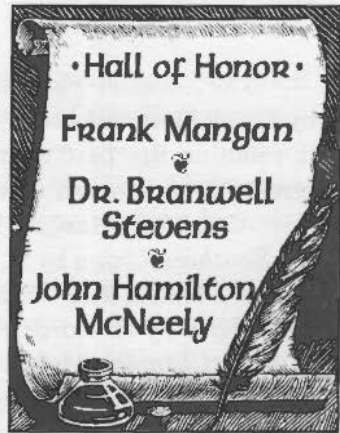


*Frank Mangan,
2007 Hall of Honor Recipient*

• Hall of Honor •
2007

Frank Mangan



Frank Mangan is a native El Pasoan born on October 11, 1921 to Grace Kathren Little and Frank John Mangan. He has two sisters, Mary Lou Mangan Faller of San Ramon, California and Ronnie Mounce of El Paso. His half brother, William Roche, passed away some years ago.

He is a graduate of Austin High School and attended Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy, later Texas Western College, and now the University of Texas at El Paso. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and upon discharge from the service, he earned a bachelor of journalism degree from the University of Missouri. He was the student president of the School of Journalism and was awarded a scholarship from Erwin-Wasey Advertising in New York City.

In the late forties, Frank began his career in advertising at the White House Department Store and White & Shuford agency. He married Judith Peterson, a native El Pasoan and 6th generation Texan who was writing radio commercials for the Popular Dry Goods Company. In 1951 Frank joined the El Paso Natural Gas Company where he spent twenty-eight years. After spending 20 months in Houston as assistant director of public relations, he took early retirement in 1979.

Frank began his second career in 1979 when he and Judy formed Mangan Books. Their goal was to design, edit, and publish local and regional historical titles. Meanwhile, Frank had already written and designed *Bordertown*, published by Carl Hertzog in 1964. He followed that with *El Paso in Pictures* in 1971, *Bordertown Revisited* in 1973, *Ruidoso Country* in 1994, and *Mangan's War: A Personal View of World War II* in 2003.

The Shooters published in 1976 with typography and design by Frank Mangan became the first of eight titles by Leon Metz, and it remains the best selling of the Mangan Books publications, having gone through eleven printings.

Altogether Mangan Books has published forty titles, including *Southern Union* by N. P. Chesnutt; *Railroads and Revolutions* by J. F. Hulse; *The Gentlemen's Club: The Story of Prostitution in El Paso* by H. Gordon Frost; *The Bear Facts* by Ray Sanchez; *El Paso Chronicles* by Leon Metz; and *Sun Country Banker: The Life and Bank of Samuel Doak Young* by Joseph Leach. Texas Christian University press has reprinted five Mangan book titles. The first was *El Paso in Pictures*. The Mangans have donated signed, first edition copies, of each of their forty published books to the El Paso County Historical Society and to the library of the University of Texas at El Paso.

In terms of honorary accomplishments, Frank Mangan has earned recognition as:

1. El Paso Advertising Federation's Man of the Year in 1959.
2. The recipient of the coveted "Authors at the Pass" award from the El Paso Writers Hall of Fame in 1977.
3. The recipient in 1981 of the Border Regional Library Association's award for writing and publishing *El Paso in Pictures* in 1972, and *Ruidoso Country* in 1995.
4. The recipient in 1981 of the "Southwestern Library Association Award of Excellence" for publishing *Fort Bliss, an Illustrated History* by Leon Metz and Millard McKinney.
5. Also in 1981, he received from the Texas Institute of Letters—the award for the best book design in the state of Texas.

Frank Mangan is a charter member of the El Paso County Historical Society and was a member of the El Paso County Historical Commission. He was one of the founders for KCOS, El Paso's public television station and has served on committees for the YMCA and the Girl Scouts. He made numerous civic contributions while working for and eventually retiring as public relations director for the El Paso Natural Gas Company.

In 2003, Frank designed and published *Mangan's War: A Personal View of World War II*. From the letters his mother had lovingly saved, he recreated his involvement in some of the big

adventures of the European theater of operations, specifically the landing at Normandy and the Battle of the Hedgerows. In one of the more humorous incidents—which wasn't so humorous at the time—Frank described friendly fire that came very close to his foxhole, an event that left him wearing nothing but his GI [government issue] shorts.

And finally, in terms of the war, Frank Mangan was involved in the aid and release of the prisoners of war from the famous and infamous Dachau Concentration Camp outside Munich, Germany.

Leon Metz said of Frank and Judy:

I have known Frank and his lovely wife Judy for many years. I have never had more treasured friends, and El Paso has never had more accomplished and more treasured residents. In my mind, Frank Mangan represents all that is good, and fine, and honorable, and loving about El Paso. He has done it all, and he has been supported every step of the way by his gracious and beautiful wife, Judy.

Frank Mangan epitomizes what this community is, what this community was, and what this community can be.

It is unfortunate that we cannot clone Frank Mangan, because future generations may not realize how fortunate we have been, and what they are going to miss.

