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**Carmen Maria Borgaro Hultquist**

82, died of natural causes Sunday February 13, 2011 after receiving holy communion at her Armory Park Home. The well known restaurateur, owner of Lerua's and El Torero Mexican restaurants, was born in St. Mary's Hospital in Tucson, April 19, 1928 to Petra and Estevan Borgaro. Her unusual pedigree was always a source of pride: Mexican, Italian and Yaqui. As a child she was a favorite of the sisters at St. Joseph's Carondelet Academy and helped her father run Borgaro's Curios downtown on Congress St. in the late thirties. She earned her degree from the University of Arizona in 1948. Carmen modeled for iconic Tucson photographer Ray Manley for a postcard entitled "A Spanish Senorita, South of the Border". The photo, taken at Hacienda del Sol, read... "posed in the gateway of her adobe hacienda, this raven-haired, bright-eyed senorita is typical of feminine beauty to be found "Down Mexico Way". Carmen married Russell Bradford Hultquist in 1952 and the couple ran the Hultquist Sky Resort in Minong, Wisconsin for many years, returning to Tucson during winter months. Carmen became one of the first female business owners in Tucson when she purchased Lerua's in 1961. Not content to rest on laurels, she established the restaurant's catering operation and opened a second Lerua's on University Blvd. She embodied the unique southwest elegance of Tucson' outfitted by Cele Peterson and coiffed by Willy of Willy's Salon. Carmen was generous, funny, firm and fair. Generations of Tucson families came to know, respect and love Carmen as she was a constant fixture at Lerua's for more than 40 year's. The women who worked for Carmen became her daughters, the men, her sons'.

A dedicated and lifelong member of St. Augustine's Parish, Carmen was also a member of various historic organizations. Preceded in death by husband, Russell Bradford Hultquist and sister, Adelina Borgaro. Beloved mother to Bradford and Michael; grandmother to Michael (22 years), Wilson (19 years), Taylor (15 years) and Kelly (13 years). Blessed with many friends, Carmen especially enjoyed lifelong friendships with Nancy Laase and Margarita Bradley. A lover of dogs, Carmen was most-recently the target of affection of Gunner and Abbey. A Memorial Mass will be said Tuesday, February 22, 2011, 10:30 a.m. at St. Augustine's, 192 S. Stone Ave. Reception to follow. Donations can be made in Carmen's name to The Humane Society of Southern Arizona, 3450 N. Kelvin Blvd, Tucson, AZ 85716 or Osteoporosis research at UMC: University of Arizona, Department of Medicine, Attention, Melissa Colchado, 1501 N. Campbell, Box 245035, 85724. Arrangements handled by **CARRILLO'S TUCSON MORTUARY**.

To express condolences visit the guestbook at [www.Legacy.com/Tucson/obituaries.asp](http://www.Legacy.com/Tucson/obituaries.asp)

HULTQUIST, Carmen Maria d. 13 Feb 2011 obit