

Walter Michaelbach Garcia

Born: May 16, 1918, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Died: June 16, 2000, Albuquerque, New Mexico

High School: Albuquerque High School, Albuquerque, New Mexico

- Walter M. Garcia was one of the first original 5-man "CLOWN" softball team started in the late 40's/ early 50's in Los Alamos, New Mexico; by Lou Pierotti. Walter was a short-stop/ 2nd baseman. The Clowns were full of tricks and antics, like the famous Globetrotters, but with 5 men. Back in the day, the Clowns won most of their games against a full 9-man softball team. The Clowns went on to national fame and were on the cover of Sports Illustrated, in the first Sports Illustrated Magazine/ 1954.
- This team earned \$200,000 for charity in the years they played. This team was great entertainment and super examples of athletic competition to everyone. They loved what they did and were awesome on the playing field.
- Played basketball for S-Site while working in Los Alamos.
- Avid amateur golfer, starting as a caddy at the County Club in Old town and grew up near the Albuquerque Country Club golf course; walking distance to caddy and learning more about the sport of golf, as he earned a few dollars while caddying. He said, "if you want to become a good golfer, be a good caddy."
- 1947 Runner-up in the 6th Annual Southwest Golf Tournament.
- 1949 Wins the 35th Annual New Mexico Golf Association Tournament.
- Walter won many State-wide tournaments, against fellow amateurs and well-known golfers; Babe Zaharias and her husband being one famous couple he beat.
- Applied to the Professional Golfers Association of America in April 1958, (letters of recommendation/letter to PGA of NM attached) and went on to become one of the FIRST Hispanic Professional Golfer in the State New Mexico.