

History of El Paso Chamber of Commerce, 1899 to 1920, As Set Forth in Summarized Annual Reports of All the Past Presidents

Norman E. Mack, New York Publisher; Tom Bennett and party of St. Louis, and many others.

—1913—

The annual report of President V. R. Stiles for the year of 1913 contains the following accomplishments during the year and the following recommendations for the new year's work:

(a) For the first time in the history of the Chamber, women were present at the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce dinner—held in the ball room of the Paso Del Norte Hotel. The guest of honor was Governor McDonald of New Mexico who advocated El Paso being made N. M. City.

(b) Assistance in city-wide campaign to get citizens to pay poll taxes.

(c) Holding of Texas Cattle Raisers Association in March.

(d) Conducting a Trade Excursion trip into Arizona and New Mexico.

(e) Progress in securing for El Paso the State School of Mines.

(f) Continuation of program to install an agricultural exhibit.

(g) Continuation of program to install a manufacturing exhibit.

(h) Recommendation for the creation of a Retail Merchants committee with a director from the board as chairman.

(i) Recommendation for the creation of a jobbers and manufacturers League for the purpose of studying conditions and eliminating objectionable features which mean much in the development of El Paso's trade territory.

(j) Program for marketing of valley products.

(k) General assistance in carrying on a civic program in connection with the civic clubs, women organizations, schools and city officials.

During this year among the achievements which stand out in the city progress are:

(1) Completion of the interurban line to Ysleta.

2. Congressional appropriation of \$500,000 for enlargements at Fort Bliss.

3. Expenditure of \$8,000 by city for parking along canal route in southern part of city; and \$200,000 to be expended by the Reclamation service in cement lining of Franklin Canal and spanning canal with bridges at street crossings.

4. Bond election carried for \$450,000 for school improvements with provision for erection of \$200,000 high school.

(5) Laying of deep sewer at cost of \$100,000.

(6) Work on proposed High Line Canal in matter of surveys and propaganda.

(7) Appropriation of \$5,000 by the city for right of ways looking to making of scenic drive along rim of mesa.

(8) Extension to Smelter in El Paso calling for expenditure of \$250,000.

(9) Erection of Masonic Temple costing \$200,000.

(10) County road building in lower valley at cost of \$100,000.

(11) Development of Manhattan Heights Addition.

(12) Completion of First National Bank Building.

(13) Erection of home for Crombie wholesale produce house.

(14) Completion of modern home for Western Woodenware Company.

15) Contemplated plans for erection of \$350,000 Catholic Cathedral.

—1914—

The report of President Robert Krakauer on the activities of the Chamber of Commerce for the year 1914 includes the following accomplishments and recommendations:

(a) Subscription of \$45,000 to the budget fund, under the direction of R. Burt Orndorff as chairman.

(b) The bringing to El Paso of the School of Mines; by guarantees on the part of the citizenship and the purchase of the Military Institute; the guarantee is in the form of notes to be paid annually by the Chamber.

(c) Bringing the regional bank committee to El Paso; and presenting argument to this committee that El Paso's trade territory be left together in the same regional reserve bank district. El Paso got what she went after and Hon. Felix Martinez was selected as a Class "C" Director for this district.

(d) Development of a civic program following address of George A. Bellamy, with an awakening of interest in playgrounds, recreation and social centers. T. S. Settle, a field secretary of the National Playgrounds Association, brought to El Paso at cost of \$500 to carry on this work, and during four weeks he laid the foundation for a comprehensive plan of supervised playground and social centers. To aid in this movement a special committee of 35 was named. The school board appropriated \$5,000 for this special activity and the city pledged \$10,000.

(e) Lighting of San Francisco street; and recommendation that street cars be run into town from the depot on San Francisco street to give visitors and newcomers best impression of the city.

(f) Establishment of a Publicity Bureau, with Henry S. Beach as chairman. This bureau worked in conjunction with the Elephant Butte Water Users Association of the Upper valley; offices in El Paso and Las Cruces; special publicity along colonization lines; the publicity work under R. E. Bassett and John L. Tait.

(g) Special publicity and advertising program, with many mentions, references and appreciations in national and international periodicals and newspapers. Recommendation that a sum be set aside to advertise El Paso through moving pictures and slides.

(h) The securing of stop over privileges on east bound travel.

(i) Meeting in El Paso of the State Democratic Convention, obtained thru efforts of C. E. Kelly, C. C. McDonald and R. B. Orndorff;

Convention of the Panhandle Stockmen's Association to be held in March of 1915; Texas State Federation of Labor; State Association United States Postal Clerks; State Association United States Mail Carriers; United Daughters of the Confederacy; Pharmaceutical Association and Southwestern Medical and Surgical Association; securing of the convention of the Texas Hotel Men's Association; efforts to bring the American National Live Stock Association to El Paso by sending strong delegation to San Francisco meeting; also plans to bring next meeting of International Irrigation Congress.

(j) No new industries—though many propositions were investigated. Several propositions pending. Holding in El Paso of "Made in El Paso" week, first proposed by Rotary Club and later taken up under direction of Chamber. The show was so successful that 12% of the money was returned to the exhibitors who paid for space.

(k) No increase in membership, the number on roll the first of the year of 1913 being 605 while on the first of the year 1914 it was 535. Mr. Krakauer recommended an earnest campaign, free from "Hurrah" to increase the membership.

(l) Under the direction of George R. LeBaron of the Agricultural Committee the following was accomplished: (a) interesting the community in bringing of dairy cattle to the valley and raising of hogs which will help to make the farmer independent; (b) campaign among housewives to use valley products; (c) lectures at the Chamber on agricultural matters—six in all; (d) cantaloupe day at Clint.

(m) Plans to run excursions to Elephant Butte Dam.

(n) Sending of delegates to the Irrigation Congress.

(o) Continued plans for the enlargement of Fort Bliss.

(p) Overtures for erection of Moose Sanatorium in El Paso, send special delegation to Denver for this purpose.

(q) Renewal of lease on Chamber of Commerce building with saving of \$5,000.

(r) Placing of exhibits in Chamber of Commerce building.

(s) Encouragement to the creation of a Farmer's Loan Association.

(t) Recommendation that the new board work for the erection of a municipal auditorium.

—1915—

The report of President R. Burt Orndorff, for the year 1916, sets forth the following interesting program of achievements, and recommendations to the new board.

(a) 1916 was a year of unparalleled prosperity.

(b) 45 regular and special meetings of the board of which Mr. Orndorff attended and presided over 42.

(c) Special entertainment and courtesy to tourists crossing continent to attend the California expositions, through which program some 5,000 persons were reached.