JOVITA IDÁR, 1885–1946

"When you educate a woman, you educate a family."

DR. CARMEN TAFOLLA, 1885–1946

LYDIA MENDEZ, 1916–2007

Lark of the Border

Hispanic Heritage

#TXHistoryAtHome

HISTORY AT HOME

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JOVITA IDÁR
Idár was a journalist who wrote about crimes against Tejanos. She thought women’s rights were civil rights. Idár became president of the League of Mexican Women in 1911. She made some people mad when she wrote an editorial in the newspaper El Progreso. The Texas Rangers were sent to shut down the newspaper, but Idár didn’t let them in.

What would you write about?
What current civil rights issue would you write about?
What would you want to accomplish as the leader of a civil rights organization?

DR. CARMEN TAFOLLA
Tafolla grew up in San Antonio and was told she might make it as far as high school. She went to college and earned a Ph.D. In the mid-1960s, the Chicano Literary Movement had begun. Writers took pride in who they were, in their neighborhoods, and in working together to get their work in print. Tafolla was the city of San Antonio’s first Poet Laureate. She was also named the first Poet Laureate of the State of Texas. She wrote more than thirty books and her awards include the Americas Award from the Library of Congress.

Write a poem about your family or neighborhood.

LYDIA MENDOZA
At the age of four, Mendoza built. She earned money for her family when she was in her teens. Mendoza began recording songs in the mid-1930s. She was forced to stay in homes on the road in West Texas because of discrimination against Mexican Americans. Mendoza later toured all over the world. Her many awards include the National Medal of Arts.


Make up a song about being far away from home and missing people you love.