

# Equipped to See Race: On Excess, Collapse, and the Rhetorical Force of Racial Recognition

Lisa A. Flores  
University of Colorado







**TJ THA DJ**

@Tj\_Tha\_Dj



Follow

Who dat lil [#Wetback](#) sangin the national anthem at the [#Heat](#) game????

View translation

Reply Retweet Favorite More

8:55 PM - 11 Jun 13



LEARN ENGLISH WET BACK

Nutrition Facts	
Amount Per Serving	
Calories 100	
% Daily Value*	Amount Per Serving
Total Fat	10g
Cholesterol	50mg
Sodium	100mg
Total Carbohydrate	10g
Dietary Fiber	5g
Sugars	5g
Protein	5g



GO ON TO MEXICO

WET BACK

## Candidate Wants Right to Shoot 'Wetbacks'

February 24, 2014 at 6:30 pm EDT By [Taegan Goddard](#) — [Leave a Comment](#)

Texas U.S. Senate candidate Chris Mapp (R) told the [Dallas Morning News](#) that ranchers should be allowed to shoot on sight anyone illegally crossing the border on to their land and referred to such people as "wetbacks."

Mapp later defended his remarks to the [San Antonio Express-News](#) saying that use of the racial slur is as "normal as breathing air in South Texas."







# WET AND OTHER MEXICANS

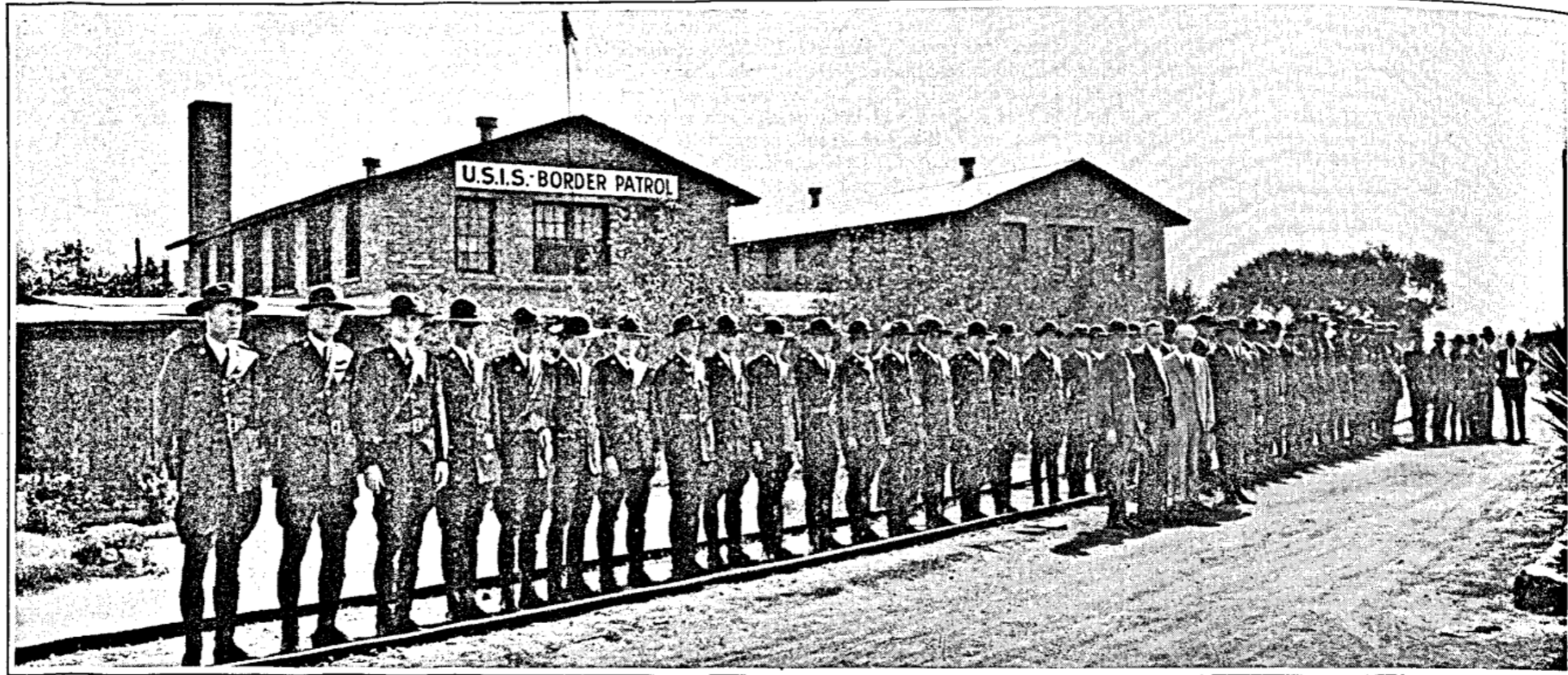


PHOTO. BY ALEXANDER, EL PASO

*United States Border Patrol Inspectors From the El Paso and Big Bend Subdistricts*

HERE are three unrelated obser-

colds or the merits of the Eighteenth

*A Dictionary of Social Science (1949)*

*New Words and Words in the News (1951)*


*American Thesaurus of Slang (1953)*

*Merriam-Webster, Addenda Section (1954)*

SYNERGY ARCHIVE SERIES

*odds meant nothing*

**IN THEIR  
DESPERATE  
FIGHT FOR  
SURVIVAL!**




THE  
EXPLOSIVE STORY  
OF BORGES TRAFFIC  
IN HUMAN  
LIVES!

# WETBACKS

by Thomas Ryan

The greatest danger  
to mankind lies  
in the hands  
of those who  
are not  
human.




CAST BY  
**LLOYD BRIDGES - NANCY GATES**

STORY BY  
LLOYD BRIDGES - NANCY GATES

CAST BY  
LLOYD BRIDGES - NANCY GATES

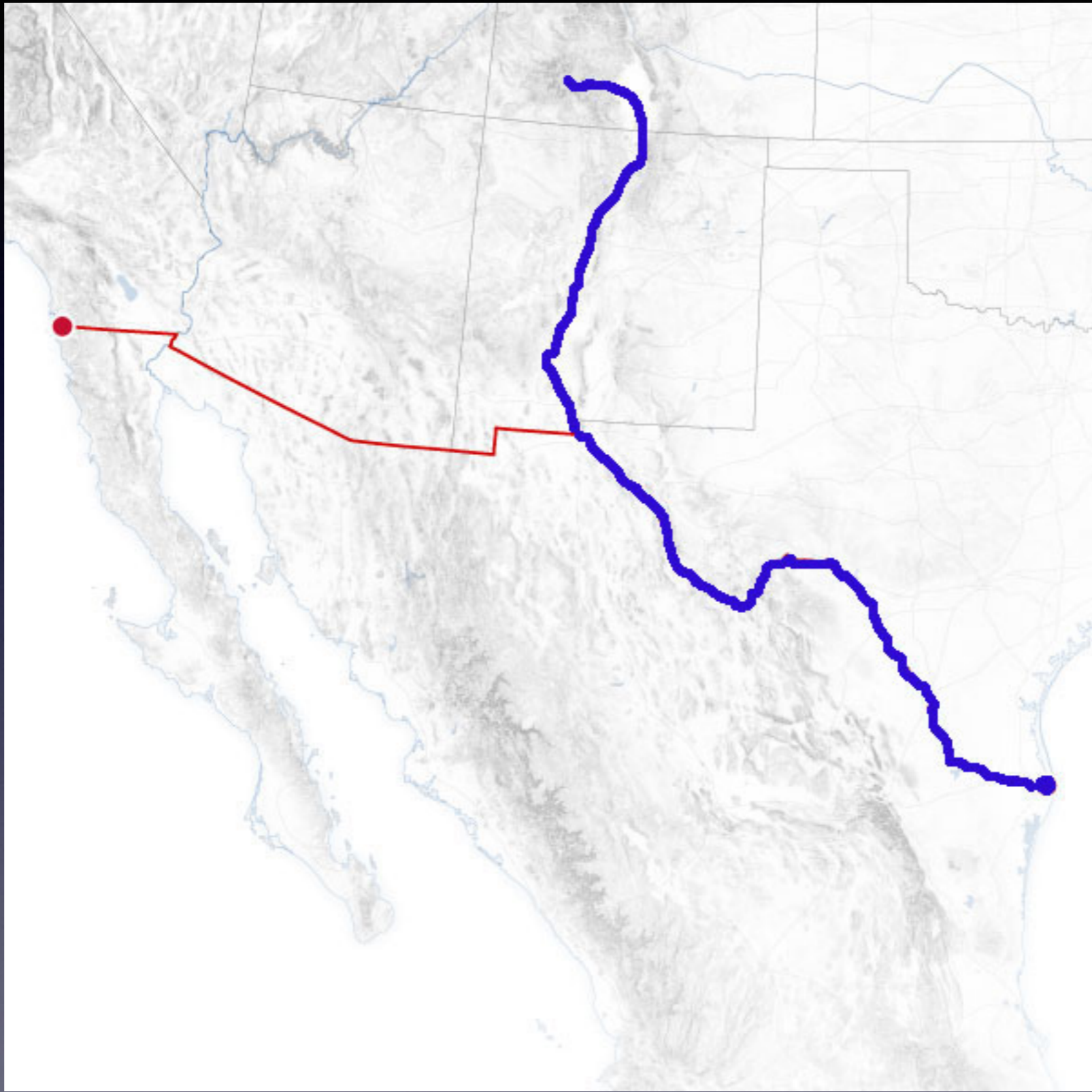
© SYNERGY





Originally a nick name for  
Mexicans greaser, beaner,  
pepper belly, either legally or  
illegally in the country.  
Originated in the American  
Southwest border states, Texas,  
New Mexico, Arizona, and  
California. Through common  
usage has come to mean  
citizens of any nation who have  
immigrated here illegally.





## OVERVIEW

# wetback

## QUICK REFERENCE

A Mexican living in the US, especially one who is an illegal immigrant, so named from the practice of swimming the Rio Grande to reach the US.

**From:** [wetback](#)  in [The Oxford Dictionary of Phrase and Fable](#) » 

“A Mexican living in the US, especially one who is an illegal immigrant, so named from the practice of swimming the Rio Grande to reach the US.





“waded [across] the shallow river in sight of the Border Patrol, which received them with formality, herded them into temporary enclosures and immediately paroled them to . . . cotton growers, who trucked [them] . . . at once to the fields.”

~ *La Opinion*, October 1948



gettyimages®  
Bettmann

515279946



“The problem created by the presence in the United States and the continued entry of hundreds of thousands of farm workers who have streamed illegally across the Mexican border.”

*~Washington Post, 1951*

**ALIENS IN SWARMS TEST U.S. BORDERS**  
*New York Times (1857-Current file); May 31, 1948; ProQuest Historical Newspapers The New York Times*  
pg. 19

## **'ALIENS IN SWARMS TEST U. S. BORDERS**

WASHINGTON, May 30 (AP)—  
By land, sea and air thousands of  
aliens are trying to get into this  
country illegally. Some make it  
but most do not.

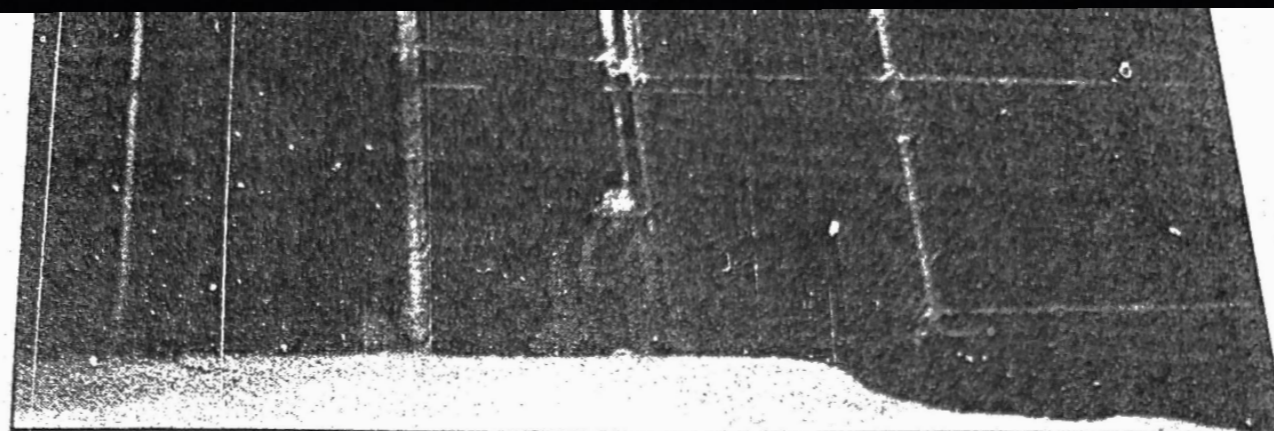
The swarm streaming across our  
borders has reached an "unprece-  
dented volume," according to the  
Immigration and Naturalization  
Service.

In 1944 more than 33,500 were  
apprehended by border patrols and  
sent back to where they came  
from. In 1946 the number was  
100,785. If the present rate of ap-  
prehensions is maintained for the  
rest of this year the number will  
exceed 200,000, a 100 per cent in-  
crease in two years.

...trying to put a  
foreign Minister Jerónimo  
parked outside the Al-  
tel, where Remorino lives.  
was brightly lighted and  
the conspiratorial dilet-  
tantes quickly and easily  
led police to the  
doctor, whose consulting  
two cases of "ophthalmic  
which proved to be machine  
ally to two men who ad-  
most of the bombs. Testi-  
at one of them had a  
which included \$11,000,  
cited as proof the  
involved.

...cal leaders of the op-  
conservative, Socialist,  
parties were also ar-  
assumption that all de-  
to the interests of  
gigantic plot, police  
population to nearly  
ations were avail-  
were "profiteers"—  
jails and twice that  
the country. Rumor-  
officials were also  
in prison.

...he "terrorist bomb-  
on was apparently  
xt group—presum-  
in his campaign  
ive-oligarch plot  
d financed from  
overthrow of the



Hrens-Magnum

Flashbulbs caught this wetback sneaking through the fence

#### MEXICO:

### Wetback Flood

With their frayed and beaten som-breros pulled down over their weary faces and their bare toes tracing patterns in the dirt, more than a thousand ragged refugees from Mexico's dust bowls stood patiently in the plaza of the city of Durango last week waiting their turn to sign up as *braceros* (contract laborers) for U.S. cotton fields and truck gardens. In Saltillo, Monterrey, and Guadalajara tens of thousands of other impoverished souls waited to be trucked across the Rio Grande to earn what seemed to them a fortune—75 cents an hour. Most of them were farmers who had been forced to abandon their corn patches after months of drought. Their wives and children

more than two a minute, day and night, the whole month. And for every one of them, two or three probably sneaked through undetected. More and more wetbacks jump the border every year. Last year 618,000 were caught, and on the basis of a tremendous influx in the first four months of this year, officials believe the 1953 total will reach 876,000.

**Necessary Headache:** The mass movement, which has become such an immigration headache, is of basic economic importance to both countries. Southwestern farmers need Mexican hands because domestic labor is scarce. To Mexico, the dollars their workers send home are vital in maintaining a trade balance. Last year's braceros sent back \$70,000,000, and wetbacks probably re-mitted another \$100,000,000.

But Mexico wants better U.S. guaran-tees on pay and working conditions. Ne-





**“What, then, is race?** It is a **vast family** of human beings, generally of **common blood and language**, always of **common history, traditions, and impulses**, who are both voluntarily and involuntarily striving together for the accomplishment of certain more or less vividly conceived ideals of life.”

~W. E. B. Du Bois, 1897



“Race is a *practice* - an ongoing discursive process of racing individuals that must be maintained in order to **survive**. The categories accepted as natural and inevitable . . . must consistently be called upon, called forth if you will, for without possessing ontological grounding, **the ‘truths’ of racial categorization and demarcation exist only in the retelling.**”

~Nadine Ehlers



“seemingly natural but finally unstable logic of race”

~Matthew Frye Jacobson

“America . . . desperately requires the body to speak the ‘truth’ [of race] . . . and is destabilized by the possibility that the body will ‘fail’ to articulate this ‘truth.’”

~Nadine Ehlers



“The visible markers [presumed racial phenotypes] may then be interpreted as **outer signs** of an **essential, immutable, inner moral-intellectual character**, and that character, in its turn - attested to by **physical ‘difference’** - is summoned up to explain the social value attached . . . in the first place. The circuit is ineluctable. **Race is social value become perception.**”

~Matthew Frye Jacobson



“It is discursive power that ‘makes’  
race perceptible, because it teaches or  
instructs people to read by it.”

~Nadine Ehlers

# Racial Recognition

the compulsive seeing and finding of likeness that resists reducing likeness to mutuality

likeness to a circulating discourse

perceptual/conceptual collapse



CAUGHT BY THE CAMERA'S FLASH, TWO WETBACKS SWING ABOARD A NORTHBOUND FREIGHT TRAIN AFTER SUCCESSFULLY GETTING ACROSS U.S. BORDER

# WETBACKS SWARM IN MEXICANS DISRUPT BORDER ECONOMY BY SNEAKING OVER FOR LOW WAGES

PHOTOGRAPHED FOR LIFE BY LOOMIS DEAN

All this spring southern California has been under invasion by a Mexican army as plentiful, gentle and persistent as a spring rain. The wetbacks, as they are called because they often cross the border by fording a river, are Mexican laborers who come over illegally by the thousands to get jobs for a few days as "stoop labor" on nearby vegetable farms, or sometimes hop freights (*above*) to longer-lived jobs farther north. Seven out of eight are quickly caught by border patrols (*next page*) and returned to

Mexico from which they patiently start out again for the U.S. Of the rest, most work briefly and return to Mexico of their own accord, jingling a \$15 to \$20 fortune.

To the whole 1,500-mile border area, and especially California where this traffic is heaviest, the wetbacks pose a major problem. With American stoop labor scarce, and the legal importation of Mexican labor strangled in red tape, most growers welcome wetbacks, especially since they work for half U.S. wages. But

they also depress wage rates, lower local living standards, take money out of the U.S. and unwittingly furnish protective cover for more dangerous aliens to sneak into the country.

Last week the Senate was considering a bill to provide for screening and transporting Mexican labor to this country at U.S. expense. Labor would be contracted for by growers who would guarantee wages and living conditions. The bill is expected to become law by July 1. It may—or may not—put an end to the wetback invasion.

desires, he must negotiate.

**FARMING:**

**The Mexican Wetbacks**

As farmers standing on the American side of the border gave the signal last week, thousands of Mexican migratory workers in full view of Mexican and United States authorities swarmed over the bridges from Ciudad Juárez into El Paso, Texas. With thousands of acres of crops awaiting harvest, United States immigration officials in El Paso for the first time in border history dropped the bars completely.

As the Mexicans crossed, they were placed under technical arrest, paroled to the Texas Employment Commission, and loaded on trucks headed for the fields. On the cotton farms of the Upper Rio Grande Valley they would pick 90 per cent of the 1948 crop. The "wetback" invasion had become so great that part of it was "dry-back."

The illegal "wetback" Mexican farm

ing  
ORDER  
**ERS**  
**R**  
ail  
ct.  
e-  
at  
es  
c  
t

w  
v  
C  
in  
h  
a  
t  
t  
a  
t  
  
I  
V  
  
r  
c  
v  
v  
t  
r  
a

“the actual number of wetbacks”

~ Culver E. Giddens, 1951

“wetback problem”

~ James P. Mitchell, 1954

# Border Patrol Doubles As 'Operation Wetback' Set

## Long Wetback Drive Forecast

EDINBURG, July 14 (AP) — A long drive for Texas cattlemen headed for the border today that "wetback" continue to cross the border as there is a vast difference in living standards.

"The most poorly situated wetback in this country is infinitely better off than the best laborer here," he said. Walking

## National Guard Armory Board Meets Friday

The Texas National Guard Armory Board will meet Friday and a decision is due then on whether an armory will be built in Edinburg.

## Drive Begins Thursday



“Mexican nationals . . . pour *unlawfully* across the border. The illegals, or ‘wetbacks’ - a name derived from their fording of the Rio Grande river - comprise 400,000 of our one million migratory laborers.”

~*Commonweal, 1951*

“Aside from the fact that it is a monstrous example of publicly countenanced law-breaking, the traffic inflicts incalculable economic and social damage on the United States.”

*~New York Times, 1953*

“The Mexican wetback is the hardest-working farm laborer in the world. After all, the only thing he wants is to work.”

*~Americas, 1953*

“The Mexican national may be paid fifty cents an hour, with a shack to live in; the wetback will work for twenty to thirty cent an hour and live in the brush. An American family, regardless of living standards, cannot survive on fifty cents an hour. And, anyway, Americans won’t do stoop labor. They aspire to something higher.”

~*Commonweal*, 1954



“How about being in a drugstore and three Mexicans entered reaking [sic] with filth and odor so bad it was nauseating, and the three enjoying their appearance while clean people were at tables partaking food. How about being on a bus and having lice drop down in your lap from a dirty Mexican standing in the aisle beside you.”

~A. P. Pierce, 1951

“They [wetbacks] are herded together in insanitary  
[sic] hovels and shanties.”

*~New York World Telegram Sun, 1951*

“I have seen, with my own eyes, people living in these shacks and sheds, getting their own water to drink, and cook with, out of irrigation ditches, no type of sanitary facilities, bathing or toilet facilities of any kind in sight; living in shacks I wouldn't put a horse in.”

*~Commonweal, 1951*



“Wherever they go, wetbacks depress standards of wages and working conditions.”

*~New York Times, 1953*



“To try and stop them is like trying to stop birds from migrating.”

~*Newsweek*, 1953

“Like ants, they’re swarming over the desert like ants.”

~*Time*, 1951

“[Wetbacks] swarmed to the border by the tens of faceless thousands. They milled briefly amid slinking dogs and the neon-lighted stench of Mexicali and then streamed, furtively and endlessly across the border into California.”

*~Time, 1951*

“Mexican workers are now being loaded like work animals onto trucks.”

*~New Republic, 1951*



# Two Every Minute Across the Border

Mexican "wetbacks" continue to invade the U. S. in an unending—and uncontrolled—stream.

By **GLADWIN HILL**

**EL PASO, Calif.**  
**I**T may be the dawn of a new day may mean a new attack, or it may bring temporary, uneasy truce. But down here on the Mexican border the dawn of such a new day, even if it is a week, brings the renewal of an unending stream of Mexican "wetbacks" to cross a never-ending stream of the United States.

Down is what the "wetbacks" — the Mexican border-crossers who sneak into the United States at a current rate of a million or more a year—usually mean their Mexican neighbors from the south. Since Mexico and the United States have so far been unable to agree on a new migrant labor policy for this year, permitting the legal importation of Mexican workmen under controlled conditions, the "wetback" problem in 1954 will, if anything, be worse.

Some of the "wetbacks" come about, across something about wastes. Others grow away on freight trains, in bus cars, "in the mail" and even in garbage cans loaded with steel and in empty milk cans—down which, on occasion, they are attracted, good, in coffee cans. Still others, who have working up \$100 to pay a professional smuggler, travel northward in automobiles and even in San Diego taxis to Los Angeles, the San Joaquin Valley and the gardens of San Francisco.

Down, stepping from the crossing away the check of customs, is what the Border Patrol of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service daily receives its unending stream of "wetbacks" to catch and deport.

The extent, which probably will receive an unprecedented amount of public attention during the current session of Congress, is so amazing it is a wonder the Border Patrol has not failed in the least long since.

**A** MEXICAN team on entering the United States without legal sanction has 1,000 miles of border to cross—from Brownsville, Tex., to San Diego, Calif. For the first 500 miles the line follows the shifting course of the Rio Grande River northward to El Paso, Tex. In some seasons and some places its waters flow dry and seasonally, leaving the invaders to cross for it. (When they come of "wetbacks"). Along much of the Rio Grande and several segments the El Paso to Texas, Douglas, Nogales and Yuma in Arizona and Colima in California, the border is fenced and there are gates where customs and immigration formalities are performed. But anywhere one can go a short way out of town and go over or around the fence, and the rest of the border is wide open.

**GLADWIN HILL**, of the Times Los Angeles Bureau, covers a vast territory which includes the "wetback" country north of the Rio Grande.

The Border Patrol has fewer than 1,000 officers to police the 1,000 miles. If the whole force were lined up along the border at once, it still would form no kind of a curtain. In addition, international relations protect their own weapons in any kind of force across national.

The better these officers are forced to wage by use of a "defense in depth," extending northward all the way to San Francisco. Surveillance is maintained over the most inviting segments of the border, but most of the work of apprehending illegal aliens is done well " inland"—on foot and horseback, in jeeps and patrol cars, with an array of tactics from roadblocks to aerial reconnaissance. In fact, the patrol, in collaboration with other law enforcement agencies, extends its activities all the way to the Canadian border and the Mexican seaboard. The back streets of Chicago hotels, the steel mills of western Pennsylvania—any place where possible employment may be found in within the rights of the "wetbacks."

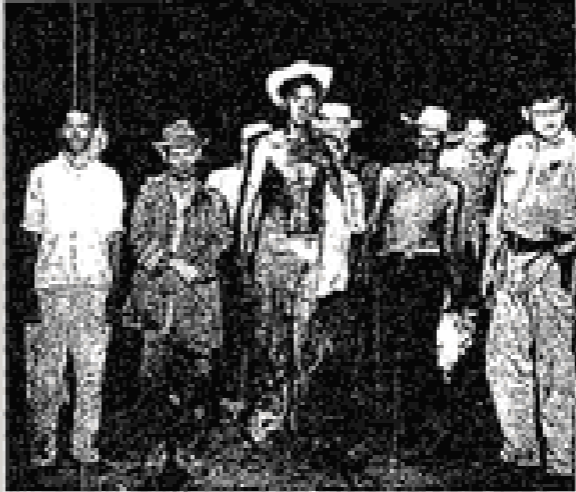
**B**UT their main concentrations are in Southern agriculture. Their number is reliably estimated to reach as high as 100,000 at a time in California and the lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. The total of those caught tells only part of the story, because for every one of those one or more are presumed to go undetected. A majority probably perishes back in Mexico after a hard work, but others by the thousands try to make their illegal entry permanent.

The typical "wetback" can be described only as a laborer and a man—occasionally there are women "wetbacks"—the way to an illiterate peasant from Chihuahua, numbering, with his straw hat, simple and meager, one of Franco Villa's followers. He may be a relatively sophisticated seaman or industrial worker from Mexico City who has traveled up to a thousand miles to get to the border. He is generally unskilled and without a family. It takes more than ordinary activities to maintain a grubstake, get to the border and run the Border Patrol's gauntlet, all for the purpose of working harder at lower wages than most United States citizens will accept.

**S**OMETIMES, it is technically illegal; the "wetback" may wind up in jail, if caught repeatedly, for as much as two years. But the chances are that, if caught, he will not be deported back across the border. Every Mexican knows that hundreds of thousands of his compatriots have preceded him on the route and that even he is in the United States an employer can hire him, with impunity. Under present laws, it must be proved that the employer knowingly harbored an illegal alien, which is difficult. Under these circumstances, (Continued on Page 11)



**EMBRACING THE RIVER**—Looking west on the American side, Mexican "wetback" wade across the river at a quiet and sheltered spot near El Paso, Tex.



**WETBACKS END**—After making a border trip without food or water, soldiers in scaled height cars, illegal entrants are marched up in Los Angeles.



RAIN MAY REIGN

SAN ANTONIO AND VICINITY: Partly cloudy and warm with widely scattered afternoon thundershowers. Gentle to moderate southerly winds. Low in mid-70s, high in high 90s. Sunrise 6:45, set 7:33.

(Official U.S. Weather Bureau Forecast)

8 a.m. - 70	10 a.m. - 88	1 p.m. - 92	4 p.m. - 97
10 a.m. - 71	2 p.m. - 90	5 p.m. - 94	10 p.m. - 95
12 noon - 68	3 p.m. - 90	7 p.m. - 93	11 p.m. - 93
12 noon - 68	4 p.m. - 91	9 p.m. - 91	12 midn - 91

# San Antonio Express

**FINAL EDITION**

NO. 197—89TH YEAR

C

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS, FRIDAY, JULY 16, 1954 32 PAGES IN 3 SECTIONS 5 CENTS

## Roundup Nabs 5,000 Wetbacks

## 'Surrender' In Indo-China Ruled Out

First of Aliens Headed Toward El Paso Center

### Dulles Assured France Seeking 'Honor' Peace

WASHINGTON. —(AP)— Secretary of State John Foster Dulles reported to President Dwight D. Eisenhower Thursday that France's premier has assured him he will agree to a surrender peace in order to end the Indo-China war. Highly placed informants, who disclosed this said Dulles, heartened by France's views, has recommended that the United States associate itself with any reasonable Indo-China settlement, even though it may not like it. **THIS NEW DULLES** attitude represents a change in policy because until his conferences in Paris with Premier Mendès-France he favored denouncing any partition settlement and refusing to associate in any way with it. The secretary after two days of secret talks with the French leader and British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden, however, has decided the U.S. should go along with a settlement if it is deemed reasonable. But he has made it

### Soap Box Derby Tryouts

See Story, Photos Page 12A

### Yarborough Backs Bonus For Vets

BY ASSOCIATED PRESS  
Ralph Yarborough said Thursday night he will get a state bonus for World War II and Korean veterans if elected governor.

### CONTEST RESULTS IN FRIDAY NEWS

Results of last Sunday's E-Z-Mon Fun contest will be published Friday in San Antonio News. E-Z-Mon Fun, a skill game involving a knowledge of words, is published each Sunday on the Fun and Skill page of the Express-News Magazine. Last week's prize for a correct solution was \$25. Keep your eyes open Friday for last Sunday's results.

### Dentist Tells Of Slaying of Wife's Suitor

ALLEGAN, Mich.—(UP)— Society dentist Kenneth B. Small, alternately sobbing and shouting, said Thursday an "irresistible urge" compelled him to drive 200 miles across Michigan to a luxurious summer home where he shot and killed his wife's New York suitor. Small, 31-year-old Detroit dentist on trial for first degree murder in the slaying of Jules Lack, 45, testified as his trial neared its end. **THE COURTROOM** was cleared of everyone but newsmen and principals in the proceedings when he took the stand. Circuit Judge Raymond Smith had cleared all spectators after the rush from those seeking to get in had smashed in two glass doors. Small, who stalked into the summer home overlooking Lake Michigan and shot Lack as his wife and other Memorial Day week-end guests watched, traced the events leading up to the shooting for the jury.

See Other Pictures Page 3A



By CLARENCE J. LaROCHE  
Staff Writer  
**McALLEN**—The biggest roundup of wetbacks in the history of Texas topped the 5,000 mark late Thursday as the U. S. Immigration Service drove hard to rid South Texas of illegal entered Mexican aliens. Early Thursday night, Fletcher Hawks, chief of the U.S. immigration border patrol for this area said more than 5,000 aliens had been rounded up. **AND AT LEAST** a fourth of this total already was en route to a special bus lift to El Paso. Ten aliens will be deported into Mexico at El Paso. From Ciudad Juarez, across from El Paso; they will be handled by the Mexican government. The dawn-to-dust drive to round up every wetback in this agricultural empire opened on the fronts at 5:30 a.m. Thursday. One drive, in upper Hidalgo County, fanned out from Paheadquarters at Edinburg. Other task force launched its drive in upper Cameron County. Willacy County from base headquarters at Harlingen. Heading the command post Edinburg was George W. Harrison, a veteran of 15 years with the border patrol. Harrison is regularly stationed at McAllen.

# Roundup Continues

## Laredo Times

IRE SERVICE UNITED PRESS

UNDAY, JULY 18, 1954

FINAL EDITION

PRICE: 10 Cents

### Indicts Parr

### French Halt Campaign



**French Halt Campaign**  
**Communists' Twin Drives**

By JEAN BARRE  
HANOI, Indo-China, July 17 — UP—Some 10,000 tank-led French troops, under an umbrella of light planes, have hammered Red rebel forces back in twin drives west and northeast of beleaguered Hanoi, the French high command announced Saturday.

The biggest and most sustained French offensive since they pulled out of the southern Red River delta two weeks ago slammed the Reds back several miles from the main highway from Hanoi to isolated Son Tay, 25 miles west of the Tonkin delta capital.

Tanks led another force of 5,000 tough Moroccans, paratroopers and French Legionnaires in closing a gap in French defenses northeast of Hanoi, between Luc Nam and Phu Lang Thuong.

This second task force recaptured Camp Erulin ousting the Reds who drove its Viet Nameese garrison out Thursday.

The drive to close the lines around the Luc Nam strongpoint trapped some regular Communist Viet Minh troops and French infantrymen mounted half-tracks and tanks to flush the Reds out of hiding in the paddies and villages of the area.

Camp Erulin was wrecked by the Communists before the French could retake it, the high command said. "Its buildings were destroyed and barbed wire entanglement dynamited by the retreating Reds."

The attacks around Luc Nam and the other drive by 5,000 French

### Warrants Served 13 Others

SAN DIEGO Tex., July 17—UP—George Parr, the fabled South Texas political boss, Saturday was charged with conspiracy "to deprive the Benavides independent school district of more than \$50."

A sealed indictment against Parr was one of 14 handed up Friday by a Duval county grand jury. The names of those indicted were not made public until warrants were served on them Saturday.

Eleven of Parr's supporters, including his brother, Givens A. Parr of Alice, were charged with conspiracy to deprive the Benavides school district.

Two Parr backers later Saturday posted \$2,500 bond for the "duke" of Duval.

Parr already has been indicted on a charge of assault with intent to murder Christobal Ybanez, who laughed at Parr on a San Diego street corner last August.

Parr has contended that the present Duval grand jury is stacked against him and that virtually all the jurors are members of the anti-Parr "Freedom Party."

All those indicted Friday were officials or employes of either the Texas State Bank of Alice or the Benavides school district. Besides George Parr and Givens Parr,

(Continued on Page 5)

### 10,000 Aliens Seized

By TOM MacCABE  
McALLEN, Tex., July 17—UP—Harlon Carter, chief of the Border Patrol, estimated Saturday that more than 10,000 Mexicans who slipped into this country have been seized for deportation in the last three days of "Operation Wetback" in the lower-Rio Grande Valley.

Carter said the roundup "has run very smoothly all the way through." He said not a single shot had been fired in the mass apprehension of Mexican farm workers who had paddled or swam across the muddy Rio Grande to enter Texas. The drive began Thursday.

The border patrol chief said he didn't know how much longer the "first part" of the drive would continue, but that it would go ahead on a seven-day week until every wetback in the Lower Rio Grande Valley was deported.

He said the mass pickup of aliens was only the "first part." After that, he said, enough patrolmen will be available in the Valley to prevent wetbacks from returning.

Moves Over Valley

The patrol methodically moves from one section of the Valley to another, never announcing ahead of time where it will strike next. Small planes fly low to spot concentrations of aliens, and then jeeps and trucks swarm in to prevent the aliens from escaping.

Patrol pilots said Saturday that many of the informal camps where wetbacks gather while looking for work were deserted. Carter said most apprehensions were made either in the camps or on farms where the wetbacks were picking cotton.

Carter estimated 10,000 to 15,000 illegal aliens had left the Valley on their own, in preference to being deported through El Paso.

Thousands of aliens waited in the sun Saturday at the McAllen detention center, as the patrol pressed every available bus into service to take wetbacks to El

(Continued On Page 5.)

## MAIL TRUCK SERVICE DISCONTINUED ENTIRELY

Not only was operation of mail

the election order calling the election, which members had decided at their last meeting to hold.

There will be two election boxes, one for the area north of Harri- man, the other south.

Only persons who have taxable property and who otherwise are qualified may vote in the election.

One box will be at the fire station and the other at Gateway

decke.

Mayor S. Johnson, president, and company ed for the They may ready to f two men into refina Johnson is York and substantial 000 000 fo plans."

They tol would be ings and e asked tha and propo a booming Johnson would be two eight- York deal

Commis. first objec for as lon someone e But he a Tom de L with the a-reversi

# 50,000 Wetbacks Gone, Says Patrol

## Aliens No Longer Charged For Deportation Bus Fare

More than 50,000 illegal aliens have either been deported or have left the Lower Rio Grande Valley of their own accord in the first week of the Border Patrol's "Operation Wetback," patrol officials said Wednesday.

District Patrol Chief Fletcher

ington." He said aliens had been charged a maximum of \$10 for the trip.

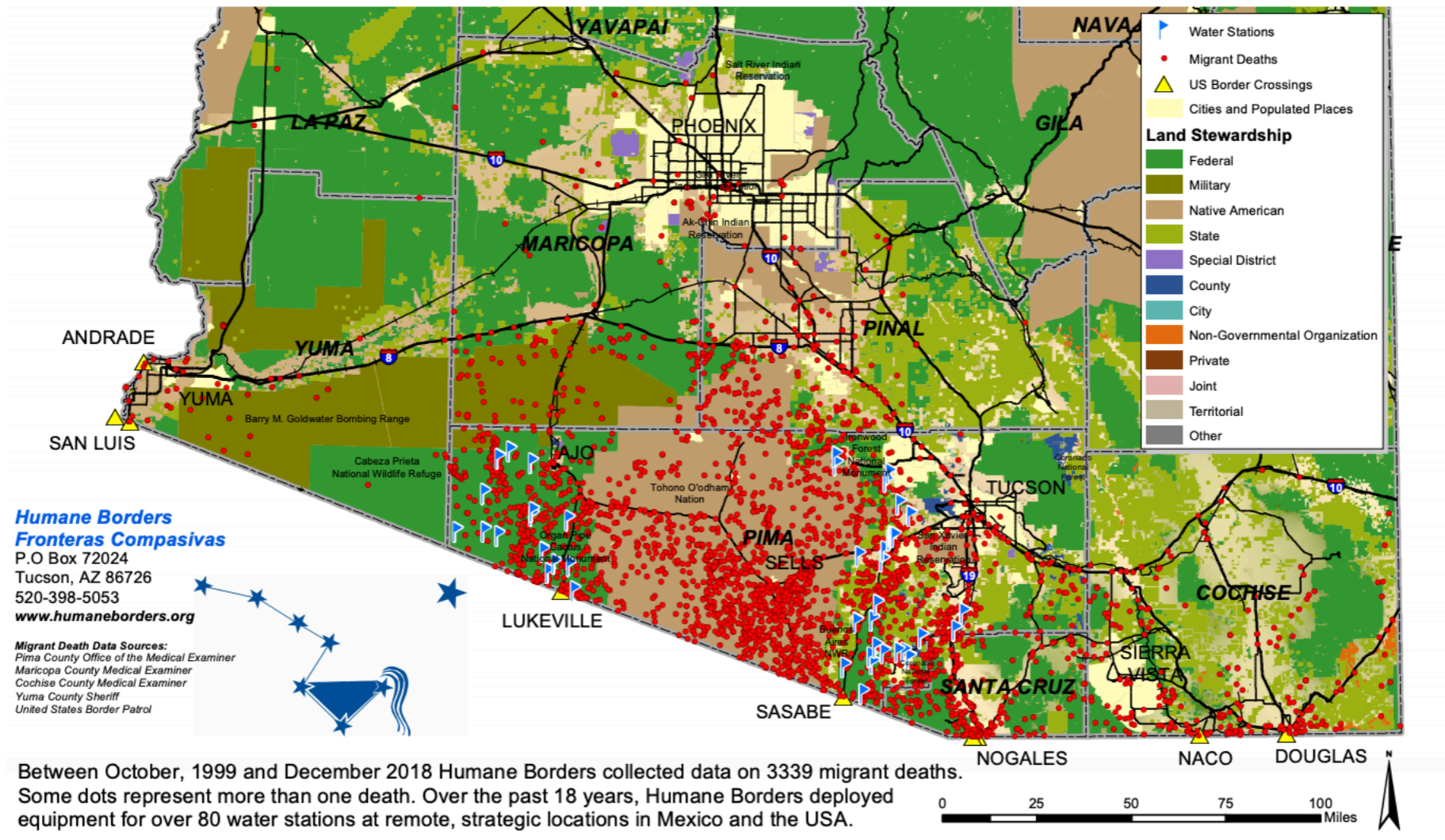
Aliens are taken 600 miles from the Valley for deportation in the hope they will not return.

C. B. Ray, manager of the Valley Farm Bureau, said the reason





# 1999 - 2018 Recorded Migrant Deaths and Humane Borders Water Stations



# “Operation Wetback”: The 1954 mass deportation scheme praised by Donald Trump

Though the United States has since abandoned the racial epithets in operation names, its legacy lingers



Timeline [Follow](#)

Feb 20, 2018 · 2 min read

“Though the United States has since abandoned the racial epithets its operation names, its **legacy** lingers.”

# THE SONORAN DESERT



CALIFORNIA

ARIZONA

NEW MEXICO



BAJA CALIFORNIA NORTE

SONORA

CHIHUAHUA

Pacific Ocean

Gulf of California

-  The Sonoran Desert
-  Range of the Saguaro

UNITED STATES  
MEXICO

River

Colorado

Gila

Salt R.

Rio Sonora

Flagstaff

Phoenix

Tucson

Nogales

Nogales

Hermosillo



during volleyball tournament

## NATIVE AMERICAN GIRL VOLLEYBALL PLAYERS CALLED "SAVAGES" DURING VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT

BY LEVI RICKERT / CURRENTS / 26 OCT 2019

 Tweet



