



Student Name:
Class Period:
Date:

Meet the Originals

Texas Originals is a radio series about people who made an impact on Texas. You can hear it online and on radio stations around the state. Read or listen to the episode on Adela Sloss-Vento. Then, answer questions about it.

Adela Sloss-Vento 1901–1998

Born in 1901 in Karnes City, Texas, and raised in the Rio Grande Valley, Adela Sloss-Vento was a pioneer of Mexican American civil rights.

She advocated for justice as a writer, publishing articles and essays in both Spanish- and English- language newspapers across the state, including *La Prensa* of San Antonio, *La Verdad* of Corpus Christi, and the *McAllen Monitor*. She championed the rights of immigrants, women, and workers and called for implementation of the Good Neighbor Policy with Mexico.

Sloss-Vento also joined Alonso S. Perales of the League of United Latin American Citizens—or LULAC—in the struggle for equality. She never joined LULAC herself but advocated on its behalf as well as for Ladies LULAC, separate chapters for women. Her collaboration with Perales was key to the Mexican American civil rights movement, and she lent crucial support to LULAC's first class- action case to end school segregation in Texas. Sloss-Vento later wrote an important book chronicling Perales's accomplishments as a civil rights activist.

In the sixties, Sloss-Vento backed the political agenda of the Chicano Movement, which empowered people of Mexican descent to celebrate their culture while combatting systemic racism. She continued to provide counsel and support in the struggle for justice through her final years.

Sloss-Vento died in 1998. Her enduring legacy was her formidable ability to engage others with her vision for a better Texas.

Check for Understanding: Answer the questions below based on evidence from the episode on Adela Sloss-Vento. Refer to the text included above if needed.

1. What did Adela Sloss-Vento call for in her writing?
2. What movement did she become involved with in the 1960s?

Going Further: Write or discuss your answer to the question below, supporting your answer with evidence from the episode or additional information you have learned in class.

3. **Taking a Position.** Sloss-Vento became a mentor to other young activists in the Mexican American civil rights movement. Do you think the support of a mentor is important? Explain your answer.