looked after the welfare of members. Mexicans formed organizations like the Beetworkers Association of Northern Colorado to protest low wages and unfair labor practices. The Mexican Consulate urged the forming of *Comisiones Honorificas* to encourage unity and preserve Mexican culture.

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**Placitas** are small communities of interconnected and extended families.

The *Ku Klux Klan*, originally formed by ex-confederate soldiers in 1867, advocated white, Protestant supremacy. While originating in the south, it grew in popularity around the country after WWI, reaching a peak membership of three million in 1924.

- **Mutualista Organizations** - fraternal organizations
- **S.P.M.D.T.U.** - United Workers’ Mutual Protection Society
- **Penitente Chapters** - religious organizations
- **Fraternidad de Nuestro Padre Jesus Nazareno** - Fraternity of Our Father Jesus of Nazareth
- **Comisiones Honorificas** - honorary committees
Notable achievements by Hispanic legislators included Andres Lucero’s participation in establishing Trinidad State Junior college and the nomination of Jose Eliseo Martinez as the first Hispanic Speaker of the House.

Thousands of Mexican immigrants fleeing the 1910-1920 revolution in Mexico came to the United States to work for sugar companies and the railroads. Some returned to Mexico each year after the fall harvest of sugar beets. Others stayed, put down roots, and joined Hispanics from Southern Colorado and New Mexico in the small communities along the Arkansas and South Platte Rivers. Later, some moved to Colorado cities to establish neighborhoods with others of like background. Their children attended public schools where they were not always welcome, even segregated. Still, generation by generation, they progressed. They became educators, business and health professionals, attorneys, artists, writers, government officials and legislators.

**The 1920’s-1950: Fighting Wars at Home and Abroad**

Upon arrival in Colorado, Mexican immigrants needed to learn English, a different system of government, and a new way of doing business. Those who adapted quickly served as liaison between newer arrivals and the Mexican Consulate. They guarded against employer fraud in the fields and provided education about civil rights. Relatives in Mexico could be contacted through them in times of crisis. Annual festivals they coordinated helped maintain cultural ties.

During the 1930s Depression years, Mexican workers were seen as threats to unemployed Americans desperate for jobs. The United States Congress passed an “anti-alien” law requiring foreign-born residents of the country to become citizens or face deportation. Thousands of Mexicans returned to their homeland voluntarily or forcibly.

On April 21, 1936, Colorado’s governor ordered the National Guard to seal off the southern border of the State to immigrants who could not prove that they had a job or cash. It made no difference whether one was a newly arriving Mexican or a New Mexican Hispanic with ancestors living in the United States for generations. However, the border closing lasted only a few days because sugar companies and railroads protested the scarcity of available laborers. Colorado’s employment office could not find Anglo-Americans willing to do the backbreaking,
low-paid work done by Mexicans and Hispanics. New Mexico’s governor also threatened to turn back Colorado products in retaliation for the border closing.

In the 1930s and 1940s many Hispanics moved from rural areas to the cities. Hispanic neighborhoods sprang up in Denver, Pueblo, Greeley, and Ft. Collins, but were not yet able to forward representation from their own ranks. Only one Hispanic served in the Colorado Legislature from 1946 to 1953. The 1953 election of Juan Carillo from Las Animas County to the House of Representatives ended a seven-year break in Hispanic legislative continuity.

Hispanics in the 1940s and 1950s straddled two worlds. Some tried to become “American” as much as possible. Others continued to speak Spanish at home and strove to preserve their native culture. In rural Colorado, the ranks of permanent Hispanic residents thinned. Many moved to the cities, living in neighborhoods like Auraria, in Denver’s near Westside. Here Hispanics lived among people like themselves, worshipped at Saint Cajetan Catholic Church and often attended catholic schools, including Saint Joseph’s Annunciation and Presentation.

1950-Present: Community Organizing and the Chicano Movement

Using the G.I. Bill, more Hispanics attended universities. They also formed local chapters of the American G.I. Forum and League of United Latin American Citizens (L.U.L.A.C.) to promote education, political action, and civil rights. In some ways, better education divided the Hispanic community. Those who advanced in the societal structure sometimes distanced themselves from Hispanics in lower economic classes and more recent arrivals from Mexico.

Anglo-Americans, however, saw no difference. A Daughters of the American Revolution (D.A.R.) official in Denver refused to allow “Mexican” boys to carry the flag in patriotic pageants. Hispanics growing up in Ft. Collins remember signs in store windows stating, “We Cater to the White Trade.” A Mexican living in Northeastern Colorado since the 1920s fought unsuccessfully to purchase a grave site in the section of a cemetery unofficially designated for the Anglo-American community only. Until his death, he resented the fact that discrimination continued beyond the grave.

Anti-war protests and civil rights demonstrations of the 1960s and 1970s revealed the potential power of an organized Hispanic community. During this
period, young Hispanics revived “Chicano“ as a self-identification term expressing pride in their Mexican-Indian heritage. Affirmative action programs produced greater numbers of college educated Chicanos. Together with activists across the nation, Chicanos challenged established political parties and traditional government. New political parties emerged, including the New Hispanic Party and La Raza Unida which fielded candidates for statewide office in Colorado.

Still, the greatest political successes for Hispanics came to those running for office as Democrats. In 1965, Roger Cisneros was the first Hispanic senator elected in more than thirty years. Popular radio station owner Paco Sanchez was elected to the House of Representatives in 1969. Migrant worker advocate Betty Benavidez was the first Latina elected to the Colorado Legislature. At 25, Richard Castro was the youngest Hispanic elected to the House of Representatives. Ruben Valdez was the first Hispanic to serve as Speaker of the House of Representatives. Polly Baca served first in the House, then the Senate, and finally as Rocky Mountain Director of the Federal General Services Administration. Representative Federico Peña went on to become Mayor of Denver and then Secretary of Transportation in the Clinton Administration.

At one time there were nine Hispanics serving at the same time in the Colorado Legislature, more than when Hispanics were heavily represented in early State government. The same issues, however, persist now as then. Present day Hispanic legislators, like their predecessors, struggle for land ownership in the San Luis Valley, for bilingual education, against discrimination, for equal opportunity, and especially for recognition of the important role Hispanics played in the history of Colorado.
Section V

Colorado State Archives:
Colorado History Chronology
COLORADO STATE ARCHIVES:
Colorado History Chronology

Curtis Street, Denver, Colorado (From the CSA Postcard Collection)

Source: www.archives.state.co.us/archist.html
The following chronology describes events of Colorado’s prehistory, early history and events up to WWII. It is mostly excerpted from archival records of the State Planning Commission’s Colorado Year Book, 1959-1961.

A.D. 1 to 1299 A.D Advent of great Prehistoric Cliff Dwelling Civilization in the Mesa Verde region.

1276 to 1299 A.D. A great drought and/or pressure from nomadic tribes forced the Cliff Dwellers to abandon their Mesa Verde homes.

c. 1500 A.D. Ute Indians inhabit mountain areas of southern Rocky Mountains making these Native Americans the oldest continuous residents of Colorado.

1541 A.D. Coronado, famed Spanish explorer, may have crossed the southeastern corner of present Colorado on his return march to Mexico after vain hunt for the golden Seven Cities of Cibola.

1682 A.D. Explorer La Salle appropriates for France all of the area now known as Colorado east of the Rocky Mountains.

1765 A.D. Juan Maria Rivera leads Spanish expedition into San Juan and Sangre de Cristo Mountains in search of gold and silver.

1776 A.D. Friars Escalante and Dominguez seeking route from Santa Fe to California missions, traverse what is now western Colorado as far north as the White River in Rio Blanco County.

1803 A.D. Through the Louisiana Purchase, signed by President Thomas Jefferson, the United States acquires a vast area which included what is now most of eastern Colorado. While the United States lays claim to this vast territory, Native Americans have resided here for hundreds of years.

1806 A.D. Lieutenant Zebulon M. Pike and small party of U.S. soldiers sent to explore southwestern boundary of Louisiana Purchase; discovers peak that bears his name, but fails in effort to climb it; reaches headwaters of Arkansas River near Leadville.

1807 A.D. Pike crosses Sangre de Cristo Mountains to Conejos River in San Luis Valley and builds Pike’s Stockade; placed under nominal arrest by Spanish authorities and taken to Santa Fe; later, he and his men are released.

1820 A.D. Numerous Native American tribes live in the Colorado area. The Utes live in the mountains, the Cheyenne and Arapahoe reside on the plains from the Arkansas to the Platte rivers, and the Kiowas and Comanches live south of the Arkansas River. The Pawnee tribe hunts buffalo along the Republican River and the Sioux sometimes hunt in the outskirts of the Cheyenne and Arapahoe lands.
1820 A.D. Major Stephen H. Long is sent by President Monroe to explore southwestern boundary of the Louisiana Purchase. Long’s party came up the South Platte River. Long’s Peak named for him. Dr. Edwin James, historian of Long’s expedition, leads first recorded ascent of Pike’s Peak. James Peak, west of Denver, named for him.


1832 A.D. Bent’s Fort, one of the most important trading posts in the West, is built by the Bents and St. Vrain near present city of La Junta.

1836 A.D. Texas becomes independent republic and claims narrow strip of mountain territory extending northward through Colorado to 42nd parallel.

Early 1840's A.D. Mexico granted lands to the wealthy, south of the Arkansas Valley and in the San Luis Valley hoping to secure claims against Texas or America.

1842 A.D. Lieutenant John C. Fremont undertakes first of his five exploration trips into Rocky Mountains. His last expedition, in 1853, took him through the San Luis Valley and into the Gunnison River country.

1846 A.D. General Stephen W. Kearney leads Army of the West along Santa Fe Trail through southeastern Colorado en route to conquest of New Mexico during Mexican War.

1848 A.D. By Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, Mexico cedes to United States most of that part of Colorado not acquired by Louisiana Purchase.

1850 A.D. Federal Government purchases Texas’ claims in Colorado, and present boundaries of Colorado established.

1851 A.D. First permanent non-Indian settlement in Colorado is founded at Conejos in San Luis Valley; irrigation is begun; Fort Massachusetts established in San Luis Valley to protect settlers from Indians who believe that the non-Indians are encroaching on their land.

1853 A.D. Captain John W. Gunnison leads exploring party across southern and western Colorado. Gunnison named for him. Fremont’s last expedition, seeking feasible railroad route through mountains, follows Gunnison’s route.

1854 A.D. Treaties with Native American groups prove unsatisfactory which results in conflict as the Utes kill fifteen inhabitants of Fort Pueblo on Christmas Day.

1858 A.D. Green Russell’s discovery of small placer gold deposits near confluence of South Platte River and Cherry Creek, precipitates gold rush from the East and “Pikes Peak or Bust” slogan. Montana City, St. Charles, Auraria, and Denver City are founded on present site of Denver. Novem-
ber 6, two hundred men meet here to organize County of Arapahoe, Kansas Territory. Pueblo founded as Fountain City.

1859 A.D. Gold is found by George A. Jackson along Chicago Creek on present site of Idaho Springs. March 9, first stagecoach with mail for Cherry Creek settlements leaves Leavenworth, Kansas. April 23, first newspaper in the region, the Rocky Mountain News, is published by William N. Byers. May 6, John Gregory makes famous gold-lode strike on North Clear Creek, stimulating rush of prospectors, who establish camps of Black Hawk, Central City and Nevadaville. October 3, O.J. Goldrick opens first school, at Auraria. Jefferson Territory is organized without sanction of Congress to govern gold camps; officers are elected. Prospectors spread through mountains and establish camps at Boulder, Colorado City, Gold Hill, Hamilton, Tarryall, and Pueblo.

1860 A.D. Rich placer discoveries cause stampede of miners to California Gulch on present site of Leadville. First schoolhouse is built at Boulder. Region continues to be administered variously by Jefferson Territory officials, and Miners’ and People’s Courts.

1861 A.D. Congress establishes Colorado Territory with boundaries of present state; President Lincoln appoints William Gilpin as first Territorial governor. July, Supreme Court is organized and Congressional delegates chosen. September, first assembly meets, creates 17 counties, authorizes university, and selects Colorado City as Territorial capitol. Manufacture of mining machinery begins. The population of the Colorado Territory is 25,371.

1862 A.D. Colorado troops aid in defeating Confederate General Henry H. Sibley’s Army at La Glorieta Pass, New Mexico. Second Territorial Legislature meets for a few days at Colorado City, adjourns to Denver, and selects Golden as the new capitol. First tax-supported schools are established. First oil well drilled near Florence.

1863 A.D. Telegraph line links Denver with East; ten words to New York cost $9.10. Plains Indians attempt to drive white intruders from their hunting lands on the Eastern slopes.

1864 A.D. Tension between non-Indians and the Native American tribes escalates. The massacre (Sand Creek Massacre) of Native American men, women and children in a Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indian encampment by soldiers and settlers stirs Native Americans to fresh violence and overland trails are often closed. Fort Sedgwick is established near Julesburg. Camp Collins established to protect travelers on Overland Trail. Later became Fort Collins. Colorado Seminary (now University of Denver) is chartered; Sisters of Loretto open academy.

1865 A.D. Indian attacks along trails reach highest intensity; food is scarce for settlers and prices high; potatoes bring $15 a bushel and flour costs $40 per 100 pounds. Fort Morgan established for protection against Indians.

1867 A.D. Denver established as permanent seat of government by territorial legislature meeting in Golden. Golden Transcript established by George West.

1868 A.D. Nathaniel Hill erects first smelter in Colorado, at Blackhawk, inaugurating era of hard-
rock mining. Cheyenne Indians disastrously defeated at Beecher Island near present site of Wray. **The Pueblo Chieftain** established by Dr. M. Beshoar at Pueblo.

1869 A.D. The final military engagement between whites and plains Indians in the eastern part of the territory took place at Summit Springs.

1870 A.D. Denver and Pacific Railroad is constructed to connect Denver with Union Pacific at Cheyenne, Wyoming; the Kansas Pacific enters Colorado from Missouri River. Union Colony is established by Horace Greeley and Nathan C. Meeker at Greeley, and first irrigation canal surveyed there. The Greeley Tribune established. Population of Colorado territory 39,864.


1872 A.D. Blackhawk and Central City are connected with Denver by railroad; Denver and Rio Grande reaches Pueblo. Agricultural settlements established throughout South Platte Valley. Out West, later the Colorado Springs Gazette, was established. This year signals an end to the major use of the “Mountain Branch” of the Santa Fe Trail.

1874 A.D. Colorado College is founded at Colorado Springs; territorial legislature appropriates $15,000 for University of Colorado at Boulder, on condition that equal sum is raised by that city. W.H. Jackson, famous photographer of the Hayden Geological Survey, notes ruins of ancient cliff dwellings along the canyon on Mancos River.

1875 A.D. Lead carbonate ores, rich in silver, are found near present site of Leadville. Constitutional Convention of 38 members holds first meeting.

1876 A.D. Colorado is admitted to Union as 38th State; John L. Routt is elected first governor. Greeley’s first industry, the tanning of buffalo hides, turns out 12 robes a day.

1877 A.D. University of Colorado opens classes at Boulder, with two teachers and 44 students. State Board of Agriculture is created to develop Agricultural College at Fort Collins.

1878 A.D. Leadville is incorporated; rich silver strikes on Iron, Carbonate, and Fryer hills soon make it one of the world’s greatest mining camps. Central City opera house opens. First telephones are installed in Denver.

1879 A.D. Colorado College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts offers instruction at Fort Collins. Nathan C. Meeker, Indian Agent on White River (near Meeker) and several employees are slain in Ute uprising. Major Thornburg and half of his command of 160 soldiers killed in effort to give protection to Meeker. Utes defeated.

1881 A.D. Ute tribes are removed onto reservations. Grand Junction is founded. Small quantities of carnottite are found in western Colorado along with gold; later, this mineral is found to contain radium. Tabor Opera House opens in Denver, built by H.A.W. Tabor, famous Leadville capitalist.

1882 A.D. Steel is milled in Pueblo from Colorado ores. Company later becomes Colorado Fuel and Iron Company.

1883 A.D. Narrow gauge line of Denver & Rio Grange is completed from Gunnison to Grand Junction. First electric lights are installed in Denver.

1886 A.D. The Steamboat Pilot established at Steamboat Springs. Charles H. Leckenby becomes owner and publisher, 1893. Denver Union Stockyards are established, later becoming largest receiving market for sheep in the nation. Town of Lamar is founded. The last public hanging in Denver occurred when Andrew Green was executed for the murder of streetcar driver, Joseph Whitnah.

1888 A.D. Band of Utes from Utah under Colorow make last Indian raid into Colorado; they are defeated and returned to the reservation. Union Colony at Greeley completes 900,000 acre irrigation project. Cliff Palace ruins, in what is now Mesa Verde National Park, discovered by two cowboys.

1890 A.D. Passage of Sherman Silver Purchase Act raises price of silver to more than $1.00 an ounce. New rich silver strikes are made along Rio Grande and Creede is founded. July 4, cornerstone of State Capitol at Denver is laid. October 3, first building of the State Normal School (now University of Northern Colorado) at Greeley is occupied. Population of state, 413,249. Boulder Daily Camera established by L.C. Paddock.

1891 A.D. Robert Womack’s discoveries open great gold field of Cripple Creek. First national forest reserve in Colorado is set aside - White River Forest in Meeker area. Pike’s Peak cog railroad begins operation.


1894 A.D. State Capitol is completed at a cost of $2,500,000. Colorado is second state in the nation to extend suffrage to women, following the precedent set by Wyoming.

1899 A.D. First beet sugar refinery is built at Grand Junction.

1900 A.D. Gold production reaches peak of more than $20,000,000 annually at Cripple Creek, the second richest gold camp in the world. Population of State, 539,700.

1903 A.D. With Ben B. Lindsey as Judge, Denver Juvenile Court opens - the first such court in the United States.

1903 A.D. Mine, mill and smelter workers strike in many camps for higher wages and better working conditions; at Cripple Creek, strike results in much property damage and loss of life; all strike objectives in gold field are lost. Uncompahgre irrigation project, first federal government reclamation project in Colorado, is authorized.

1905 A.D. Colorado has 3 governors in one day in a political squabble. First, Alva Adams, then James H. Peabody, and finally Jesse F. McDonald. Construction of the six mile Gunnison water tunnel started by Bureau of Reclamation.

1906 A.D. United States Mint, Denver, issues first coins. March 12, National Western Stock Show is born with chartering of Western Stock Show Association following successful showing of about 60 head of cattle and horses and a few sheep and hogs in makeshift tent at Stockyards. July 29, Mesa Verde national Park is created by Congress.

1908 A.D. July 7, Denver municipal Auditorium, seating 12,500, is completed in time for the Democratic National Convention, when William Jennings Bryan was nominated the third time for President. August 1, Colorado Day is first celebrated, marking thirty-second anniversary of State’s admittance to Union. Dome of the State Capitol is plated with gold leaf at a cost of $14,680.

1909 A.D. Colorado attains first rank among states in irrigation area with 2,790,000 acres under irrigation. Gunnison water tunnel completed by Reclamation Service and opened, on September 23, by President William Howard Taft at the tunnel site. Western State Teachers College opens at Gunnison.

1910 A.D. Population of State, 799,024. Number of farms, 46,170. Colorado voters adopt a constitutional amendment giving to the people the right of the initiative and referendum. May 8, first long distance phone call made from Denver to New York City. First airplane flight in Denver.

1911 A.D. Colorado National Monument west of Grand Junction, created by Presidential order.

1913 A.D. State Tax Commission created by Legislature. Assessed value of Colorado property for tax purposes set at $1,306,536,692. The “Big Snow of 1913” covers Colorado to a depth of 3 - 5 feet; transportation paralyzed for weeks. State begins licensing autos for the first time.

1914 A.D. Strike of coal miners in southern Colorado fields is climaxed by “Battle of Ludlow” near Trinidad; several men, women and children killed during hostilities between miners and the State militia. August: WWI begins.

1915 A.D. Worker’s compensation measures are passed: State Industrial Commission is created. Rocky Mountain National Park created by Congress. Toll road for auto travel to top of Pikes Peak built by Spencer Penrose. Construction of Broadmoor Hotel at Colorado Springs started.

1916 A.D. Colorado adopts prohibition. Emily Griffith Opportunity School is opened in Denver. Mining of tungsten causes flurry in Boulder-Nederland area.
1917 A.D. April 6: Congress declares war on Germany and many Coloradans volunteer for service. Colorado reaches maximum mineral production, more then $80,000,000. William F. “Buffalo Bill” Cody, Famous Indian scout, dies and is buried on Lookout Mountain, west of Denver.

1918 A.D. Agricultural production increased sharply to aid war needs. Dry lands plowed up to produce wheat. Colorado citizens purchase Liberty Bonds by the millions of dollars to help finance war. More than 125,000 Colorado men register for the draft for army service. Fitzsimmons General Hospital established near Denver. Coal production of state reaches new high of 12,500,000 tons. Impetus of war stirs development of mining of molybdenum at Climax, near Leadville - the nation’s greatest source of the metal. Denver Tourist Bureau establishes free auto camp ground for tourists at Overland Park, Denver. Other cities follow suit during the next few years. Federal Reserve branch bank established in Denver. Colorado voters approve constitutional amendment providing Civil Service for state employees. November, 11, 1918, Germany surrenders.

1919 A.D. Post-war inflation brings higher prices to farmers and producers; prices of farm land high; wages high; boom times everywhere. Colorado enacts tax of one cent per gallon on gasoline, for building of roads. Monte Vista stages first Ski-Hi Stampede.


1921 A.D. General Assembly creates State Highway Department with seven man Advisory Board. Colorado begins building concrete highways on main traveled routes. Pueblo suffers disastrous flood in June; scores drowned and property damage amounts to $20,000,000. Post war deflation sets in and decline in prices brings trouble in the rural areas. During the next several years, numerous banks serving farming areas close, price and farm lands decline sharply from levels reached in World War I, and farmers clamor for farm relief.

1922 A.D. Coloradans vote $6,000,000 in bonds for highway construction. Moffat Tunnel Improvement District is created by General Assembly for construction of 6.4 mile bore under Continental Divide to provide better rail connections between Eastern and Western Slopes of the State. First commerical radio license in Colorado is issued, to station KLZ. Daring daylight hold-up of Federal Reserve bank truck is staged as it leaves U.S. Mint in Denver and $200,000 stolen. Robbery never solved.

1923 A.D. Oil discovered in Wellington field north of Fort Collins; flurry of oil stock promotion follows.

1924 A.D. April 26, Colorado is second state to ratify child labor amendment to federal Constitution. Celebration held in Greeley marking completion of concrete pavement between Denver and Greeley - first two major cities in State to be connected by paved highways. Ku Klux Klan secures domination of Republican party in Colorado and elects a pro-Klan Governor and U.S. Senator.

1925 A.D. Adams State Teachers College at Alamosa and junior colleges at Grand Junction and Trinidad are opened.
1931 A.D. Population reaches over one million.

1941 A.D. Denver recruiting offices swamped by over 2,000 enlistments during the month of December as United States enters World War II.

1941-1945 A.D. During World War II agriculture industry has greatest production in Colorado history.

1941-1945 A.D. Growth of military installations in Colorado mushroom.

1942 A.D. Federal government established Amache, a camp for Japanese-Americans who were interned and relocated from their homes on the West Coast.

1945-1950 A.D. Federal government presence in Colorado grows, military installations and scientific institutions continue to develop while many veterans relocate to Colorado. These changes cause a steady increase in population.


1950's and 1960’s A.D. Numerous water storage and diversion projects are constructed in response to increased agricultural and municipal water demands. Tourist and ski industries blossom. Population continues to increase.

1960 A.D. Colorado gets the Denver Broncos professional football team which eventually wins two Super Bowls.

1962-1965 A.D. Disposition of poisonous wastes into a deep well at the Rocky Mountain Arsenal results in earthquakes and hundreds of tremors around the Denver area.

1967 A.D. Denver Rockets become Colorado’s professional American Basketball Association team. In 1974 they are renamed the Denver Nuggets.

1973 A.D. Eisenhower Tunnel is built beneath the Continental Divide sixty miles west of Denver, making it easier to reach the ski slopes of western Colorado.

1974 A.D. Desegregation of schools in Denver begins as busing attempts to achieve racial balance.


1970’s A.D. The population swells, traffic problems grow, and the “brown cloud” develops over much of the Front Range. Coloradans become concerned over the consequences of pollution and overselling Colorado and reject hosting the 1976 Winter Olympics as a result.

July 31, 1976 A.D. A cloudburst on the Big Thompson River results in a massive flood in Larimer County, killing more than 145 people.

1980 A.D. Coal mining production in Colorado on the Western Slopes hits all time high as United States becomes more dependent on energy resources at home rather than overseas.
1982 A.D. The state economic structure is shaken when the oil shale giant Exxon announces the closure of its oil shale development fields in Río Blanco, Mesa and Garfield counties. Thousands are laid off and the economic stability of the western slope of the state is severely impacted.

1980’s and 1990’s A.D. Major growth of technological industries occurs in Colorado.

1992 A.D. The voters of Colorado pass a citizens’ initiative to limit the growth of state and local governments with the passage of the TABOR (Taxpayer Bill of Rights) amendment to the state constitution.

1993 A.D. Colorado Rockies become first regional major league baseball team.

1995 A.D. Quebec Nordiques National Hockey League team moves to Colorado to become the Colorado Avalanche.

1998 A.D. Colorado voters elect the first Republican Governor (Bill Owens) to the statehouse in twenty-four years.
Section VI

How a Bill Becomes a Law Scenario
HOW A BILL BECOMES A LAW

HOUSE

NEW BILL

Introduction in the House
First reading by House clerk
Referred to Committee by Speaker
Committee consideration (May include hearing, but must include vote)
Committee report
Second Reading (Debate and amendment by entire House)
Third Reading (Final Passage (recorded vote)

If bill passes it moves to Senate

SENATE

Third Reading (Debate and amendment by entire Senate)
Committee report
Committee consideration (May include hearing, but must include vote)
Referred to Committee by President
First Reading by Senate clerk

If bill passes, it is returned to the House

HOUSE

If bill passed both Houses in identical form
If bill passed in different form and House accepts changes
If House rejects changes
Bill may be sent to a Conference Committee composed of members of both Houses
Conference Committee attempts to iron out differences between the two Houses
If Conference Committee reaches an agreement...

Enrolled and sent to Governor
If both Houses accept compromise, bill is enrolled and sent to the Governor

If Governor signs

If Governor fails to sign within 10 days during session or 30 days if adjourned
If vetoed bill is repassed in each House by a two-thirds vote of elected membership

GOVERNO

BILL BECOMES LAW

Came REVISED STATUTES

If Governor vetoes the bill it is returned to House in which it originated for veto override