

Mary Beatrice Romero

Dob: May-2-1923
Born at home in Dixon



Mother: Beatrice Salazar: Dob: 1-5-1890
Father: Diego Antonio Valdez: Dob: 2-28-1880 - Died: 11-27-1972
Maternal Grandparents: Rumaldita Romero Salazar: 2-18-1871 - Died: 11-22-1932
Rubel Salazar: Dob: 2-2-1866 - 5-4-1961
Paternal Grandparents: Pelegrina Lovato Dob: 10-30-1855- Dixon
Juan Valdez: Dob 6-7-1853 - Dixon
Loretta Lovato Pacheco: Dob: 1848 - Dixon

Siblings: Eluid, Ella, Lucia, Alfonso

Children: Alfonso (Ducky): Dob 6-4-1944
David: Dob: 6-13-1947
Richard: Dob: 3-18-1950

Married Silviano Romero April 12, 1942 in Ranchos de Taos
Silviano's Dob: 11-27-1919



Silviano Romero
Dob: 11-27-1919



Parents
Diego & Beatrice Valdez

My father, Diego Valdez, went to school at El Norte Institute. He taught school where the John B. Martinez station sits. He also taught school in El Gobernador, and many other places. To go to school and get a degree in those days was very rare, but my father was an educated man. My father's family was Catholic, but my mother converted her husband into a Presbyterian in the 1930's. He was also very involved in the Presbyterian Church as an "Anciano Gobernador", meaning a high-ranking Elder. Diego Valdez was a very respected member of the Dixon community. Grandfather Rubel Salazar was a constable in the 30's, and in addition to the law enforcement duties, he later traveled to different neighboring communities as a preacher. My parents were very strict and we were not allowed out in the streets, other than to walk to and from school and church. We lived behind the Dixon elementary school, where our son David now resides.

Mary attended the Mission school, Allison James, and Menaul School. She graduated from Menaul in 1941, and one of her classmates was Naomi Martinez. Brother Eluid became a minister and got his theological degree in San Anselmo, California. His congregation was in Arizona, but he filled the pulpit in our church many times. Sister Ella was a teacher who taught at many schools within Rio Arriba, and retired from Dixon Elementary School. Brother Alfonso retired from the Air Force and moved to Dixon, where he was very active in the church. Sister Lucy took nurses training in Ganado, Arizona. She moved to Albuquerque. I drove a school bus for 13 years, transporting students to the Espanola Jr. High.

I remember Sunday school classes for all grades, and Spanish bible study for the grownups. There were Sunday evening Christian Endeavor classes every week, and many grownups attended the classes. The church ladies would get together and sew for the hospital. Most of the work was mending and darning sheets, pillowcases, hospital gowns, and any other thing, which needed repairing. We also initiated the least coin collection and collected pennies, which were sent to the National Board of Missions for distribution to the needy. The Thrift Store was started and Cona Archuleta and Casimira Martinez were in charge of the store. Ruth Archuleta and I started the kitchen café at Mission Embudo in the late 80's with a small trailer in back of the building. We sold beans, chili, and provided a tortilla with each bowl of delicious food. On Sunday, after Church Services, Grace Martinez came by and brought a tarima (bench) and a Coleman stove. She went home and made some sopaipilla dough. She returned to the small trailer and while the women rolled and cut the dough, she made the sopaipillas. The fuses kept blowing out, but Rev. McComb kept changing the fuses and turning on the electricity. The first customer to purchase our sopaipilla was Salomon Griego. This was a successful venture and \$86 was made that first weekend. We changed the menu to the Indian Taco, which was a great hit with the public, and now our kitchen café is well known to the people who come to the Dixon Arts and Craft tour. Working in the kitchen during these two days is hard work, but I enjoy seeing all the people who come to eat and visit.