

By HEIDI BENDER  
Leader Staff

Those who know Genobeba Rendon will tell you that if there were more people like her this world would be a better place.

"She is a good-hearted person," said Rubio's Grocery co-owner Mack Rubio of one of Round Rock's 1992 Local Legends. "If she knows someone is sick, she'll go and take whatever she can. Too bad we don't have more people like that.

"She's always giving and never expecting anything in return."

**THEY CALL**  
**ROUND ROCK**  
**HOME**

**Genobeba Rendon**  
Local Legend

**Favorites**

**Food:** Chicken mole

**Movie:** No favorite

**Book:** No favorite

**Comic Strip:** No favorite

**Song:** "Madre Soltera"

**Vacation Spot:** San Luis,  
Potosi, Mexico

**Hobby:** Cooking

"She's very generous," said Amaro & Amaro Sportswear owner Rose Amaro, who along with her husband, Raymond, has known Rendon for several years.

"When my mother-in-law was sick she'd walk every day to come see her and pray for her. She's real helpful and kind."

Rendon, 68, a resident of Round Rock for about 40 years, is known first and foremost as a person who gives from her heart, even though her own life has been filled with hard work and sacrifice.

Without anyone ever having to ask, she has

assisted people in times of illness, death, and birth. Rendon has bought clothing at garage sales and given them to needy families with small children, she has helped care for countless elderly residents, and has helped many Hispanic families in obtaining U.S. citizenship.

She has been active with the Guadalupanas, a volunteer service organization affiliated with St. Williams' Catholic Church, for the last 35 years. The Guadalupanas provide assistance with weddings, host hospitality receptions at wakes and funerals and provide assistance to poorer families and others whenever they can.

"Me da mucho felicidad (It gives me great joy)," said Rendon, who was presented with the Local Legend award by the city's Historic Preservation Commission recently in recognition of her many contributions to the community.

It just makes her heart feel good to help others, she explained through an interpreter, and only wishes she could do more.

Born in Hutto in 1924, Rendon is the daughter of Maria Torres and Benino Rendon, who had moved to Texas from San Luis, Potosi, Mexico about seven years earlier. Rendon and her three older brothers were reared on two Hutto area ranches, where her family picked cotton and corn and gardened in return for every third crop of cotton.

She never had formal schooling, though she had taught herself how to read and write in Spanish at the age of 14 by copying letters from matchbooks and enlisting the help of a friend on another ranch who had been taught how to read and write by an old man in Mexico.

At the age of 19, she was married briefly, but the marriage didn't work out and she returned home.

When the man her family worked for bought a tractor, Rendon's family members found themselves out of work. The rancher no longer needed mules - or the people to drive them, according to Rendon.

In the early '50s, Rendon's brother Emeterio Rendon, was hired by Round Rock White Lime and the family



Leader Photo by Mark Prochnow

Longtime Round Rock resident Genobeba Rendon has been presented with the city of Round Rock's Local Legend award in recognition of her many contributions to the community. She is pictured here with her grandson, Jordan, age 3.

moved into the firm's company houses.

After her father died in 1958, Rendon moved back to Hutto for about two years. She cleaned cotton and did general ranch work, becoming the breadwinner for her mother, her self and her son, Joe, whom she raised single-handedly.

Rendon and her family then returned to Round Rock and settled into a home near St. William's Catholic Church, where she lived for 33 years.

She continued to support her family. She worked as a seamstress and did laundry at the Texas Children's Baptist Home in Round Rock for 11 years, taking annual visits to see family in San Luis. She also worked for Four Seasons and the Trinity Lutheran Nursing Home in Round Rock.

Rendon, who frequently helps her son and his wife by babysitting her grandsons,

Joseph Ben, age 10, and Jordan Lynn, age 3, retired five years ago and is now living in a home in southeast Round Rock.

"Thank God - He gave me guidance to take care of my son alone," said Rendon, looking back on her life. "Thank God I was able to work."

Despite a lifetime of hard work, Rendon always found time to help others and continues to assist in whatever way she can.

Genobeba Rendon is "a person who has contributed to life in Round Rock by applying the best aspects of small town culture to the more complex modern life," stated the Historic Preservation Commission in recognizing Rendon as a Local Legend.

Editor's Note: This is the last in a three-part series on Round Rock's 1992 Local Legends.