

WOMEN FROM OUR PAST

since well-behaved women rarely make history...

We can thank Augustina Ayala Godinez' delicious influence for launching the ethnically diverse dining options Fort Collins enjoys today.

In 1944, she brought the first taste of culinary diversity to Fort Collins when she opened the doors of Fort Collins' first Mexican cafe, the "Sinaloa Restaurant" on Jefferson. Five years later, Augustina was catering. Then, in 1960, sons Jesse Jr. and Guillermo asked Augustina to be their head chef for the new El Burrito, to open at 404 Linden.

Augustina's children and grandchildren still serve up her time-proven family recipes at the El Burrito. Several varieties of her tortillas are still being made and distributed

today, some 67 years since her young husband died suddenly, leaving her to raise their sons armed with only her spunk and ingenuity.

Determined to keep her family together, Augustina and her sons kept cows, chickens, rabbits and milk goats. Scrivners Grocery on West Mountain bought their fresh eggs and milk. Initially, they sold pop and burritos from their 1929 Chevy to workers in the fields, the enterprise which grew into the Sinaloa.

Jesse, the fifth of Augustina's sons, speaks of his mother's creativity, frugality and the will she had to raise her sons to be family men.

"She'd buy one bolt of cloth and all six of us would have the same



shirt," he said. "She could take in hand-me-down Levi's and make them fit us."

Jesse's wife Dorothy also had fond memories of the 4-foot, 11-inch dynamo.

"Oh, you knew she loved her sons dearly, but she was kind to all of us (daughters-in-law)," she said, her love and respect for Augustina showing in her eyes. "She was always smiling, cooking, joking. She played the piano and could crochet anything without a pattern. But she was never one to take credit."

It is Fort Collins' good fortune that Augustina, born in La Varca, Jalisco, Mexico in 1908, immigrated here, where she cooked her way into local history. ❖

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PAST ARTICLE BY MARYJO FAITH MORGAN ❖ JOURNEY CONTRIBUTOR

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