



PAN AMERICAN ROUND TABLE OF RIO GRANDE CITY – ROMA HISTORY

**Florence Johnson Scott
Organizer**

Pan American Round Table of Rio Grande City – Roma was founded on March 26, 1951 by Mrs. Florence Johnson Scott who was born in Frost, Texas on February 5, 1890, to Sarah Ellen (Sanders) and Ben Herndon Johnson. In June 1913 she married Owen Emory Scott of San Antonio and moved to Mission, Texas. Around 1917 moving to Brownsville and in 1919 moving to Rio Grande City, Texas. Between 1919 and 1927 Florence J. Scott became active in community service and established the first Rio Grande City Library and various women's clubs, and edited the English section of the town's newspaper. Scott became increasingly interested in the educational needs of Starr County and consequently enrolled at Texas College of Arts and Industries, receiving her BA in education in August 1932. Between 1929 and 1935, while serving as Superintendent, she recognized the Starr County schools and verified that all teachers were certified. She also standardized bilingual education and obtained a grant from the Public Works Administration to build two new schools in the county. She received her MA in Latin American History in August 1935 from The University of Texas in Austin. Her thesis was titled "Spanish Royal Land Grants in the Lower Rio Grande Valley." Florence served as the Roma School Superintendent from 1950 to 1957, when she retired from the field of education. In September 1956 Florence J. Scott Elementary School was completed and dedicated. Florence Johnson Scott died in San Antonio, Texas in 1981.

On February 28, 1951, Mrs. Florence Johnson Scott invited a group of ladies to her home for the purpose of organizing a Pan American Round Table in Rio Grande City and surrounding area. After working on the Constitution and By-Laws and they were approved, the Table was granted Charters by the Pan American Tables of Texas and the Alliance of Pan American Round Tables. Mrs. Clara Ely installed the officers with Mrs. Florence Johnson Scott as the first Director. There were 24 active, 6 associate, 12 auxiliary and 5 non-resident members. In May of 1952 one of the Charter members passed away and on April 25, 1953 a Scholarship Fund was set up to honor her. The Scholarship is known as the Nell Kain Guerra Scholarship Fund. The Nell Kain Guerra Scholarship is given to two deserving high school students every year. It is customary to invite two high school seniors to each of our program meetings where they introduce themselves and they talk about their future goals. In 1956 the Auxiliary and non-residents were asked to become active members. In 1973 the name of the Table was changed to what we are today: The Pan American Round Table of Rio Grande City - Roma. In 1975 all members became Active.

Our Table now includes 44 active members and 5 sustaining members. Our Table belongs to Zone I of the Alliance Zone. The Rio Grande City - Roma Pan American Table is very proud to have had outstanding women who possessed the ability, ambition, and initiative to realize and recognize the visionary needs of the women of our community. We extend our gratitude to our organizer, Mrs. Florence J. Scott, and to our Charter member, Mrs. Miriam Vale, who celebrated her 102nd birthday May of 2008.

Signing of Charter March 26, 1951



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