The Life and Legacy of New Mexico’s Own: Dr. George I. Sánchez
A Belated Tribute

By Dr. Luisa Durán, Ph.D. and Emeritus Professor, UNM

In February of 2012, many New Mexicans read the Associated Press article by Russell Contreras about “Dr. George I. Sánchez Forgotten in His Home State.” (Contreras, Ref. 34)

In March of 2012, I called some of my retired colleagues and said, “¿Sabén qué? We have one more important thing to do on our bucket list.” They agreed. So we formed an 18-member Ad Hoc Committee to Honor Dr. George I. Sánchez. We met twice and came up with several ideas on how to pay Dr. Sánchez honor for the 18- years he gave to New Mexico and for the 32-years he gave to education and civil rights from the University of Texas-Austin, Texas and beyond.

We wrote a memorial to designate one day to honor Dr. Sánchez with the help of many good people in the New Mexico Legislature. On February 12, 2013, the Legislature passed the memorial as HB Bill 47 and SB 37, so that now October 4 will always be “Dr. George I. Sánchez Day” in New Mexico.

With the help of NMABE members, we nominated Dr. Sánchez to receive NMABE’s Joseph M. Montoya Award. He was selected and received this posthumous award on April 26, 2013. Luckily for us, one of Dr. Sánchez’ granddaughters, Cynthia Kennedy and her husband Pastor Greg Kennedy who live in Santa Fe, were able to receive both awards. This paper is written on behalf of the Ad Hoc Committee to pay Dr. Sánchez a much-deserved belated tribute from New Mexico.

We do this so that all the children of New Mexico, young and old will always know that many of the foundations of New Mexico Education in both public schooling and higher education were established by Dr. Sánchez and his peers here first and later in Texas in the first half of the 20th century. (Sánchez, Ref. 1-9) We do this to show the love he had for us as he fought some hard battles for better education for everyone, but especially minorities: Spanish-Speaking, Native American and Black children. We do this to send him our admiration, gratitude and love and so that he will no longer “be forgotten in his home state.”

A chronology of the life, the career and honors (presented on April 26 at the 2013 NMABE Conference) that have been paid to him show a most distinguished life and work and legacy. (Sánchez Papers, Ref. 39)

The legacy of Dr. Sánchez now belongs to the ages. It belongs to all who care about the best quality education for all children, parents and their communities.

Although Dr. Sánchez' work is found in all the Southwestern United States, in the US south, in Mexico, Guatemala, Ecuador, Venezuela, Peru and the Pan American Union, his early 18-year educational legacy in New Mexico (from 1922 to 1940) belongs to us -- all those children and their parents whom he studied and wrote about in the many New Mexico villages, especially Taos County.

Dr. Sánchez's writing can be found under the following academic subject areas: Educational Psychology, Chicano Psychology, Psychometrics, Bilingual Education and Civil Rights. Dr.
Sánchez and others served as witnesses in many court cases. For example, in Texas he served in two of the early court cases on desegregation which served as precursors to Justice Thurgood Marshall’s ruling on *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* in 1954.

Dr. Sánchez's writings include pedagogical and social critiques, in which he was undaunted to the end about calling out the default of leadership for the better education of the poor.

His writings are based in the Progressive Movement of John Dewey and Alfred North Whitehead; in a movement which has great faith in the intelligence of all peoples if the basic needs (as per Abraham Maslow) are first met with the help of the greater society and its institutions.

I am not afraid to admit that when I researched and reviewed the literature on Dr. Sánchez, I realized I had bitten off more than I could chew at my age. His work and the work about him are voluminous. I am not ashamed to share with you that I think I only scratched the surface; to tell you that I probably read only about one-twentieth of what is out there by and about Dr. Sánchez. I was quite amazed.

Dr. Sánchez died in 1972. This was the year I was finishing my Master’s Degree at UNM with our other hero, the late Dr. Dolores Gonzales.

These were the beginning heydays and wonderful early years of the Bilingual Education Movement in our nation. It was new to the professors, the teachers, the parents and the children. None had a real clue, but we all jumped in there with two feet and, as Paulo Freire would say: “made the road by walking.”

We learned that Dr. Sánchez and his good friend Dr. Loyd Tireman had already been there in New Mexico in the 1930’s and had cleared the briar patch for us. (Zintz, Ref. 12) Dr. Miles Zintz came into my class at UNM and told Dr. Gonzales that “George I. had died.” We asked: “Who is George I.?” That is when we were asked to read about our own ‘placitas’ in Dr. Sánchez’s book, *Forgotten People*. We did and we cried and were quite moved to read about us written in such a caring way.

Later, as a professor myself, every now and then when talking about New Mexico Culture in my own education classes, I would refer to *Forgotten People*.

The next time I heard about Dr. Sánchez and his work was when I married Dr. David Bachelor in 1992. He had written a book about Tireman, Nambé and San José. I found out about the relationship between Dr. Sánchez and Dr. Tireman, especially as it involved the dual language pedagogy of the 1930’s. (Bachelor, Ref. 27)

After the AP article in 2012, I read 8 wonderfully enlarged xeroxed articles written by Dr. Sánchez in *The New Mexico School Review* of the 1930s and sent to me by the good people at NEA-NM.

Then I got brave and re-read *Forgotten People*. I cried again and could see Dr. Sánchez even more clearly with our parents in Northern New Mexico communities, trying to figure out how we might improve our schools and our lives with the help of outside institutions. In *Forgotten People*, we can see Dr. Sánchez totally amazed at what these communities had accomplished so well by themselves, no thanks to public institutions. We can see him totally frustrated, even
angry, at how the leaders of New Mexico had neglected to help us. You can see clearly the love he had for New Mexicans. (Ref. 9)

Other sources listed in the References helped me form and write my thoughts on this overview about Dr. Sánchez. They and others know more than I about Dr. Sánchez. I thank them profusely. But as they say, all that is correct belongs to them, and all that is not, belongs to me.

Here’s what I thought after I did the review of the literature on New Mexico’s own Dr. Jorge Isidoro Sánchez y Sánchez, Y Sánchez (who came from three different Sánchez families, whose ancestors can all be traced to the original 300 families and soldiers who came to settle New Mexico with Juan de Onate in 1598) (Genealogy Records, Albuquerque Public Library).

Dr. Sánchez was a progressive educator and activist of great imagination, tenacity and fortitude. His time was between pre-modern and modern, but his intellect was post-modern, deconstructionist and transformational.

Dr. Sánchez, of the Los Barelas section of Albuquerque, fought almost unafraid for fairness and justice in academia and in the courts. He fought for many things and against many things. It was in New Mexico in the 1920’s and 1930’s that he first saw and then would write about the following:

- The faithful, courageous and hard-working people in both rural and urban places trying to eke out a living during a great drought, Great Depression and indifferent political and governmental sources (at local, state and federal levels) and racism in a lot of the dominant new culture society.
- The hardship, poverty and distress of these poor people and their amazing more-than-300-year survival in a beautiful but harsh climate.
- The coercion, the intimidation and the outright fraud rampant in many power groups such as The Santa Fe Ring and the Texas Rangers.
- The violation of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, which guaranteed land, language, cultural, religious and civil rights to the Native American and Spanish-speaking people of New Mexico when they were annexed to the US territory in 1848.
- The prejudice, bias, racism and segregation rampant in the U.S. at that time, including New Mexico.
- The ignorance, misconceptions and stereotypes that many of the English-speaking people had about New Mexico’s long Native American and Spanish people’s histories and traditions.
- The barriers and mismatches between cultures, especially with the dominant culture teachers and their minority culture students in the public schools and in higher educational institutions.
- The abuses in mental testing, statistics, and the law and resource distribution.
- In short, the invisible, missing, marginalized, neglected and “forgotten” people of New Mexico.

Dr. Sánchez actively challenged people, policies and ideas that were outmoded, prejudicial and detrimental to healthy and fair human growth and development. (Sánchez, Ref. 1-9). He
fought hard and often dangerous battles against segregation and isolation and never gave up on full integration in and out of the schools. Dr. Sánchez used the democratic principles found in The U.S. Constitution and treaties to focus on the inalienable human, civil, legal and cultural rights of New Mexico minorities.

As a bright scholar, Dr. Sánchez worked at founding new systems/institutions of learning or strengthening old ones based on good reason, theory, research and practice. He had great respect for science and rational thought to solve the problems of ignorance, fear and dangerous superstitions and animosities in both majority and minority cultures. (Gonzales, Ref. 29)

At the same time, Dr. Sánchez had great respect for the informal and native intelligence of all people, including their beautiful languages, arts, folklore, and belief systems (especially his own and our own strong and long Indian/Spanish New Mexican heritages).

Dr. Sánchez was a pioneer of many educational scholarly ideas, policies and programs, but he was one of the early important ethnographers of the sociocultural fieldwork of different cultural communities. (Sánchez, Ref. 9)

Dr. Sánchez, in and out of academia with other wonderful educational leaders of his time (and sometimes all by himself), helped to revitalize needy communities by working with the people to maintain their beautiful and productive pre-modern ways of living. He also helped them to transition into the easier and less back-breaking, more modern approaches to learning, health, farming and agricultural work.

Dr. Sánchez was a great mediator on how to bring the “strange” English culture to the non-English-speaking populations and the “strange” Spanish and Indian cultures to the English-speaking populations.

Here are some more of Dr. Sánchez's specific educational ideas, found in his early writings about New Mexico public schooling and governance, and about the early days of higher education in New Mexico. (Sánchez, Ref. 1-8)

• The improvement of the equalization funding formula of the State Department of Education in New Mexico for a fairer and equitable distribution of state funds and resources for all schools districts, especially those that were being short-changed;
• The improvement of school consolidations, compulsory education, a longer school year, the beginning of a pre-first grade, more libraries and bookmobiles, better teacher education programs at the "normal" schools and better teacher salaries and academic freedom; and,
• The improvement of the collaboration between the people and programs of the New Deal and other community associations to enrich the school curriculum.

In short, Dr. Sánchez of New Mexico and in New Mexico helped to deconstruct barriers and helped to construct and build roads and bridges of many types (some real ones too) to many better places and for many. He set out to build a better society, a better community, a better school, a better teacher, better student and lastly, better human relations among all.

It is only now that many of us know that Dr. Sánchez was one of the founding members of the UNM Law School. It is only now that many of us know that the UNM Law School paid him the
Way before Jonathan Kozol and many others, Dr. Sánchez saw and wrote about the "savage inequalities". Way before Hillary Clinton and others, Dr. Sánchez saw that "it took a village" or twenty-five of them (as he saw in Taos County) to "leave no child behind".

A VISIONARY INDEED!

Dr. Sánchez was born toward the end of New Mexico’s Territorial Era, in 1906. For Mexican inhabitants, newly-annexed into the new U.S. boundaries, 1848 to 1912 was not an easy time. The early twentieth century was the beginning of the painful incorporation of his people into the United States, with its "Manifest Destiny" philosophy, the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo notwithstanding.

Dr. Sánchez was six years-old when New Mexico became a state in 1912, but the lynching and other brutal repression and violence by the Texas Rangers and others was still in full swing up to the early 1930s. It was the sad time of “no dogs, no Indians, no Blacks and no Mexicans allowed”. This was also the time the “newly conquered American citizens” were being displaced from their lands and denied access to natural resources, and becoming politically disenfranchised. Times were hard before, but as a conquered people, it was even more difficult.

Dr. Sánchez grew up during the Industrial Era, during the Mexican Revolution - which had its effects here too, and he grew up during World War I and World War II. He lived to see the Korean Conflict and the long Viet Nam War.

As a young student and teacher, Dr. Sánchez saw the first of many, and probably one of the most brutal, repatriations of many Mexican-Americans and other immigrants during the Great Depression of the 1930s.

Dr. Sánchez had already been a prominent educator, professor and activist for eighteen years here in New Mexico when he left the University of New Mexico (UNM) in 1940 to work as a Full Tenured Professor at the University of Texas at Austin (UT-Austin). Sadly, UNM dragged their feet on giving him a full tenured position and UT-Austin made him an offer he couldn’t refuse. Our loss, their gain.

In an article about Dr. Sánchez by Steven Schlossman, I read that Dr. Sánchez went from "bad" in New Mexico to ‘worse’ in Texas, especially as it concerned the education and general welfare of Mexican-American children and their communities. (Schlossman, Ref. 21) But, no matter. As Dr. Sánchez had done in New Mexico, he did more intrepidly in Texas. Like a comet in the sky, he was an indomitable spirit against all Texas odds. (The poem I wrote about Dr. Sánchez will be included in the third part of this article, next month.) He was always an outstanding scholar and thinker in academia and an intrepid activist and advocate in the courts and elsewhere for the poor and politically powerless. (Romo, Ref. 25)

In the words of many people I read in my review of literature, he was much admired, respected and honored as he jumped eagerly with two strong feet, often from the frying pan and into the fire, to “give them hell.” (Américo Paredes, Ref. 19)
Before he left for Texas in 1940, Dr. Sánchez had already published two books: *Mexico: A Revolution By Education* and *Forgotten People, A Study of New Mexicans*. He had already published many scholarly articles in prominent academic journals, where he gave academic and intellectual "heck" to the local, state and federal leaders for their incompetence in meeting the needs of many minority school children, their parents, and their villages and communities.

Several times, his own professional and personal life was on the line as he tried to change old paradigms, old policies and outdated thinking. (Gonzales, Ref. 29; Paredes, Ref. 19)

Dr. Sánchez was not perfect. Like all humans, he was a complex and complicated man who made mistakes. His divorce from his first wife, Virginia (from a very prominent Romero family) seems to have been a hard one. (Personal Communication, Cynthia Kennedy) His “bad judgment” (by his own admission) of not checking closely the verbal racism in a doctoral student’s Racial Attitude Survey Scale landed him in a formal investigation (see *Forced Sacrifice: The 1933 Racial Attitude Survey Controversy*, Ref. 29) But here, too, Dr. Sánchez was unafraid to admit his limitations and took responsibility.

His oral and written battles against education budget cuts (*New Mexico School Review*) with then-New Mexico Governor Seligman and with the 11th and 12th New Mexico Legislatures did not endear him to many in power.

Nothing was easy for Dr. Sánchez in those hard times, but, given the awful times, Dr. Sánchez was lucky to be born with a high native intellect, into a strong Sánchez family. He was lucky to be born very light-complexioned, “Anglo-looking.” (A fact that, sadly, still mattered then, and even now, for some.) He was accepted into the dominant culture more easily than his other cultural peers. So he could do and did, more.

Although he was not so tall, Dr. Sánchez was lucky to be born with almost movie-star good looks. Sadly, that still matters even now for inclusion into many "clubs." I suppose that he appreciated the compliment. However, there was nothing I read about Dr. Sánchez that implied any untoward behavior on his part because of his good looks. Always a professional, it seems.

He was lucky to be born with the genius of mind, character, and personality that drew many in both the majority and minority cultures to work with him and for him, especially people like then-UNM President James Zimmerman, who had a great admiration for Dr. Sánchez. So did UNM College of Education Dean Simon Peter Nanninga and Department Chair, Dr. Loyd Tireman. Outside UNM, he worked with Superintendent Atanacio Montoya, Senator Bronson Cutting and Senator Dennis Chávez. He worked as well with many ordinary but hard-working citizens in the communities, such as farmers, teachers, etc. (Bachelor, Ref. 27) As he ventured from Albuquerque High School to his first teaching job in Yrisarri in the 1920's, and then to Los Griegos, Los Candelarias Schools and UNM, Dr. Sánchez had already begun a powerful educational journey; even more awaited him in Texas and beyond.

EVERYWHERE, HE LEFT A WONDERFUL LEGACY.

In the end, the role Dr. Sánchez played in life and work continues through his beautiful and strong written works. There are approximately seven typed pages detailing about 115 works in
his complete bibliography. I have probably read one twentieth of this body of work. His work
remains today a solid and undeniable legacy and an inspiration for many. Elsewhere, I am
writing a contemporary review on Forgotten People for future publication.

I would like to elaborate just a little more on Dr. Sánchez’s thoughts and writings about
Bilingual Education. Dr. Sánchez’s bilingual education legacy merits a small but closer look
here, but someday and somewhere, an all-day conference, at least.

Dr. Sánchez appreciated the beautiful Spanish language and New Mexican culture in their own
right. He appreciated the bilingualism that many had acquired thanks to our families' tenacity
and their pride in Spanish language usage, the washing of our tongues with soap notwithstanding. He appreciated the sensitive teachers of all cultures who used the children’s vernacular languages for academic content as they acquired English as their second language. He appreciated a holistic bicultural education that could be had for all children, with the appropriate integrated curriculum in the schools of New Mexico and Texas. He never saw bilinguality or bilingualism as a problem in and out of the schools, except for the monolingual teacher and the narrow-minded public, but not for the student, for whom it could be not only an opportunity but enrichment, if done right.

For Dr. Sánchez, as for many other good pioneers of Bilingual Education in the schools, it was
a new pedagogy. As a method of instruction at that time, it was fraught and confounded (as
some still is now) with other educational and political issues for both language-minority and
language-majority students.

Not once did Dr. Sánchez give in to any instructional approach or method which segregated
minority children from majority children. Even with his good friend, Dr. Loyd Tireman in New
Mexico and his good friend, Dr. Joshua Fishman in Texas (who, like him, advocated dual
language maintenance), he would support Bilingual Education if, and only if, language minority
children and language majority were learning, together, each other’s languages.

His eye was always on the prize: EQUALITY, INTEGRATION AND QUALITY
EDUCATION FOR ALL. He abhorred segregation, isolation, marginalization and neglect for
any child. (Blanton, Ref. 33)

For eighteen years in New Mexico, Dr. Sánchez, along with other strong academic and public
school progressives and pioneers, laid the foundations for many educational institutions, policies
and programs. He was only getting started.

In and from UT-Austin, Texas, he built an even stronger legacy for all ages in academia,
public schooling and civil rights. (Sánchez Papers, Ref. 39)

Outside New Mexico, he is a giant, and many honors and accolades have been bestowed on
him. Then and now, he casts a giant shadow, and in New Mexico, we can now see, belatedly,
the giant footprints in those early, muddy New Mexico roads and villages. (Sánchez, Ref. 9)

We owe a large New Mexico debt to our own Dr. Jorge Sánchez Y Sánchez Y Sánchez. So
we have begun to pay our debt with some small payments of our gratitude and love.
In the Power Point presentation (which I did at the NMABE Conference in April, 2013), I said that probably the greatest honor we could pay Dr. Sánchez would be for him to know how many thousands of his New Mexico “school children” followed in his footsteps as good teachers.

I don’t know how the "children of Sánchez" in Oscar Lewis’ novel are doing now in Mexico. I hope they are thriving well and happy. The many "children of Sánchez of Barelas" in New Mexico and Texas are doing well all over, in and out of Texas and New Mexico: teachers, politicians, doctors, professors, nurses, etc.

And for those who did not or are not doing well, he would admonish us to not let them become “forgotten” people. We must continue his work.

PROFESSOR Sánchez, WE NEVER KNEW!!

De toda la gente de Nuevo Méjico, le mandamos las tardes gracias. Sabemos que “¡Pasó por aquí!” Descanse in paz. Regrese a su primer lugar y con su primera gente y sus parientes. USTED NO SE OLVIDÓ DE NOSOTROS. ¡QUE USTED NO SEA OLVIDADO POR NOSOTROS LOS NUEVO MEJICANOS!
A Review of the Literature By/About
Dr. George I. Sánchez

Dr. Sánchez’s total bibliography consists of 115 written works: approximately 60 while in New Mexico and 55 while in Texas. (Mowry, Ref.19) My tribute narrative is based on information gleaned from the following listed sources and so all attributions that are correct belong to them, and those that are not correct belong to me:

I read the following nine works by Dr. Sánchez: (Sánchez, Refs. 1-9) (My thanks to Sharon Morgan, Present NEA-NM President, and Eduardo Holguín, Past NEA-NM President for the 9 articles they enlarged and sent to me.)


I read the following 39 works About Dr. George I. Sánchez (where they talk about him at length or mention his work and/or his philosophy:

16. “In Memoriam, George I. Sánchez, Jorge Isidoro Sánchez Y Sánchez” by Stephen H. Spurr, University of Texas-Austin, President and Harold C. Bold, Secretary of the General Faculty, University of Texas-Austin, 1972 (Internet Article).


   Joe Bernal, “George I. Sánchez, A Great American”
   Richard E. López and Julián Samora, “George I. Sánchez and Testing”
   Carey Mc. Williams, “George I. Sánchez: Teacher, Scholar, Activist”
   Américo Paredes, “Jorge Isidoro Sánchez Y Sánchez” (1906-1972)
   Paul S. Taylor, “Perspectives On The Chicano”
   James N Mowry, “A Bibliography of George I. Sánchez”


31. “Father of Chicano Psychology: Sánchez Honored with Ancestor’s Award” by Kay Randall, Handbook of Texas, Online, February 2012.

36. “Historical Information about New Mexico LULAC” by Paul Martínez, LULAC Website/Online, 2012.
37. “George I. Sánchez: Career and Contributions” by Martha May Tevis, former doctoral student of Dr. Sánchez, in Handbook of Texas: Texas State Historical Association (Online), January, 2013.
38. “Month for Honoring our Hispanic Heroes” by Daisy Wanda García, American GI Forum Website, (no date).
39. "George I. Sánchez Papers, 1919-1986" in The Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas-Austin (Online). 65 Single-spaced typed pages listing 97 Boxes Catalogued under General and Biographical; Correspondence and Subject Files; Written Works; Speeches and Interviews; Photographs; Referenced Materials; Oversized Material and Restricted Materials
Appendix I
The Personal Life of Dr. George I. Sánchez

1906 – Born October 4, son of Telesfor Sánchez and Juliana Sánchez of Los Barelas in Albuquerque. Telesfor’s mother and father were both from a Sánchez family; and Juliana’s father was also a Sánchez. Three Sánchez lineages for Dr. Jorge Isidoro Sánchez, y Sánchez, y Sánchez.

1925 – Married Virginia Romero and they had two children, five grandchildren, five great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren.


Dedicated his second book, Forgotten People: A Study of New Mexicans, University of New Mexico Press, 1940 to Virgie R. Sánchez.

Divorced Virginia around 1940 when he moved to UT-Austin, Texas which made him an offer he couldn’t refuse (after UNM dragged its feet in giving him a tenured position).


1958 – Co-Authored article, “Perspectives”, in Educational Leadership with Dr. Luisa Guerrero Sánchez.

1972 – Dr. Sánchez Died on April 5, 1972 in Austin, Texas after eighteen years of work in New Mexico and thirty-two years of work in Texas.

One of Dr. Sánchez’s grand daughters, Cynthia and her husband Pastor Greg Kennedy moved to Santa Fe where she is a school teacher and he ministers the St. John Methodist Church. Cynthia and all the Sánchez family are the proud heirs of the distinguished legacy of Dr. George I. Sánchez, their “Tata”. And Cynthia and Greg’s family are also the proud heirs of Dr. Sánchez’s Early Colonial New Mexico furniture which has come back home to New Mexico. Some of the Sánchez family is “home”, and now we are proud to bring the spirit of Dr. Sánchez “home” also.

Al fin, “QUE DESCANSE EN PAZ” con su primera gente.
Appendix II
Positions, Grants, Research, etc.

While In New Mexico – 1922-1940:
Dr. Sánchez taught and did research and scholarly work in New Mexico, Texas, the SW States, the SE States, Mexico, Venezuela, Peru, and Guatemala. Everywhere he was a noted academic, activist and prolific writer.

He graduated from Albuquerque High/Central High, Albuquerque, New Mexico in 1922.

1922-23 – First-year teacher at Yrissari, New Mexico (40 miles south of Tijeras toward Mountainair, on horseback)

1923-30 – Teacher, Principal, Superintendent at Bernalillo County Public Schools, Los Griegos, Los Candelarias (probably also Los Duranes, Los Martinez and Los Barelas).

1923-1930 – Undergraduate Studies and BA Degree in Spanish and Education, University of New Mexico, graduated Cum laude (with honors) and member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

1930-32 – Member of the Advisory Board of Directors, of the San Jose Project and the Nambé Project of Dr. Loyd S. Tireman.

1930 – Chairman, Public Health Education Committee.

1930-33 – Part-time teacher of Spanish at Albuquerque Public Night School (while he also worked full-time and completed university studies/degrees as described below).

1931 – Graduate Studies and M.A. Degree, University of Texas (UT) at Austin, with funding by the General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation. Thesis: “A Study of the Course of Spanish Speaking Children on Repeated Tests.”

1931 (Summer) – Instructor, Psychology and Spanish Departments, University of New Mexico.

1932-33 (Summers) – Instructor, Psychology and Educational Administration Departments, New Mexico Normal University, Las Vegas, NM.

1934 (Summer) – Post-Doctoral class: “The Impact of Cultures,” Yale University.

1934-35 – President (year one), NMEA, (now NEA-NM) Santa Fe, NM.

1931-35 – Director, Division of Information and Statistics, New Mexico State Department of Education funded by the General Education Board of the Rockefeller Foundation, Santa Fe, NM.


1936-37 – Researcher, Survey of Rural and Black (Negro) Education in the Southeast US via the Julius Rosenwald Fund

1937-38 – Director of Educational Reform, Instituto Pedagógico Nacional, Ministry of Education, Venezuela (consultancy). He was also Associate Professor of Education, University of New Mexico (UNM) and for three years Part-time Instructor two summers before. While at UNM, he developed the first-ever (in the U.S.) Department of Latin American Studies. He also helped in the founding of the UNM Law School.


While in New Mexico, Dr. Sánchez worked with The Taos Harwood Foundation in promoting a Library and Bookmobile service for the Taos County area. I remember the bookmobile coming to Peñasco when I started reading The Boxcar Children. Only now do I know I should thank Dr. Sánchez for access to some of our first books.

While In Texas, 1940-1972:

Professor and later Chair (eight years) of the Department of History and Philosophy of Education, College of Education, UT-Austin:

Chair -- Latin American Studies, UT-Austin.

Director – The Center for International Affairs.

Member – The Executive Committee of the Institute of Latin American Studies

President – League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

President – Council on Education of Spanish-Speaking People in the Southwest.

Expert Witness and Advisor – About 10 legal cases regarding segregation and discrimination of minorities. These cases on desegregation served as precursors to the Brown V. Topeka decision (1954). Dr. Sánchez consulted with Thurgood Marshall.

Recognized leader in laws affecting Mexican Americans.

Director – The American Council of Spanish-Speaking People.

Consultant – U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs; the National Manpower Council; The U.S. Office of Education; the Navajo Tribal Council; the U.S. Department of the Interior; the U.S. Office of Civilian Defense, where he received a Certificate of Merit in 1944.

Education Specialist Consultant – The Inter-American Educational Foundation.

Member – JFK Committee of Fifty on New Frontier Policy in the Americas.

Member – Committee for the Peace Corps.

Board Member – The Migrant Children’s Fund.

Board Member – National Council On Agricultural Life and Labor.


Member in Academic Associations: Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Delta Kappa, Phi Delta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi, Kappa Delta Phi, the Southwestern Philosophy of Education Society, the American Educational Studies Association, the Society of Professors of Education, the Philosophy of Education Society, NEA, NMEA, TEA. Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development, Organization for the Advancement of College Teaching, Texas Association of College Teachers, American Association for the Advancement of Science, American Educational Research Association, Sociedad Mexicana de Geografía y Estadística-México.

Board Member of Common Ground, Comparative Educational Administration Journal, Journal of Mexican American Studies and others.
Appendix III
Honors/Tributes Paid to Dr. George I. Sánchez

B.A. Degree, 1930, With Honors, Phi Beta Kappa – The most prestigious U.S academic honor society in the U.S.


Beautiful Memorial Speeches after his death in Berkeley, UCLA and UT-Austin, 1972.


About ten schools in Texas and two schools in California named after George I. Sánchez. (There is a Sánchez Plaza somewhere in Texas but I’m not sure if it is named after him.)

Honorary Doctorate bestowed on Dr. G.I. Sánchez by the University of New Mexico Law School, 1969. Dr. Sánchez was one of the inspirational founding fathers of the UNM Law School.

Honors bestowed at UC-Berkeley Law School, 1985, as a leader in laws relating to Mexican Americans.


2012 Distinguished Ancestors Award from The National Multicultural Council and Summit Association of Psychologists. This award recognizes “deceased psychologists for their professional contributions to multicultural psychology through research, practice, training and social advocacy”.


Endowed George I. Sánchez Centennial Professorship in Liberal Arts at the College of Education, UT-Austin, 1984. This was the first such honor accorded a Mexican American Professor in the U.S.

The NEA-George I. Sánchez Memorial Scholarship Award. A Human and Civil Rights Award that recognizes Dr. Sánchez as the “father of the movement for quality education for Mexican Americans. (In 2012 New Mexico’s own Rosalinda Carreón Altamirano received this award. Dr. Sánchez would be most proud of her and her work.)
Book Dedication – Chicano Psychology by Joe L. Martinez et. al., Academic Press, NY, 1977. “This book is dedicated to George I. Sánchez, the father of Chicano Psychology. We can only hope that our work emulates his level of scholarship and excellence”.

The Annual George I. Sánchez Lecture Series. University of Texas at Houston, Texas, 1984


Many books and articles where his work and his words are mentioned or is listed as suggested reading. (I still have 16 of them in my library collection.)

Two forthcoming biographical books on Dr. S by a) Dr. Carlos K. Blanton, and b) Dr. Martha May Tevis (one of about 65 of his former doctoral students).

The George I. Sánchez Papers, 1919-1985 in The Nettie Lee Benson Latin American Collection, UT-Austin (in about 100 boxes).

And in New Mexico:

On February 12, 2013, the New Mexico Legislature passed a memorial (HB 47 and SB 37), commemorating October 4, as “Dr. George I. Sánchez Day”. This is the first effort of the Ad Hoc Committee to Honor our Own George I. Sánchez. The Committee thanks House Majority Floor Leader Rick Miera and Senator Gerald Ortiz y Pino and others for sponsoring these bills.

On April 26, 2013, The New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education posthumously presented its Joseph M. Montoya National Bilingual Education Award to our own Dr. George I. Sánchez and now to his granddaughter, Cynthia Kennedy.

This is a most fitting award because Senator Ralph Yarborough of Texas and our own Senator Joseph M. Montoya were the major sponsors of the 1968 Bilingual Education Act, and in the George I. Sánchez papers, under the list of correspondence, there are several letters to Senator Ralph Yarborough. (If one were to see the content of those letters we would probably not be surprised to find Dr. Sánchez advising the two Senators on this 1968 Act.)

Our Ad Hoc Committee thanks NMABE and all its members for making this second of our efforts to honor our own Dr. George I. Sánchez a reality. Mil gracias.

Other possible future New Mexico honors/tributes for our own Dr. George I. Sánchez:

- A Corrido/Ballad by our own living New Mexico music treasure and former Lt. Governor, Roberto Mondragon. (In process)
- *A Post-Modern Review of Dr. Sánchez’ Book: Forgotten People: A Study Of New Mexicans*, by Dr. Luisa Duran, whose Peñasco village and people are featured along with the other 24 villages of Taos County in the late 1930s. (In process)

- And lastly, the Ad Hoc Committee to Honor our Own Dr. George I. Sánchez would like to begin the process of **naming something or some place** in New Mexico, where he lived and worked, in his honor in the near future. While this is a more politically daunting idea and effort which may take more time and energy than the older members of our committee have, we hope to begin the process soon and pass it on to younger members. At the very least, we hope to write a letter to our Governor, Susanna Martínez and to UNM President, Dr. Robert Frank recommending Dr. Sánchez for such a well-deserved honor.

*Veremos pues.*
Appendix IV
Notable U.S. and New Mexico People/Peers who Knew
Dr. George I. Sánchez, 1920-1940

U. S. Senator Dennis Chavez
U. S. Senator Bronson Cutting

New Mexico Governor Seligman
New Mexico Governor Tingley

New Mexico Governor Otero
New Mexico Governor Mechem

Many legislators in the 11th and 12th Legislature

Local School District Superintendents:
Isabel Eckles
Lois Randolf
Atanasio Montoya

Georgia Lusk
H. R. Rogers
Grace Carrigan

Many officials in the New Mexico State Department of Ed.

The University of New Mexico:
President J. Zimmerman
Dean S. P. Nanninga

Dr. Loyd Tireman
Dr. Joaquín Ortega

Dr. A. L. Campa
Dr. James Cooper

Dr. Dolores Gonzales
Dr. Frank Angel

Dr. Marie Hughes
Law School Founders

Many others such as:
Julian Samora
Mary Austin
Mary Watson

María Casias Vergara
Anita Osuna
Fabiola C. De Baca Gilbert

Jennie Gonzales
Frank Lopez
Cyrus McCormick
John Milne    Mela Sedillo    Harlan Sinninger
Margaret Abreu  Marguirite Baca  Gilberto Espinoza
Calvin Horn    Tibo Chávez    Vernon Tolle
Tom Wiley  Russell Lee    John Collier
Sister Fidelis  Sister Maura

All the people at:

- The Bernalillo County Schools: los Griegos, los Candelarias, los Duranes, los Martínez and los Barelas
- NM Normal University/Highlands University
- NMEA
- TEWA Basin Study
- LULAC
- Taos, Río Arriba, Mora, San Miguel, Santa Fe, and Bernalillo Counties and many small New Mexico villages
- Racial Attitude Scale Controversy
- New Deal Programs: Arts Revival Program Artist; Writers’ Project; WPA; CCC; NYA; the Taos Harwood Foundation; Etc.

While In Texas: (About 200 names are Listed)

Too numerous to mention including several U.S. Presidents who seem to have sought Dr. Sánchez’ advice

Prominent U.S. Senators and Representatives, Supreme Court Justices, and many other government officials

Many prominent Texas political and educational heroes

Many national and international scholars
Appendix V
The Ad Hoc Committee To Honor
New Mexico's Own
Dr. George I. Sánchez

From Las Vegas
Dr. Alice Menzor
Dr. Loretta Salazar
Dr. Tomás Salazar
Dr. Juan Sandoval
Dr. Alice Sandoval

From Las Cruces
Dr. Roberto Gallegos
Dr. Anne Gallegos

From Albuquerque
Dr. David Bachelor
Dr. Felipe Gonzales
Dr. Leroy Ortiz
Dora Ortiz
Dr. Luisa Durán

From Santa Fe
Sharon Morgan
Eduardo Holguín
Roberto Mondragón
Dr. Sánchez's granddaughter, Cynthia Kennedy
and her husband Pastor Greg
By Luisa Durán

DE LOS SÁNCHEZ

HAY ‘MUNCHA’ GENTE BUENA

Y DE LOS BARELAS

LLEGÓ UNO MUY ESPECIAL

THEY SAID

‘OUR VERY OWN DR. GEORGE I. SÁNCHEZ,

FORGOTTEN’

(UNINTENTIONALLY)

IN HIS BELOVED NEW MEXICO

‘MUNCHOS’ AÑOS

‘MUNCHA’ GENTE

HAVE PASSED ON

THE MEMORY OF

DR. GEORGE I. SÁNCHEZ
MUST NOT BE FORGOTTEN

HIS NEW MEXICO STUDENTS
ARE STILL HERE
NOW IS A GOOD TIME TO HONOR
DR. GEORGE I. SÁNCHEZ
ANTES DE QUE SEA MUY TARDE

OCTOBER 4TH LOOK
IN THE NORTHERN NEW MEXICO NIGHT SKY
YOU CAN SEE ONE COMET SHOOTING NORTH AND SOUTH
AND
YOU CAN SEE ONE COMET SHOOTING EAST AND WEST

I THINK
THEY ARE BOTH
OUR VERY OWN
1906-1972

PROFESOR JORGE ISIDORO SÁNCHEZ Y SÁNCHEZ
(or, you can Google his name and you’ll see a bright star in the internet sky)