

## Edinburg Pan American Round Table History

What follows is an excerpt from *The Pan American Round Table* by Lois Terry Marchbanks, Avon Behren Press, 1983, (127-128).

The Pan American Round Table of Edinburg held its organizational meeting on March 12, 1958, making it officially the 23<sup>rd</sup> table in the State of Texas. Mrs. John F. Camp, Associate Director of the Pan American Round Tables of Texas from San Antonio, addressed the group and answered questions. Mrs. Harrison Riddle, Director of the Alamo-San Juan Table, the sponsoring organization, was also present. The table had twenty-two (22) charter members and one (1) charter-associate member. The officers for 1958-59 were the following:

Director – Mrs. J. C. Looney  
Associate Director – Mrs. T. L. White  
Corresponding Secretary – Miss Mary Gordon  
Recording Secretary – Mrs. Gilbert A. Guerra  
Treasurer – Mrs. Gillespie Baker  
Parliamentarian – Mrs. Gordon Smith  
Historian – Mrs. R. R. Ramirez  
Custodian – Mrs. Vern Carlson

The unique geographical location of Edinburg has helped the table to promote the ideals of Pan Americanism through its various activities including, but not limited to: detailed and varied programs on the countries of the western hemisphere, social celebrations, guest speakers, luncheons, and meriendas with neighboring tables in the Rio Grande Valley and Northern Mexico. Another factor that has vastly contributed to the enhancement of multinational activities is the fact that The University of Texas-RGV, formerly Pan American University, a school that historically boasts a large enrollment of foreign students, is also located in Edinburg and also only a few short miles from the Mexican border. Students are often invited as guests or speakers to the luncheon meetings in an effort to extend the ideals of Pan Americanism to a younger generation. Our scholarships are exclusively bestowed to students in their 3<sup>rd</sup> year and above from this local university.