

# Camilo Cantu

Camilo Cantu was born in 1907 in Nuevo Leon, Mexico, but made his mark as an accordionist in Austin, Texas. His instrumental compositions had no lyrics, in fact, Cantu rarely even gave his songs a title, and his repertoire included many styles, such as polkas, redovas, vals, and shotis. Although he never made a recording, his unique style influenced many young conjunto musicians, who learned his songs and continue to play them. Throughout the 1940s and 1950s, Cantu, who was known as "El Azote de Austin" ("The Scourge of Austin"), was considered to be the premier accordionist of the area. Camilo Cantu was inducted into the Conjunto Music Hall of Fame in 1987. He died in 1998.