

Celina Valdez Sanchez

DOB: 10-3-1925
Born in El Bosque, Dixon



Dolores & Juanita Valdez

My young life, as I remember, we were a family of 10. We attended church with our parents and later by ourselves. We walked to school, rain or snow. It was Silas, Laura, Rosa, myself and our cousins. We played hookey and stayed sliding on the river when the ice got thick. It was fun and we never got caught. I attended the Mission school until the 3rd grade. Juanita Ortega and Miss Cook were my teachers. Rio Arriba County built and financed a big room where later John B. Martinez had a gas station. Lydia Valdez was the teacher for all the students from first grade through 8th grade.

Our fiestas were on August 30th, which was Santa Rosa Day. Our parents would give each of us 50 cents, for rides and ice cream at the carnival, which came to town for this special event. I attended Allison James School in Santa Fe as a 9th grader. In 1940, Father Kupper lent Rio Arriba County, a building for a high school, where the senior center and the Parish Hall are. The county would finance the school and pay the teachers. Sister Seferina, Sister Dorothy and Joe Roybal were all very good teachers. At 8:30 there was bible study. The Catholic students would attend that class. Regular classes started at 9:00 to 3:30. We were four (4) in my class; Margarito Griego, Mike Brito, Mary Gonzales and myself. Mike Brito dropped out of school so there was only three of us who graduated in 1943. My three older children attended the Mission school until it closed. They looked forward to Christmas because after their Christmas programs, Santa Claus would come in with a sack for each child. They got toys, clothes, coloring books, crayons and candy. After the Mission school closed in 1957, they attended Dixon Public School until they graduated and went to high school in Espanola, or Menaul School in Albuquerque.

For my 80th birthday I went riding from Espanola to Taos on a Harley Davidson motorcycle