

PASSWORD



THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Password

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EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

• Hall of Honor •

2008

The El Paso County's Historical Society each year honors one living and up to two deceased El Pasoans who deserve the honor of being named to the Society's Hall of Honor. This year, the Society has chosen to honor J. Sam Moore, Jr., L. Paul Berry, and Mabel Clair Welch. Their biographies appear here through the courtesy of many people—the person or persons who nominated them, the members of the selection committee, various friends and relatives, and members of the El Paso County Historical Society.

Those chosen must be outstanding men and women of character, vision, courage, and creative spirit who have been residents of El Paso County. They are El Pasoans who have consistently achieved those things that make them truly outstanding—who have created that which deserves to be read, heard, or seen, and who have made El Paso better because they were here. Also treasured are El Pasoans who have influenced the course of history of El Paso County and have brought honor and recognition to El Paso.

The Society publishes a complete list of those honored by being named to the Hall of Honor. This list can be found in the Directory of the Society.



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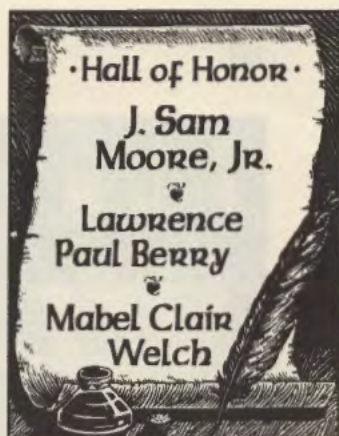
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• Hall of Honor •
2008

J. Sam
Moore, Jr.

Presented by Jack Hammond



I am pleased to pay this tribute to my friend and friendly competitor of over 50 years, J. Sam Moore, Jr., the 2008 Living Honoree of the El Paso Historical Society's Hall of Honor.

Sam earned this honor by sustained, important contributions through the years in the humanities, arts, letters; history and the encouragement of intellectual pursuits in El Paso, a truly important dimension for a community that wants a meaningful cultural environment along with its other major attributes. Sam's achievements in these areas and his scholarship are remarkable for someone outside academia, much of it accomplished while carrying on a busy professional practice. Characteristically, he has done these things in a self-effacing and team-oriented way, focusing attention on organizations and projects rather than himself, and seldom attracting publicity, the limelight or notoriety.

Much of what I would have said this evening was published a week ago in the October issue of *El Conquistador* and again in the program for this evening. I refer you to those for a resume of Sam's personal and professional background, and tonight's tribute will emphasize the important aspect that Sam deserves this honor not just for what he has done but, importantly, for the way he did those things.

The point I would like to illustrate briefly this evening is that his efforts were invariably bi-directional: by bringing important resources *in* (to the city or organization)—and at the same time being an enthusiastic and respected ambassador on the *outside* for the city and its organizations, locally, regionally, nationally and even internationally.



J. Sam Moore, Jr.
1930

El Paso Museum of Art

El Conquistador and the program describe nicely Sam's presidency in 1963-1975 and work on accreditation and governance matters for which Leonard Sipiora and Becky Duval Reese give him credit and the resources he brought in, such as Emily Ballew Neff's fine lecture on Frederick Remington. And, of course, we cannot mention too often or thank Sam and Greta too often for their acquisition and gift of Leon Trousset's extraordinary 1887 history painting, *View of El Paso*.

But both Leonard and Becky pointed out Sam's efforts outside the Museum and the City, for example, his well-received talk on *The Proper Role of Trustees* at the Mountain Plains Museum Association, an organization of museums from the Mississippi to the Rocky Mountains.

Library of The University of Texas at El Paso

We all know Sam is an enthusiastic bibliophile; this was a natural. When Leonard Goodman, Jr. died in 1991, Sam succeeded him as President of the Friends organization; and Head

Librarian Patricia Phillips credited him with increasing membership substantially.

The Carl Hertzog Book Design Competition was typical of Sam's focus outside, as its reputation has grown steadily and widely on the national scene, bringing national recognition to the Library and the University. It also *brought in* resources to the community through the lecture series, which has become an integral part of University activities. Sam recruited nationally known speakers such as Nicholas Basbanes of Massachusetts (author of *A Gentle Madness: Bibliophiles, Bibliomanes, and the Eternal Passion for Books*).

Harry Ransom Center – Austin

The Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center at The University of Texas at Austin houses thirty million literary manuscripts, one million rare books, five million photographs and over 100,000 works of art for research by scholars from around the world. Serving on its Advisory Council, Sam again accessed outstanding resources for our city as well as being an ambassador for El Paso's cultural community.

With his keen interest in computers and the Internet, Sam served the Ransom Center and El Paso by sponsoring a link on the Center's website for our own Tom Lea, incorporating several images of his work. The Tom Lea link, incidentally, has received more hits than any other of the Ransom Center art collections.

Sam was succeeded on the Ransom Center Council by I. T. (Mickey) Schwartz to carry on the El Paso connection.

Texas Council on the Humanities

The Austin-based Council is one of 56 state and territorial partners of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Sam was on the Board and Chairman in 1991, taking his place on a very prestigious roster of chairmen from across the state and from academia, business, the professions and government.

Bringing resources in, along with Jack and Barbara Curlin, Sam and Greta co-sponsored with the council and the UTEP Library a lecture series with such nationally known speakers as Dr. Tom Staley (head of the Ransom Center) who spoke about James Joyce and the 17th Earl of Oxford whose lecture was about Shakespeare. And, El Paso shared in the credit for Sam's project during his chairmanship—to place the multi-volume set of *The Library of America* in some sixty small libraries throughout Texas.

The Philosophical Society of Texas

This Society was founded in 1837 by Texans who were statesmen and scholars. Most members are prominent in Texas history textbooks. It still carries out its noble purposes today.

Sam was president of the Society in 2003, a signal honor in itself as the Society has a limited membership of 200 by invitation only. The roster has included both Presidents Bush, Secretary of State James Baker, UN Ambassador Anne Armstrong, Texas A&M President Ray Bowen, Dr. Michael DeBakey, Fifth Circuit Judge Will Garwood, Texas Commerce Bank Chairman Ben Love, and UT Chancellor Hans Mark. Former El Paso members included Thornton Hardie, Carl Hertzog, Joe Smiley, Judge R. E. Thomason, Dossie Wiggins and Sam Young, Sr. When Sam was invited to membership in 1993, only he and Diana Natalicio were members. To Sam and Diana's credit, there are now ten from El Paso, including Chief Justice David Chew, Dr. Maceo Dailey, Mardee DeWetter, Rick Francis, Don Flores, Woody Hunt, Adair Margo, and Judge Phil Martinez.

The Society meets annually for seminars on a theme chosen by the President. Last year in Houston the theme was "Energy," and this year in San Antonio it will be "Architecture and Texas." Ever the ambassador for our community, Sam brought the 2003 annual meeting to El Paso for the first time ever and designated "Books and Libraries" as the theme. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison introduced the keynote speaker, Dr. James Billings, Librarian of the Library of Congress, and a well-received talk was also made by Carol Brey-Cassiano, Librarian of the El Paso Public Library System and at that time the President-elect of the American Library Association. The UTEP Library was showcased along with our other institutions of arts and letters to important visitors from throughout the state and nation.

Texas State Historical Association

The importance of these two organizations to Sam's selection as Honoree far exceeds the brevity of their treatment here because the nature and extent of Sam's work in them is already well known to those here, and there is little I can add. But may I comment that in my research for this nomination, I learned just how widely known and respected Sam is in TSHA.

While he was the major force in procuring and organizing the 2003 annual meeting for El Paso, many of the organization's members worked hard to make it the success it was. And, with El Paso in line for the 2011 annual meeting on the 100th anniversary of the Mexican Revolution, let's hope we can make it even more so.

Fishing Organizations

While perhaps not a basis for an honor like this, no tribute to Sam would be complete without at least some mention of fishing. Sam goes about this avocation in the same scholarly way he has done the things outlined above, and he is ever the ambassador for El Paso in the national organizations Trout Unlimited, American Federation of Fly Fishing, and the American Museum of Fly Fishing in Manchester, Vermont.

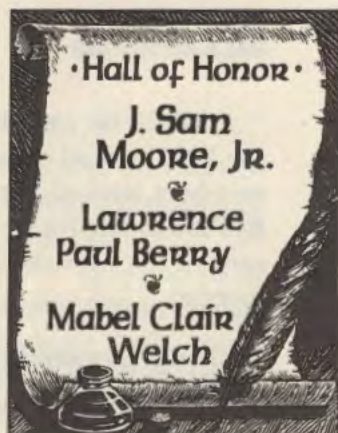
So, based on the things he has done in and for our community and the way he has done them, I am pleased to present J. Sam Moore, Jr. as the 2008 Living Honoree of the El Paso County Historical Society's Hall of Honor, which he richly deserves.



• Hall of Honor •
2008

Lawrence Paul Berry

Presented by William G. Driscoll, Jr.



Lawrence Paul Berry, Sr. was a native El Pasoan, born November 6, 1923. He attended St. Joseph's Elementary School, Austin High School, and the Texas College of Mines, which he left to join the U. S. Marines during WW II. He was a member of Company B, 4th Pioneer BN, 4th Marine Division. He had illustrious service in the Pacific Theater with major participation on Roi Namur, Saipan, Tinian, and Iwo Jima where he was wounded and awarded the Purple Heart.

After the war ended, Paul returned to El Paso and began a very active and significant career. He first started working for Baumgartner and Wyler that he purchased in 1955 and changed the name to Wyler Industrial Works, Inc. He and his wife, June Patricia Tilton, whom he married on February 25, 1949, operated the company jointly. They also founded WISCO, Inc. in 1968 and for a time were in a joint venture at Border Foods in Deming, NM. Wyler Industrial Works, Inc. and WISCO, Inc. remain with the Berry family today.

Throughout the years Paul was actively involved in the El Paso community. He was a member of the Downtown Lions Club with a perfect attendance record. Through the Lions Club he helped all over town, making the services of his company available to those who needed the help. Among those receiving his support were Mona the elephant who received a specially built exercise stand. A "smoker" went to many fundraising events. In 1994 the Fraternity Masonic Lodge 1111 honored Paul with the Community Builder Award. This is the highest honor that a non-Mason can receive. This award recognizes "an outstanding individual in our community (non-Mason) who, year in and year out, quietly and without fanfare, shows his devotion to his community and its people without the expectation of awards and honors."

Paul was devoted to athletics. From high schools to UTEP he helped athletic programs function. He built offices and items needed for the UTEP basketball program while it was still in Memorial Gym and continued his support after the Haskins Center was built. He also built goal posts needed by the UTEP football program. He was a loyal member of the El Dorado support organization, and each year purchased numerous season tickets. However, his most significant achievement for UTEP was in becoming one of the founders of "Dinner With the Miners" which the Lions Club sponsors each year. To date over \$500,000 has been raised to support UTEP athletic and academic scholarships.



*Lawrence Paul Berry
1923 - 2007*

His active support was also provided to the Sun Bowl Association where for 55 years he was the coordinator of the Sun Carnival Parade. He exemplified everything that a volunteer should be. That faithful service to the city of El Paso is an inspiration to those who continue to volunteer each year.

Throughout their lives Paul and Pat Berry were quiet, but very generous, donors to St. Raphael's Parish. They participated in the annual bazaar and took care of the buildings with such things as air conditioning, boilers, and gas lines. They also established a scholarship for the parish school. Additionally, Paul supported Boy Scout Troop 444 with equipment and supplies and assisted his sons, Paul Jr. and Pat, in becoming Eagle Scouts.

Paul was also a member of the Knights of Columbus and a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He served on the Board of Directors at Border City Bank and the Advisory Board at Texas Commerce Bank. He loved trains and helped in the restoration of Southern Pacific's Steam Engine #3420 that can be seen on the Phelps-Dodge Refinery property.

Paul and Pat Berry were the proud parents of 5 children—Lawrence Paul, Jr., Patrick Richard, Catherine Ann, Chris Tilton, and Curtis Marshall. There are 11 grandchildren and one pre-deceased grandson.

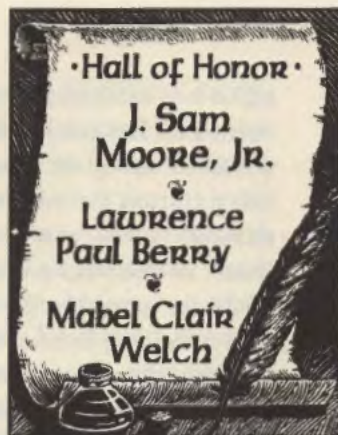


Mabel Clair Vanderburg Welch
1890 - 1981

• Hall of Honor •
2008

Mabel Clair Welch

*Presented by Troy Ainsworth, Ph.D.
Historical Preservation Officer,
City of El Paso, Texas*



tonight the El Paso County Historical Society inducts three worthy individuals into the El Paso Hall of Honor. Mabel Welch is best remembered for her numerous residential architectural designs that shape many neighborhoods in El Paso. However, Mrs. Welch was also a devoted wife

and mother, an advocate of community beautification, a goodwill ambassador between the states of Texas and Chihuahua, and an active member of the Women's Division of the El Paso Chamber of Commerce. Mrs. Welch contributed her talents and time to the improvement of her adopted hometown of El Paso, Texas.

Mabel Clair Welch was born on November 8, 1890, on her grandfather's plantation near Longtown, Panola County, Mississippi. In 1899, Mabel's father, Martin Luther Vanderburg, Junior, decided to move his family to Northeast Texas after learning from a neighbor of the land's fertility and rich soil, the country's beauty, and the ability to prosper in the relatively open spaces of Bowie County, Texas. With their neighbors the Blackburns and the McBeths, the Vanderburgs departed Mississippi for Texas in covered wagons and herding their livestock. The three families arrived in Texarkana, Arkansas, after four weeks of travel, and in November 1899, they reached their destination of DeKalb, Texas. Mabel attended Hubbard grade school and DeKalb High School, where she graduated in 1910. After graduation, she served an apprenticeship in millinery and interior decorating, and during this time she met Malcolm Hiram Welch. On February 28, 1915, after a five-year courtship, the couple married in DeKalb.

Prior to his marriage, Malcolm Welch had built a number of tenements on farmland near DeKalb, and Mabel became interest-

ed in her husband's occupation. Soon, however, she became concerned for her husband's health. Malcolm had been diagnosed with tuberculosis by an Army physician when he underwent a physical examination for military service about the time the United States entered the Great War. The doctor prescribed a dry, warm climate; so the young couple decided to move to El Paso. Mabel and Malcolm moved to West Texas in 1916, and he soon began building and financing houses in El Paso. Mabel assisted her husband by drafting floor plans and designs for the houses. Three years after their arrival in the west, their son Elvin was born on December 17, 1919, and by the following year Malcolm's home-construction business was well established. Malcolm and Mabel worked together to grow their business; once he completed a house, she would decorate its interior. They would live in the house until a buyer purchased the home. For four years, Malcolm and Mabel built and decorated houses in East El Paso, the Highland Park addition, and the Lower Valley. As Mabel indicated in her memoirs, written in 1966, Malcolm built homes that featured "dark brick, with white eaves and trim, and black decorator lines around the screen sash and screen doors."

In 1924, however, Malcolm's health began to deteriorate. Mabel assumed additional responsibilities, both in the home caring for her ailing husband and young son and in the business by drafting plans for home construction. During this time, Mabel designed and built her family's home at 3131 Wheeling Avenue. Although Malcolm's health was poor, he retained an active role in the business by advising his wife on construction techniques, construction crew management, and financing methods. Mabel's work centered on Wheeling Avenue, where she built nine homes on that street's 3100 block and a total of fifteen along that avenue. Mabel began to design homes primarily in the Spanish Colonial Revival style; her first home in this style is located at 2731 Wheeling. As the business succeeded, Malcolm's condition declined, and on July 17, 1927, he lost his fight with tuberculosis. On the route to the hospital in what proved to be his final days, Malcolm and Mabel passed by the house at 2731 Wheeling, and upon seeing its clean lines and balanced proportions, he said to his wife, "It's very beautiful." Mabel later stated she realized his smile and words reassured her that she would succeed as a home designer.

In 1929, Mabel and her son Elvin vacationed in California, and during the trip she studied Spanish-style architecture to gath-

er ideas to incorporate in her home designs in El Paso. As the decade ended and the 1930s began, Mabel designed many Spanish Colonial Revival style homes. According to her son, she designed and built perhaps as many as 1,500 such homes, with the majority of them in El Paso. Her designs were predicated upon research trips to California, Mexico, and San Antonio, and she found much usefulness in the red-clay tile roofs, wrought iron grilles, balconies, and white stucco exteriors that characterize Spanish-influenced domestic architecture. On a formal academic level, she studied architecture at the University of Chicago in the mid-1930s. By 1935 Mabel's solid reputation as a designer had been ensured, and in that year Mayor Ray E. Sherman and the City Council commended her for directing the change from the Bungalow style to the more appropriate Spanish Colonial Revival style for El Paso. In 1939, Mabel was admitted to the Society of American Registered Architects, and thus became the first woman architect in El Paso. Four of her home designs were featured in *Planning Your Home for Better Living* (1945), authored by Clarence W. Dunham and Milton D. Thalberg and used as a textbook at Yale University.

Mabel clearly understood the value of architecture. Her preference for the Spanish Colonial Revival style was grounded in the unique spirit of place that characterizes the Chihuahuan Desert environment and cultural heritage in forming a significant portion of her adopted hometown, and she believed sincerely in the positive societal impacts of a healthy and clean, aesthetically pleasing community. Her legacy remains very evident in her contributions to El Paso's built environment, but her life's work encompassed much more than architecture. Mabel Welch was a wife and mother, an architect, a civic leader, a goodwill ambassador, an advocate of education and beautification, and a strong supporter of El Paso. Regarding her architectural career, she practiced her craft at a time when very few women worked in the profession, and without a doubt the challenges confronting her were numerous and difficult. An individual of lesser character may have succumbed to the obstacles, but she persevered, and in large part many El Paso neighborhoods are architecturally richer because of her will and sense of purpose.

I am honored to share a few words about her life and work, and I ask that you join me in welcoming Mabel Clair Welch into the El Paso County Historical Society's Hall of Honor.

In Memoriam



FRANK MANGAN

1921-2008

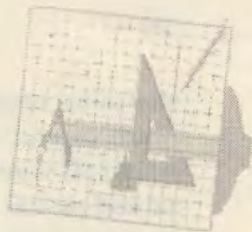
Frank Mangan had a varied and most productive life. For those who love history, he and Judy provided wonderful works through Mangan Press. We will always treasure these works and appreciate the generosity Frank and Judy provided to the Historical Society.



JACKIE ROE WILLIAMS

1918-2008

Musician. Board of Directors, EPCHS, 2000-2002.
Wife of former mayor, Judson Williams.



My Life

By Mabel Clair Vanderburg Welch, 1966

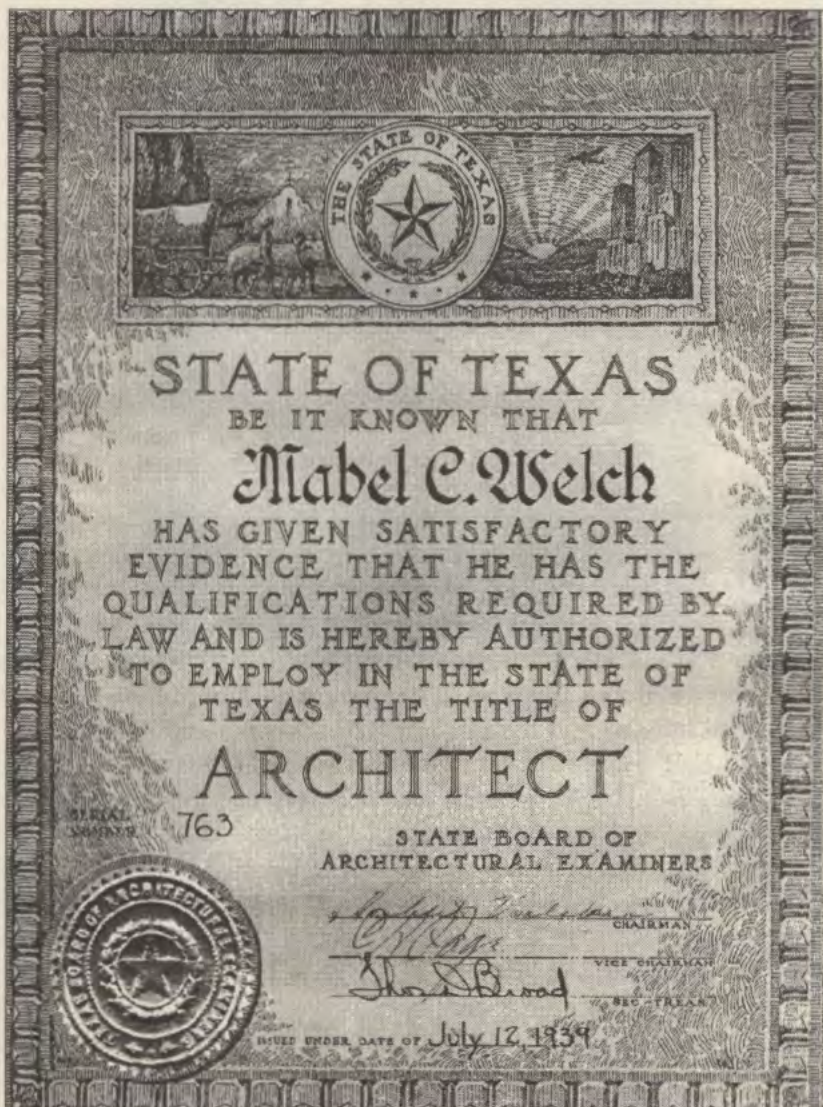
Editor's Note: Mabel Welch's autobiography was typewritten by her. The first two-thirds details her experiences in El Paso; the next ten pages cover in detail her trip to Europe with her grandson Mark. The final pages are about El Paso again. We will not reproduce the pages about the European trip. They are available to read at the Historical Society, Special Collections in the Library at UTEP and with Dr. Ruth Vise in the English Department at El Paso Community College. Typographical errors have been corrected, and repetitive material was deleted.



When I say I started to Texas in a covered wagon, people immediately think I've passed my three score and ten. They create mental pictures of old-time frontiersmen crossing the plains in prairie schooners, hunting buffalo, and fighting Indians all the way. But it wasn't that way at all. The year was 1899 and I was only 10 years old. The buffalo were all gone, the Indians had been subjugated years before, but the country still had few railroads. We came by covered wagon because, with the stock, it was the most practical way to travel the distance being so great to the nearest railroad station. My father had decided to move from Longtown, Panola County, Mississippi, because the country was crowded, the poor and young men were looking for greener fields. It was a cotton country; the plantation owners had the money and power.

At that time, a neighbor of ours, Mrs. John Blackburn, had two brothers living in DeKalb, Texas; their names were Sam and Mark Braswell. They wrote home of the beauty of the country, the fertility of the soil, and how they were prospering in the still relatively undeveloped great state of Texas. Mr. John Blackburn and Mr. John McBeth, another neighbor, also wanted to move, for

the same reasons. So the three families got together and after much careful discussion and planning reached a decision. They would all move together and on the basis of the information contained in the letters from the Braswell brothers, chose to emigrate to DeKalb, Texas. The three families sold everything—their land, farm equipment, and most of their household effects—and



Mabel Welch's architectural certificate was issued in 1939. She was the first woman in El Paso to receive one. Note the word "he" still being used on her certificate.

bought covered wagons and giant Percheron horses to pull them. Thus we started to Texas.

My father, Martin Luther Vanderburg, Junior was the son of Martin Luther Vanderburg, Senior, and Caroline Smith Vanderburg. He was born January 21, 1863, in Concord, North Carolina, and died on his birthday in 1913 in DeKalb, Texas. In Mississippi, before emigrating to Texas, he had been a plantation operator, dealing in fine stock, an executive with a steamship company operating ships up and down the Mississippi River, and in the latter connection was away from home much of the time on long business trips. His father had moved to Mississippi from Concord, North Carolina.

My mother was Lavada Josephine Taylor, daughter of Thomas Jefferson Taylor and Josephine Alexander Taylor. She was born March 12, 1872, in Marshall County, Mississippi, moved to Longtown, Mississippi with her parents, and passed away September 21, 1921, also in DeKalb. She had two brothers, Thomas Jefferson Jr. and Leary. During her first year in college where she majored in music, on her way back to school

after the Christmas vacation in January of 1888 she suddenly and unexpectedly eloped with my father. My grandfather Taylor was, of course, quite upset, as this was somewhat "daring" in those Victorian days, and this being his only daughter. In addition, the new groom's father had fought in the Civil War in the Union Army and his family was considered "Yankee." Grandfather Taylor didn't speak to my mother for two years. But then, seeing she had made a good match and was entirely happy, forgave her and presented her with the finest gift you could give a young woman in those days—a Kimball organ—as a peace offering, and bestowed his wholehearted approval on my father. Grandfather Taylor was a plantation owner and built and owned the first cotton gin in Panola County.

I was born November 8, 1890, on my grandfather's plantation near Longtown, Mississippi. My older brother is Lawrence Taylor

My mother was Lavada Josephine Taylor, daughter of Thomas Jefferson Taylor and Josephine Alexander Taylor During her first year in college where she majored in music, on her way back to school after the Christmas vacation in January of 1888 she suddenly and unexpectedly eloped with my father.



Designed for A. B. Poe in 1939, 711 Rim Road was built by H. T. Ponsford & Sons.

Vanderburg, born November 17, 1888. He now lives in New Boston, Texas, and is retired after a long and rewarding career as a school teacher, school principal and band instructor. He is a gifted musician and can play nearly any instrument. He was also successful in the lumber business, having his own lumber mill. My younger brother Thomas Jefferson (Pete) Vanderburg, born November 1, 1894, lives in DeKalb. He is an expert in saw mill design and for years the owner of his own saw mill. He was a specialist in saw mill machinery operation and an experienced grader. Now retired, he also played trombone in his brother's band. I have three sisters still living as of this writing (1966) who live in Dallas. They are Justine V. (Mrs. William) Lawrence, an artist in several fields, Gertrude V. (Mrs. Charles) Williams, an artist, and Lorraine V. (Mrs. Fred) Stevens, a teacher in Dallas schools.

The trip to Texas was quite an adventure, and we children enjoyed every foot of the journey. The Vanderburg family all traveled in two wagons and there were five of us children. The Blackburn family had two wagons and six children, and there were eight children in the McBeth family with three wagons, so you can imagine what our parents went through.

In addition to the family, our wagons were loaded with much of our household effects. After we had traveled ten miles we came to the general store owned and operated by my Uncle, Pierce

Vanderburg. He took one look and said the wagons were too heavily loaded even for the team of Percherons pulling them. So we took out the precious Kimball organ and my sidesaddle, along with many other articles, and left them with my uncle to be shipped later. This made room for the hired help in one wagon.

On the first night out, we stopped beside a park and pitched our tent and cooked our evening meal over an open fire. It was a very exciting event for the eighteen children in the wagon train but the adults must have been harried parents. After supper we retired to our tent to sleep, and a hard rainstorm came up. And, alas!—the tents leaked. My mother threw up her hands in despair and said, "Let's go back!" But, needless to say, we continued west the next morning.

On the trip, if we were able, we stopped in the towns and villages along the way, where we slept in schools, churches, or wherever there was protection from the weather. The people were always very friendly and helpful. We never stayed in hotels because we were not dressed for the occasion—all our good clothing was packed away and we had no facilities for washing and ironing, only as we stopped at night where water was available. If, at the day's end, there was no civilization, we camped overnight in the country using our tents.



811 Rim Road was also built by H. T. Ponsford & Sons for J. W. Peak in 1939.

It sounds like a long journey—Mississippi to Texas. But Panola County is in northwestern Mississippi and DeKalb, Texas is in extreme northeastern Texas and we had only to cross the state of Arkansas. Actual traveling distance was only about 300 miles. Nevertheless, it took us a month to make the trip. When we got to Arkansas the wild huckleberries were ripe. We children had never seen them and we went wild over them, picking and eating them until we were blue from head to foot. Our mothers were busy continually trying, usually unsuccessfully, to keep us clean, because only the most necessary laundry was done. Usually Sunday was washday because the trail boss, Mr. McBeth, would not travel on Sunday.

When we got to the Clarendon River in Arkansas, it was running too high for us to cross and much of the country was flooded. So the menfolk decided to travel by rail and to ship our wagons, teams, livestock and household goods by freight train to Texarkana. We chartered five freight cars to carry the stock, wagons, and household goods. There were so many of us that there wasn't enough space in the Pullman cars, so we children slept in the day coaches. When we got to Texarkana, there wasn't a hotel large enough to hold all of us, so our group scattered and waited for the freight train to arrive. When it reached Texarkana, it took two or three days to get our properties separated, and loaded back on the wagons. All this was done in Texarkana, Arkansas. When all was ready, we climbed into our wagons and headed for the Texas line, just a few blocks away and actually entered Texas in covered wagons. We arrived in DeKalb in November of 1899.

We found DeKalb to be everything the Braswell brothers had said. The soil was very fertile, land available to buy, and cheaper than in the state of Mississippi, and the people exceedingly friendly and helpful. My father never regretted leaving Mississippi. He loved the rich soil of Texas. Mr. McBeth bought two sections of land, and my father bought 90 acres and leased more from Mr. McBeth. He entered the livestock business, breeding and selling cattle, horses and swine, and had extensive vineyards and orchards, where he raised peaches, apples, plums and other fruits. He was also known as a successful farmer.

I attended schools at Hubbard grade school and was graduated from DeKalb High School in 1910. In those days there were only a few jobs considered respectable for women; the phenomenon of the modern "career girl" was unknown. So I, after high school,

served an apprenticeship in millinery and then interior decorating. I was becoming very successful, but finally, after five years of courtship, gave it all up to marry Malcolm Hiram Welch. We met at a Thanksgiving party and seemed to realize from the beginning we were meant for each other. Malcolm Hiram Welch and I were married in DeKalb February 28, 1915, a church wedding at which the Rev. M. N. Terrell officiated.

Malcolm was born March 12, 1887, in DeKalb and died July 17, 1927, in El Paso, and is buried in Evergreen Cemetery. He was the son of Jesse and Mattie Welch. His brothers were N. N.

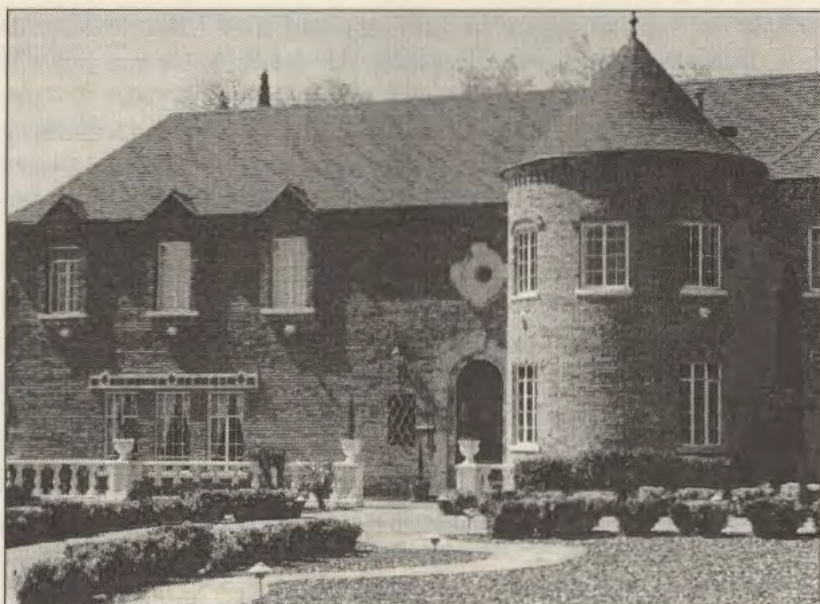
and T. C. Welch, sisters were Blanch and Mary. Both sisters, also both brothers, have passed away. His sister Mary taught school in DeKalb. Malcolm and his two brothers, Will and Lum, were successful merchants of DeKalb, operating a general store which sold dry goods, groceries, farm implements, buggies and wagons, mules, etc.

Just before our marriage, Malcolm asked me which house in DeKalb I would like to own. I showed him a large house in the 900 block of Main Street which occupied a quarter of a block. It was not for sale, I knew. But without my knowing,

Malcolm approached the owner and persuaded him to sell. I was overwhelmed when he told me that the house I wanted was ours. To me it was just a big white elephant. We moved in, and furnished most of the rooms but the kitchen. Strange as it seems, in that day when the role of housewife was about the only one open to women, I had never been very handy in the kitchen and didn't know how to cook. So for the next nine months we took our meals with a friend in the next block. Finally, my mother became so upset over this situation that she bought me a kitchen range!

At the outbreak of World War I in the spring of 1916, Malcolm took the physical examination for the Army and it was discovered that he had tuberculosis. His doctors advised a high dry climate and recommended El Paso. So west we came, and this was strange. For when I had been a little girl in Mississippi,

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939 Rim Road was built for Dr. Frank Schuster. It was a departure from the Spanish style that Welch preferred; however, this house was one of her favorites and contains many very special features.

I was fond of studying a big map of the United States that hung on the wall of my father's study. I remembered many times looking at El Paso on the map and wondering what the city was like. And here we were, en route to live there!

We had heard all sorts of improbable tales about the Wild West; so for the trip, Malcolm bought a .45 Colt revolver. We traveled by train, and the further west we got, the less impressed we were with the flat, monotonous, dry, barren country. In DeKalb I had never seen a foreigner, and I had a doubly exciting introduction to West Texas. When the train was pulling out of Pecos, a Mexican man jumped aboard and several police officers followed, shooting at him. After the commotion had died down, Malcolm and I looked at each other and he said, "Do you think we should go on?" But we decided that since we had come such a distance (it's almost three times as far from DeKalb to El Paso as it was from Mississippi to DeKalb) and we were so close, that we might as well continue. But the real reason that we didn't turn back was that the train didn't stop again until we reached El Paso.

After we settled in El Paso, Malcolm's health began to improve and he looked around for something to do. In DeKalb he had built some tenements on farm land the store had purchased, and

since this was the kind of work that would keep him in the open, he began building houses in El Paso. After a year we went back to DeKalb, but stayed only a month and returned to El Paso for good. We were in love with the west Texas climate. In the years 1916-1919, Malcolm was convalescing. His farm land in DeKalb had tripled in value during the war. In El Paso he also financed homes for various individuals. He started in the construction business, building houses in earnest in 1920. Among the first homes he built were at 3504 and 3508 Hamilton Street. They still are standing and in excellent condition, and a man named Ernest Rhodes bought one of them. He lived in it until a few years ago.

The homes he built, either custom or for speculation, were all of dark brick, with white eaves and trim, and black decorator lines around the screen sash and screen doors. All of these homes are still standing and most of the owners have preserved them even down to the black trim, and they are easily spotted today. They are all over East El Paso—on Pershing Drive, Trowbridge, Douglas, Bliss, Federal, Lebanon, Tularosa, La Luz (a home he built on this street was bought new by Historian Cleofas Calleros, who still lives there), Hastings, Chester, Cambridge and Stevens Streets, and in Highland Park and the Lower Valley. Malcolm also built a number of custom homes, among them homes for the Stewart, Paxton, Hatchett, and Wooten families.



This Spanish-style house on Wheeling was the first of its type built by Mabel Welch. Its address is different today.

As Malcolm would complete a home for sale, I would decorate it and then we'd move in and live there until it was sold, sometimes staying only a week or so. We figured up once that we averaged moving once every two months for four years!

In 1924, Malcolm's health began to deteriorate. He felt I should know something about the business, so I started keeping close to the building end. I had been doing his drafting from the beginning. Soon Malcolm was bedfast, and was taken to a hospital and I had to finish a home he had under construction. While he was in the hospital I built the home at 3131 Wheeling Avenue, where I live today, and I brought him home from the hospital upon completion. It was designed so that it could be converted into a duplex, which I later did. I put Malcolm's bed in what now is the living room of the east duplex; it opens onto the front porch, and his men friends and workmen of our construction crews could come and talk to him without disturbing anyone or any other part of the house.

I had started the house next door at 3127 Wheeling while Malcolm was in the hospital, still using workmen employed by Malcolm, but was forced to fire a number of the crew at this time since the men decided they did not want to work for a woman. It was necessary at this time to employ competitive men and once it was established that I was the boss and knew what I was doing, I had no more trouble. During this time I built nine homes in the 3100 block of Wheeling and have built a total of fifteen on that street. I was building in the immediate neighborhood so I could be close to Malcolm and our son, Elvin. During this period Malcolm advised me on methods of financing, construction techniques, how to handle the crews, etc., and I learned much of the construction business during this period.

Elvin was born December 17, 1919, in the old Providence Hospital in El Paso, since demolished. At the age of four, he developed a sinus condition and allergies, and between superintending the construction during the day, drawing plans and drafting at night, and looking after my husband and our son, I had my hands full. However, we always kept an experienced housekeeper. As I look back on that period of my life, I wonder how I managed. At the time, though, I thought nothing about it. Things had to be done, and I managed to get them done.

Malcolm died July 17, 1927 and I was left with the entire responsibility. We had a large home under construction and were

bonded so that I had to finish it or forfeit the \$10,000 bond. In addition, I was left lots adjoining this property and wished to build on them so as to recover the investment. But I needed \$10,000 operating capital. So I went to Sam Young, president of the El Paso National Bank, and explained my problem to him. It was my first experience in financing. It was banking policy in those days that widows were not very good "business risks" and were poor loan risks. But Mr. Young surprised me. He let me have the money immediately, and afterward told me he had done so because he had never seen me dancing or partying in Juárez.

I planned to quit the building business after these projects were completed. But a vacation trip to California before my husband's death, had introduced me to the Spanish style of architecture, and I became entranced with it and realized that it was much more in keeping with the Spanish-Indian heritage of the Southwest than was the red brick bungalow, about the only kind of house then being built in El Paso. The "red brick bungalows," designed in a semi-colonial or classic style, had been built mostly by contractors who had moved here from the East. They knew how to build them, and in the East they sold well and they continued the practice here. They gave no thought to surrounding civilization.

My first Spanish home in El Paso was the one at 2915 Wheeling. Then I built the E. D. Moore home at 2731 Wheeling, also in Spanish style. As I was taking Malcolm to the hospital for the last time, he raised up to look at the house at 2915 Wheeling as the ambulance passed by. "It's very beautiful," he told me, and his smile gave me assurance. At this time Otis Coles was developing Castle Heights, a subdivision just below Manhattan Heights, and asked me to build three elaborate two-story Spanish-style homes there. I did so, and they were so well

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3131 Wheeling was built in 1927 while Welch's husband was dying of tuberculosis. It remained Welch's personal home. It was built so that it could be divided into a duplex if needed. Note the symmetry in this and other Mabel Welch houses.

liked that they were sold before they were completed. The late Sam Watkins bought one, and Dr. George Turner another.

Thus it was that I abandoned the brick bungalow entirely and began building nothing but Spanish-Mediterranean style homes, which proved immensely popular. Until I began building such homes, there was hardly a house in El Paso built in Spanish style with red tile roofs, wrought iron, balconies, and similar touches. The closest thing to it had been the Mexican ranch home, like the old Magoffin Home on Magoffin Avenue, of which there were some, especially down the Valley and in other rural areas. In 1935 Mayor Ray E. Sherman and the entire City Council gave me a commendation for being responsible for changing El Paso's architecture from American bungalow to the charming Spanish-Mediterranean style that had done so much to make El Paso a unique city.

In 1929 while Elvin and I were vacationing in California, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Harvey also were in California and were thinking of building a Spanish-style home in El Paso. So we drove around, looking at homes and picking out features that they wanted in their new home. They wanted it to look old, to look like a home that had seen a lot of living, yet had endured the vicissitudes of man and weather. The result is the first truly large, expensive

home I ever built, and one of which I still am the most proud; the Paul Harvey home at 3100 Gold Avenue is true in architecture, a home so comfortable and livable that the Harveys still reside there today, nearly forty years later.

I used all sorts of tricks and techniques to make the home look old. We built it of brick with walls two feet thick, and to get a rough patched effect, laid the brick in uneven courses. This frustrated the bricklayers to no end, as their whole life's training had been to lay them as evenly as possible. We used Spanish tile on the roof, and in some places used as many as five layers to achieve the desired patched effect. This heavy roof required an extraordinarily strong roof frame, and some of the wooden beams I used had to be lifted into place with a crane. All the ironwork was soaked in acid and burned in ashes to give it an aged look. I was forced to employ mostly Mexican workers, as the American craftsmen didn't have the artistic ability where Spanish architecture is concerned, which is so a part of the Mexican citizen. The American workman who had never lived in Mexico couldn't get the touchy Spanish effect in detail which was so necessary, but the Mexicans instinctively understood what had to be done and did a superb job. A Mexican wood carver was engaged to carve the faces of the Harvey children



3100 Gold was built for Paul Harvey in 1929 and remained the home of which Welch was most proud. Its inspiration was from homes seen in California.

on the large living room beams, and he also did much other hand carving, scrollwork and decorations throughout the home.

When the crash came in 1929, bringing on the Great Depression of the 1930's, building came to a stand still and many contractors went out of business. But I concentrated on Spanish-style homes in the middle and medium price ranges and continued to sell them almost as fast as I could build them. Following this period I built a number of fine expensive homes on Rim Road for the F. P. Schusters, Robert Thompsons, Lowenfield, Dr. Multhauf, J. Page Kemp, M. L. Parker, the Streltz family, A. B. Poe, J. W. Peak (now owned by the Arthur Gales), and revised plans for some others. Homes I designed and built in other areas of the city include those for Otis Coles, L. R. Hoard, Sam Watkins, Dr. George Turner, Dr. Harry Leigh, and many more. The most expensive home I have built was the one for Dr. F. P. Schuster at 939 Rim Road. This also is one of the few homes I built in a style other than Spanish. It follows the general theme of an English Norman castle and still today is one of El Paso's most distinctive homes. The most expensive home I ever designed was one built in Chihuahua City at a cost of more than a quarter of a million dollars.

When the old United States Court House, located on the Southeast corner of Mills and Oregon Streets, where the S. H. Kress store is now, was torn down, I bought many of the old marble mantles that had been used over the numerous fireplaces in the old building and the marble stair treads. The floor of the library in the Schuster home is paved with marble from the old court house and the worn, mellow stair treads were used on the Schuster staircase to impart an atmosphere of age to help carry out the castle theme. I used some pillars with Corinthian capitals in the Schuster home; they are some old street lamp standards I rescued from the junk pile. The nine-foot high front door is of intricately-wrought bronze, and the posts and railing of the stairway are hand carved. Speaking of using items discarded by others, the grille in front of the upstairs French windows of the home of Dr. Robert Thompson is from the back end of an ancient bus which I found in a salvage yard.

My only venture into the construction of commercial property was the A. B. Poe Motor Company building occupying the quarter block at 601 Texas Avenue. Built in 1935, this edifice was designed along Spanish lines and still is occupied by the original tenant. At the time it was built, it was called the most modern structure of its type in the United States. It earned a commendation as such

from Walter P. Chrysler himself. The motor company is the oldest Chrysler dealership in Texas and is operated by a third generation of the Poe family. I suppose because I am a woman, I did not enjoy designing and constructing commercial buildings; I preferred to create a warm, livable beautiful home, a family home, comfortable and convenient.

In 1945 I was honored to have four homes I designed selected for inclusion in a book, *Planning Your Home For Better Living*, compiled and written by Clarence W. Bunham and Milton D. Thalberg. Mr. Dunham was associate professor of civil engineering at Yale and consulting engineer for the New York office of the Anaconda Copper Company, and Mr. Thalberg was advertising manager of the Cosa Corporation. The book was published by McGraw-Hill Company and was used as a university textbook. The homes chosen were those I built for Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Hoard, Dr. and Mrs. Harry Leigh, Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Pyle, and Miss Norma Egg and Dr. Gladys Gregory.

In 1935, the Women's Division of the El Paso Chamber of Commerce, of which I had been a member for some years, embarked on a project designed to stimulate the construction business, beautify the city, and bring the facilities and services of the Federal Housing Authority to El Paso. The project was to remodel an old home to show what could be done with a minimum of expense. A search for the right house was launched, and we found just what we wanted at 1810 East Yandell Drive. The roof was practically gone, ceilings were caved in, sand from the many sandstorms covered the warped floors, and pigeons roosting in the rafters had been ungrateful. The plan was to secure an FHA loan to remodel the house into an attractive home to show what could be done. Mrs. A. B. Poe donated the money to purchase the property from its out-of-town owner; my services were donated as architect and construction superinten-

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The roof of the Harvey home was deliberately placed in layers in order to produce an old effect. It is very heavy and required a special frame for support.

dent; a number of building supply and furniture stores donated materials, and workmen gave their labor. We decided to hold a drawing and give the house away after its completion. The interior was completely revised with rooms rearranged because of awkward layout. The kitchen was moved onto an old back porch which was enclosed; a bedroom was added; the exterior stuccoed; the front porch rebuilt; and it was made into a very attractive, comfortable home.

The drawing, held on May 25, 1935, in El Paso High School stadium, was attended by about 15,000 persons. The winning ticket was drawn by little Charlotte Walsh and certified by a panel of judges consisting of R. B. Price, Sr., H. A. Markham, Mrs. W. D. Dowe, chairman-director of the Women's Division that year, Mrs. J. A. Pickett and Mrs. O. F. Metz. Mayor R. E. Sherman announced the winner—it was Mrs. L. J. Burks of 4318 La Luz Street. The Burks family lived in the home until 1943 when he was transferred to Houston. The project was a great success. It created much interest by home owners in remodeling and fixing up their properties, created jobs for many unemployed construction workers, and stimulated business generally.

In 1936 I attended the University of Chicago, where I took a number of courses in architecture and related subjects. Also that

year I went to San Antonio to study the architecture there—the lovely old missions, the Spanish homes, the parks—in search of ideas I could apply to my building activities in El Paso. I have also studied under George Washington Smith in California, the man who first recognized the beauties and advantages of Spanish architecture and did so much to increase its use in Southern California. In 1939 I was honored by being admitted to the Society of American Registered Architects, and in 1956 I was made a Fellow in the organization. Thus I had the distinction of being El Paso's first woman builder, first woman registered architect, and first woman chosen for a Society fellowship, all "firsts" of which I was very proud.

In 1939 I was serving on the Architectural Committee of the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce. One of the committee's projects was to stimulate and sustain interest in home remodeling and in Southwestern architecture. We sponsored a building and remodeling contest, and as part of this project I designed a booklet [El Paso Architecture] which the Women's Division distributed. It contained plans and drawings for forty-three homes, all in Southwestern style. A number of them were my own designs, and I executed all the drawings in the booklet. The contest stressed individuality in home building and remodeling. In the



The Sam Guido home at 3101 Gold is in the more traditional Spanish style that is also seen on Rim Road.

city, first prize was \$150 and second prize was \$100. In the Upper and Lower Valleys, a prize of \$100 was offered to the person building a home most nearly following the old Spanish hacienda style.

Another project undertaken by the Women's Division and in which I was deeply involved was the beautification of Alameda Avenue in 1939. Alameda, an old, old street of stores and shops, was the main entrance to El Paso from the east, being Highway 80, the old Broadway of America. Visitors to El Paso received a very bad impression of our city from this thoroughfare. Through publicity and contact with property owners along the street, we secured a great deal of co-operation. Store fronts were remodeled, painted, or otherwise spruced up. Many were done over in the Spanish and Mediterranean style to conform with our theme, and the project was a great success. Upon its completion, Alameda Avenue presented quite a different picture to tourists and El Pasoans, too.

By 1940 business conditions had improved to the point that once again people were building larger homes, and I got a number of commissions to design and construct such houses. I built a home in Marfa for a client by the name of Frank Jones. It was a large Spanish style home, two stories, that today would cost around \$200,000 to build. I also remodeled an unusual home in Fort Davis. Built at the turn of the century by a Mr. [Whitaker] Keesey at a cost of \$75,000, it was designed to resemble a castle. It was three stories high and had round towers, a steeply pitched roof with tall chimneys, and was built of beautifully laid field stone. It had been gutted by fire and nothing was left but the walls. We removed the top floor and completely rebuilt the interior and made the structure into a wonderful home. How to pull the chimneys down was a mystery to me at first, but we finally solved it by asking the owner, Worth Evans, one of the biggest cowboys in the Big Bend Country to lasso them, like cowboys lassoing a steer, and pulling them over. I took a crew of workmen with me and they lived in the cowboys' quarters on the Evans ranch. I made two or three trips a week there to inspect the work and keep material on the job, insure pay checks, etc. My son, Elvin, got his first deer on the Merryweather Ranch while we were there; it was a very unusual anomaly in that the antlers were perfectly symmetrical.

With the outbreak of World War II I naturally had to abandon my home building business. To keep busy I began selling real estate for Coles Bros Realty Co. and have kept my real estate license ever since. Mr. Otis Coles had been left to operate his busi-

ness by himself, since his son Otis Jr. left for World War II. The job was interesting and I was glad to be of assistance to Mr. Coles.

In 1943 I won the top office of the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce by being elected chairman-director for the 1943-44 term, a position regarded as a high honor by El Paso's women leaders. The Division won many noteworthy achievements during my tenure in office which brought me a rich feeling of accomplishment.

El Paso women long had recognized a woeful lack of communication and co-operation with the women of the several large military bases at El Paso. I resolved to do something about the situation, and decided to give a luncheon for the military wives. I appointed Mrs. Fred Ryan chairman of a committee to take charge of the affair, and in November of 1943 we sponsored a luncheon at El Paso Country Club for the wives of men who were military. About 600 of them attended and the affair was a great success. The program since has been broadened to include wives at Biggs Air Force Base (before the base was closed) and at William Beaumont Army Hospital and has become an annual affair. It has achieved the original objective: complete rapport between civilian and military women of El Paso.

One of the most outstanding accomplishments of my administration was the planning and execution of two historic goodwill trips to create understanding with the citizens of the state of Chihuahua and to search out ideas for the beautification of El Paso. On August 20, 1943, I was invited to a meeting of the Chamber Board of Directors and asked what I thought of taking a group of women to Chihuahua on a good-will trip at the Chamber's expense. The purpose of this trip was to be three-fold: first, the Women's Division was involved in an architectural pro-

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The Zeta Tau Alpha house on the UTEP campus was designed and built in the 1930s. It is now the Peter and Margaret de Wetter Center and houses the Alumni Lodge.

gram to encourage the use of Spanish design in homes and commercial buildings, and we wanted to study the use of this style in Chihuahua City. Second, Chihuahua is noted as an outstandingly clean and well-kept city, and since we were launching a paint-up, clean-up, bright-up campaign, we thought our activity could benefit by learning how Chihuahua did it. Third, the Chamber was very interested in seeing that the paving was completed on the highway from Juárez to Chihuahua in order to increase tourist business and felt that such a trip would dramatize to Mexican authorities the benefits to be derived.

Naturally I agreed whole-heartedly, and the Chamber made all arrangements. We left on Tuesday morning, September 7, 1943. Other women making the trip were officers of the Women's Division and representatives of various committees. They were: Mrs. A. B. Poe and Miss Norma Egg, international relations co-chairmen; Mrs. Jesson L. Stowe, secretary; Mrs. R. H. Oliver and Mrs. Otis C. Coles, architectural co-chairmen; Mrs. E. H. Will and Mrs. Chris Fox, Good Neighbor Committee; and Mmes. Clifton Rice, A. F. Beard, Clarence Harper and Roy Carey, beautification. We were accompanied by Mrs. Robert Beck and Miss Mary Beth Clark,

reporters for the *El Paso Herald-Post* and the *El Paso Times* respectively. The trip was the first of its kind ever made.

The people of Chihuahua spared no effort to make our visit one which still rings in the memories of those of us still living who made the trip. It was true Mexican hospitality at its best. Mrs. Elvira Vasquez de Chavez, wife of Governor Alfredo Chavez, headed a receiving line at the Hotel Victoria where we made our headquarters. From there we went to the Governor's Mansion for an elaborate luncheon. Next day we met the Mayor of Chihuahua, Sr. Gomez Chavez, and visited the city hall, cathedral and other public buildings. Wednesday noon we entertained our hosts with a luncheon at the Victoria at which Sra. Chavez was the guest of honor. That afternoon we were taken on a tour of private homes, visiting the residences of Paul Williams, Rafael Vallina, D. Juan Morales, Eloy Vallina, D. Luis Terrazas, Juan Terrazas, the fifty-year-old farmhouse of Chavez Mestra, and the half-million-dollar palace of Thomas Valles. Wednesday evening we attended a party being given for Coke Stevenson, governor of Texas, who also was on a good-will trip to Chihuahua, by Alberto de la Pena, acting governor of Chihuahua. We also attended a tequila party given in our honor by Sra. Luz Corral de Villa, widow of the famous



The Zeta house patio with its beams and ceiling remains today.

Francisco (Pancho) Villa, and were entertained lavishly by many other persons.

We discovered that imagination, originality and hard work on the part of Chihuahua residents accounted for the distinctive public buildings, individualistic residences, the well-kept parks and streets. The thing that impressed us most was the variety of architecture and landscaping. Sameness of style, which makes for a dull, monotonous appearance, was completely avoided as the Mexican borrowed the best of French, Moroccan, Egyptian, Spanish and English architecture. There also were many buildings in contemporary style.

We also found out how Chihuahua kept its streets so clean. Each resident was required by law to sweep the sidewalk and his half of the street before 9 a.m. each day. Police checked the streets, and if the sweeping had not been done, the remiss resident was fined two pesos. The city swept the intersections, and trash barrels were placed at each corner. It was an excellent system, but, for obvious reasons, we did not include it in our list of recommendations to the city of El Paso.

I felt that the trip was one of the best "good neighbor" projects ever attempted by the Women's Division. While we enjoyed studying architecture and seeing the city, I think the friendship created between the El Paso and Chihuahua women was the biggest accomplishment and gave great impetus to the "good neighbor" policy in both cities. The city of Chihuahua was a challenge to us to develop a more individual and colorful El Paso.

After our arrival back in El Paso, the Women's Division decided to return to the people of Chihuahua the hospitality shown to us, and we arranged to entertain a group of women from there during the week of November 12-18. I telephoned Sra. Chavez and extended the invitation. It was accepted, and the Chihuahua women arrived on November 12 for a six-day visit. They were Senoras Chavez, Lola Chavez de Pena, Elvira Chavez Delgado, Arcelia Martinez de Lomelia, Adelaide Waller de Martinez, Elisa Hermosillo de Morales, E. G. Uranga, Ana Roendin de Chavez, Winifred Gibbe, and Senorita Emma de Chavez.

They were entertained royally by many organizations, including the American Association of University Women, Pan-American Round Table, the Army wives, Mrs. Innia P. Swift (wife of the Fort Bliss commanding general), Radford School for Girls, the *El Paso Herald-Post*, Loretto Academy, William Beaumont

Army Hospital, the White House and Popular Dry Goods Company, and others. The trip was termed "the first step forward in Pan-American relationships and post-war planning" and a great compliment to El Paso.

After the war I resumed my home building business and built a number of large homes. Among them was the Sam Guido Home on Gold Avenue, across the street from the Paul Harvey Home. I also built the four large Spanish colonial homes on the north side of the 2800 block of Silver Street, one of which was sold to Gus Momsen. The last homes I built were 2601 and 2606 Frankfort Avenue in Mayfield Terrace, in 1952. After 1952 my building activities were confined to buying older homes and remodeling them for re-sale, custom remodeling, and similar work. Actually, this work was more of a hobby than a business, as I loved it and it kept me busy and my mind occupied.

Many other useful and rewarding activities filled my days. I continued my work with the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce. In 1954 we launched a campaign to save the columns on the front of the El Paso County Court House. Plans to remodel the building called for the elimination of the columns, and our committee thought they should remain. We lost our battle, sad to say, but I still think the columns lent an air of classic dignity, of continuity with our Greek and Roman heritage, and of authority, and should have remained. The S. H. Kress Company was going to erect a building designed to complement the Plaza

Hotel (formerly the Hilton), but we convinced them that they should switch to an architectural style reflecting the character of the Southwest, and the present building is the result. At our behest, Lerner Stores designed their building at the corner of San Antonio and Mesa Streets along Spanish lines, and added some

In 1954 we launched a campaign to save the columns on the front of the El Paso County Court House. Plans to remodel the building called for the elimination of the columns, and our committee thought they should remain. We lost our battle, sad to say, but I still think the columns lent an air of classic dignity, of continuity with our Greek and Roman heritage, and of authority, and should have remained.



1810 E. Yandell is the old house remodeled by the Women's Department of the Chamber of Commerce in 1935. It was raffled off. Unfortunately, the restoration has not lasted.

embellishments of their own, such as the wrought iron grills along the roof. The Cathcart Building on the northwest corner of Kansas and Mills also reflects our influence, as does the present design of the Blumenthal Building at the southeast corner of El Paso and San Francisco Streets, as well as the remodeling of the Union Depot.

During my many years of residence in El Paso it has been my good fortune to be associated with many worthwhile organizations and to participate in many richly rewarding civic activities. Perhaps my most satisfying activity has been my work with under-privileged youth. In 1961 I was appointed to the Citizens Committee on Children and Youth, where I had the opportunity to work with a number of women and men actively concerned with improving conditions and providing opportunities for young persons less fortunate. It gave me a great deal of pleasure to send five such boys to Cal Farley's Boys Ranch in 1964, at a cost of \$1,000 for each boy. Mr. Farley takes boys who have gotten into trouble with the law and has had remarkable success in straightening them out and providing them with an education and skills with which to earn their living. "My boys" proved themselves thoroughly at the ranch and are on the way to becoming useful and productive citi-

zens, three being on the honor roll. I consider this the most worthwhile investment I ever made outside of my own family.

The betterment of Texas Western College has been one of my favorite projects through the years. In the 1930's I was instrumental in obtaining the site of the lodge of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, of which I am a patroness. The land was donated by J. W. Peak, and I designed the lodge and supervised its construction. I also induced Mr. Peak to donate his trophy collection to the college museum. And in the 1920's I was on a committee that got the football team its first water barrel by soliciting the sum of \$25.00. I was honored in 1945 by Judge Sarah Hughes of Dallas when she placed my name in nomination for a place on the Board of Regents of the University of Texas, and although I was not appointed, I was gratified even to be considered. I also am a life member of the TWC [Woman's Auxiliary].

During the early 1940's I served on the Board of the Southwestern Sun Carnival Association for four years. I was in charge of an entire day's events, which were the Old Timers Celebration at 10 a.m., the International program at 2 p.m., and the military program at 4 p.m. I am a member of the following organizations: Trinity Methodist church, Pan-American Round Table, Association of Pioneer Women, El Paso Museum of Art (charter member), Women's Auxiliary of Providence Memorial Hospital (life and charter member), Woman's Committee of the El Paso Symphony Association, El Paso County Historical Society, and the National Society of Arts and Letters, Woman's Department, Chamber of Commerce and the El Paso Symphony Association. When Providence Hospital was being built, my son and I furnished one of the deluxe rooms in the hospital in memory of my late husband, Malcolm Hiram Welch. In 1945 Mayor Dan Duke appointed me to serve on a committee to investigate the possibilities of building a Memorial Auditorium to be

Recently I donated to the El Paso Public Library my extensive collection of books on Spanish architecture. I had gathered these books over the years to help in my work. But today Spanish architecture in El Paso is being over run by the ranch style home because of the high cost of materials; adobe, which used to be one of the cheapest building materials, now is the most expensive.

erected in honor of El Paso servicemen who lost their lives in World War II.

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"The United States is a country of Litterbugs," I believe, and I also feel that education through the schools, the new call issued in President Johnson's "message on natural beauty" and again in Mrs. Johnson's drive for a "Beautiful America," will make us aware of beauty. I founded the Beautify El Paso Association May 28, 1966. For many years, I have been building and beautifying El Paso and headed numerous cleanup campaigns and re-decorating projects. In 1943 Mr. A. B. Poe gave an old store building to Trinity Church and with unlimited ingenuity and a great deal of hard work, I transformed it into a pastor's study and library. Because of this contribution to the community, a luncheon was given for me and a poem written by Mrs. Beulah Miller was dedicated to me, entitled "The Builder."

A builder builded a palace,
Such symmetry, beauty and art!
With pillars and arches and windows
Each playing a perfect part—
People praised its marvelous beauty
As they gazed on its granite walls,
And dreamed of wisdom and duty,
As they walked its hallowed halls.

The Master builded a temple.
Not of sticks or straw or stone;
But He molded a beautiful figure
Of brain and brawn and bone.
This temple, the human body,
A perfect symmetrical whole,
God made in His own image
"The temple of the soul."



The A. B. Poe automobile company at 601 Texas was the only business facility ever designed by Welch. She preferred houses. The building is empty at present.

NOTE TO READERS:

Malcolm and Mabel Welch's only child Elvin became an electrical engineer and has had a highly successful career in the aerospace industry. He and his son Mark came to El Paso for the Hall of Honor dinner at the time Mabel Welch was inducted. In an oral history interview on November 2, 2008, Elvin Welch stated that his mother made him promise that when she died, he was to take her architectural drawings, notes, personal papers, etc. to McKelligon Canyon and burn them. He followed her direction. Therefore, Mabel Welch's architectural plans and personal papers do not exist with the exception of what can be learned from "El Paso Architecture."



Lecturas:

*Articles and Dissertations on El Paso and the Southwest
recently published in other journals*

BOOKS

Please note that all of the books listed are winners of Southwest Book Awards.

Paul Cool, *Salt Warriors: Insurgency on the Rio Grande*. Texas A & M University Press, 2008.

Richard Grant, *God's Middle Finger: Into the Lawless Heart of the Sierra Madre*. Free Press, 2008.

Alejandro Lugo, *Fragmented Lives Assembled Parts: Culture, Capitalism, and Conquest at the U.S.-Mexico Border*. University of Texas Press, 2008.

Eric V. Meeks, *Border Citizens: The Making of Indians, Mexicans and Anglos in Arizona*. University of Texas Press, 2007.

Neil Miller, *Kartchner Caverns: How Two Cavers Discovered and Saved One of the Wonders of the Natural World*. University of Arizona Press, 2008.

Thomas T. Smith, Jerry D. Thompson, Robert Wooster, and Ben E. Pingenot, eds. *The Reminiscences of Major General Zenas R. Bliss 1854-1876*. Texas State Historical Association, 2007.

Kathleen Staudt, *Violence and Activism at the Border: Gender, Fear and Everyday Life in Ciudad Juárez*. University of Texas Press, 2008.

THESES, DISSERTATIONS AND ARTICLES

Michelle Benavides, *The Decentering of U.S. Legal and Moral Boundaries by Mexico's Transnational Divorce Industry, 1923-1970*, (PhD diss., Arizona State University, 2008) 349 pp. (AAT 3339522)

Erin E. Doran, *The Border Between Remembering and Forgetting: El Paso, Texas, and the Holocaust*, (MA thesis, The University of Texas at San Antonio, 2008) 76 pp. (AAT 145999)

Miguel Antonio Levario, *Cuando Vino la Mexicanada: Authority, Race, and Conflict in West Texas, 1895-1924*, (PhD diss., The University of Texas at Austin, 2007) 176 pp. (AAT 3277567)

Brandon Salvador Luna, *Race, Immigration Law, and the U.S.-Mexican Border: A History of the Border Patrol and the Mexican-Origin Population in the Southwest*, (MA thesis, University of California, San Diego, 2008) 156 pp. (AAT 1457321)

Jeffrey M. Schulze, *Trans-Nations: Indians, Imagined Communities, and Border Realities in the Twentieth Century*, (PhD diss., Southern Methodist University, 2008) 296 pp. (AAT 3307178)

Ballard C. Shapleigh, "Crime and Punishment, Part II: The Path of Justice for the Murder of Ted Andress, Leads to Another Six Person Jury Trial in Rusk," *El Paso Bar Journal*, (February/March 2009): 11-14.

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