

Code of Silence

In the autumn of 1915 a tragic event, a double murder, occurred in a family's history, one that is reflected in the history of numerous South Texas families. It was not an isolated incident, for many similar murders took place in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas during the years 1910 - 1920.

The story has been handed down in the Bazan/Longoria family from generation to generation through the oral tradition for the last eighty-nine years. For the first fifteen to twenty years the family did not speak freely of the murders, which undoubtedly affected their lives forever, even to the present generation. It is a story that is still emotionally evocative and wounding to the family but it is intriguing and more importantly, historic, and must therefore be told as a true story of Texas history. Because there were many other similar murders of innocent men and even women and children, during this insidious period of South Texas history, these stories can no longer be ignored, minimized or covered up by explanations that conveniently protected the guilty parties and justified their actions.