

1848 U.S. and Mexico established the international boundary




1971 Border Field State Park was dedicated by Pat Nixon



1974 Installation of the plaque



1979 10 9



Robert M. Freeman, chief ranger for the state Park and Recreation Department, orders the Rev. Allan Figueroa Deck to break up an ecumenical service at Border Park.

Rangers Disband Border Prayer Rites

By RITA GILLMON
Staff Writer, The San Diego Union

State park rangers broke up an ecumenical prayer service at Border Park yesterday because the participants, who have been working for human rights for undocumented persons, did not have a permit.

"It is symbolic of how the system doesn't allow people to be free," said the Rev. James Ratigan, president of the National Federation of Priests' Councils and a Roman Catholic priest.

"I still have to do my job as a peace officer, even if this puts me in a bad light," said Chief Ranger Robert M. Freeman of the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

About 40 to 50 persons assembled at the park for a service symbolic of their unity with Mexicans who come to the United States to work. Most were Catholics, but Lutherans, Methodists, Presbyterians and Episcopalians also attended. All work in ministries to undocumented and migrant workers.

"All of us have been working separately on these issues, but last year in El Paso we decided to form an ecumenical group to tackle the problems of these groups," Ratigan said. His organization of priests sponsored the gathering.

The group, called the Ecumenical Convocation on Ministry to the Undocumented, is meeting through today

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Park Rangers Disband Border Prayer Rites

(Continued from B-1)

at the U.S. Grant Hotel to discuss immigration laws, union organizing among the undocumented, human service to the undocumented, and how to correct misconceptions about undocumented workers.

They were at the border yesterday for a picnic and prayer service, and also to protest the strengthening of the border fence — often called the "Tortilla Curtain."

Freeman said he had no objection to a quiet prayer at a picnic, or singing. "But when you set up a podium and loudspeakers, you have an assembly and should notify us. It is for their own protection," he said.

The podium was set up on the U.S. side of the border near the fence below the Bullring by the Sea in Tijuana.

The grassy space at the top of the hill near the sea was almost deserted except for the ecumenical group and some onlookers on the Tijuana side of the fence drawn by the sound of a singing group and guitars. The singing was in Spanish.

"The border isn't a good place to do this kind of thing," Freeman said. "There are people riding around down there with guns and they may not understand."

"It was a fitting conclusion," said Ratigan after the service was broken up a few minutes before it was scheduled to end. Freeman said it took him that long to drive from his office in Old Town after being notified by his rangers of the gathering.

"People were praying for better understanding across the border and you would think the law could take that into account. The rules are more important than what we were doing," Ratigan said.

Jesuit priest Allan Figueroa Deck, director of the Centro Pastoral Guadalupe in Santa Ana, was leading the service when it was interrupted. "We are Christians who have been able to overcome our differences in order to devote ourselves to following Christ," he said.

Herman Baca, chairman of the Committee for Christian Rights, was at the service and objected to the rangers breaking it up.

"What about the Klan, did they have a permit? Did you break them up, too," he asked repeatedly. Baca was referring to a demonstration by about 20 members of the Klu Klux Klan held at Border Park on July 6.

10-9-79

2007 Friendship Park



2008 9 1 Busy Day at Friendship Park



2008 10 20



2008 11 15



2008



2008 12 8



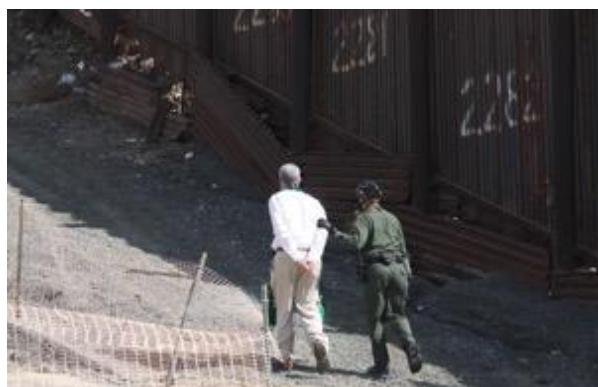
2008 12 8 Marcha del Silencio NO AL MURO





2009 2 22 Closed Public access to Friendship Park





2009 4 4 Installing the secondary fence



2009 4 9 Dan protesting



2009 4 17 Installing the last portion of the secondary fence



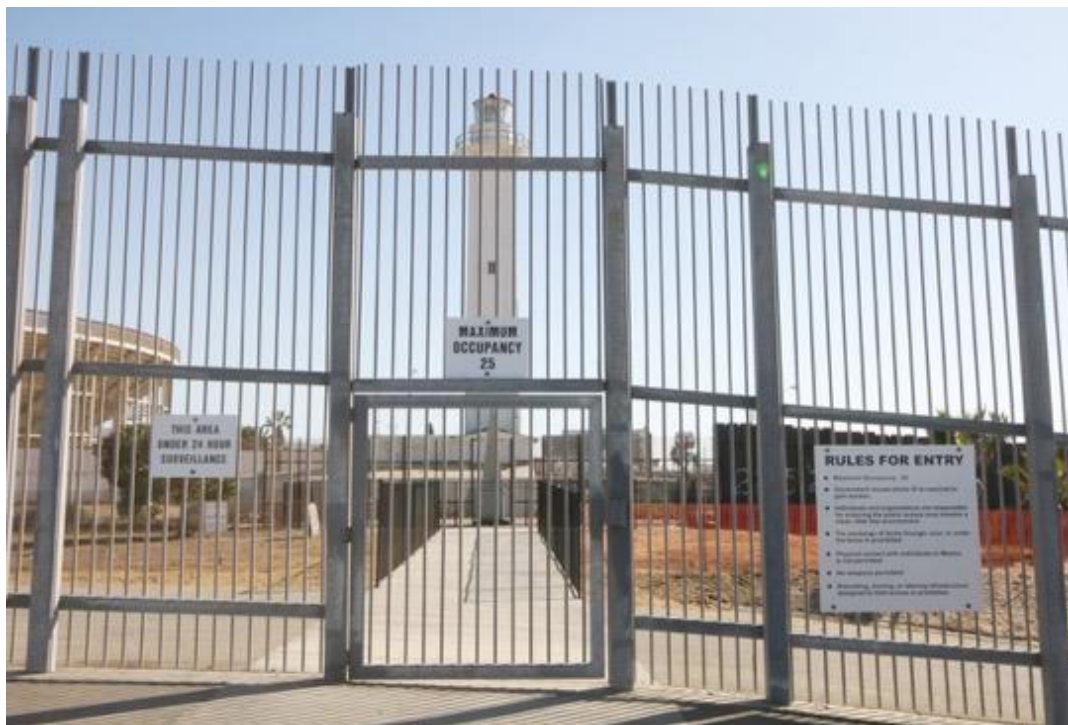
2009 New Secondary Fence



2009 10 31 New circle inside Friendship Park



2009 11 1 New entrance to the Park



2009 11 21 Timing the visits



2010 7 24 Plaza del Faro



2010 10 9 New observation tower in front of Friendship Park



2011 6 25 Practicing languages through the border fence



2011 12 1



2011 12 14 New mesh at Friendship Park



2012 2 29 New mesh



2012 2 29 Reconstruction of Friendship Park



2012 4 13 Reconstruction of a section of the fence on the beach



2012 5 9 Secondary fence with new gate



2012 10 6 Friendship Park celebrating a “Grand Opening”



2012 11 18



2013 5 2



2013 5 24 Fandango Fronterizo



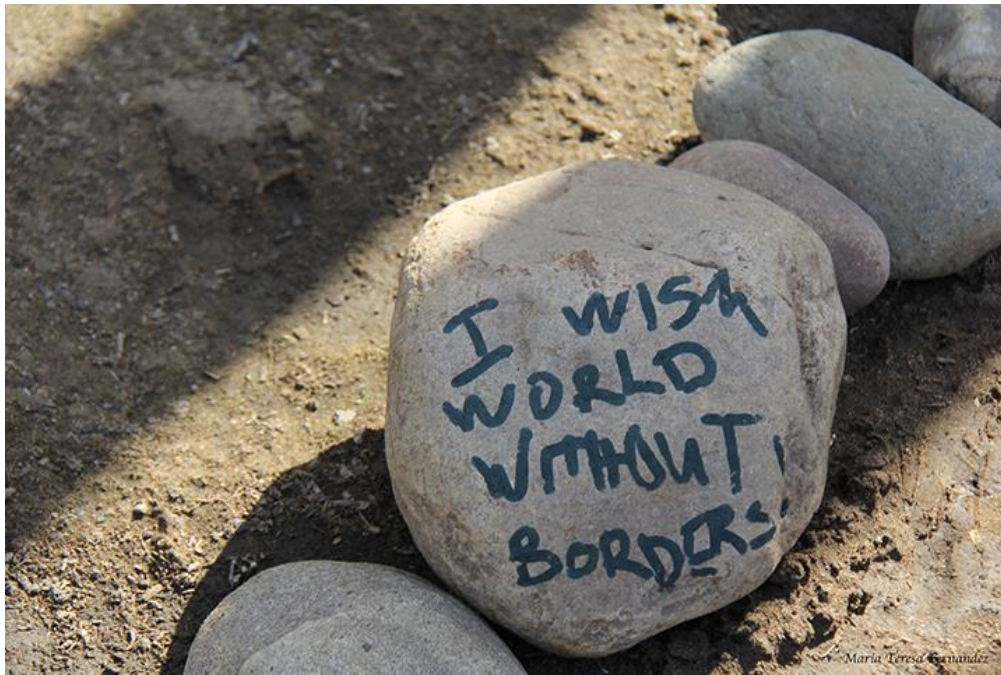
2013 8 26 Dan and Poetry reading at the binational Garden



2013 10 6 Mexican side



2013 11 16



2013 12 14 Posada sin Fronteras



2013 12 29 John Fanestil, Dermot Rodgers and Don Greene





2013 12 29 Very close to the family



2013 12 29 Luis Javier



2014 Guillermo



2014 5 25



2014 12 7 Touching grandma's finger



2015 1 18



2015 2 8



2015 2 8 Brooke and John



2015 2 22 Binational Garden



2015 3 29 John Dermot and Christian



2015 5 10



2015 7 19 Emma's wedding



2015 9 13 John and Ray



2015 12 13



2016 1 10 Celeste and Brooke



2016 1 19 Guillermo



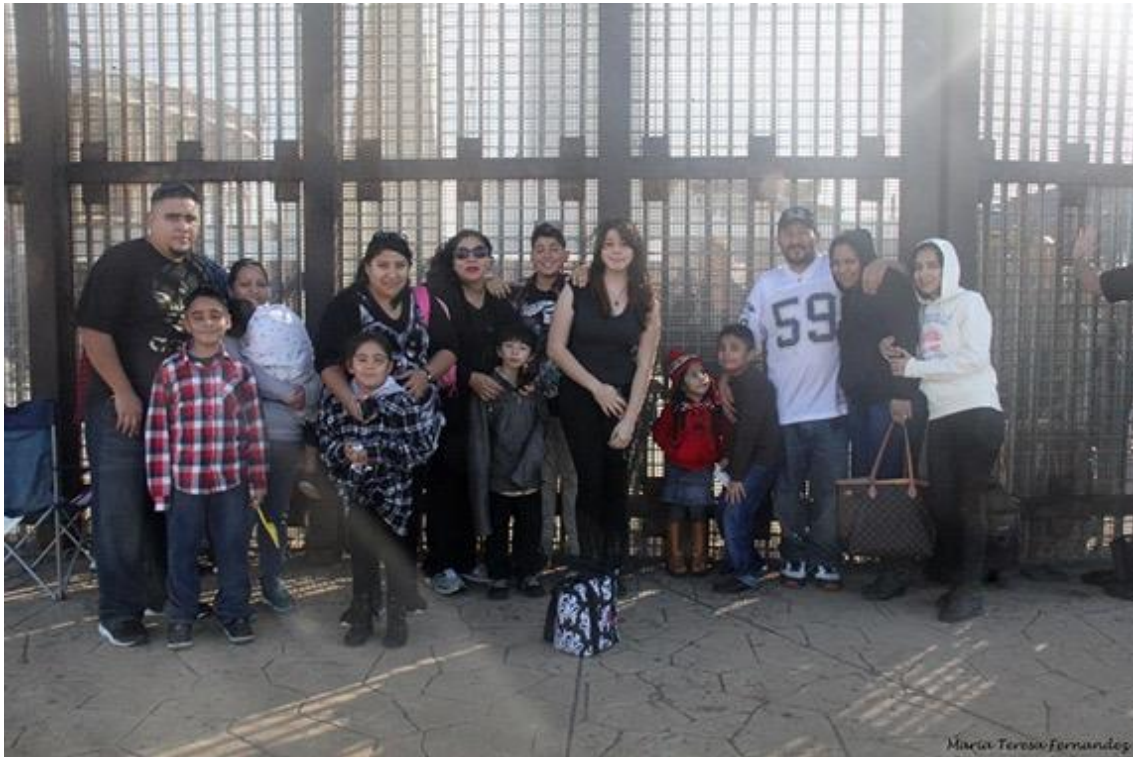
2016 2 1



2016 1 3 Emily



2016 1 17 A family from Los Angeles



2016 2 14 Visiting the family in the binational garden



2016 2 14 Flooded roads



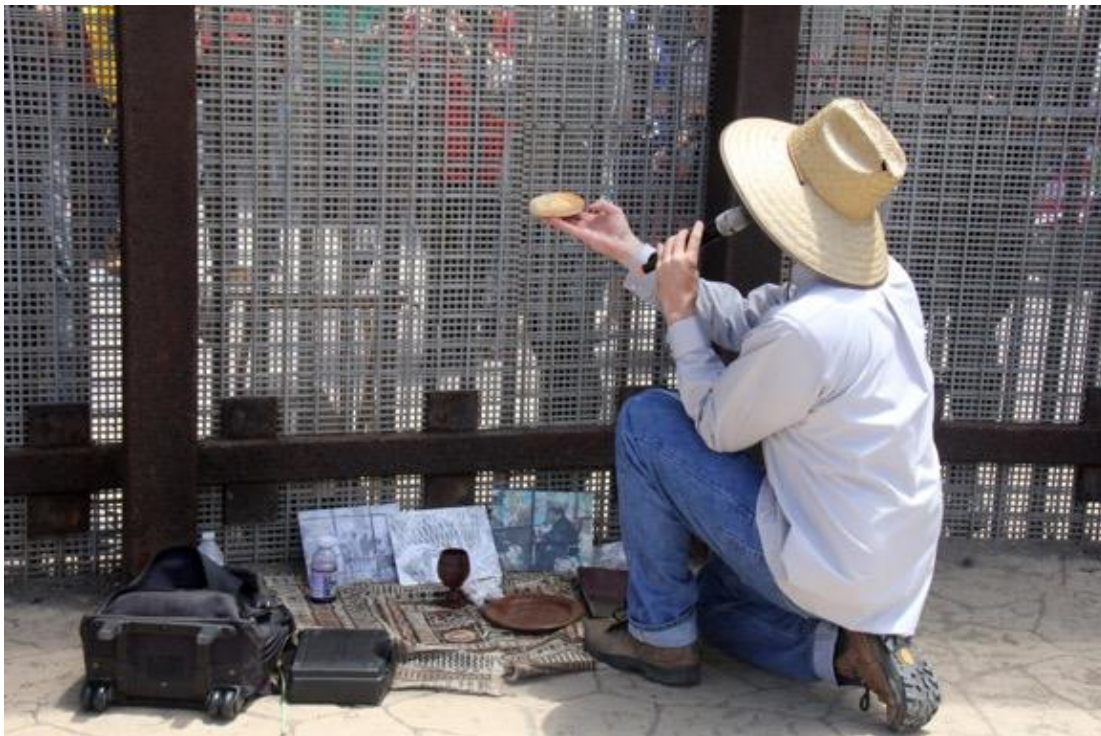
2016 4 16 Introducing her baby to her grandparents



2017 5 28 There are smiles too, they are talking to their deported father



2016 6 12 John



2016 6 19



2016 7 24 Not allowed to enter the Park



2016 8 21 John and Seth



2016 10 10 "El Mantelito"



2017 7 17 Dan Watman



2017 8 6 Border Church



2017 7 7 John with Nemesio's grandson



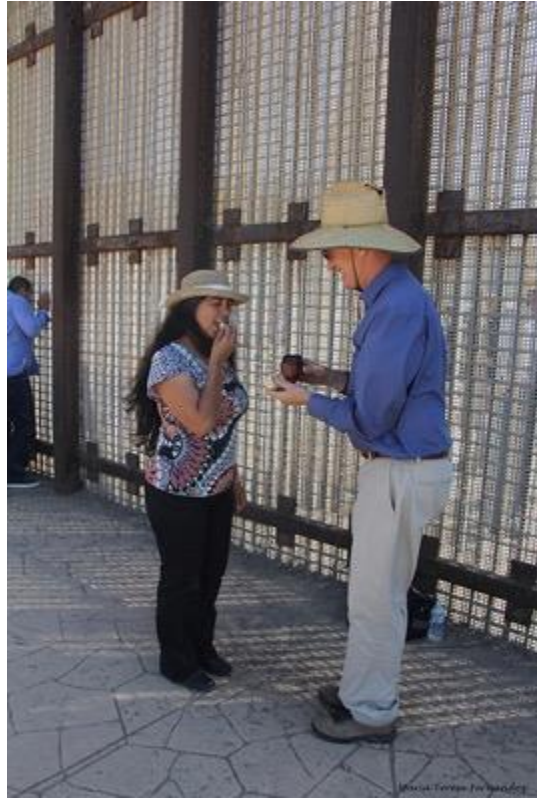
2017 7 30 She is pregnant, and she wants her mom to rub her belly



2017 8 20 John



2017 9 17 John and Cristina



2017 9 24



2017 11 12 Seth



2017 12 16 Posada sin Fronteras



2018 1 14



2018 7 1 Tom and Seth



2018 7 8





2018 8 5



2018 7 15 Tom



2018 7 29 Francisco



2018 8 18 Introducing his new baby to his parents



2018 9 9 John and Luis



2018 10 21 Guillermo



2018 10 21 Robert



2018 10 28 Seth



2018 11 25 John and Seth



2018 11 11 Wedding



2018 12 2



2018 12 9



2018 12 15 Posada sin Fronteras





2018 12 16 Israel and his family





2018 12 23





2018 12 30 Concertina to stop the Hondurans from crossing



2018 12 30 John



Maria Teresa Fernandez

2019 1 13 Seth



2019 2 24



2019 4 26 Ana from Sacramento and Raul from Reno



2019 4 28 Muslims' service



2019 4 28 Michelle Landis





2019 5 12



2019 6 10





2019 8 4 Seth, Pedro and his father



2019 8 19 New Fences along BFSP



2019 8 11 John



2019 8 25 The granddaughter of Cristina and Filomeno



2019 10 19 Florentino from Seattle came with all his family to see his mother from Oaxaca



2019 10 27 Muslim Service



2019 11 3



2019 11 29 New “mantelito”





2019 12 22 Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib in Playas de Tijuana



2020 1 12 Protest Destruction of the Binational Garden



2020 2 9 Last day FP was open



2020 ZOOM





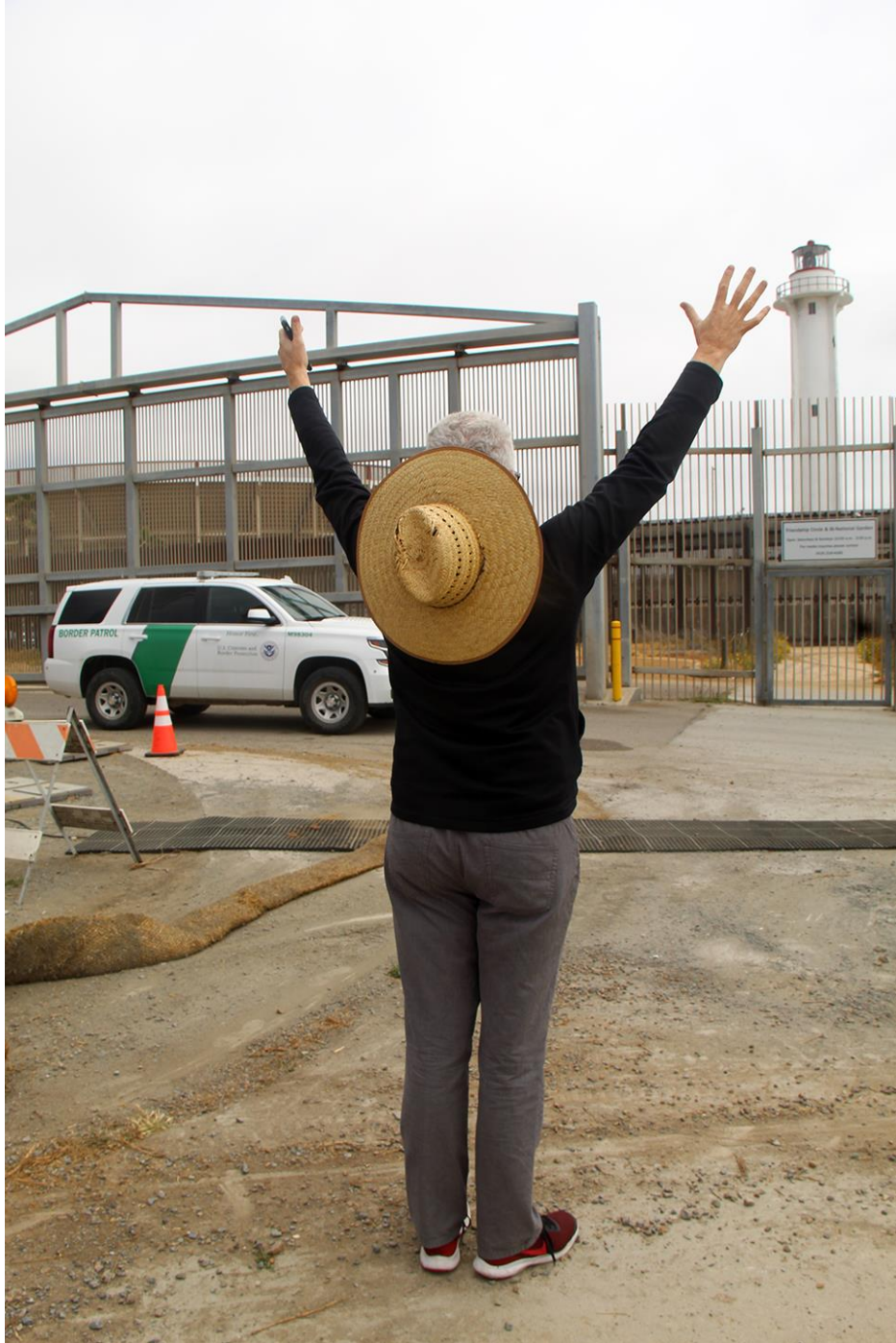
2021 5 16 BFSP is open, but Friendship Park continues to be closed



2021 6 10 Marcha del silencio

I am sorry I do not have images, I could not be there

2021 5 30 Friendship Park is closed



2021 6 27 BFSP is closed again



2021 7 11 John in charge of the bi-national service. Friendship Park closed



2021 7 18 Seth in charge of the service

