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## DANIEL FLORES

Born in Rankin, Texas he moved to Santa Paula, California with his Mexican parents in the thirties. He first picked up a guitar at family gatherings in his early teens benefiting from positive input from various relatives. By the late forties he moved to the saxophone and was trying to emulate the raspy style of Vido Musso who had made a name with Benny Goodman and Stan Kenton. Danny would eventually sign with Modern Records as a vocalist. Flores began playing a variety of musical styles jazz, country, pop and R&B at bars and clubs, with his own band, in Long Beach. Because of his style he was often called The Mexican Hillbilly. In 1957 he met up with Dave Burgess an inspiring songwriter, singer and guitarist who was with the Challenge label, a California label owned by Gene Autry. Danny and Dave would then put together a group that included Gene Alden (drums), Buddy Bruce (guitar) and Cliff Hills (bass). During a recording session at Goldstar Studios in Hollywood, on December 23rd 1957, Danny decided to record an instrumental he and his group had been playing live as part of their club act...he called "Tequila". While in the studio, the group decided to call themselves "The Champs" after Gene Autry's horse with Flores taking writer's credits. When the record began getting some air play Flores was told by the executives at Challenge to change his name for the reason he was still under contract with Modern Records as a vocalist. Danny Flores then became Chuck Rio with "Tequila" becoming one of the biggest instrumentals in Rock history reaching #1 in 1958. Ever changing touring line-ups the group would later include Glen Campbell along with Jimmy Seals, Dash Crofts and Dean Beard from West Texas. Danny was the voice on the instrumental during the breaks saying..."Te-qui-la".