

*a me rewrites*

# Lindauer Bicentennial Queen

LA HABRA — Magdalena Sansinena Lindauer is not your everyday, run-of-the-mill Bicentennial Queen.

True, she is blonde, petite, has a radiant smile, a warm personality and wears her Queen's crown with regal grace, but she is also 80 years old, has lived in La Habra since 1895 and is well known for her

charitable works and community involvement.

Mrs. Lindauer was crowned as La Habra Bicentennial Queen during the city's Fourth of July celebration and will ride in appropriately regal vehicle during the Corn Festival parade.

### Home Built in 1917

The rambling frame Sansinena ranch house where

Mrs. Lindauer was born in 1895 no longer stands, but she still resides in her La Habra home built in 1917 where her two children were born and raised. The home in north of Whittier Boulevard near Hacienda Boulevard.

Her daughter Dolores Olivare now lives in Huntington Beach and her son Luther Lindauer lives in La Habra.

### Active in Community

Mrs. Lindauer has been a member of the La Habra Women's Club for 50 years; a member of the Native Daughters of California for 26 years; a charter member of the St. Jude Hospital Guild and Our Lady of Guadalupe Church Guild; was the originator of the March of Dimes campaign in La Habra and was president of the ladies auxiliary of the Hacienda Country Club.

Concerning the Hacienda Country Club, Mrs. Lindauer said she remembers herding sheep on her father's ranch where the club now stands.

### Pioneer Family

Mrs. Lindauer's father, Jose Sansinena, came to this area in 1872 from the same Basque province as Domingo Bastanchury, who became one of the most successful sheep ranchers in the La Habra-Fullerton area.

Sansinena went to work for Bastanchury and soon became a partner in the company owning land south from La Habra to the present Fullerton area, including all the land now known as Sunny Hills.

In 1889, Sansinena married

Dolores Ordoqui, a native of Spain in the old Plaza Church in Los Angeles where many early Californians were united.

Esther Cramer's book, *Pass Through the Hills*, a history of the La Habra area from 1769 to 1925, devoted a section of the book to the part that the Sansinena family played in the development of La Habra

Cramer writes that Sansinena purchased land from the Sterns Ranchos Company and formed a sheep ranch of his own. This was much of the original Rancho La Habra. Livestock raising, with sheep the major interest, kept this acreage in relatively the same pastoral state as when the mission possessed it a century before.

According to Cramer, "Basque traditions were part of the life on the Sansinena sheep ranch. Many close friends were other Basque people like the Bastanchurys. They gathered for huge barbecues and traveled to the Bastanchury Ranch frequently to watch the handball games played on the special courts there.

The sheep decreased in numbers after the turn of the century with the sheep rancher changing their operations to grain and walnut farming."

When asked about the many changes she has seen in the development of La Habra, Mrs. Lindauer said she had no regrets about what has taken place. "I enjoyed life in La Habra then, and I enjoy it now," she said.

Long live Queen Magdalena.

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