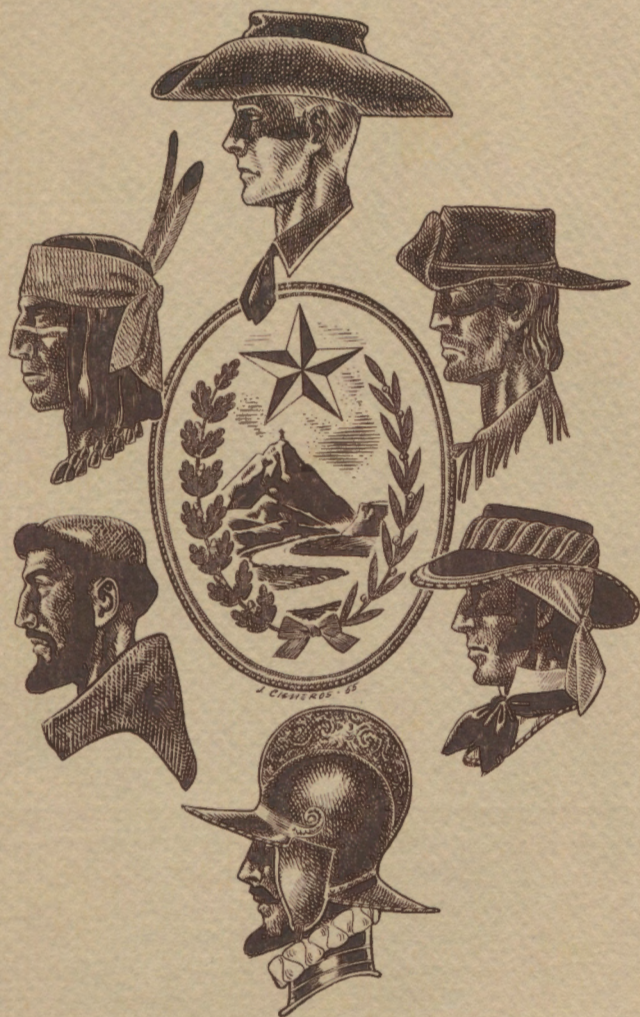


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PASSWORD



THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL. VIII - No. 1

SPRING, 1963

Published quarterly by THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

EUGENE O. PORTER, *Editor*

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by CONREY BRYSON

IT IS A NATURAL IMPULSE, I suppose, for one chosen as President of such an organization as this, to feel that there are others who could fill the position better. Perhaps the present choice is an indication that the available material is thinning out. At any rate, every organi-



zation as large as this has the problem of a hard core of active workers, surrounded by others who faithfully give their financial support and perform such tasks as requested of them, but often go almost unnoticed in the organization's activities. We have been fortunate that the "hard core" is as large as it is — but this year, I hope we can make it larger.

I feel that every member of our Society, from time to time, can make worthwhile contributions to our various projects of discovering, compiling, and commemorating the rich history of our colorful El Paso area. In the pages of the *PASSWORD* in the months and years to come, I would hope to see the results of some of these contributions. This is not a pledge that everything submitted to the *PASSWORD* could be published. Our editor, Dr. Eugene Porter and his staff, have set high standards of historical accuracy and literary excellence which have gained the respect of historians and historical societies across the nation, and it is imperative that these standards be maintained. Nevertheless, those members in a position to provide valuable historical information are urged to do so. If the material is made available to Dr. Porter, to your president, to your curator Mrs. Charles Goetting, or any officer of the society, we will undertake to provide the necessary research and writing aid to see that the material is prepared with proper authenticity.

By way of suggestion, here are a few subjects which seem to me to be deserving of study and possible recording: The history of San Jacinto Plaza (who named it, and when?); the story of Stormsville, the adobe village on the mesa, which was eventually replaced by Rim Road; the Southwest Ostrich Farm; the Osaple Jubilee; and the story of Tobin, Texas. These, of course, only scratch the surface, but they may start some of our members to thinking and remembering.

Our curator is accumulating many valuable mementoes and records of historical significance, and will be glad to receive more from the members. It seems to me it is also important that precious items not made available to the society and still treasured by their owners should be listed with Mrs. Goetting, so the society may know of their whereabouts in future years.

I would mention another special respect in which our members may serve. Our neighbors in Ciudad Juarez are entering a new era in commemorating their own ancient and modern history. Construction of their new historical museum is nearing completion, and it will soon be open to the public. Theirs is the original "El Paso del Norte," and their history is tied to ours in the past and the future. Those members who can assist us in improving the historical ties with our neighbor city will perform a most valuable service.

In these and in many other ways, we hope the membership generally will become more active in the society. To attempt to list the projects already under way would be space consuming and involve the risk of omitting things which should be mentioned. May I say, instead, that as your president, I express the thanks of the entire organization to those hard working members who are carrying these projects forward. I expect to get better acquainted with all of them in the months to come, and to lend whatever aid I can. It is in the full knowledge that we have an active, achieving Historical Society that I invite old members and new ones to join us in another year of progress.

Past Presidents

of the El Paso County Historical Society

MRS. WILLARD W. SCHUESSLER,
Organizational Chairman, October, 1953 - July, 1954

MR. PAUL A. HEISIG - 1954-56

MR. FRANK FEUILLE III - 1957

MR. JACK C. VOWELL, JR. - 1958-59

MR. JOHN B. NEFF - 1960

DR. JOSEPH LEACH - 1961

MR. RICHARD C. WHITE - 1962

HALL OF HONOR BANQUET

THE El Paso County Historical Society held its second annual Hall of Honor banquet at Hotel Paso del Norte on Wednesday evening, November 28. More than 200 members and their guests were in attendance. Honored guests included the Mayor and Mrs. Ralph Seitsinger, the Mayor and Mrs. Felix Alfonso Lugo of Juárez, and the two sisters of honoree The Rev. B. M. G. Williams, Miss Constance Williams and Mrs. Dorothy West. Mr. Chris Fox served as master of ceremonies and The Rev. Robert T. Gibson of the Episcopal Church of St. Clement gave the invocation and benediction.

Those receiving during the hour-long reception which preceded the banquet included Col. and Mrs. Jess Boykin, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Connors, Mrs. Ballard Coldwell, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Guynes, Mrs. Paul Heisig, Mrs. G. Ralph Meyer, Mrs. T. W. Lanier, Mrs. W. W. Hawkins, Mr. and Mrs. J. Page Kemp, Mrs. C. D. Belding and Mrs. Maurice Schwartz.

Committee members who contributed greatly to the success of the affair included Mrs. Paul Heisig, Chairman of the Banquet Committee and Mrs. Jess Boykin, Co-chairman; Mrs. Maurice Schwartz, Chairman of the Decorations Committee and Mrs. Carl Connors, Co-chairman; Mrs. Jack Guynes, Publicity Chairman; and Mrs. W. W. Hawkins, Mrs. G. Ralph Meyer and Mrs. W. W. Schuessler, Social Committee.

The out-going President, Mr. Richard C. White, gave the keynote address; Dr. C. L. Sonnichsen the Burges award address; Mrs. Charles Goetting the Maud Sullivan award address; and Mr. Conrey Bryson The Rev. B. M. G. Williams award address. In addition, The Hon. Ralph Seitsinger presented The Rev. Williams with the coveted Conquistador award.

Mrs. J. Burges Perrenot accepted the award on behalf of her late father, Major Richard Burges; Mrs. Charles Goetting accepted the Sullivan award on behalf of the El Paso Public Library where the plaque will be placed in the Maud Sullivan gallery. The Rev. B. M. G. Williams made a touching and warm acceptance talk which further endeared him to the people of El Paso.

THE HALL OF HONOR ADDRESS

by RICHARD C. WHITE

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

Approximately thirty millions of years ago, according to some geologists' estimates, Mount Franklin was first thrust through the earth, undoubtedly far higher than it is today. The evidences of life encrusted within its strata date back at least six hundred millions of years to times when this patch of world surface was a glistening sea filled with prehistoric water-locked life.

As erosion chisled at Mount Franklin's granites, and leached away its surface minerals, land life appeared, with scaly plates and grotesque forms. Time was almost interminable before these succumbed to the harsh struggles for survival and the less violent, more adapted fur-bearing and feathered creatures inherited this craggy mountain. They burrowed into its crevices and unknowingly awaited a new era called civilization. (No sound disturbed its endless reaches save the wind breathing over rock and brush.)

Time in monotony followed time till one day their untamed eyes beheld an alien upright creature called "man," nomadic, Indian-like, searching for new hunting grounds along this unpredictable source of life, the Great River. This was man afoot, primitive, with weapons scarcely threatening to the legion of animals busying themselves on the mountain and in its rolling foothills undulating towards the river.

Hundreds of years transpired as this occasional visit of two-legged man became the ordinary. One day a different sort of man and possibly a companion probed into the valley. The fact that his complexion was less ruberic was unnoticed by these wild-bred eyes, and within hours, Cabeza de Vaca passed on and left no trace.

Several generations of animals breathed this high clear air before men astride large four-legged animals traversed the banks of the river. In the high sun these men glistened with mail and long sharp weapons, and to scurrying animals under-foot these brave adventurous Spaniards, the Conquistadores, creaked and clanked as they progressed.

Never again was life the same along the river, for soon came men with long brown frocks fastened by ropes, and Indians to build brown and white mounds that were houses. Bells rent the crisp air. More men came with sharp weapons, and the valley traced furrowed lines of green orchards and vineyards in rows. The years witnessed new types of colonists, no longer glistening in the sun, but colorful with

soft cloths and sticks that made noises and threw metal (into frightened animals, and in their own defense).

Buildings now rose in less orderly array, spotting the banks of the erratic river, that one thin lifeline in an ocean of hostility. The valley was patched with greenness and brown lines. The mud buildings were now interspersed with whitewashed frame, and this once quiet valley was intersected with vertical lines rising high to rival the mountain, adding a new dimension to the horizontal lines of man's first beginnings. New men and colorful women arrived in ant-like numbers to build, till these few beginning pioneers, staking out their handholds, reinforced by waves of other hardy men and women, conquered this valley and brought civilization on a peer with any other on this earth.

Isolated, in jeopardy of harsh elements, marauding man, the terrors of aloneness, thirst, they stayed; and by the very adversity moulded the character and the unique personality of El Paso. Tempered through the challenge of violence, they succeeded where others less determined, less self-sufficient would have failed.

Their success was no accident, no matter of pure numerical survival. They came here by choice, often from comfortable surroundings, and risked all to find something meaningful to their lives. They were the searchers, the goal-finders, the believers in themselves and in a better future.

Physiologically they were no different from other men. Many of them, as we know, were in fact sick, often condemned to timed death by medical appraisal. But they were different from many other men, because they had something becoming even rarer today. They had in abundance that precious treasure known as the human spirit. They had the will to win, and create, the self-less disregard for safety in the face of higher hope to succeed. These were men and women, your and my forebearers, the makers of our legacy, the founders of this garden of health and prosperity. They were all manner of men and women, thrown together hundreds of dangerous miles from the outer reaches of civilization, bound together because they were brave, they believed, and held an unwritten code that gave credit to the individual.

Even out of volumes of brave and memorable persons, who have come, fought and lived, and built, can be distilled a choice few, who by their very exemplic lives deserve above all others to be honored and remembered for as long as men breathes the air of this valley. No consideration of wealth, and not necessarily of influence, can project any one individual to the pinnacle of this regard. We seek this

same human spirit that held and won this earth called El Paso County.

In each man is invested this human spirit, but in an attaining few it has consumed and possessed and given quality to that which they touch.

We live as history. We are history, each in his or her personal life. Each life makes a part of the whole. History does not happen. It is made, partly by the collective action of many, but greatly by the direction of some few strong personalities.

For over 400 years men and women have come to this valley such as few have seen over this world. Yet it was not until 1961 that you and I sought to commemorate the greatest of them, in this very Hall of Honor. The criterion that guides us was not spawned by chance, but was an evolution of tedious deliberation by many good heads. Each word and phrase was weighed, to capture the essence of El Paso County's highest award. With your permission, I would like to read this criterion:

The El Paso Hall of Honor, sponsored by the El Paso County Historical Society, Inc., shall be composed of:

Outstanding men and women of character, vision, courage, and creative spirit, who have lived in what is presently El Paso County.

1) Who have consistently done the unusual which deserves to be written or recorded; or who have created that which deserves to be read, heard or seen; and who have made El Paso County better for their having lived in it; and

2) Who have influenced over a period of years the course of history of El Paso County, or by their singular achievements have brought honor and recognition to the El Paso community; and

3) Who have directed us toward worthy goals and merit being remembered by all men as an exemplary guide to our future.

Tonight we again pay tribute to three who clearly fulfill this criterion, and whose human spirit sparked their fellow man to high endeavor, and has left each of us richer for their being and their association.

As president of the El Paso County Historical Society, I wish to establish a precedent, on this occasion, of calling the roll of Honor.

1961 — MR. JAMES WILEY MAGOFFIN, *deceased*

MR. L. M. LAWSON

1962 — MAJOR RICHARD FENNER BURGESS, *deceased*

MRS. MAUDE DURLIN SULLIVAN, *deceased*

REV. B. M. G. WILLIAMS

All honor to those who have gone before, and who are with us today, and to those whom we shall search out and rediscover tomorrow.



Richard Fenner Burges

RICHARD FENNER BURGES

by C. L. SONNICHSEN

NO CITIZEN of El Paso, living or dead, could be more deserving of a place in the Historical Society's Hall of Honor than Richard Fenner Burges. Few men have done more to influence the course of events in West Texas and New Mexico. None has given himself more fully and freely for the good of his community, his state, and his country. No seeker after publicity or public honors, he lived and died with dignity. Soldier, philosopher, statesman, scholar, and gentleman, Richard Burges belongs in the front rank of the builders of El Paso and the Southwest.

Born in Seguin, Texas, in 1873, he attended Texas Agricultural and Mechanical College for one year, after which he studied law privately and was admitted to the bar in 1894. This was a year after he came to El Paso to make his home.

He aligned himself with the better element in a town which was still emerging from frontier conditions. As city attorney from 1905 to 1907 he led the successful fight to eliminate organized gambling in El Paso. It was he who wrote the present city charter.

Early in his career he became nationally known as an expert on irrigation law. He was one of a group of Southwesterners who conceived and promoted the construction of Elephant Butte Dam. He served as Assistant Counsel for the United States in 1911 when the controversy between Mexico and the United States over the Chamizal Zone was submitted to arbitration. As the years went by, he was accorded increasing recognition in his field of specialization. He was President of the International Irrigation Congress in 1915; counsel for Texas interests during the negotiations with New Mexico over diversion of the waters of the Pecos River in 1923; and later special counsel for Texas on the Rio Grande Compact Commission. In 1929 he became the Texas member of that commission. For many years he served as general counsel for the El Paso Water Improvement District. By presidential appointment he became special counsel for the Department of Justice in the acquisition of lands in the Rio Grande Rectification Project.

During and after his tenure of office in the Texas Legislature from 1913 to 1917 he interested himself in similar matters. He authored the Texas Irrigation Code and the Texas Forestry Act. From 1921 to 1923 he served as President of the Texas Forestry Association. He was counsel for Texas when the case involving the diversion by

New Mexico of the waters of the Rio Grande was argued before the United States Supreme Court. He served on an advisory committee of distinguished lawyers, appointed by the Supreme Court of Texas, for reformation of the State Rules of the Practice of Civil Procedures.

In June, 1917, he entered a new field of endeavor. He organized an El Paso infantry company which became part of the First Texas Infantry of the National Guard, later a unit in the famed Thirty-sixth Division. He entered the service as a captain but received a battle-field promotion to the rank of major when the ranking officer of the division's First Battalion was killed, leaving the command to Captain Burges. He returned to El Paso with the Croix de Guerre and a citation from Marshal Petain for gallantry in action.

His activities in the years that followed were many and various. He was the first person to publish an account of the Carlsbad Caverns. His efforts brought them to the attention of the National Geographic magazine and of the Department of the Interior. It was due in no small measure to his activities that the Caverns became a national park.

He served as a member of the Board of the El Paso Public Library from its beginning and contributed largely to its resources. His fifty-year file of the Galveston-Dallas News is the foundation of its newspaper collection. His personal library of some 7,000 volumes was always available to scholars and friends, even as his time, effort, and interest were always at the service of the community in every worthwhile project.

To such a man the highest honor his community can grant is a fitting and proper recognition, and with this in mind the El Paso County Historical Society tonight pays tribute to a truly great soul who no longer walks among us but whose heart and brain are built into the fabric of the community he loved.

MAUD DURLIN SULLIVAN

by BETTY MARY GOETTING

SHE WAS NOT CUT from the ordinary pattern, this woman we are honoring tonight. Yet to only a comparatively few were the many charming facets of Maud Durlin Sullivan's character and personality known.

To most people she was a scholarly, gentle, efficient librarian, with a keen mind and a boundless enthusiasm for any subject she was called upon to investigate. Few of these would know of her great gusto for living, her superb, sophisticated, lusty sense of humor. Those who may have heard her give a talk on fine printing, the realism of Thomas Hardy, Italian Primitives, or Coronado's Expedition would never suspect that she had left the refined atmosphere of a public library to live in the mountains of New Mexico, much of the time in a tent house.

Resigning her position as librarian of the El Paso Public Library in 1912, Maud Durlin went to the Mogollon Mountains as the bride of John Kevin Sullivan, witty Irishman, Harvard educated mining engineer. This marriage in her forties, was one of the most amazingly romantic ones, and lasted until his death in 1943; she survived him eight months.

A picture of the interior of the tent house shows the flap drawn back, giving a view of the majestic mountains. The foreground reveals a bowl of wild flowers with the sunlight on them, a row of books, some Spode coffee cups. This mountain living personalized for her our mining industry of fifty years ago. When she returned, in 1917, to take up her duties again as librarian of the El Paso Public Library, she built a splendid mining reference department, to which engineers came from all parts of the West and Mexico.

Mrs. Sullivan had come to the dusty little town of El Paso in 1908. (It is especially fitting and most unique that all three honorees tonight should have come to El Paso around the turn of this century; all should have been good friends, and all associated with the El Paso Public Library.) Maud Sullivan had been brought up in an Episcopal Rectory, where she and the other children in the family, with a few neighbor ones had been taught by her scholarly clergyman father. She was never in a class room until she went to Pratt Institute in Brooklyn to study art, yet she was an extraordinarily well educated person.

It was to be a rewarding experience that came to a young El Paso

High School graduate, when she entered the Public Library as an apprentice preparatory to attending library school. This girl and the librarian were so different, yet a spark was struck which affected the girl's entire life. A new world opened to her as she learned to respond to the influence of this charming, delightful librarian.

With almost a paltry budget (about that of the garbage disposal department in those days), Mrs. Sullivan had the rare perception of what went into building a good public library. This enabled her to stretch the money in such a way that the El Paso Public Library became known throughout the country. Many were the times that the young apprentice would be called into the librarian's office to share her ecstatic pleasure in showing her an out of print book on Southwest history, or a hard-to-get book on etchings. These may have come from as far away as a second-hand book store in London, and very often would have been bought with a balance of perhaps \$5.87 left over from the book fund. Such wise purchases as these, many years ago, enriched our library and it became known for having superior collections on Southwest history, art books, mining reference materials, the best in good literature; a cultural center. Today many of these books are not available, or, if so would cost many times the price paid for them; some would cost \$75 to \$100.

Because of such a limited book fund, Mrs. Sullivan used United States Public Documents, sent free to all public libraries asking for them. They were classified exactly as books, placed in the basement document room of the old library building. In recognition of this unusual use of public documents, Maud Sullivan was asked to give a talk to the American Library Association, explaining the use of them as such.

Mrs. Sullivan touched the lives of thousands of El Pasoans, among them, Tom Lea, Carl Hertzog, Fremont Ellis, to name only three who came under the inspiration of this librarian, who herself had been in the field of art before giving it up for the broader field of books. The Carnegie Foundation recognized her superior collection of art books and her sponsorship of young artists when the El Paso Library was presented with the Carnegie Collection of Art valued in the thousands of dollars. The local library was one of two in Texas (the only public library), and one of thirty in the nation to receive the honor.

It was a commonplace event to have a stranger wander into the library and after awhile come to the desk, asking "who is responsible for this unusual collection of books on art that I find in this small library?" Or, for an author waiting between trains, to stroll over to the library, to discover the best material on the Southwest. Often,

changing their plans, they would remain in El Paso for several days. Our small library came to be known as the scholar's library. In a number of books the authors give credit and praise to the local library for their source material. Among Mrs. Sullivan's personal papers are many letters from writers thanking her for the use of the library. Such have written repeatedly that though they had used larger collections, they had never used finer ones in quality.

But it was not alone to the artists, the writers, to whom Maud Sullivan was a cultural influence. She made the institution of the El Paso Public Library into one of immeasurable value to serve the business man, the lawyer, the radio and newspaper person, the army man, the teacher, and always the every day library patron, such as the tousled haired newsboy whose eyes would shine as she told him of a book he would enjoy. Mrs. Sullivan encouraged and inspired many groups of people in studying. She made outlines, bibliographies, gave talks, used the basement of the old building for art exhibits.

A public library is often a cold place, but not the El Paso Library, because of the women whose spirit pervaded it. The lobby of the old



Mrs. Maud Sullivan receiving from Mr. J. Frank Dobie his manuscript of Apache Gold and Yaqui Silver; and Mr. Tom Lea, Jr., the Illustrator of the book. April 11, 1939.

building was always inviting, with a display of books, a small group of prints, perhaps a painting or two of a local artist. It was never without a bowl of flowers in season, or greens in winter. At Christmas time the lobby was a place of beauty which welcomed the old men and women living nearby in dreary rooms. Humorous episodes which happen every day in a public library were always enjoyed and shared by Mrs. Sullivan. She chuckled heartily over the eccentricities of the reading room habitues, such as the old man who came early every morning, gathered the new magazines from the rack, sat on them as he perused one by one.

Maud Durlin Sullivan was recognized throughout the library world, and honored in many different ways, particularly by the Carnegie Foundation which had her escort six librarians from Mexico on a tour of the United States. Her linguistic ability and interest in Spanish-speaking peoples resulted in her being sent to Puerto Rico in 1932, where she made a brilliant survey of libraries. In 1935 the Carnegie Foundation sent her as one of four librarians from the United States to the International Congress of Libraries and Bibliography in Spain. Received by President Zamora, she gave a talk in Spanish to the Congress.

Maud Durlin Sullivan's impact on the life of El Paso has been incalculable, for this intangible gift she left cannot be measured. As one of El Paso's builders of the mind and spirit, librarian and guardian of El Paso's culture for thirty years, she deserves this recognition which you so justly are conferring on her tonight.

In closing I should like humbly to add that I am that young apprentice of many years ago.

THE REV. B. M. G. WILLIAMS

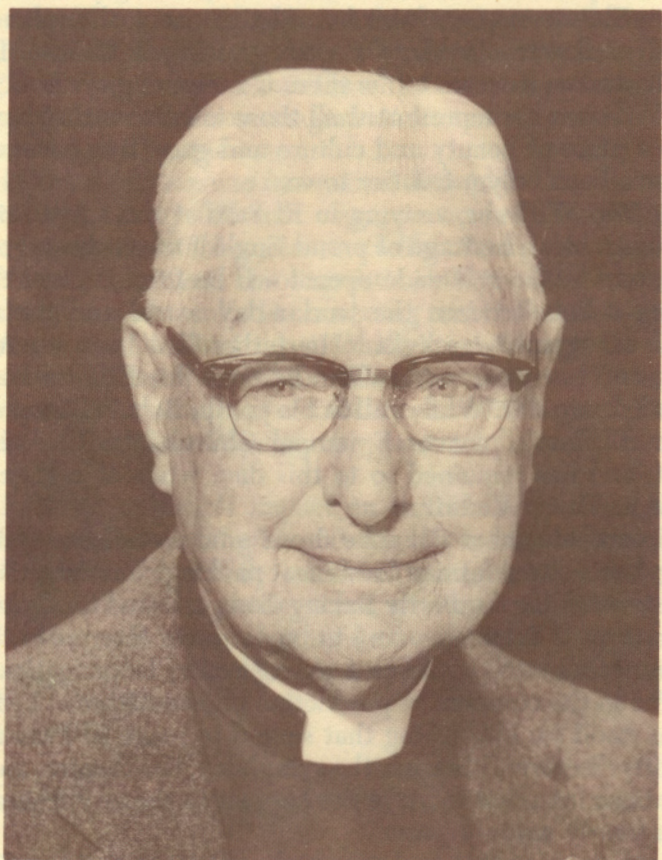
by CONREY BRYSON

I ONCE HEARD The Reverend B. M. G. Williams say that when he arrived in El Paso in 1894, fresh from the greenery of England, there was hardly a flower or a blade of grass growing in El Paso. Looking at our city today, it seems to me there is something symbolic here — for Mr. Williams has represented all those influences that have gone to make a place of beauty and culture and good living where there might have been only a frontier town.

Young Bert Williams, arriving in El Paso at the age of eighteen, brought with him a heritage of proud English tradition and religious training, and in the still wide open town he formed from the very beginning a link between the work-a-day world and the refining influence of organized religion. His father had been an Anglican minister, and his uncle, with whom he made his El Paso home was a Methodist minister. While still in his youth, Bert Williams became active in El Paso's pioneer Episcopal Church, the Church of St. Clement, and has remained so to this day, when at eighty five he serves as its Pastor Emeritus.

Old timers remember when he drove a horse and buggy through El Paso streets as a salesman for a meat packing company, and when he went to work for the Purity Baking Company and finally was able to advance to its Presidency and to buy a major interest in the firm. They remember, too, when as a young tenor, he sang the role of Nanki-Poo in the community production of *The Mikado* . . . for Bert Williams stood for everything that served to make El Paso a better community: lectures, libraries, the symphony, the theatre, and many organizations intended to make life happier in the city where he has lived for nearly seventy years.

The records show that he has served as President of the Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club, the Community Chest, and the U.S.O. Council — of the Community Concert Association and the Knife and Fork Club, and as a member of the Library Board. Since his retirement from his business in 1951, he has been increasingly the voice of religion and culture in the El Paso business community. Serving full-time for a period as pastor of his church, and then retiring to a part-time status, he has nevertheless maintained his contacts in the world of business and industry, and is living proof that the Christian life is a good life for every man.



The Rev. B. M. G. Williams

Fortunate is the organization that calls upon him to set the theme for its activities with an invocation. I recall an important meeting of the cotton industry here, in which the former Secretary of Agriculture was the keynote speaker — but the keynote was never better expressed by anyone than in the prayer by The Reverend B. M. G. Williams. He thanked the Creator for the bounties of our fields, and prayed for greater wisdom for mankind in learning how to use them for our greater good. His prayers not only thanked the Creator for his mercies and blessings, but called forth from mankind his own best efforts as he strives toward Godhood.

His eloquence is a natural manner of speech which grew from his literary heritage, his love of our mother tongue, and his way of life. Incapable of saying anything small or mean, his words lift up our eyes and our hearts to finer things. It has been my privilege in recent years to work closely with this man, as his was the voice and the commanding figure we chose to turn the hearts of our television viewers to life's greater meanings in our annual television program *Look To The Mountain*, presented to signal the turning on of the Christmas star on Mount Franklin.

We have many occasions in our work to do a bit of ghost-writing; but ghost-writing for Bert Williams would be like writing for Winston Churchill. His own polished phrases, and his ability to sense the spirit of the occasion, make his words outstanding examples of the use of our language.

For many years now, at the Christmas season, he has called us to look upward to the star as did the wise men of old. "Sometimes," he said, "we think that we too are wise men, with our atomic energy and our earth-satellites and our hydrogen bombs. But at Christmas time we must do what those wise men did. We must kneel before the sweet simplicity of a little child. With the pure and trusting hearts of little children, let us look to the star that signals again the birth of the Christ child. May your Christmas be all that God intended it to be, and may we become all that God intended us to become."

But whether his words rang grandly across the air-waves, or quietly as friend to friend, with deeds of kindness, and a fellowship that reaches across religious faiths and racial barriers, the voice of B. M. G. Williams has been one that has called forth the best in all of us. Tonight, we proudly inscribe his name in the El Paso Hall of Honor.

RECORDS AND REMINISCENCES OF OLD FORT BLISS

by RICHARD K. McMASTER

THE PURPOSE of this paper is to correct some misunderstandings regarding the establishment of Fort Bliss, the officers who commanded it, and the troops which formed its garrison. These misunderstandings arise in part from the reports of the Secretary of War, which in some instances list officers and troops in transit as being part of a post's garrison. Such is the case of Colonel Magruder and his company of the 1st Artillery. Colonel Magruder was listed as the commanding officer of Fort Bliss in 1855, with his company of artillery as a part of the garrison. The Post Returns of Fort Bliss and the Regimental Returns of the 1st Artillery indicate that Major Longstreet was in command of the post and Colonel Magruder was awaiting the passage of his company.

Other mistakes may be attributed to typographical errors in the initials of officers of the same name, or of other names. For instance, Colonel Edmund Brooke Alexander who led the 3rd Infantry into New Mexico in 1849, and who later built the post of Fort Bliss in 1854, has been confused with Edward P. Alexander who later became General Longstreet's chief of artillery. Again, the initials of Colonel Isaac Van Duzer Reeve, another Fort Bliss commander, have been represented by those of Lieutenant John Van Deusen Du Bois of the cavalry.

The 3rd Infantry served in the Department of New Mexico from 1849 until 1860, the 8th Infantry from 1853 to 1861, and the 5th Infantry from 1860 until 1867. The Regiment of Mounted Rifles entered the Department of New Mexico in 1856 and remained until 1862.

* * * *

On May 30th, 1848, Mexico gave up its claim to Texas, relinquished its hold on California, and lost its northern outpost of New Mexico. The ink had scarcely dried on the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo before the United States took steps to occupy its newly acquired territory in the Southwest. To New Mexico and California marched the last of the Army of Occupation from Saltillo, Mexico, regular dragoons and horse artillery, under the command of Colonel John M. Washington, a distant relative of General George Washington. And from San Antonio and Jefferson Barracks were ordered veteran troops of

the Vera Cruz Expedition, the 3rd Infantry and a battalion of the 2nd Artillery.

The mounted troops of Colonel Washington's expedition arrived at Santa Fé in the fall of 1848, having retraced the route of Colonel Doniphan's column through Chihuahua and El Paso del Norte. The foot troops, delayed by preliminary reconnaissance and long marches, did not reach New Mexico until the following year.

The 3rd Infantry entered New Mexico under the command of Captain and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Edmund Brooke Alexander, who established his headquarters at Santa Fé on July 22nd, 1849. Arriving with him were four companies of the 3rd Infantry commanded by Captain George Sykes, and two companies of the 2nd Artillery under Major Henry L. Kendrick, all from Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. Like the Washington column of the year before, the newly arrived troops first conducted an expedition against the Navajo Indians before taking post throughout the Territory.

The remainder of the 3rd Infantry, the Regimental Staff, Companies A, B, C, E, I, K, and the Regimental Howitzer Battery, commanded by Major Jefferson Van Horne, left San Antonio on June 1st, 1849, and arrived at a "camp 5 miles below El Paso del Norte," on September 8th. "September 14th, the Staff and Companies A, B, C, and E, moved up opposite El Paso del Norte, and the following day Companies I and K marched and took post at Presidio de San Elizario, a town twenty miles below El Paso del Norte." Major Van Horne commanded the battalion opposite El Paso del Norte, and Major William S. Henry commanded the two company battalion and the Howitzer Battery which were stationed at San Elizario.

The fact that the boundary between Texas and New Mexico was in dispute, is indicated by the Regimental Returns, which carried the companies as enroute to New Mexico rather than Texas, and also by the subsequent reports headed "Post opposite El Paso, New Mexico." It was not until 1850 that the 32nd Parallel of Latitude became the boundary line between Texas and the Territory of New Mexico, and thus placed the post opposite El Paso del Norte in the State of Texas.

Although El Paso del Norte was a long established community of several thousand inhabitants, there were but three ranch houses on the United States side of the Rio Grande. Major Van Horne's battalion built an adobe post at Smith's Ranch, the settlement nearest the town in Mexico.

The Regimental Return of the 3rd Infantry dated September 30th, 1849, signed by Lieutenant-Colonel Edmund B. Alexander, records the following data:

changed posts on September 28th due to the illness of Major Henry who died March 5th, 1851. For the next twelve months Companies E and K were at El Paso with Major Van Horne, while Company C, Captain Johns, garrisoned San Elizario.

In September of 1851 all troops in the Department of New Mexico were transferred from the garrison towns to new posts and cantonments better located to subdue the Indians. Headquarters and Companies E and K from El Paso were assigned to Fort Fillmore at Mesilla, Company B to Fort Conrad near Valverde, D and G to Fort Union, H to Cantonment Burgwin at Taos, C, F, and I to Fort Defiance in the Navajo Country. Company A was assigned to Fort Fillmore upon completion of its escort duty, but Colonel Craig was killed by deserters on the desert June 6th, 1852. The Howitzer Battery, two brass 6-pounder field pieces with caissons and travelling forge, were left at Fort Union in 1852 by Lieutenant J. N. Ward, Company K, 3rd Infantry.

Colonel Chandler commanded first Fort Conrad, and then its replacement Fort Craig, from 1853 to 1855. Major Van Horne commanded Fort Stanton during 1855 and 1856, and died in 1857 while commanding the Albuquerque garrison. Major Shepherd commanded Fort Defiance at the time of the Navajo attack upon that post in 1860.

The transfer of Major Van Horne's battalion of the 3rd Infantry through the Pass to the North served to improve conditions along the upper Rio Grande, but left the settlements below the pass unprotected against thievery and depredation by the Indians. In the late summer of 1853, Colonel J. K. F. Mansfield, Inspector General of the Army, after inspecting all posts and troops in the Department of New Mexico, found a post at El Paso to be indispensable and recommended that it be re-established for the protection of the citizens of the country. His recommendations were promptly put into effect as four companies of infantry arrived shortly before Christmas of the same year to establish a new post at Magoffin's Ranch near El Paso del Norte.

To build and command this new post, Major and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel Edmund B. Alexander with Companies B, E, I, and K, of the 8th Infantry, were transferred from Fort Chadbourne, Texas. This was the same Colonel Alexander who had led the 3rd Infantry into New Mexico in 1849. After commencing the construction of Fort Union in 1851 he had been promoted and transferred to the 8th Infantry at Fort Chadbourne.

*EDITOR'S NOTE: "The Mansfield Report — 1853," edited by Richard K. McMaster, was published in *PASSWORD*, Vol. IV, No. 3 (July, 1959).

The earliest Post Return of Fort Bliss on file at the National Archives is for the month of January, 1854. Bearing the heading, Post Return of "El Paso" Texas, and signed by Lt. Col. E. B. Alexander, it records the notations,

This post was occupied 11 January 1854.

Company C, 1st Infantry, temporarily at the post to escort the (wagon) train on its return.

The officers listed as present at the end of the month were,

Edmund B. Alexander, Maj. & Bvt. Lt. Col., Commanding Officer
L. Wiley Crawford, Assistant Surgeon, Field and Staff
James G. Snelling, 1st Lt. & Bvt. Capt., Field and Staff
George E. Pickett, 1st Lt. & Bvt. Capt., Commanding Company I
Thos. K. Jackson, 2nd Lt., Commanding Company E
William T. Mechling, 2nd Lt., Commanding Company B
James McIntosh, 2nd Lt., Commanding Company K
Frederick M. Follet, 2nd Lt., Company I

Listed as absent,

I. V. D. Reeve, Capt. & Bvt. Lt. Col., Company B
John T. Sprague, Capt. & Bvt. Maj., Company E
Edmund B. Holloway, Capt., Company K
Alfred Crozet, 1st Lt., Company E
Silas T. Higgins, Bvt. 2nd Lt., Company B

The post returns for February and March bear the heading, "Military Post opposite El Paso, Texas." The April return is headed "Fort Bliss, Texas," and notes that General Order Number 4, Adjutant General's Office, 8 March 1854, was received 29 April 1854, and that Section III refers to the naming of posts at El Paso and Santa Barbara "Fort Bliss" and "Fort Thorn" respectively.

Colonel Alexander remained in command throughout 1854, and the four companies maintained an average strength of 40 men each for the same period. On 31 July 1854, Captain and Brevet Major James Longstreet, who had served as regimental adjutant during the war with Mexico, joined from leave and assumed command of Company I, 8th Infantry. Thus George Pickett became Longstreet's lieutenant in Company I, nine years before he led his division of Longstreet's Corps in its famous charge at Gettysburg in 1863. It was also Pickett who had taken the 8th Infantry colors from the wounded Longstreet during the assault on Chapultepec Castle.

In January of 1855, Captain Reeve rejoined and assumed command of Company B. Companies I and K under Captains Longstreet and

Holloway went out on a scouting expedition against the Mescalero Indians. The records speak of a rendezvous in the Guadalupe Mountains with Captain Ewell and the 1st Dragoons. In February, Pickett took command of Company E, replacing Lieutenant Jackson who became post adjutant. In March it was Captain Reeve's turn for a scout with Company B, and so life went on.

On April 24th, Colonel Alexander was relieved of command by reason of promotion and transfer, and Major Longstreet became commanding officer. It was while Longstreet was in command that Captain and Brevet Lieutenant-Colonel John Bankhead Magruder of the 1st Artillery reported at Fort Bliss. Magruder was enroute to rejoin his company which was then serving as escort for the Boundary Commission Survey. It seems he had taken a long leave of absence beginning in 1853, leaving his company of the 1st Artillery in California, to visit in the East. Upon arrival at Fort Bliss he was not permitted to travel west of the Rio Grande without an escort, and the mounted detachment of the 8th Infantry being otherwise engaged, he was required to remain at Fort Bliss from May until October. To keep Magruder occupied, Longstreet appointed him an acting company commander of the 8th Infantry until his own company arrived on its way to Fort Clark.

Major Sprague, a former Marine Corps officer, rejoined on June 9th and took over command of the post from Longstreet. He in turn was relieved by Colonel Reeve who returned from a scout in August and was now the senior officer of the 8th Infantry in west Texas. Changes in command were to continue as the companies served on temporary duty in the Department of New Mexico.

There were other changes in 1855. Pickett was promoted and transferred in June, Lieutenant Crozet died,¹ Lieutenant Follet was placed in arrest and resigned, and Lieutenant Mechling was dismissed from the service. In December, Major Sprague and Company E were transferred to Fort Stanton, and the strength of Fort Bliss was reduced to 111 officers and men.

In addition to the lengthy sojourn of Colonel Magruder, the post was also visited on December 23rd by Brevet Brigadier-General John Garland with a considerable staff and escort. Besides being the Commander of the Department of New Mexico, to which Fort Bliss was temporarily attached, General Garland was the father of Mrs. Longstreet. This lady, the center of a gay circle in the community, was purported to have written penetrating letters to her father at Santa Fé regarding the post.

On February 28th, 1856, Colonel Reeve departed on a six months

1. April 23, 1855.

leave of absence, and a recent arrival, Major Theophilus H. Holmes, took command. In August the Regiment of Mounted Rifles, enroute from Texas to New Mexico, halted for twelve days at Fort Bliss while awaiting new station assignments, and Captain John G. Walker's Company K was posted at Fort Bliss when the regiment moved on. At this time, Major Holmes had been ordered to Fort Stanton, and Colonel Reeve's leave had been unexpectedly extended until the end of the year. As a result, Captain Walker of the cavalry became the post commander of the hitherto infantry post.

The cavalry regime was not to last long, for in October, Captain Walker and his company of cavalry were transferred to San Elizario to stop some minor thievery by the Indians, and Captain Longstreet became post commander until Colonel Reeve returned on December 27th. It was believed in some quarters that the transfer of the cavalry was made in order that General Garland's son-in-law might take command of Fort Bliss. This was one of General Garland's last orders, for a few days later he left the Department of New Mexico.

Since one company of the 8th Infantry was serving as escort for the Pacific Railroad survey party, the garrison was temporarily reduced to two companies of infantry. In addition to the regular garrison, the post employed five citizens, one serving as guide and interpreter, one as blacksmith, and three as herders.

Lieutenant Du Bois who was stationed at Fort Bliss in 1856 with the company of Mounted Rifles noted in his journal that "life at the post was dull enough, until the fiestas commenced. Then bull fights and billiards, bailes and monte, intrigues and crimes, made gay and noisy scenes where but an hour before all was monotonous as the desert."

The year of 1857 was made notable by the passage of the Army's experimental camel train which was marching from Texas to California, and also the campaign against the Apaches on the Gila River. Colonel Bonneville of the 3rd Infantry planned and organized the campaign, in which three infantry-cavalry columns were concentrated upon the Indians about the headwaters of the Gila River. Three companies from Fort Bliss were assigned to the southern column that assembled at Fort Thorn, Company B, 2nd Lieutenant John R. Cooke, Company I, 1st Lieutenant Thomas K. Jackson, and Company K, Mounted Rifles, 2nd Lieutenant John V. D. Du Bois. The troops left the post on April 20th for Fort Thorn where they joined with two other companies of the Rifles, and one company of the 3rd Infantry, to form the southern column of Lieutenant-Colonel D. S. Miles, 10 officers and 270 men.



Stations of 3d Infantry. July, 1851

The battle of the Gila was fought on June 27th. The cavalry, led by Colonel Loring of the Rifles and Captain Ewell of the Dragoons, drove the Apaches towards the infantry positions where 24 Indians were killed and 26 captured. Two officers and seven men were wounded, including 2nd Lieutenant Henry M. Lazelle of Fort Bliss who was acting as adjutant of the southern column. Lazelle was to return to Fort Bliss in 1893 as colonel of the 18th Infantry to become the first commanding officer of the present post.

The troops returned to Fort Bliss on September 8th having marched 1339 miles in a period of 124 days. Lieutenant Du Bois related in his diary that he "had hopes of being comfortable for a few days, though between escort duty and the annoyances of a post commanded by an infantry officer he did not hope for much military pleasure." His hopes were short lived for Company K of the Rifles was ordered to Fort Union, and Captain Llewellyn Jones' Company D was sent to replace it at Fort Bliss. Lieutenant Cooke and Company B, 8th Infantry, were transferred to Fort Stanton in November, leaving two companies of infantry and one of cavalry at Fort Bliss.

The post was further reduced in 1858 when three companies of the 8th Infantry were stationed in New Mexico. Company E was at Fort Marcy commanded by Major Sprague, and Companies B and K were at Fort Stanton under Colonel Reeve. Major Longstreet was then at Fort Union as Paymaster, having transferred to the Pay Department in July. Major Holmes was in command at Fort Bliss with Company D of the Rifles, and I of the 8th Infantry.

In May of 1859, Company D of the Rifles exchanged posts with Company A at Fort Stanton, and Captain Washington L. Elliott of the Rifles relieved Major Holmes as the commanding officer of Fort Bliss. A rather unusual condition existed in Company A, Captain Elliott and his 1st Lieutenant William B. Lane being married to sisters. During the war with Mexico, Lane had served as private, corporal, sergeant, and 1st sergeant of Company D, Mounted Rifles, being commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in 1848. His military record accounts for the title of the book by Mrs. Lane, *I Married a Soldier*, in which she describes the life of an army wife many years ago.

Mrs. Lane noted "that May 25th found them at the most delightful station they ever had, — Fort Bliss, — the old and first Fort Bliss, far more pleasant than those of the same name which have succeeded it." She found the garrison very small, but there were some very pleasant people living at and near the post. There was a good deal of social visiting among them all, and an occasional formal entertainment, to which everybody was invited. The quarters were made comfortable

by nailing down canvas to the hard dirt floors and then carpeting. The adobe barracks occupied three sides of a tree shrouded parade ground, and almost at their doors flowed the muddy waters of the Rio Grande. Shopping was possible at Franklin, about three miles away.

The Navajo Campaign of 1859 involved most of the troops in the Department of New Mexico, including the company of cavalry from Fort Bliss. When the campaign ended in December, Company K of the Rifles returned to its old headquarters at Fort Bliss to relieve Company A, and Captain John G. Walker again became the post commander. Lieutenant Du Bois, the new post adjutant, was delighted as he anticipated much pleasure at his old post. His anticipations were soon realized for he recalled New Year's Day visits with apple toddy and egg nog, and ending the day with music, dancing, supper, and very pretty dark-eyed señoritas.

In February of 1860, both companies of Rifles returned to New Mexico, and Captain Walker turned over the post to Lieutenant Jackson and Company I, 8th Infantry. Captain Thomas G. Pitcher arrived the following month and took command of the one company post. He remained in command until October, when he gave it back to Lieutenant Jackson, and departed on leave.

On December 8th, 1860, the Adjutant General's Office issued General Order Number 12, restoring Fort Bliss to the Department of Texas and ending its temporary attachment to the Department of New Mexico. By the same order the garrison of Fort Bliss was reduced to three of the four companies of the 8th Infantry serving with the Department of New Mexico, and the fourth company was ordered to be put in march to Fort Davis, Texas.

January of 1861 found only Company I at Fort Bliss with Lieutenant Thomas K. Jackson in command. The other three companies were still detached, with stations at Fort Breckenridge, Fort Fillmore, and Hatch's Ranch. With communication by mounted courier and the movement of troops by marching, it was not until February 18th that the companies began to arrive at Fort Bliss. On February 22nd all four companies were present and Colonel Reeve assumed command of the post and garrison. Three days later, Company E led by Lieutenant Frank, began the march to Fort Davis.

The State of Texas had passed an ordinance of secession on February 1st, and this was followed on February 18th by the surrender order of Major-General David E. Twiggs, commanding the Department of Texas. All military posts and public property were to be surrendered to local Confederate Commissioners.



Major General Anson Mills



Fort Bliss on the Magoffin property

Adapted by Major McMaster from a pencil sketch made
in 1868 by Sgt. H. Stieffel, Co. K, 5th U. S. Infantry.

Mr. Anson Mills, who had made the first surveys of Fort Bliss and El Paso, and one of the two persons in El Paso County who voted against secession, was advised not to remain in town any longer. Being a former cadet at West Point, he decided to go to Washington and join the Federal forces. Before leaving by coach on March 9th, he was invited to have dinner with Colonel Reeve and his adjutant Lieutenant Jones, a former classmate at the Academy. During the course of the dinner Colonel Reeve remarked that "he did not want to obey General Twigg's order to surrender to the Texans because he had large government stores, which would be of great value in case of war to either the Government or the Confederates." He requested Mr. Mills to see the Secretary of War and explain the circumstances, and get him verbal or written authority to take his command and this property into New Mexico.

Despite the efforts of Colonel Reeve and Mr. Mills, no orders were received, and on March 31st, 1861, the post of Fort Bliss and Companies B, I, and K, 8th Infantry, were surrendered to the Confederate Commissioners. Lieutenant Jones, a Virginian, submitted his resignation the same day, and Major Rhett and Lieutenant Jackson, South Carolinians, resigned the next day. Dr. Haden of Mississippi and Lieutenant Peck of Tennessee were to follow suit later.

Officers on duty at Fort Bliss at the end of February, the date of the last post return, were:

I. V. D. Reeve, Capt. & Bvt. Lt. Col., Commanding Officer
T. G. Rhett, Maj., Paymaster, Field and Staff
J. M. Haden, Assistant Surgeon, Field and Staff
Thos. K. Jackson, 1st Lt., Commanding Company I
T. M. Jones, 1st Lt., Commanding Company B
Lafayette Peck, 2nd Lt., Commanding Company K
H. M. Lazelle, 2nd Lt., Company I

By the articles of the surrender agreement, the troops were to be allowed to march to the coast, and there take transportation North. Some detachments garrisoning the interior posts such as Fort Bliss were unavoidably delayed in leaving the State, and on May 9th, 1861, six companies of the 8th Infantry, commanded by Captain I. V. D. Reeve, were met at San Lucas Spring near San Antonio by Brigadier-General Earl Van Dorn of Texas and forced to surrender unconditionally. Most of these troops were not paroled but were held as hostages in confinement until February, 1863.

The old post was unoccupied until July of 1861 when Lieutenant-Colonel John R. Baylor arrived with the 2nd Regiment of Texas Mounted Rifles to assert the sovereignty of the State of Texas. Encouraged by the warm welcome and enthusiastic reception of the secessionists at El Paso, Baylor moved into New Mexico and occupied Mesilla on July 25th. This action caused the evacuation of Fort Fillmore and the subsequent surrender of its garrison, seven companies of the 7th Infantry and two troops of Mounted Rifles, to Colonel Baylor at San Augustine Springs.

Thereafter Fort Bliss was used as an assembly area by the 4th, 5th, and 7th Regiments of Texas Cavalry, in preparation for the invasion of New Mexico. Brigadier-General Henry H. Sibley, CSA, used the post as his headquarters before the invasion, and again in May of 1862 following the retreat from New Mexico. Sibley's Brigade had defeated Colonel Canby's command at the battle of Valverde on February 21st, and had captured Albuquerque and Santa Fé in March, only to meet with disaster at Glorieta Pass on March 28th while enroute to Fort Union. The destruction of the Confederate supply train brought the campaign to an end.

The post returns of Fort Bliss were not resumed until October, 1865. The first return noted that the Field, Staff, and Band, and Companies K and G, 5th Infantry, left Franklin October 15th and arrived at Fort Bliss the same day, distance marched 1 mile. By way of explanation, the 5th Infantry had remained in the Territory of New Mexico following the Confederate withdrawal, it being the only regular regiment to be retained in that Department throughout the Civil War years.

Captain David H. Brotherton who signed the report, was at the time acting as Regimental Commander of the 5th Infantry, Post Commander of Fort Bliss, and the Commanding Officer of Company K. Although he had been promoted to the rank of Brevet Major at the battle of Valverde, he made no use of the title. Captain Samuel Ovenshine commanded Company G. The regular garrison consisted of 2 officers and 88 men, with 5 additional officers on temporary duty in connection with rebuilding the post.

The deterioration of the post proved to be not as serious a problem as the intermittent destruction caused by the rampaging river. On March 1st, 1868, the troops, then two companies of the 35th Infantry, moved into a new post named Camp Concordia at Stephenson's Ranch, built on higher ground about one mile northeast of the old post. Old Fort Bliss, with some of its buildings and corrals already washed away, was relegated to the muddy waters of the Rio Grande.

THE POST COMMANDERS

- 1849 Capt. & Bvt. Maj. Jefferson Van Horne, 3rd Infantry
- 1850 Capt. & Bvt. Maj. Jefferson Van Horne, 3rd Infantry
- 1851 Capt. & Bvt. Maj. Jefferson Van Horne, 3rd Infantry
- 1854 Maj. & Bvt. Lt. Col. E. B. Alexander, 8th Infantry
- 1855 Maj. & Bvt. Lt. Col. E. B. Alexander, 8th Infantry
Capt. & Bvt. Maj. James Longstreet, 8th Infantry
Capt. & Bvt. Maj. J. T. Sprague, 8th Infantry
Capt. & Bvt. Lt. Col. I. V. D. Reeve, 8th Infantry
- 1856 Capt. & Bvt. Lt. Col. I. V. D. Reeve, 8th Infantry
Maj. T. H. Holmes, 8th Infantry
Capt. J. G. Walker, Regiment of Mounted Rifles
Capt. & Bvt. Maj. James Longstreet, 8th Infantry
Capt. & Bvt. Lt. Col. I. V. D. Reeve, 8th Infantry
- 1857 Capt. & Bvt. Lt. Col. I. V. D. Reeve, 8th Infantry
- 1858 Capt. & Bvt. Lt. Col. I. V. D. Reeve, 8th Infantry
Maj. T. H. Holmes, 8th Infantry
- 1859 Maj. T. H. Holmes, 8th Infantry
Capt. W. L. Elliott, Regiment of Mounted Rifles
Capt. J. G. Walker, Regiment of Mounted Rifles
- 1860 Capt. J. G. Walker, Regiment of Mounted Rifles
1st Lt. T. K. Jackson, 8th Infantry
Capt. T. G. Pitcher, 8th Infantry
1st Lt. T. K. Jackson, 8th Infantry
- 1861 1st Lt. T. K. Jackson, 8th Infantry
Capt. & Bvt. Lt. Col. I. V. D. Reeve, 8th Infantry
Lt. Col. J. R. Baylor, 2nd Texas Mounted Rifles
Brig. Gen. H. H. Sibley, Confederate States Army
- 1862 Brig. Gen. H. H. Sibley, Confederate States Army
- 1865 Capt. & Bvt. Maj. D. H. Brotherton, 5th Infantry
- 1866 Capt. & Bvt. Maj. D. H. Brotherton, 5th Infantry
- 1867 Capt. E. C. Mason, 35th Infantry
- 1868 Capt. E. C. Mason, 35th Infantry
- Company H 1849 Santa Fé, Navajo Station, Albuquerque, San Isidoro

3rd INFANTRY STATIONS

Field, Staff, and Band	1849 El Paso, Santa Fé
	1850 Santa Fé
	1851 Santa Fé, El Paso, Fort Fillmore
Company A	1849 El Paso, Pecos River
	1850 Pecos River, El Paso, Socorro, San Elizario
	1851 San Elizario, Copper Mines, Warner's Ranch, Cal.
Company B	1849 El Paso, Doña Ana
	1850 Doña Ana
	1851 Doña Ana, Fort Conrad
Company C	1849 El Paso, Pecos River
	1850 Pecos River, El Paso, San Elizario
	1851 San Elizario, El Paso, Fort Conrad, Fort Defiance
Company D	1849 Santa Fé, Navajo Station, Santa Fé
	1850 Santa Fé
	1851 Santa Fé, Holes-in-the-Prairie, Fort Union
Company E	1849 El Paso, Copper Mines, El Paso
	1850 El Paso
	1851 El Paso, San Elizario, Fort Fillmore
Company F	1849 Santa Fé, Navajo Station, Albuquerque
	1850 Albuquerque
	1851 Albuquerque, Fort Defiance
Company G	1849 Santa Fé, Navajo Station, Santa Fé
	1850 Santa Fé, Las Vegas
	1851 Las Vegas, Holes-in-the-Prairie, Fort Union
Company H	1849 Santa Fé, Navajo Station, Albuquerque, San Isidoro
	1850 San Isidoro, Taos
	1851 Taos
Company I	1849 San Elizario
	1850 San Elizario, Albuquerque, Cebolletta
	1851 Cebolletta, Fort Defiance
Company K	1849 San Elizario
	1850 San Elizario, El Paso
	1851 El Paso, Fort Fillmore, Fort Webster

COMPANY ORGANIZATION

1 Captain, 1 1st Lieutenant, 1 2nd Lieutenant, 4 Sergeants, 4 Corporals,
42 Privates

FIELD, STAFF, BAND

1 Colonel, 1 Lieutenant-Colonel, 2 Majors, 1 Sergeant-Major, 1 Quarter-
master Sergeant, 2 Chief Musicians, 20 Musicians

A COLOR PORTRAIT OF A PIONEER, SAMUEL B. GILLETT

by ROBERT VINCENT CLEMENT

As a fourth-generation El Pasoan, I found it easy to choose a subject for this essay. I am going to write about Samuel B. Gillett, my great-grandfather. He came to El Paso in 1903 at age forty and began to practice law here and in New Mexico. Sam Gillett was one of the best lawyers of his day in El Paso, losing only one case in his entire career. However, he never made much money. Mr. Gillett fought for the underdog who would have never had a chance otherwise.

Here is an early case that illustrates this point. When three men were arrested for cattle rustling, Mr. Gillett was appointed counsel



Sam B. Gillett, Sr.

for Mr. Molina, the one who was actually caught herding the rustled cattle. Mr. Gillett tried to get the other two attorneys to try the cases together. Naturally, they refused, because it was Molina who was caught, and their clients probably would go free. In studying the case, Mr. Gillett saw that Molina had eight young children. So on the day of the case, the Molina children were brought to the courtroom and they had a tearful reunion with their father. As Mr. Gillett had anticipated, the jury was impressed; and Molina was set free, while the other two went to prison.

On another occasion, a poor laborer was tried for stealing a hundred-pound sack of beans. Mr. Gillett, his lawyer, said, "Yes, this man did steal the beans. However, he was very generous. He didn't keep them for his own family alone; he gave some to his mother and father, brother Juan, sister María, cousin José, and cousin Julio. He didn't just stop there, either. He even gave beans to the neighbors."

The jury acquitted him; surely they couldn't send such a generous man to jail. The opposing lawyer came up to Sam after the trial and asked, "Sam did you say this man stole a hundred-pound sack of beans? According to your story he must have stolen a ton!"

One time Mr. Gillett was defending a Mexican national charged with murder. When it was Mr. Gillett's time to speak to the jury, he sang a heart-rending chorus of "Home Sweet Home," and his client was sent back to his Mexican home.

Later he was defending some other men who had stolen a few copper bars from the Santa Fé Railway. Mr. Holt, the prosecuting lawyer, told the jury, "I don't know what Sam is going to tell you when he gets up here, but I do know it won't have a thing to do with this case." Mr. Gillett got up and again sang "Home, Sweet Home" and the jury acquitted the accused.

Mr. W. A. Sutherland, a friend of Mr. Gillett's, remarked about his "psalm singing" — "No lawyer except Sam Gillett could get away with it, and I've never heard anybody else even try!"

Mr. Gillett educated himself "while the other kids were out shooting craps." He studied law while working in the mines at Mogollon, and was admitted to the bar in 1892. He first practiced law in Albuquerque and then moved to El Paso. Mr. Gillett retired in 1942 at the age of 75, and in 1954 he was Grand Marshal of the rodeo parade, and rode his horse at the front of the parade. He was 91! In November of 1961 he died at the age of 98.

EDITOR'S NOTE: During the past year the Society sponsored its First Annual Essay Contest for El Paso school children. The judges selected this article as the best among the several submitted and the editorial board thought it sufficiently good to be published.

COMMEMORATING THE DEATH OF JOHN WESLEY HARDIN

by MARSHALL HAIL

A PLAQUE now marks the spot where John Wesley Hardin, champion killer of the Old West, made an involuntary contribution to El Paso history by getting shot to death on the night of August 19, 1895, in the old Acme Saloon. The plaque was placed on the front of Lerner's Shop at San Antonio avenue and Mesa street, where the Acme once stood, by the State National Bank as part of its program of marking sites where events of historic interest took place.

Many officials, local historians and civic leaders took part in a ceremony at which the plaque was unveiled last November 19th. These included George G. Matkin, president of the State National; Chris P. Fox and H. M. Daugherty, vice presidents of the bank; Richard C. White, president of the El Paso County Historical Society; Leroy Schuller, president of the El Paso Pioneers Association; Bob Bailey, County sheriff; Dr. C. L. Sonnichsen, Cleofas Calleros, and other historians and writers; and Lieut. Jim Parks of the Police Department, who reenacted the role of Constable John Selman, Hardin's killer. Also present were Mrs. Varda Holland of El Paso, oldest living niece of Hardin and also a distant relative of Selman by marriage, and Joe Clements of Hope, New Mexico, a distant cousin of Hardin who, as a boy, went dove hunting with the desperado.

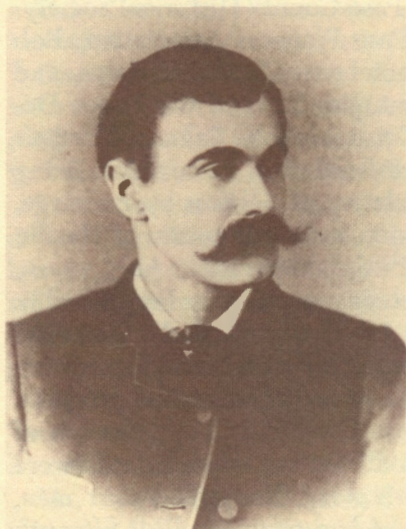
The crowd did not come to the ceremony to praise or bury Hardin. As President Matkin said, the bronze tablet represented a historical fact that deserved recognition — a memorable event in the transition of El Paso from a more violent era to a period of order and progress.

Hardin was born in Bonham, Fannin County, in 1853, the son of a preacher. He grew up in the post-Civil War era when hatreds were still strong and, according to his own story, had killed four men, including three U. S. soldiers, before he had completed his fifteenth year. He claimed that he never killed a man wantonly or in cold blood, although he admitted he often went looking for trouble. In any event Hardin is credited with killing at least 26 men; and some think he killed as many as 40.

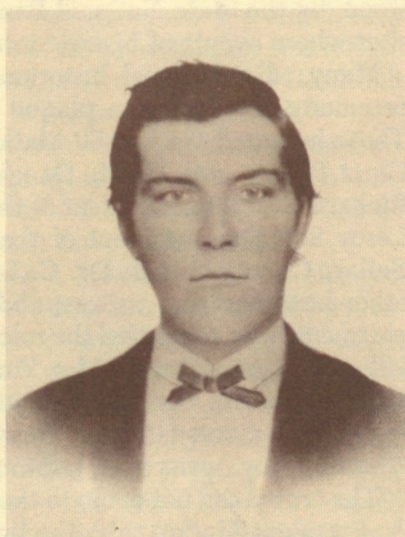
Hardin did all of his blood-spilling far from El Paso. In 1878 he was sentenced in Comanche County to 25 years in prison for the murder of a Texas Ranger. While a prisoner he undertook the study of law. Pardoned in 1894 after having served 16 years in the peni-

tentiary, Hardin moved to El Paso in 1895, only a few months before the event commemorated on the plaque as follows:

John Wesley Hardin. The West's most feared gunman, killer of at least 26 men, was shot dead in the Acme Saloon on this site Aug. 19, 1895. Hardin was shot in the back of the head by El Paso Constable John Selman. At Selman's trial a witness testified, "If Hardin was shot in the eye it was excellent marksmanship. If he was shot in the back it was excellent judgment." Selman, out on bail a few months later, was killed in a gunfight.



*John Wesley Hardin
shortly before his death*



*John Wesley Hardin
as a young man*

EDITOR'S NOTE: The picture of Hardin as a young man is a print from the famous N. H. Rose Collection of Old Time Photographs, San Antonio, Texas. Mr. Rose's life-long hobby was making negatives from damaged and faded originals.

The other Hardin picture was made by W. J. Oliphant, also of San Antonio, and is from the Mercado Archive, New York City. Both pictures are the personal property of Dr. C. L. Sonnichsen who kindly loaned them to PASSWORD and gave his permission for their publication.

BOOK REVIEWS

FORTY YEARS AT EL PASO, 1858 - 1898

Rex W. Strickland (ed.), W. W. Mills

(El Paso: Carl Hertzog, 1962. \$7.00.)

The original text of W. W. Mill's personal chronicle of forty colorful years at El Paso has here been republished and amplified by the joint efforts of Professor Rex Strickland, Tom Lea, and Carl Hertzog.

The introduction of this record of early El Paso is written by Professor Strickland, who relates that Mills came to El Paso in 1858 and remained here most of the time until his death in 1913. He lived to see El Paso change from a stage stand to a city. Strickland warns the reader that Mills wrote this book long after many of the events he related happened and therefore his memory was apt to be faulty. Further, Mills had a tendency to exaggerate his own importance and never forgave his enemies. Despite these weaknesses, this work is valuable for life in both El Paso and the Southwest during the period from 1858 to 1898. It should be noted, however, that most of the material deals with the first part of this era.

Mills was one of the few El Pasoans who favored the Union cause during the Civil War. He gave aid to the Union forces in New Mexico and served briefly as an army lieutenant. Later, he was a member of the Moderate Republican group in the state Constitutional Convention in 1868 - 1869 and it was largely through his efforts and those of A. J. Hamilton and Colbert Coldwell that reconstruction in Texas was not punitive as in some of the other southern states. Mills was a leading figure in post-Civil War El Paso politics as a Republican and served for a time as Collector of Customs for the district of New Mexico (including Trans-Pecos Texas) and also was United States Consul in Chihuahua from 1897 to 1907.

Not only has Dr. Strickland written a fine introduction with splendid exploratory footnotes in the text but as a relative newcomer to El Paso this reviewer found the appendix containing biographical sketches of many Ante-Bellum El Pasoans particularly useful. The illustrations of Tom Lea are delightful and the design by Carl Hertzog superb. These three men are to be commended for reviving this important source.

Texas Western College

— JAMES C. HARVEY

GREAT WESTERNER, *The Story of Kit Carson*

By Bernice Blackwelder

(Caldwell, Idaho: Caxton Printers, Ltd., 1962. \$6.00.)

To those unversed in western lore, Kit Carson stalks through the pages of history, a nebulous and legendary figure. Mrs. Blackwelder, in her comprehensive biography, clears this impression and brings to life one of the greatest figures of frontier times — a man who, like Bat Masterson, lived to become a legend in his own time.

Christopher Houston Carson was born on Christmas Eve, 1809, in Madison County, Kentucky, but at the age of two was taken by his family to Franklin, Missouri, as they moved westward with Daniel Boone. Here, in the area that became known as the cradle of the trade linking the east to the Spanish southwest, Kit was nurtured on the sights and smells, the sounds and excitement of trappers unloading their winter's catch and huge wagon trains assembling for the overland journey.

Like all frontier boys he roamed the woods, hunted, fished and practiced his marksmanship, which became incredible. At the age of fifteen, he was apprenticed to a saddle-maker, but after a year the daily grind of leather working palled on the boy and he ran away to join a wagon train bound for Taos.

The rest of Kit's story reads like the wildest of western fiction. Thereafter he became and remained a part of the west and this authoritative account of his experiences is, in a sense, the story of its development.

Bernice Blackwelder first became interested in the Kit Carson story while teaching at Central College, Missouri, near the spot where Kit spent his childhood. In *Great Westerner* she has written a spirited and moving biography of one of the most colorful of all western heroes. She has presented a complete and well narrated account of Carson's experiences as trapper, mountain man, explorer, scout, Indian fighter, rancher and devoted family man and tells a story that moves with a sense of adventure and excitement.

— MARY ELLEN PORTER

El Paso, Texas

HISTORICAL NOTES

Third Annual Writers' Contest

The following articles were chosen by the membership of the Society as the best published during the year 1962:

First prize of \$100.00 goes to J. J. Bowen for his article,
"The Magoffin Salt War."

Second prize of \$50.00 goes to Mrs. Estelle Goodman Levy for her story,
"The Cloudcroft Baby Sanatorium."

Third prize of \$25.00 goes to Dr. Rex W. Strickland for his character sketch, "W. W. Mills — El Paso Politician."

The prizes were formally presented at the January meeting of the Society. Incidentally, this is the second time that both Dr. Strickland and Mrs. Levy have received award money for "best articles."

Robert N. Mullin who spent his youth and young manhood in El Paso and who is now retired and lives on Three Arch Bay at South Laguna, California, had an excellent article on John Wesley Hardin in *The Southwesterner*, Vol. 2, No. 6 (December, 1962).

In concluding his article Mr. Mullin wrote: "... one wonders if actually Selman didn't do John Wesley Hardin a favor that night in the Acme saloon. Towards the end, Hardin had ceased to avoid contention; more and more he sought forgetfulness in drink and was frequently quarrelsome and belligerent. It was almost as if he were inviting combat and death.

"It was August 19, 1895, when he was killed. But some of those who knew him believed that John Wesley Hardin really began to die the day he closed his little law office and locked the door for the last time."

Mr. Mullin, by the way, is a member of our Society.

In the past the first number of each volume of *PASSWORD* has been published in January and called the *Winter* issue. Henceforth, beginning with this issue, the first number of the volume will appear in March and will be called the *Spring* issue. The second or *Summer* issue will appear in June; the third or *Fall* issue in September; and the fourth or *Winter* issue will appear in December.

CONTRIBUTORS to this ISSUE

CONREY BRYSON, the well-known announcer for KTSM-TV and radio, is an historian in his own right. He received his Master's degree in history from Texas Western College and for several years served there as a part-time instructor in American History. He has written two excellent articles for *PASSWORD* and he reviews books for the *El Paso Sunday Times*.

RICHARD C. WHITE, a native El Pasoan and a member of the El Paso Bar, will long be remembered with appreciation by the Society for his outstanding work as President during 1962 and also for the fruition of his idea, the Society's Hall of Honor.

C. L. SONNICHSEN is Dean of the Graduate School of Texas Western College and the author of ten books on the Southwest.

BETTY MARY GOETTING served her apprenticeship as a librarian under the direction of Mrs. Maud Sullivan. No better person could have been chosen to pay tribute to the late Mrs. Sullivan than the Curator of our Society, Betty Mary. Mrs. Goetting lives with her husband Charles A. at 1143 Rim Road, El Paso.

RICHARD K. MCMASTER is too well known to readers of *PASSWORD* for his articles, drawings and maps on the military history of the Southwest to warrant a long and repetitious biographical sketch. The Editor would like, however, to recommend Major McMaster's book, *Musket, Saber, and Missile — A History of Fort Bliss* which was reviewed in the Fall issue of *PASSWORD*. It may be purchased at any local book store or ordered direct from the author whose address is 4523 Trowbridge. Paper covers sell for \$1.00 and hardbacks for \$2.50.

ROBERT VINCENT CLEMENT is the twelve year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul V. Clement of 1204 Idlewilde. Robert attends Bonham Elementary School. He and his parents were special guests of the Society at the Hall of Honor Banquet.

MARSHALL HAIL is a long-time El Paso newspaperman (*El Paso Herald-Post*) and the author of the nationally publicized *Knight In The Sun* which was reviewed in the Fall issue of *PASSWORD* by Mrs. Laura Scott Meyers.

JAMES C. HARVEY is Assistant Professor of History at Texas Western College. He is currently engaged in research for an article on the European Common Market which will be published by the TWC Press.

MARY ELLEN B. PORTER is a regular contributor to the Book Review section of *PASSWORD*. It may be of interest that Mrs. Porter received several votes in the Society's Writer's Contest for her review of Baur, *Christmas on the American Frontier, 1800-1900*. However, since book reviews are not considered articles within the meaning of the contest language, the votes could not be considered in the competition.

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