

## **HERNÁNDEZ, MARÍA LATIGO (1896–1986)**

An advocate for the rights and political empowerment of Mexican Americans and Mexican Immigrants, Hernández' experiences span two generations of activism in Texas. Founder or co-founder of numerous organizations involved in promoting education and community development, Hernández sought to end segregation in the public schools and supported workers' rights in the Pecan Shellers Strike, 1938. A charismatic speaker, Hernández became the first Mexican women radio announcer utilizing the microphone for fiery speeches on civil rights. She hosted a television program on women's issues. An avid supporter of La Raza Unida party, Hernández promoted Chicano politics and endorsed candidates including Henry González, the first Tejano to serve in the U.S. Congress. Honored for her impressive achievements, Hernández Latigo left an invaluable legacy for future generations.