



Noriega Hotel Register—1950 to 1994

**Steve Bass**

The Noriega Hotel, [www.noriegahotel.com](http://www.noriegahotel.com) was founded by Faustino Noriega and Fernando Etcheverry in 1893 and acquired in 1931 by Juan and Gracianna Elizalde. Noriega's has been operated by the Elizalde family ever since.

Grace is legendary for her kind, generous and unselfish ways while she provided the newly arrived Basque herders with a home away from home. Originally a hotel, it eventually became a men's boardinghouse. In 1940 the success of the restaurant necessitated the addition of the present bar and dining room. It is now recognized as the oldest and last, Basque boardinghouse/restaurant in the world. The Noriega was the center of the Basque sheepherders' experience in the southern San Joaquin Valley for many years, particularly between 1950 and the early 1990s. It remains a hub of the Kern County Basque community to this day. The register is a window into the Basques who came and went from the hotel. Many of the men listed are still valued members of the Bakersfield community. As you scan the names in the register, it's possible one of your relatives or friends was the recipient of Grace's care.

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To view the entire register, click here:

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/5nqlygipg1w5e96/Norriega%20Hotel%20Register.pdf?dl=0>

(See next page for daily and monthly rates written on the inside cover.)

Per Day Rm + Bd \$13.00

MONTS - 350<sup>00</sup>