

Comparative Chronology

Life of Rubén Herrera and Benjamín Herrera

1883

Benjamín Herrera is born in Villa de Coss, Zacatecas on January 13, 1883.

1888

On March 15, Rubén Herrera is born in Villa de Coss, Zacatecas. His family moves to Saltillo, Coahuila.

1888

The people of Saltillo go to the Acuña Theatre and enjoy plays like *The Passion Flower* and *Do Not Kill the Mayor*. This theatre was inaugurated a couple years before with the play *The Past of Manuel Acuña*.

1891

Street lighting is installed in Saltillo. The fabric factory, La Aurora, burns down.

1893

Protestants arrive in Saltillo, where they inaugurate the Episcopal Methodist Church of the South next to an education building.

1894

At age eleven, while living in Saltillo, Mexico, Benjamín Herrera starts training for his chosen profession as a tailor – a trade at which he excels.

1895

Proceedings are initiated to build a railroad between Saltillo and Concepción de Oro.

1897

The Cathedral tower, one of the tallest towers in the country, is completed. In the Alameda, Porfirio Díaz inaugurates the statue of Ignacio Zaragoza.

1898

Incurring additional budget expenses, the town acquires an ambulance intended for arrested drunk drivers.

1899

More than two thousand children (including Rubén Herrera) attend school daily. The Santiago Cemetery opens, in the same place where the Rotunda of Illustrious Men would later be located.

1900

The City of Paris, a commercial firm located on Zaragoza Street No. 24, opens its doors to the public of Saltillo. Its primary business is tailoring and haberdashery.

1901

On September 3, Rubén Herrera enters Ateneo Fuente, where he studies under Mr. Francisco Sánchez Urestii.

1901

To the south of Saltillo, several rural populations begin harvesting and cultivating the guayule plant.

1902

The Acuña Theatre burns down.

1904

The first road roller arrives in Saltillo. That same year, Saltillo suffers the worst hailstorm on record.

1906

The contract is approved for the construction of what will become the García Carrillo Theatre.

1908

Around the age of 25, Benjamín Herrera marries Guadalupe Valero who passes away at a young age leaving him a widower with three children to care for. One of their four children died as an infant.

1908 -1909

With the support of the Governor of Coahuila, Miguel Cárdenas, Rubén Herrera travels to Europe. In Rome, he studies drawing with the Catalan master, Antonio Fabrés, the former Director of the San Carlos Academy in Mexico City.

1909

In Rome, Herrera enters the French Academy of Fine Arts and the prestigious Academy of Saint Luke, where he receives a scholarship to specialize in nude figures.

1909

The Normal School of the State is inaugurated on Aldama Street, in front of the Alameda.

1910

Due to the political instability caused by the Mexican Revolution, Herrera’s financial support, provided by the government of Coahuila, is suspended.

1911

Herrera begins his career as a portraitist.

1913

Herrera completes his education in the Roman academies and dedicates himself to creating traditional drawings outdoors.

1913

Venustiano Carranza, Governor of Coahuila, receives a telegram informing him that General Victoriano Huerta has assumed Executive Power.

1914

Francisco Villa enters Saltillo, ousting the federals.

1915

General Venustiano Carranza, who at the time is the supreme leader of the constitutionalist army, lays the foundation stone of the School Miguel Lopez.

1916

On October 19, in the municipality of General Cepeda, there is a collision between two trains. That same year Gustavo Espinoza Mireles builds the Lake Republic in the Alameda.

1917

The government of Coahuila resumes its financial support to Herrera for a short period. Herrera begins to develop miniature portraits in great detail.

1918

For most of his last two years in Rome, Herrera dedicates himself to painting oil landscapes of the city.

1918

A fire destroys the García Carrillo Theatre.

1920

Herrera is called by President Venustiano Carranza to return to Mexico to develop public work projects. Prior to his return, he marries Dora Scaccioni in Rome and travels to Paris, where he paints cityscapes.

1920

In the town of Tlaxcalatongo an assault takes place on the hut where the President of the Republic Venustiano Carranza sleeps. General Carranza is wounded and later killed by his attackers.

1920

On his way to America by ship, Herrera receives the news about the assassination. He decides to go to Saltillo. Herrera founds and directs the Painting Academy of Saltillo in which he trains a generation of artists who created the popular visual arts style of the region.

1921

Benjamín Herrera moves to Texas – first to San Antonio, and later to Austin. He hopes to pursue opportunities in the United States. His teenage children remain in Mexico with a maternal aunt who cares for them until he can later reunite the family in Texas.

1922

Herrera exhibits solo in Mexico City. The opening of the exhibition is attended by President Álvaro Obregón, accompanied by his cabinet.

1923

On October 26, Rubén Herrera’s first child is born, Mario Felipe Herrera Scaccioni, who became one of the most renowned art critics in the country.

1923

Competitions called Marathon Dances are organized at the Obrero Theatre. Some of the participants dance up to 48 consecutive hours.

1924

Dámaso Galindo, The Pharisee, a wild celebrity in Saltillo, practices target shooting with an English visitor.

1925

Benjamín Herrera marries Patricia Garcia de Herrera (from San Pedro de Mederos, Nuevo Leon). They have six children together including Delia, Noemi, Benjamin, David, Evangelina, and an infant (the first born) who died.

1927

A group of cristeros (Catholic revolutionaries), led by Antonio Acuña Rodríguez, rebel in Saltillo. Rodríguez is assassinated later that year.

1927

According to the Austin city directory, Benjamín Herrera works for Nick Linz as a tailor.

1928

On June 9, Dora Scaccioni gives birth to María Romana Herrera Scaccioni in Rome.

1929

A group of students from the Painting Academy of Saltillo participate in the Inter-American Exhibition of Seville, Spain.

1929

Escobarista rebels flee Saltillo, after stealing money from the banks.

1929

Benjamín Herrera moves into a home, located at 901 E. 9th St., Austin, Texas, that he purchased for his family.

1930

Herrera receives the gold medal at the Inter-American Exhibition of Seville. At the end of the year, the Painting Academy of Saltillo where many students of Herrera studied, closes. These painters included María Narro, Piedad Valerio, María and Elisa de la Peña, María de la Luz, María del Refugio Figueroa, Pablo Valero, Miguel Santana, and others.

1930

Important antediluvian fossils are found in the mountains of Aguanueva and are exhibited in the Saltillo Sanatorium.

1930s

The First Mexican Baptist Church, which was maintained by the Southern Baptist Convention as a mission, splinters into factions because they were prevented from having a Mexican pastor and its members did not want leadership imposed upon them. Benjamín Herrera was part of the original breakaway group of church members and led services in his home on East 9th St. in Austin, Texas, until a new church could be built. The church thrived until the 1960s when it was closed. Many of the original members of the church now belong to Betania Baptist Church, and Benjamín Herrera’s legacy of education and community spirit continues on.

1931

The School of Coahuila is inaugurated.

1932

María Teresa Montoya presents the work *Naked Woman* in the Obrero Theatre, on Aldama Street, where the Saltillo Movie Theatre was later located.

1933

On October 1, Rubén Herrera died in Mexico City. His body is taken to Saltillo and buried in the Rotunda of Illustrious Men of the State.

1940

Benjamín Herrera baptizes his daughter Delia Sifuentes in a body of water in Central Texas.

1944

Benjamín Herrera’s descendants in Austin visit Saltillo, Mexico at the invitation of Dora “Dorita” Scaccioni who is Rubén Herrera’s wife and their aunt by marriage. They view Rubén Herrera’s artworks, which they have heard about while growing up in Texas.

1963

Benjamín Herrera retires from being a master tailor at the age of 80.

1967

In the national capital, the Palace of Fine Arts inaugurates a retrospective exhibition of 134 of Herrera’s works, including oil paintings and drawings.

1971

On February 20, the first Rubén Herrera Museum opens in Saltillo, located on Bravo Norte no. 342. Created in accordance with his widow, Mrs. Dora Scaccioni, and children María Romana and Mario Herrera, the Museum remains open until August 2001.

1973

Benjamín Herrera dies in Austin at the age of 90. His descendants include 10 children, 27 grandchildren, 53 great-grandchildren, and 26 great-great-grandchildren.

1987

Delia Sifuentes, daughter of Benjamín Herrera, and niece of Rubén Herrera, visits Saltillo for a Herrera family wedding.

2010

Mexic-Arte Museum opens the exhibition *Rubén Herrera: Master Artist and Teacher 1888-1933*, featuring 10 works of art showing for the first time in the United States. The exhibition includes a special section on the Herrera Family in Austin, Texas, highlighting Rubén Herrera’s significant family lineage in this city.