



Narciso "Ciso" Sanchez discovered this Centennial Edition of the Silver City Daily Press and Independent.
Photo by Christine Steele

CENTENNIAL DISCOVERY



Ernestina "Tina" Gonzales was born Aug. 24, 1942, in Silver City. She worked at the former Hillcrest Hospital as a receptionist and became the business director and manager at the new hospital, Gila Regional Medical Center. She enrolled at Western New Mexico University and graduated with her master's in counseling. She worked as a counselor at El Refugio and then at La Plata Middle School, before retiring. Ciso and Tina met on Christmas Day, 1964, in California, after Ciso had gotten out of the Army. They were married a year and a half later, on June 25, 1966, and moved to Silver City — Tina's hometown — in 1970, the year of Silver City's Centennial. She passed away in 2010.

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By Christine Steele

Silver City resident Narciso "Ciso" Sanchez made a surprising discovery one summer day while putting around in his garage shop. In the bottom drawer of an old cabinet, he found two copies of the Centennial Edition of the Silver City Daily Press, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the town's charter, published July 3, 1970.

"That's the year we moved into this house," Ciso said. Back on that day in 1970, Ciso's wife, Ernestina "Tina" (Gonzales) Sanchez, had tucked the newspapers into a kitchen drawer — and there they stayed for over 50 years.

It was just over 20 years ago that Ciso installed new cabinets in their kitchen and moved the old cabinets to his shop, where the papers sat undisturbed in that bottom drawer. It wasn't until the summer of 2019 when Ciso discovered the newspapers while reorganizing his shop. He hoped to display them on the 50th anniversary — July 3, 2020 — but with the pandemic going on, there were no Fourth of July events to share it. So, he reached out to the Silver City Museum to donate it in honor of his wife, Tina, who died in 2010, but the museum declined.

Ciso wants to honor his wife for having the foresight to save not one but two copies for the future. He recently loaned one copy out, but forgot who he loaned it to, so if you have it, he would like to have it back so he can donate it to the Silver City Daily Press and Independent to frame and display in their office for the public to enjoy.

"She had the foresight that this might be important to save," Ciso said. "And it lasted 50 years!"

Flipping through the pages of the Daily Press Centennial Edition is a walk down memory lane for some and a trip into the city's past for others. There are advertisements from businesses — some long past, some more

recently shuttered, and some still here.

Like the promise of Dining — Dancing — Cocktails at the Ranch Club with music by Jimmy Guray, and Meredith Neal and His Bootheel Boys, or Old Fashioned Fun at the iconic Buffalo Bar. There is an old photo of the Hotel San Vicente, a sanatorium and traveler's hotel that became known for its food, and ads for Howell Drug, Schadel's Bakery, Western Stationers, and The Club House Bar, at 211 N. Texas St., which then billed itself as one of the oldest establishments in Silver City.

Some will recognize family names, local businesses like Werner Tire Service, American Laundry Cleaning Co., R&L, Snappy Marts, the Drifter, the Silver City Woman's Club, The Buckhorn Saloon, Dairy Queen, and Foxworth-Galbraith Lumber, and organizations like the American Kitefliers Association, which started in Silver City.

Old slogans like "Eat Beef, Use Copper, Drive Fords," reprints from earlier editions, including a humorous piece called "Trials of a Lady Reporter" and the timeless "They Found a Place in the Sunshine," about why people came to live in Silver City, that could almost have been written today. People came for the climate — Silver City used to use the slogan "Four Gentle Seasons" — the lack of tornadoes, earthquakes, landslides, they came for opportunities, they came to retire — many of the same reasons people settle here today.

"All have found one important thing here and that is a place in the sun. You may never get rich in Silver City, although some have, but you'll always be assured of a place in the sunshine except for a day or two each year and sometimes even that's a pleasant diversion."

Overall, the Centennial Edition of the Daily Press celebrates the community's growth and change with a slogan that could be said also holds true today:

"A community meeting the challenge of the times with Progress."

THE SILVER CITY DAILY PRESS AND INDEPENDENT