

El Paso Herald-Post

Mexico Girl Who Knew No English Two Years Ago Wins Writing Honors

Takes Top Place, Goes to State Competition;
High School Student Earns All A-Plus Grades

By VIRGINIA TURNER

Two years ago a 15-year-old girl came to El Paso from Mexico City, to live. She couldn't speak or understand English.

Thursday she will compete in the State Interscholastic League meet in Austin with other district ready writer winners.

Voting Machines Bids Requested

El Paso County Commissioners agreed to advertise for bids on 10 voting machines for delivery in 1958.

Dan Puckett, of San Antonio, who represents the Shoup Voting Machine Co., was present at the meeting. At Puckett's request the County will advertise for bids under two proposals:

1. For cash.

2. For five per cent down at the time of the award and the balance payable in 1958 without interest charge. The County will receive the machines as soon as possible.

Under the second proposal the County will get the benefit of present prices for the Shoup machine. The company said that an increase of \$100 per machine will go into effect in 1958.

County Judge McGovern said that while the County needs more voting machines he felt the purchase of 10 at this time will be sufficient to take care of crowding at some large boxes. He pointed out that a general election will be held in 1958.

Couple Go On Trip to Europe

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Dupuy will sail from New York on the S. S. United States and will arrive in Paris on the first leg of their European visit. They expect to visit in Zurich, Switzerland, and Vienna.

Returns From Cruise

Cruz Villarreal, son of Mr. and Mrs. Benito Villarreal of 2113 East Missouri street, and husband of the former Miss Ramona Olivas of 228 Wooldridge drive, arrived in Boston aboard the heavy cruiser U. S. S. Macon, after a 60-day cruise in the Mediterranean.

She is Lilvia Soto, the daughter of Mrs. Lillian Thayne of 415 Tays street, and a senior at El Paso Technical High School. She placed first in district ready writing competition here.

Mrs. Helen Reynolds, her teacher in English literature and advanced grammar and composition, said Lilvia is the first A-plus student she's had at Tech.

A-Plus in Everything

"A-plus is everything over 97," Mrs. Reynolds said. "I interpret an A-plus student as one who does more than the teacher requests."

Lilvia receives A-plus in all of her subjects. When she first came to Tech, she entered a special English class. She received the Certificate of Award as the most outstanding student in that class.

After she learned English, she breezed through other subjects which included English grammar and literature, American history, civics, typing and business machines. She received credits from Universidad Femenina, a private school for girls in Mexico, in math, science and other subjects to give her more than the required number of credits for graduation this year.

Lilvia said she hadn't expected to win the district contest. She was surprised.

"I didn't believe it at first," she said. "I didn't dream of winning."

Mrs. Reynolds said she was a little surprised too, because Tech hadn't planned to enter the competition and Lilvia had not trained for it.

"I chose Lilvia because I knew she was best suited to enter the contest and because she is an outstanding student," Mrs. Reynolds said. "But in view of the fact she had no previous drill, I was a little surprised she won."

Lilvia wrote 740 words on the

leg:



LILVIA SOTO, left, and her teacher, Mrs. Helen Reynolds.

How did Lilvia learn English so quickly and so well?

"Well, I just don't like to hear things and not understand them," she explained. "I took a dictionary with me and every time I heard a word I didn't know, I looked it up."

Lilvia said she studies hard to learn her lessons and makes notes as she studies in order to memorize facts.

"Her spelling is excellent," Mrs. Reynolds said. "Her English compositions have no errors at all. She has a keen appreciation of literature, understanding and comprehension."

Lilvia will enter Texas Western College in September and major in education. She wants to teach English and Spanish in high school.

Lilvia's mother speaks both English and Spanish because both languages were spoken in her home. Lilvia's sister, Sandra, didn't speak English until she came to El Paso.

"Sandra speaks better English than I," Lilvia said. "She goes to Alamo School now, but she went to Burleson School first. Her teacher, Mrs. Norma Morgan, used to take her home to help her in English."

Lilvia is a member of the National Honor Society and Who's Who Among High School Students, selected for leadership, scholarship and character. She has studied piano and is very fond of horseback riding, swimming and books by Thackeray, Dickens and Pearl Buck.