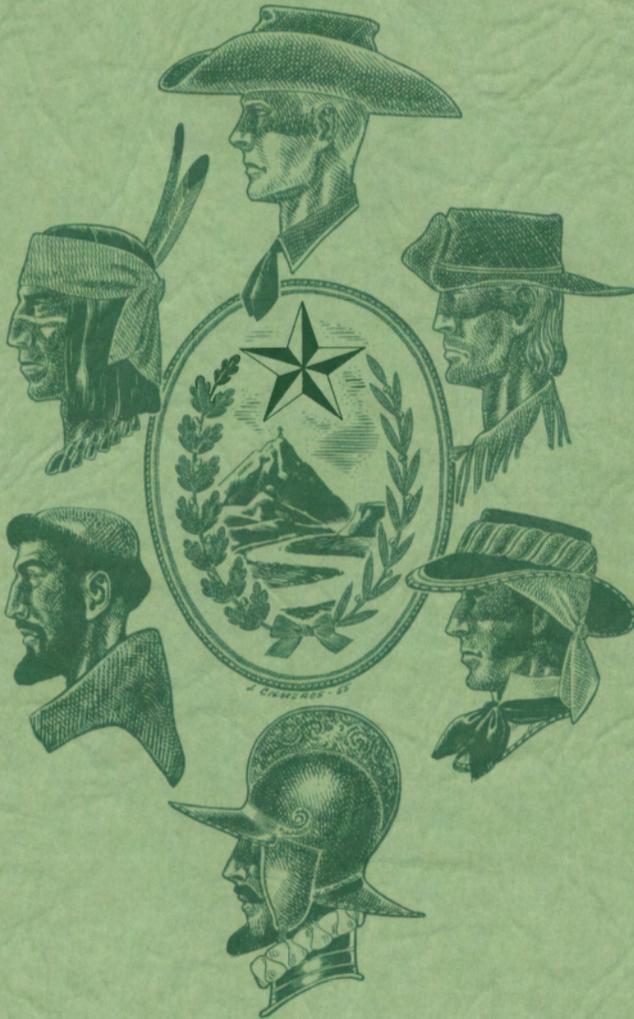


PASS-WORD



OF THE

EL PASO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PASS-WORD

Published by:

THE EL PASO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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PASS-WORD is distributed free of charge to members of the Society. It is *not* available to the general public.

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Entered as second-class matter at the post office at El Paso, Texas, under the Act of August 24, 1912.

PASS - WORD

Volume II, No. I

Published Quarterly

February, 1957

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THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by *Frank Feuille III*

My reaction to Dr. Porter's suggestion that a greeting from the president to the membership should appear annually in the February issue of the quarterly was one of unbecomingly eager concurrence. Indeed, had he not originated it, I would have requested to be allowed to publish one. Because deep feeling demands expression, and my heart is particularly full at this time. Not over assumption of this office—that, I think, is a mistake on the Society's part, which I'll do my utmost to keep from being too grievous—but from a reaffirmed appreciation for the great good fortune which has blessed the El Paso Historical Society from its very conception.

Paper allegiance to a theme such as we personify is easy to enroll, but its translation into effective action is a far different matter. Particularly in the gestative period and the days of early infancy, before success has lent strength to wobbly legs and surety to vision. Yet it is in that crucial period that the scope and stature of the organization is determined and its course charted. The mold of the organization's present and the shape of its future cannot be other than in the image of those who compose its early leadership.

That is where we have been lucky. That is why we can stand so proudly here today. The superb achievement record, the enviable financial position, the compatibility of dignity, scholarship, and pleasure, the respect and honor we have been accorded, are all but the glowing reflection of the tall, distinguished, personable gentleman who stood behind the podium at our quarterly meetings and stood in the forefront of our every endeavor. What we are today we are primarily because of Paul Heisig.

Certainly he has had help—capable, talented, dedicated help, from his own Doll, from Louise Schuessler, Dolly Lanier, Monica Hunter, Mary Hellums, Mrs. Goetting, Mrs. Ponder, Mrs. Brunner, from Cleo Calleros (source of the original inspiration), Chris Fox, Gen. Meyer, Col. Ballantyne, Dr. Sonnichsen, Leonard Goodman, Jack Guynes, Harvey Meston, and many others. So likewise has Dr. Eugene Porter had help from Dr. Leach and others in the magnificent accomplishment which is PASS-WORD. But, just as PASS-WORD is in final analysis Gene Porter's hand-wrought product, so is the Historical Society's present eminent status the personal handi-work of Paul Heisig.



Frank Feuille III (seated) taken at the autograph party for *The Cotton Road*.

The main reason I wanted to sound off was to be sure he knew how fully we all recognize our debt to him and how truly grateful we all are to him.

To the rest of the membership let me say that I have no illusions about being able to stand in Paul's stead, but if a consuming love of history, a reverence for the great tradition of our area, and an almost arrogant pride in our community will help, at least I can walk with you in smaller strides down the same path. That I pledge to try to do.

BRAZITO —

THE ONLY BATTLE IN THE SOUTHWEST BETWEEN AMERICAN AND FOREIGN TROOPS

. by *George Rublen*

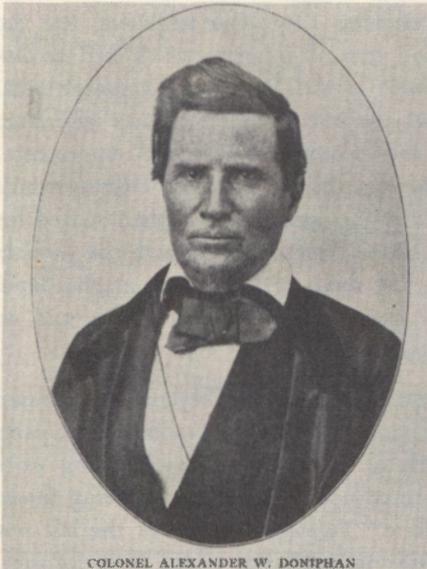
PART ONE

About four miles south of Mesilla Park, New Mexico, on US 80 a road-side sign informs the motorist that the Battle of Brazito took place at that spot on December 25, 1846. There appears little reason to question the statement; nearby is Brazito School and maps show Brazito Grant boundaries as enclosing the area. To the author's knowledge no published article has questioned this generally accepted site. Considering numbers engaged and casualties sustained it was a relatively minor skirmish, yet it carried an import which can be realized only by visualizing the possible results had the American forces not been victorious. Such an outcome might well have influenced the limits of American conquest and the extent of the Gadsden Purchase; for the areas controlled by a victorious army at the end of hostilities has a marked influence on the final provisions of the diplomatic agreement terminating a war.

Just where did this battle take place? To present a considered answer to this question, narratives of participants in the action have been studied; distances from known points to the reported location of the battlefield have been plotted; descriptions of the ground and a sketch of the action have been matched with present day ground forms and with the trace of the Rio Grande's course of a hundred years ago.

Several old maps show the course of the river as it existed in 1850, 1853, 1861 and 1877. The one selected for comparison with current United States Geological Survey maps of the same area is that made by Major W. H. Emory in 1850-55 for use by the United States-Mexican Boundary Commission of which he was the American Astronomer and later Commissioner.¹ Emory was an outstanding topographical engineer and knew the Southwest intimately. Since his surveys were made to establish the United States-Mexican boundary, certain locations on his map which can also be located on the ground today and on modern maps had the highest probability of being accurate.

¹Emory was US astronomer on the initial Boundary Commission and later became US Commissioner. He accompanied Kearny to California in 1846-7 as topographical engineer, transferred to the cavalry and rose to Major General in the Civil War. An enlargement of his map of the El Paso area as it appeared *circa* 1853 is in the possession of the El Paso Historical Society.



COLONEL ALEXANDER W. DONIPHAN

The validity of the old river trace was further verified by comparing its lower portion with the Texas-New Mexico boundary as far north as Anthony. This has been established as the center line of the river as of 1850.² Doubt as to the similarity of the river trace in 1846 with that shown on Emory's map might be raised if unusual seasonal floods occurred during the intervening period. Records examined to date do not indicate that the course of the river changed materially during that period, although a few years later significant changes did occur.³

By plotting distances from known points, comparing descriptions of the battlefield with existing terrain

and with the river course as thus reconstructed and considering the time and space factors involved, conclusions were reached as to the most probable location of the Brazito battlefield.

A brief summation of the events preceding this battle and the action itself will assist in evaluating the significant details found in various reports.⁴ Colonel Alexander Doniphan's First Regiment, Missouri Mounted Volunteers, left Fort Leavenworth in midsummer of 1846 as part of Brigadier General [then Colonel] S. W. Kearny's Army of the West. After the latter's bloodless occupation of Santa Fé and northern New Mexico and subsequent departure for California with a picked force of some 140 men, most of them regulars of the 1st Dragoons,⁵ Doniphan was ordered to quell disorders among the Navajos. Upon

²P. M. Baldwin, "A Historical Note on the Boundaries of New Mexico," *New Mexico Historical Review*, V, 134.

³In 1862, 1865 and 1884 among others; also 1842.

⁴Incidents of the battle are beyond the scope of this article. There are numerous primary sources among which are: William E. Connelley, *Doniphan's Expedition* (Topeka, Kansas, 1907) which contains John T. Hughes' account of the expedition; George R. Gibson, *Journal of a Soldier Under Kearny and Doniphan*, ed. Ralph P. Bieber (Glendale, Calif., 1935); Marcellus B. Edwards, "Journal," in *Marching With the Army of the West*, ed. Ralph P. Bieber, (Glendale, Calif., 1936); and journals of Jacob S. Robinson, William H. Richardson, Christian Kribben, quoted in *ibid.*

⁵William H. Emory, "Notes of a Military Reconnaissance from Fort Leavenworth in Missouri to San Diego, California," *Executive Document 41, 30th Congress, 1st Session, House* (Washington, D. C., 1848), 53, 572. Muster rolls for August 31 to October, 1846, for companies C and K, 1st Regiment, U. S. Dragoons, are in National Archives, Washington.

accomplishing this task he was to continue his original mission to march south and join General Wool's forces at Chihuahua City. The Regiment, less the two companies of Missouri artillery and two of infantry which had accompanied it to Santa Fé, completed assembly at Val Verde on December 12th. The command was augmented by a specially selected force of 103 men from the Missouri artillery battalion, called the "Chihuahua Rangers," under command of Captain Hudson.⁶ Anticipating that the six pieces of artillery which he had requested from Santa Fé would soon join him, Doniphan started his force south in three columns on the 14th. After passing through the *Jornada del Muerto*, the command reassembled just south of Doña Ana on the 22nd. An advance party under Captain Reid had preceded the main body and on that date was encamped 13 miles south of Doña Ana.⁷

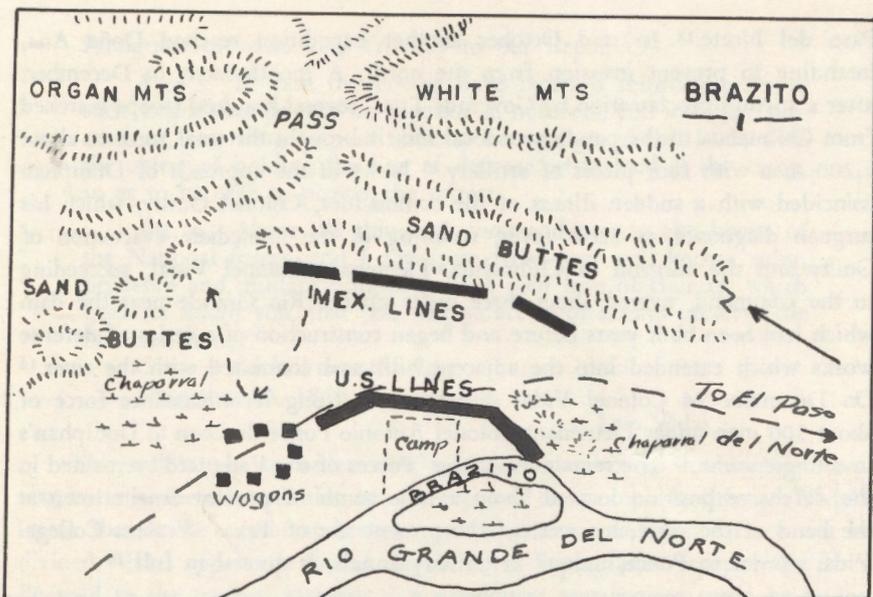
On December 24 the main body marched a mile beyond the advance party where the entire command made camp. Accounts of various participants place this camp 14 or 15 miles south of Doña Ana. That evening extra cartridges were issued and many conjectured on the possibility of being forced to fight their way into El Paso del Norte.⁸ To vague reports of the last few months concerning Mexican forces advancing north was added fresh information that a force of 700 with artillery lay in wait just north of the pass.

Christmas dawned a typical El Paso winter day, clear, slightly cool, with bright sunshine and a very light breeze. That morning Doniphan's command moved toward the pass, the men strung out for miles along the route bringing up loose animals, guarding the wagon trains which were late in starting, and some just dawdling, thinking of Christmas and family. It was not a very military formation, nor even a reasonably prudent one, for that morning the advance party had given chase to several Mexican scouts who had been discovered along the line of march. In the early afternoon, after a short march of about 12 miles, the column halted and started to make camp "at a little arm of the river at

⁶Colonel Price, 2nd Regt. Missouri Mtd. Vols., determined to open communications with General Wool, believed to be in Chihuahua, ordered Lt. Col. D. D. Mitchell, accompanied by a picked escort, to contact Wool. The order was issued at Santa Fé on Nov. 17, 1846, and the force departed about December 1. See Gibson, *op. cit.*, 279, and Connelly, *op. cit.*, 365fn.

⁷Connelly, *op. cit.*, 369.

⁸The present city of Juarez. All mention of Paso del Norte in this article refers to the Mexican town. Modern El Paso in 1846 was known only as Ponce's Ranch, that being the only settlement north of the river in that area. A few years later it was called Coontz' Ranch, then about 1851 was known as Franklin which was used concurrently with other names for some years thereafter. In the middle fifties Smithsville was also used, El Paso coming into use around 1858 and officially adopted in 1873. See Ralph P. Bieber and A. B. Bender, *Exploring Southwestern Trails* (Glendale, Calif., 1938), 305fn; Glasgow, "On the Confusion Caused by the name of El Paso," *PASS-WORD*, 1, 65. Anson Mills, *My Story* states that he suggested the name El Paso in 1859. Probably the earliest use was in the designation in 1849 of the Military Post of El Paso. See M. H. Thomlinson, *The Garrison of Fort Bliss* (El Paso, 1945).



BRAZITO BATTLEGROUND

which there was a small open level plain of grass,"⁹ by a "mesquite and willow chaparral."¹⁰ Then men scattered, searching for wood for their mess fires and watering and picketing their horses. The rear guard and most of the wagons were still on the road several miles to the north. Someone remarked on a column of dust to the south a mile or so away. A few moments later the alarm was given. Confusion reigned, some sought their mounts, some continued to carry wood, others ignored the cry, thinking it but another of the false alarms experienced the previous night. A measure of order was restored as through the dust could be seen the gaudy uniforms of the Vera Cruz Dragoons. The enemy confronted the single rank of the Missouri Volunteers.

Meanwhile, during the previous months the Mexican forces near Paso del Norte had not only been reinforced but had also made several reconnaissances to the north, obtaining fairly accurate information as to the location and strength of the American forces above Socorro, New Mexico. As early as the previous July Colonel Mauricio Ugarte marched from Chihuahua with some 380 men to assist Governor Armijo in repulsing Kearny's advance into northern New Mexico.¹¹ Reaching Socorro in late August he decided to withdraw upon learning of Kearny's occupation of Santa Fé and Armijo's flight from the country, but left an officer and a few men at Doña Ana as he withdrew to

⁹Edwards, *loc. cit.*, 228.

¹⁰Connelly, *op. cit.*, 370.

¹¹Bieber, *Marching With the Army of the West*, 45.

Paso del Norte.¹² In mid October another expedition reached Doña Ana, intending to prevent invasion from the north. A month later, in December, after a stirring proclamation by Governor Trias, several hundred troops marched from Chihuahua to the pass where local militia brought the total force to about 1,200 men with four pieces of artillery.¹³ News of the approach of Doniphan coincided with a sudden illness of the commander, Colonel Guilty, which his surgeon diagnosed as brain fever, resulting in the immediate evacuation of Guilty and the surgeon to Chihuahua. Lieutenant Colonel Vidal, succeeding to the command, moved about three miles up the Rio Grande near the dam which had been built years before and began construction of a series of defense works which extended into the adjacent hills and connected with the river.¹⁴ On December 24 Colonel Vidal dispatched a strong reconnaissance force of about 500 men under Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Ponce de Leon to Doniphan's invading column.¹⁵ The remainder of the "Forces of the Vanguard" remained in the defensive position located about a mile south of present Smelertown at the bend of the river due west of the present site of Texas Western College. Vidal's order to Ponce, unique in military annals, is quoted in full:¹⁶

Division of Operations
for New Mexico

General Commanding
The Advance Guard

Instruction under which Squadron Commander Antonio Ponce de Leon is to proceed in the military movement to be undertaken today against the forces at the town of Doña Ana.

Art. 1. The enemy shall be engaged until put to flight, or until the greatest possible advantage over it has been achieved, provided its numbers do not exceed, according to assurances, from three hundred to four hundred men.

Art. 2. Having achieved the victory, such measures shall be taken as you may judge proper, to the end that without loss of time, there may be facilitated the entry of the caravan of Mexicans and

¹²Maude McFie Bloom, *A History of the Mesilla Valley* (unpublished MS., New Mexico A. & M. College, 1903), ch. 2.

¹³Bieber, *Marching With the Army of the West*, 47. Hubert H. Bancroft, *History of the North Mexican States and Texas* (San Francisco, 1889), 605, states that a corps of 12,000 men were sent to the New Mexico frontier. This is apparently a factual or typographical error as no other account refers to a force of this size.

¹⁴Connelly, *op. cit.*, 387.

¹⁵It is not known if he was related to the Juan Maria Ponce de Leon who was granted a tract of land by the El Paso del Norte *Ayuntamiento* in 1824, comprising the present site of downtown El Paso, Texas. See Bieber and Bender, *op. cit.*, 305fn.

¹⁶F. M. Gallaher, "Official Report of the Battle at Temascalitos [Brazito]," *New Mexico Historical Review*, 111, 385.

foreigners of nationality friendly to our Republic.¹⁷

Art. 3. In case the enemy have received reinforcements to such extent that he may be superior in numbers, you will take precautions, according to your military knowledge, to fall back, with the object of holding the line of defense established at this camp, so as to be able to protect the retreat.

Art. 4. Above all things, I commend you to the honor of the National forces, and I anticipate from your well known valor, prudence and military skill, as well as your love of country, which qualities adorn you, that you will so act as to always preserve the National honor.

Camp at the hill near the dam
December 25, 1846.

Luís Vidal

This was surely an order with sufficient provisos to confuse any commander as to the exact mission he was expected to accomplish, although Vidal's intent that Ponce's command was to serve as a reconnaissance force can be divined. Vidal apparently hoped that in event Ponce failed to open the Santa Fé road to the traders' caravans,¹⁷ a subsequent engagement could be undertaken at the narrows of the gorge near the present smelter, a plan which might well have succeeded.

The following day Ponce dispatched a written report of the action of his command on December 25. It is the only Mexican account by a participant that this author has discovered and, unlike most reports of the same battle by opposing commanders, is remarkably similar to those of the American participants. It is quoted in full for its historical interest:¹⁸

Division of Operations
for New Mexico

General Commanding Forces of
The Detachment of the Advance Guard
sent against the enemy:

Yesterday, I left the place where you are located setting forth with a force of over 500 men, made up of regulars and National Guard; and a howitzer manned by twelve artillerymen, with the object of attacking the enemy and fulfilling your instructions. Today, when already on the march, I received notice from my scouts, that the enemy was found at the point of Temascalitos, and at once, while still on the march, I began to make arrangements, and with half of the troop of cavalry of the North, I put myself at

¹⁷Traders' wagons were detained by Doniphan to prevent them from supplying Mexican forces with arms and supplies. Some were owned by Mexican citizens and Englishmen, as well as Americans. Months later some did succeed in evading Doniphan as he commenced his march from Paso del Norte to Chihuahua City.

¹⁸Translated and quoted by Gallaher, *loc. cit.*, 111, 386.

the head of my force with the intention of observing the enemy closely, and taking note of his forces, the ground and the position he occupied. Having seen all at a very short distance, I had my force continue their formation in the same order they had followed, bearing to the right in order to be able to halt face to face with the hostile center, which was found already deployed on the ground perfectly forming five separate wings, three in the same line, two in the rear of these first and one [sic] which appeared to be the reserve with the wagons. My advance guard now arriving at the point which I considered necessary, I commanded a halt and face to the left, and the line of attack was formed, placing the howitzer in the center; and the seventy-five infantrymen in two groups of sharpshooters on the firing line so that half were on the right of the howitzer and half on the left. The right flank of the cavalry and of the line of battle was formed by the 2d and 3d Regiments and three sections of the North and the garrison, and the entire left by the remainder of the cavalry and the National Guard. Drawn up in the order stated, in the presence of the enemy, I shouted Victory to the glorious General Santa Ana and to my country; and finding that all my troops responded with enthusiasm and determination to the desire for combat, they led me to presage a certain victory; therefore, I ordered my line of attack to move forward in regular time; and perceiving that the entire column of cavalry on the left were failing to move, I repeated my orders to my adjutants, so that they might move with uniformity; and commanded the charge to be sounded. However, observing at that moment a certain hesitation among those who a few minutes previous had made me hope for a favorable outcome, I decided to quicken their quenched ardor, placing myself in front, I myself in advance of all; and at this action they made the first movement in unison, except the left of the Nationals; and joined at last by only three sections of the garrison troops, the fire of these companies was ragged, although all the infantry and the howitzer worked with such effect that at once four of the enemy's second line were seen to fall, besides various others among the enemy who died in the hail of fire so well sustained by the infantry and parts of the cavalry; under these circumstances, and the exposed front of the enemy in danger, I saw that the Vera Cruz dragoons were not in line and were running at full speed towards the right, where the firing did not reach, and the whole left wing of the cavalry and National Guard neither took part in the combat, but on the contrary, some of them were already running away. Under such conditions I wished to force the charge myself and to lead it in person, as in fact was undertaken; but some close volleys of the enemy and the endless number of hand grenades¹⁹ which they threw at us exactly at the most critical moment of the attack, completely disorganized the cavalry who turned tail with incredible haste, scattering themselves at long dis-

¹⁹No mention of hand grenades appears in any other account. Ponce is undoubtedly in error.

tances, and in all directions; the cavalry in general, and particularly over 150 dragoons mounted on mules, at the crackling of the grenades fled precipitately. In short, Señor Comandante, the victory which I had considered certain changed into the complete loss and dispersion of the cavalry, the action being reduced to the very brilliant and sustained defense by the infantry and artillery, who without ceasing for a moment, continued their fire with great courage, gaining ground for more than a half an hour; and finally overcome with exhaustion, and the enemy dashing upon them, they were forced to retire each one as best he could at the most dangerous moment, and to lose the howitzer, which was left spiked by the officer in charge of it. I with my aides and Captain Juan Ruiz, who was my adjutant, remained at the enemy's front until wounded by a shot which I received in the left side; and without hope of any rally, I proceeded in search of the rest of the force, and ordered Captain Rafael Carbajal to take command, in order that I, being wounded, might withdraw, again commanding him to collect the troops and to make as orderly retreat as might be possible.

I withdrew in fact with regret for the loss of the howitzer, and that there were on our side, from the various corps, some 11 killed and 17 wounded, besides the scattered troops which will be delayed in getting together; and until then it will not be possible to know how many more have perished.

I also make the request that you as Division Chief of the Detachment, will order an investigation with respect to me and my conduct in the unfortunate action of the 22d [sic]²⁰ as it touches my honor, and the pure and simple truth as to the part I took.

In reporting to you, I wish to state, that the enemy, in spite of his victory, suffered a loss equal to ours—perhaps greater.

God and Liberty
Camp near the dam

December 26, 1846
Antonio Ponce de Leon

To the Commander of the Vanguard
Lieutenant Colonel Luís Vidal.

When Doniphan reached Paso del Norte on December 27, the inhabitants informed him that Ponce and his troops had withdrawn in great disorder to the south. Vidal's order quoted above was apparently copied on January 7, 1847, from the original while Ponce was at Hacienda del Carmen [about 140 miles south of Juarez and 40 miles west of the Juarez-Chihuahua highway]. A copy of this copy and of Ponce's original report were also made at Chihuahua City and notarized on January 17, 1847. Of particular interest to this study is Ponce's statement that the Americans were found at "Los Temascalitos."

American eye-witness accounts of this battle are unique as combat action

²⁰Possibly an error in copying; should be 25th.

reports in their similarity. As the Mexican column drew opposite the Americans, the professional advice of Captain Thompson of the First Dragoons, Doniphan's aide and adviser, and the prompt action taken by all enabled the volunteers to form a single rank of skirmishers with their right [south] flank curving back slightly toward the river.²¹ Captain Reid succeeded in mounting about 16 or 20 men and placing them on the American left [north] flank. The volunteers were numbered off in files and told to hold their fire until command, then to fire alternately—the number ones firing, then the number twos while the number ones reloaded. Doniphan and the officers passed down the line speaking briefly to the men, cautioning them to hold their fire and reminding them to "Remember Okechobee," the battle in the Seminole War fought nine years before to the day.²²

Accounts differ as to the total strength of Doniphan's forces but all estimates lie between 800 and 900 men. However, most accounts agree that the effective fighting strength of the Americans was not over 500,²³ as the rear guard did not join the main body until the battle was over and many men were scattered within a mile of the battlefield. As the opposing lines formed, a Mexican officer rode forward with a black flag and demanded that the American commander meet with the Mexican commander. This was refused and, threatening no quarter, the bearer of the flag spurred back to his own lines. The Mexican lines then advanced, firing as they moved, but with little effect. The Americans held their fire until the enemy was about 150 to 100 yards away and delivered a devastating fire by volleys. Meanwhile, as the Vera Cruz Dragoons were attempting to encircle the American left, orders were given for this flank to withdraw slightly to thwart this maneuver.²⁴ The dragoons charged, were met by a volley by the entire American left, veered off to the north in some confusion, and bore down on the wagon train which lay outside the American perimeter. Again well aimed volleys drove them off

²¹Captain Philip R. Thompson, USMA 1835, 1st Dragoons, arrived in Santa Fé in Oct., 1846, and accompanied the Chihuahua Rangers as a means to join his company, one of the two of the 1st Dragoons with General Taylor's forces in Mexico. "He was consulted upon all occasions, and his opinion followed throughout." Gibson, *op. cit.*, 307.

²²An interesting sidelight on this incident from reading all accounts is the inference that Doniphan was exhorting his men to emulate the deeds of their predecessors. The contrary is true. Connelly, *op. cit.*, 589, quoting an interview with Doniphan in 1880, states that Doniphan was reminding them of the disgraceful retreat of the Missouri Volunteers nine years before. George Gilpin's address on August 10, 1847, quoted by Connelly, 595, corroborates this. Also General Zachary Taylor's report of the Missourians' conduct at Okechobee was very uncomplimentary. See T. F. Rodenbough and W. L. Haskins, *The Army of the United States* (New York, 1896), 483.

²³Gilpin, *op. cit.*, 246, writes that Doniphan stated of his total force of 856 about 500 were engaged. Edwards, *loc. cit.*, places the number engaged at 400 and Richardson, *loc. cit.*, states 400.

²⁴See sketch map, from Hughes' account as quoted in Connelly, *op. cit.*, 376, reproduced on page 7.

as Captain Reid's small mounted force in turn charged through the lines, completing the rout of the dragoons whom they pursued for a mile or so "towards a mountain gap 10 miles to the east."²⁵ By this time the entire Mexican front had wavered, stopped, and then joined in an uncontrolled flight to the east and south. Lack of sufficient mounts prevented a successful pursuit and exploitation of the debacle. The single howitzer of the Mexicans, a rather ineffectual, copper weapon firing a miscellany of metal slugs, was captured during the American counterattack. Quantities of wines, foodstuffs and various accoutrements collected by the Missourians contributed to the celebration of their Christmas victory. American estimates of Mexican losses vary from 40 to 80 killed and some 150 wounded out of a total estimated strength of 1,200.²⁶ The American casualties numbered seven wounded.

After a late start the following day the column, now thoroughly alert with adequate advance and flank guards, continued the march to the south for 15 miles where camp was made "near a small salt lake where there was a moderate supply of natural forage such as grass and rushes."²⁷ Frequent alarms disturbed the Missourians during the night as all expected another battle at the mouth of the pass.

On the 27th, at the so-called "upper ford" at the mouth of the gorge, a deputation bearing a white flag met Doniphan, assuring him there were no hostile forces in Paso del Norte and begged him to spare the lives and property of its citizens. This Doniphan informed them would be done. He proceeded down the east side of the river through heavy going in the sand hills in the rear of the present cement plant and smelter, marched through Ponce's ranch in the early afternoon, and crossed the river at a ford located approximately due west of the present Union Station. Camp was made on the south side of Paso del Norte.²⁸

²⁵Edwards, *loc. cit.*, 234.

²⁶Practically all American accounts give the Mexican strength as 1,200, apparently on the assumption that the entire Mexican force opposed them. Compare with Mexican account previously quoted.

²⁷Connelly, *op. cit.*, 379. Robinson, *loc. cit.*, describes the campsite as near a small pond of water; Edwards, *loc. cit.*, as at a small pond 15 miles from Paso del Norte at "lagunita."

²⁸The road from Santa Fé forked at the upper ford, the east branch passing through the sand hills behind the present cement plant and smelter and crossing the river either just below the site of old Hart's Mill or opposite the present Union Station. The west branch crossed the river, swung around *Sierra Cristo Rey* (then called *Muleros Mountain*) to the west and came out on the west bank of the river at the bend just downstream from the present Smelertown and thence to present Juarez. The site of the upper ford can be located today. The author restituted this location from the enlargement of the Emory map of El Paso previously mentioned as being in the possession of the Society. It is about 100 yards west of the small cement marker, No. 97, on the Texas-New Mexico boundary, which in turn lies three-quarters of a mile northwest of the small area of New Mexico east of US 80 where Tom Burchell's Hitching Post is now located. The upper crossing was favored by the early traders and travelers.

PANCHO VILLA'S GOLD

by Haldeen Braddy

In his heyday, when he controlled northern Mexico, General Francisco [Pancho] Villa officiated at many burials. He buried dead *federalistas*, dead *gringos*, and live, spendable gold.

There has never been cause to doubt that he had plenty of money. Rampaging up and down the Rio Grande, he stole family heirlooms and lifelong savings from every native and foreign-born rancher he encountered in the blood-bathed swath he cut across the state of Chihuahua. Next, he declared all American miners in Mexico to be interlopers and thus proceeded to confiscate their properties and rifle their mining companies. He got a lot of gold together—and no mistake about it! After his retirement to Rancho del Canutillo, near Parral, he returned to a house in Santa Cecilia to unearth the gold he had left hidden there under the fireplace. So much is fact. The excavation was reported as true history by his friend Elias Torres, who helped in the digging [*Life and Deeds of Pancho Villa*, page 115].

Historian Torres says there is a widespread belief, especially in the United States, that Villa interred many famous treasures, but that he does not believe it [*"Yo no participo de esa creencia"*]. Why it is, then, that Texans and other fellow Americans persist in thinking that Pancho hid many "*famosos tesoros*"?

They know, for one thing, that he possessed much more *dinero* than he dug up at Santa Cecilia for improvements on his ranch at Canutillo. A prominent El Pasoan, Mrs. Alfred Jean Abel, owns documentary records that itemize the wealth he took from her father in Mexico. Villa also stole a fortune from the Terrazas family, celebrated Spanish ranchers from Chihuahua, who now live with their descendants in El Paso and Juarez. Villa is also well remembered by the Knotts family of El Paso, for in the year 1918 Mr. A. W. Knotts paid the notorious bandit \$30,000, in gold for the ransom of his kidnapped brother, Mr. Frank Knotts. Instances of this kind could be redoubled, for nearly everybody of means suffered at the hands of Pancho Villa.

How much loot, for example, did he extract from the Chinese merchants massacred in Chihuahua City? They were thrifty merchants, the Chinese of Mexico; and so fearful of the Villista bandits who robbed banks right and left that they secreted their *pesos* in money belts tied around their middles.

Reprinted with the permission of William B. Alderman, Editor, *Texas Parade* (June, 1956), Drawer G, Capitol Station, Austin.

Influential men like the Honorable Wellington Chew, a well-known lawyer in the Border country, can tell you Villa overlooked nothing in the form of valuables when he butchered the Chinese of northern Mexico.

How much tribute did he draw from the aristocratic Spaniards whom he persecuted? I have seen a series of his letters demanding and receiving tribute from one wealthy Spanish *señor*. There were many such unfortunate *señores* among the Spanish *dons* and many more such levying letters.

Besides, what did he do with the taxes he got from gambling and prostitution when he ruled the roost in Juarez? He didn't build a fire with it. He did build El Rancho del Canutillo, to be sure; but his government retired him as a full general with an annual pension of 500,000 *pesos* and gave him the land to build on, a vast area of 25,000 acres. Everywhere one turns, the impact of his opulence is overwhelming.

Where did he get the money to buy machinery to operate his *rancho grande*? Here there is the unimpeachable testimony of his foreman—Mr. Jimmie Caldwell, now of Santa Fé, New Mexico. The fierce bandit always paid him promptly for each order of American tractors and threshing combines, Mr. Caldwell said, until the occasion of his last order of \$17,000. On this last payment Villa delayed so long that Mr. Caldwell was obliged to screw his courage to the sticking place and ask for the money. When he made his request, Villa told him that he would be paid in a day or two, as soon as he got back from a trip into the Sierra Madre. True to his promise, Villa returned to the ranch two days later and had his men unload a heavy trunk from a wagon bed into the house. There Mr. Jimmie Caldwell counted out what was owed him from a trunk filled with twenty dollar gold pieces. According to Mr. Caldwell, Villa scorned greenback, believing it to be worthless. After counting out his seventeen thousand, Mr. Caldwell started to show Villa how much he had taken, but the bandit dismissed him: "O. K.; *es nada*."

Mr. Vince Andress, a pioneer of El Paso, is another reliable witness on the subject of Villa's buried treasures. He called to mind recently how Villa once tried to sell him four wagon loads of silver ingots. Mr. Andress offered Villa, he said, twenty cents on the dollar for the lot. The rebel leader, though avaricious and anxious to get rid of the loot he had confiscated, turned down the offer and drove the wagons away. Mr. Andress is of the opinion that he buried it on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande below Fabens, Texas, and north of Villa Ahumada, Chihuahua.

What truth is in later reports? Recent statements in the press by old Villista revolutionaries about Pancho's gold are flatly contradictory. Mr. Manuel

Gonzales, of Brownsville, told the San Antonio *Light* [August 7, 1955] that the bandit spent the money on the Revolution and that "He didn't save a single penny for himself." A week later, the author Rafael Muñoz told the United Press that Villa was a "free spender, not the type to bury money." On the other hand, Dolores Vasquez, a purported nurse with Villa's army, stated to the United Press [August 6, 1955] that Pancho cached treasures at "Cinenia" [that is, the King Ranch], Corpus Christi, Robstown, Roma, and San Antonio. Since her report lacks verification, a rumor goes that her story was "planted" to advertise the current RKO movie, "The Treasure of Pancho Villa."

Does evidence still exist today to reconcile these contradictions and bring the truth to light?

Yes, indeed, it does. While Villa lay a prisoner in Mexico City in the year 1912, he signed a most interesting confession before making his escape. The document is too long to quote in full, but two statements in it possess an extraordinary relevance to the solution of the problem. In signing the prepared confession, Villa naturally tried to minimize his wealth; however, he did declare that he had buried five thousand silver *pesos* in the hills at Santa Barbara, Chihuahua. This declaration was cited in my recent book *Cock of the Walk, The Legend of Pancho Villa* as proof that Pancho Villa buried treasures in Mexico.

But that is not everything. In the same confession, I now may add, the bandit stated that he knew of other treasures in a house in Parral: "*tesoros en los subterráneos de la casa Stalford y Derquicia*" [Nellie Campobello, *Apuntes*, page 31]. That was the way Pancho remembered it in December, 1912, just before he escaped from prison.

About a month later, in January, 1913, Doroteo Arango, *alias* Pancho Villa, established a hideout in El Paso, Texas, at Second and El Paso Streets. Free after four months of imprisonment in Mexico City, he resided in a section of the City of El Paso known in the Border country as "Little Chihuahua." Here he recouped his strength and reorganized his army. Uncertain at the time about his prospects in Mexico, where he had been a political prisoner, and wary of the American banks, which sometimes failed, he had a worry on his mind about what to do with his loot. According to a local legend, he or one of his lieutenants buried the gold in a cave on Mount Franklin, which towers above El Paso. Such an act would be understandable. But the legend goes on to say that the spot where the gold was interred may be located if you look from a certain cathedral window in the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in Juarez, Mexico. This last detail, provided by folklore for the



FRANCISCO (Pancho) VILLA

This was Villa's favorite picture of himself. It was taken shortly after his capture of Ciudad Juarez.

convenience of the would-be-pro prospector, may be the straw that broke the camel's back. The unfortunate part about these directions is that they are included in a story of the Lost Padre Mine that was reported in the old *El Paso Herald* as early as 1901.

The treasure of General Villa—or some part of it—must still lie hidden in the Sierra Madre of Mexico. The only money of his known to be in Texas today are the now worthless bills stamped at the top, *Gobierno Provisional de Mexico*. I have a roll of these myself, all I ever got from my numerous investigations of the lost gold of the fabulous Pancho.

When Mr. Knotts was held for ransom, Villa would not accept paper money in payment; instead, he demanded and received \$30,000 in raw gold. In February, 1956, one of Mr. Knotts' friends, a Mr. Winne, died. Mr. Winne knew all about the transaction, and before his death told his story to the *El Paso Times*. This proves that Villa had gold and suggests that he may have had a lot of it. Did he bury the gold in Texas? He could have.

During his last years Villa feared everybody, particularly the men in his own employment. On February 17, 1916, the Mexican consulate in El Paso authorized a reward of \$10,000 in gold "*for the capture of Villa alive or the production of his corpse.*" The El Paso Times of the same date added: "Men formerly in the confidence of the outlaw chief have been approached with the offer." Suspecting that some of his men might betray him for the reward, Villa may have decided to take his fortune, or some part of it, to Texas. He would reason, correctly, that Texas was a safer hiding place for his gold than his native Mexico, where everybody had an eye on him.

Villa was a canny man when it came to money and probably would not hide all of his loot at one site. On quite a few occasions he slipped across the Rio Grande without the knowledge of his men or the authorities. The sensational theory that Villa's gold may now lie undetected in some deserted area of West Texas must remain as a tantalizing and by no means incredible possibility.



GENERAL PANCHO VILLA AND MRS. VILLA

In this picture Villa is shown during the height of his career as a military leader with his wife, Luz Corral de Villa, taken at Chihuahua City. The uniform and badge worn by Villa in the picture were purchased by American newspapermen and photographers attached to his army in appreciation of his courteous treatment of them. He never cared for the uniform, but wore it on state occasions out of respect for his American friends. Even though the trousers were too long he thought too much of the gift to have the legs cut off.

RECORD OF A LAND SURVEY IN THE JURISDICTION OF CHIHUAHUA

. *tr. by Luis Perez O.*

The owner of the manuscript herein translated, Mr. Enrique F. Flores, was born in Juarez, Mexico, but has resided in El Paso since 1917. He remembers that he was very young when his parents and grandparents owned considerable land in the state of Chihuahua. In an interview Mr. Flores stated: "My father received this document when he bought the land from some people in Cusihiuriachic, Chihuahua. He made several trips down there, but with the revolutions everything became mixed up. My grandfather died and so did his two sons who managed the land. Then the Agrarian Movement took over the land that we owned.

"It is probable," Mr. Flores continued, "that my father may have sold the land but I don't remember the transaction. Recently, while looking through my father's papers, I found this document but not the land sale papers. I saved it because of its historical interest."

Mr. Flores, who lived at 1201 Prospect Avenue, passed away on October 8, 1956.

* * *

I enjoyed translating the manuscript because I am familiar with the territory described. The town of La Concepcion is actually La Concepcion de Guerrero and is known today as Guerrero. It is located near the present city of Cuauhtemoc, Chihuahua, in one of the most fertile agricultural areas in the state. Cuauhtemoc, formerly named San Antonio de Arenales, is about nine miles from Cusihiuriachic. Many persons in El Paso are familiar with "Cusi," as it is a former mining town. Several American companies operated mines in the vicinity.

Some of the terms found in the manuscript are still heard in the speech of the natives of the mountain regions west of Cusihiuriachic. In the translation the names of cities, towns, and personages given in the manuscript have been modernized. Words such as *cacique*¹ and *audiencia*,² which have become incorporated into the English language, have been left unchanged. In checking some of the early Spanish surveys I have found that the original surveyors

¹*Cacique* is an Arawak word. It was taken by the Spaniards from Haiti to the mainland where it came to mean "chief" or "political leader." [Editor's note.]

²The *audiencia* was a high court in colonial days. If it were located in a city where there was neither a viceroy nor a captain-general, it was also the chief executive body. [Editor's note.]

used their imaginations more than their mathematics.³ For instance, the figures for the total area of the land given to the natives in this deed do not tally with the calculations.

* * *

The front cover of the document contains the following:

BOOK
OF SURVEY AND DEMARCATION
AND TITLES OF THE
LAND AND WATERS
OF THE TOWN
OF
LA CONSEPSION
IN THE JURISDICTION OF CHIHUAHUA
YEAR OF 1639

Testimony taken from the original
for the archives of said town on
the 2nd of August, of the year 1793.

Maxiamo Alizabar
Royal and Public Scribe

The first page of the document states:

Titles of land and waters
belonging to the natives of the town of
La Concepcion under the jurisdiction of
Chihuahua

Year of 1639.

The third page bears a drawing in color of the Coat of Arms of Philip IV,⁴ followed by a list of the king's titles:

Don Philip IV, by the grace of God, King of Castille, Leon, Toledo, Aragon, Valencia, Galicia, Majorca, Minorca, Gibraltar, Jaen, Jerusalem, Navarre, Granada, of the two Sicilies, Count of Barcelona, Flanders and the Tyrol.

To you: Don Lope Diez de Armendariz,⁵ Marquis of Cadereita, my Viceroy, Governor and Captain General of the New Spain⁶ and President of my

³Many early Spanish deeds marked the boundaries of land grants as "from a certain point as far as the eye can see." One historian has remarked that the Spaniards were "pretty farsighted people." [Editor's note.]

⁴Philip IV was king of Spain from 1621 to 1665. [Editor's note.]

⁵Armendariz was the sixteenth viceroy of Mexico. He was appointed on April 19, 1635 and installed in office on September 16. He served until June 24, 1640. See Hubert Howe Bancroft, *History of Mexico* (San Francisco, 1890), III, 94, 98. [Editor's note.]

⁶Mexico during the colonial period was officially named *Nueva España*. [Editor's note.]

Royal Audiencia and Chancellery established [located] in the City of Mexico. Know that on behalf of the natives of the town of La Concepcion, a very thorough and complete report has informed us that they [the natives] founded their town on land that our illustrious predecessor, Don Antonio Mendoza,⁷ Count of Tendilla, gave them in the year 1642⁸ but that they have had and now have trouble with the native owners and lords of certain lands which they claim to rent from San Isidro because certain sheep grazing on their land cause them damage and, in addition, the men have begun to cultivate certain lands which do not belong to them because they are part of the property that has always been recognized as belonging to the said town of La Concepcion. All this came about because the boundaries of their legitimate possessions were not landmarked according to law. I am bringing this to your attention, charging and ordering you, that as soon as you receive this, my decree, that you have these possessions landmarked to the four winds⁹ according to the custom in my kingdoms and dominions in New Spain, and that you give me a complete account of the outcome in order to provide whatever measure should seem necessary in accordance with the members of our Supreme Council of the Indies,¹⁰ with whom we have consulted the case. I, the King

By Order of His Majesty—Joseph Matienzo. (Signed with six signatures—rubrics—of the members of the Council.)

* * *

Inquiry—In the Name of God. Amen. Know all ye that see this letter that I, Don Vicente Gomez Lucero, *cacique* of this town of Temosachic, and Don Isabel Rodriguez Lejarza, *cacique* of the town of San Pedro, and Don Miguel Hernandez de la Cuesta, *cacique* of the town of Matachic, appear before Your Excellency and in the Holy Name of God swear: that by sight and tradition we are sure that the lands that the natives of the area and town of San Isidro now disputed have always belonged to the natives of the town of La Concepcion. And we are also sure that said natives of La Concepcion had their original legal titles, bound in a parchment booklet. These original titles were lost when the town court building burned in the past year of 1612.

⁷Mendoza was the first viceroy of Mexico. In fact, he was the first viceroy to serve in all of Spanish America. He arrived in Mexico in 1535 and served until his transfer as viceroy to Peru in 1550. It was Mendoza who commissioned Coronado to lead an expedition into the present United States in 1540. [Editor's note.]

⁸Evidently the scribe's error. The date should be 1542.

⁹That is, the four cardinal directions.

¹⁰The Council of the Indies, called in Spanish *Consejo de Indias*, was the supreme judicial, executive, and legislative body for Spanish America. It was located in Madrid. [Editor's note.]

We are also certain that said titles were signed and authorized by the Count of Tenedilla, Viceroy of these lands back in the year 1542. And, since this is the truth, we so affirm and sign in this town of Temosachic on the 20th day of March in the year of Our Lord 1639.

Isabel Rodriguez - Vicente
Gomez Lucero - Miguel Hernandez
de la Cuesta - Rafael Anchondo,
Corporation Scribe.¹¹

* * *

Decree—In the great City of Mexico, capital of New Spain, on the 12th day of the past month of July of 1639 there appeared before us, Licentiate Don Diego Lopez Lapuente y Quintanilla, who acting as attorney for the natives of the town of La Concepcion, presented a Royal Decree from His Majesty in which the King, our Lord, favors the said natives by giving them certain common lands for their use as free and legal grant and orders us to landmark properly said common lands in the four cardinal points according to the instructions of the current royal ordinances of these kingdoms of New Spain.

For the faithful execution of the royal mandate, we commissioned the chief magistrate of the jurisdiction of Chihuahua, who will faithfully oversee said surveys and measurements; he will see that the old landmarks are rebuilt, will mark the limits and in our name will give possession to said natives of said lands, giving me account of everything in order to communicate it to His Majesty in fulfillment of his Royal Decree.

The Marquis de Cadereita—
By order of his Excellency - Juan R.
Tobar Megrobedo.

* * *

Possession—In the town of La Concepcion in the jurisdiction of Chihuahua on the tenth day of the month of September of 1639, being ruler of Spain and the West Indies, the Catholic Majesty, Philip IV, and, in his royal name in this New Spain, His Excellency Don Lope Diez de Armendariz, Marquis of Cadereita—I, Captain Rodrigo Terrazas y Urueta, Chief Justice for His Majesty in this Villa de Chihuahua and on its jurisdiction, having introduced the witnesses who had identified themselves before me, Tristan de Rosete, Royal and Public Scribe, we came to this town of La Concepcion to fulfill His Majesty's Royal Decree in which he orders that certain lands be

¹¹That is, secretary of the *cabildo* or town council.

given to said town for common lands free and legal land grant. And all its people being assembled, by the ringing of the bell, I, the Scribe, read aloud His Majesty's Royal Decree. And there being no opposition, there followed the measuring of said lands in the four cardinal points as it was ordered.

And taking as the center, or starting point, the stone cross which for this purpose we erected in said cemetery of said town, we measured 6,742 Spanish yards¹² to the north extending to the place called Llano del Viejo or pastureland boundary. To the east we measured 5,613 Spanish yards which extended to Cruz de Piedra, which others call the Cruz Colorado. To the south we measured 4,972 Spanish yards which extended to the lands of Juan Martín or lands of Chipiaguachic. And finally, to the west we measured 7,426 Spanish yards which extended to the place called Apizaguaya, or Piedra de las Jaritas or Jarillas.

Said lands measure total an area of 42 parcels for cattle and 16 caballerias¹³ of land with common use of their waters, pasturelands, trees, grasslands, and the rest of their contents in said boundaries, within their legitimate possessions from which they will benefit forever and without anyone daring to prevent or obstruct them in their use.

In the same manner we grant, to said natives, the entire water rights of the river called Pasigochic insofar as the river runs from boundary to boundary in their possessions.

We immediately proceeded to give the possession of all these lands to the natives in the name of Your Majesty. The natives cut grass and threw stones to the four winds as a gesture of taking peaceful, real, and personal possession of them. Of all this we certify for everlasting record.

Don Rodrigo de Terrazas y Urueta
Juan Xolalpa, witness
Marcario Billanueva, witness.

Marin Barrera, interpreter of the
Tarahumara tongue. Before me [a
rubric] Tristan Rosete, Royal and
Public Scribe.

¹²A Spanish yard, *vara castellana*, equals 838 millimeters. An English yard equals 914.4 millimeters.

¹³*Caballeria* is a rectangle of land measuring 552 *varas castellanas* in width and 1,004 *varas castellanas* in length.

BOOK REVIEWS

JOURNEY DOWN A RAINBOW

. by J. B. Priestly and Jacquetta Hawkes

(New York: Harper, \$3.50)

The versatile and distinguished man of letters, J. B. Priestly, and his youngish wife, Jacquetta Hawkes, who is an archaeologist, came to the Southwest in the autumn of 1954 to gather material for a book. The British writers chose this locale because it was their desire to examine as close together as possible the most ancient and primitive cultures and the newest triumphs of civilization. They separated at Kansas City, she taking the high road to Albuquerque, he the low road to Dallas and Houston. She would observe in New Mexico the mesa-top villages and cliff-dwellings, the remarkable remains of primitive man and the modern Pueblos where a peaceful, sedentary people still preserve much of their ancient culture and so offer insights into prehistoric ways. Mr. Priestly would find in the rich, rapidly expanding cities of Texas the newest, most prosperous, and "progressive" in urban Western civilization, the social and cultural pattern of the mid-twentieth century. Thus, in two adjoining states and within a radius of 1,000 miles [J. Hawkes extended her observations as far as the Mesa Verde in Colorado] they would compare *homo sapiens*, ancient and modern, and bring them into one focus. They made their report in alternating chapters written in the form of letters to each other.

The co-authors' disclaimer that this is another travel book may be taken seriously; not so their protest that for all that is enduring, true and belonging to our great sunlight region they have a deepening affection. They have been patronizingly rude and pathologically critical and have returned the numerous courtesies of busy people who took time to entertain them and drive them over city streets and gravel roads by including derogatory descriptions of those same individuals in their book. In all this, Mr. Priestly is the greater offender, largely because the locale of his investigations and his personal claim to eminence, put him in closer contact with a greater number of prominent people. He was taken up and squired around by oil tycoons who took him to symphony concerts, theater-in-the-round, football games, an inauguration of a new television station, little dinners and big cocktail suppers, a faculty dinner at S.M.U., etc. His observations of these groups led him to the invention of a new set

of words to describe their victimized state, and you may read the book if you wish to get the benefit of Mr. Priestly's conclusions about modern man; they are lamentable.

But we give too much space to the annoying commentaries of J. B. P. while ignoring poor little Jacquetta, who was making her way with less impressive assistance over the Indian sites of New Mexico, Arizona and Colorado. Her first step, with Albuquerque as a base of operations, was a visit to Sandia Cave, which has given its name to the earliest known culture. A little later, admitting that she had arrived in the Southwest in "open-eyed ignorance" and concluding that "there is a vast literature on the subject," she writes of her visit to the Bandelier Monument or the ruins of Tyuonyl in El Rito de los Frijoles. Here she outclimbed her kindly companions and in the hush of twilight pondered upon whether it was indeed possible that hunting savages created a very considerable civilization here in the Southwest without a spark from the Old World. Her conclusion that if this were true then it was enormously important and her speculation that possibly she was the only person who "really understands how important it is" may give a clue to the naiveté which is displayed at times throughout her writing. When she does succeed in being impersonal, she writes very good description, as she does of the Taos Pueblo, the dance at Santo Domingo, of her appreciation of Indian crafts [weaving and pottery], and of the Shalako ceremony at the Zuñi Pueblo, which she witnessed on November 27, 1954. Many of Mrs. Priestly's [or Miss Hawkes'] conclusions will prove controversial; that the Pueblo Indians are consciously resisting the innovations of the machine age in an effort to keep alive their ancient cultures and their tribal integrity; that Christianity is a mighty thin veneer put on to placate their would-be benefactors, etc.

The reader rightly concludes that modern man comes off a poor second place in comparison with primitive man. It is a provocative book, with some good reading, some sage observations, some good conclusions, but, as any Southwesterner can detect, full of foolish flaws resulting from superficial observations.

Laura Scott Meyers

El Paso, Texas

EL PASO — THEN AND NOW

by Cleofas Calleros with Marjorie F. Graham

(El Paso: American Printing Company, 1954.)

This volume [No. VII] is the first of a series of histories of El Paso projected by El Paso's eminent historian, Cleofas Calleros. It treats of the 1890's and for that reason it is fitting that the story should be focused on the year 1896, the year of Mr. Calleros' birth. The fitness of taking his birthyear as a point of departure is that Mr. Calleros has been outstandingly the center of present-day interest in the city's past. He was the moving spirit, along with Mr. Ralph E. Seitsinger of Ysleta, in the El Paso County Centennial Celebration of 1950 which had for its object the establishment of an El Paso historical society.

This reviewer knows of no one who has done more than Mr. Calleros to preserve the lore of the accomplishments of Spain, the Indian, and the Anglo in this region. Almost alone he has kept alive the traditions of the vestigial Tigua Indians, the only primitives remaining in Texas. He is in reality their god-father.

This book treats largely of the Anglo accomplishments. Nostalgic as is its text, this and the abundance of old photographs show the life and flavor of those days of our fathers.

If Mr. Calleros, who is recovering from a heart attack, cannot finish the series, it is greatly to be hoped that the project will be completed by the El Paso Historical Society in which he has played such a prominent part, both in its organization and its history.

El Paso, Texas.

Robert M. Zingg

CONTRIBUTORS

Colonel George Ruhlen was born at Fort Rosecrans, California. He attended San Diego State College for two years before entering the United States Military Academy at West Point. Upon being graduated in 1936 he was assigned to the 82nd Field Artillery Regiment [Horse] of the 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Bliss. It was during this first tour of duty, he writes, that he became interested "in the people, limitless horizons, and fascinating lore of the border country."



COLONEL GEORGE RUHLEN

During World War II Colonel Ruhlen served as commander of the 3d Armored Field Artillery Battalion of the 9th Armored Division. Since the war he has served at the Artillery School, Fort Sill, the War College, Fort Hood, and in Japan and Korea. He is presently stationed at Governors Island, New York, as Deputy Chief of Staff [Operations] of the First Army.

Colonel Ruhlen has previously published in the now defunct *Field Artillery Journal*.

* * *

Dr. Haldeen Braddy, Professor of History at Texas Western College, was born in Fairlie, Texas. He has degrees from East Texas State College, the University of Texas and New York University. Dr. Braddy is the author of three books: *Chaucer and the French Poet Grauson*, *Glorious Incense: Fulfillment of Edgar Allen Poe* and *Cock of the Walk: Legend of Pancho Villa*; and the co-author of three: *Three Chaucer Studies*, *Reading Around the World*, and *A Book of English Literature*.



DR. HALDEEN BRADDY

In addition to his writings Dr. Braddy is also interested in folklore. He served as President of the Texas Folklore Society (1951-52), as a member of the Executive Committee of American Folklore Society (1953-54), and as Review Editor of the *Journal of American Folklore* (1945).

Luis Perez O. was born in Chihuahua, Mexico, but has lived in El Paso most of his life. He was educated in the El Paso Public Schools and received a B. A. degree in Journalism from Texas Western College in 1952.

After serving with the Army for two years, Mr. Perez worked for the El Paso *Herald-Post* and served as publicity director of the Chamber of Commerce until June, 1956. Since that date he has been in New York City attending New York Institute of Photography.

Mr. Perez has contributed photographic work to previous issues of PASS-WORD.



LUIS PEREZ O.



Laura Scott Meyers was born in Dallas and educated at Southern Methodist University. She has made her home in El Paso, however, for the past thirty years.

Mrs. Meyers is the editor of "Book Shelf" in the El Paso *Herald-Post*. She resides with her husband, Fred W. Meyers, at 2619 Savannah Street.



Dr. Robert M. Zingg, it will be remembered, is the author of the excellent two-part article "The Importance of the El Paso Area in the Conquest and Reconquest of New Mexico," in PASS-WORD, August and November, 1956.



As this issue goes to press, word has come of the death of Dr. Zingg on January 3.

HISTORICAL NOTES

A DESCRIPTION OF EL PASO IN 1859

The following description of El Paso and environs in 1859 was taken from "Parson's Progress to California: Narrative of an Overland Stage Journey from San Antonio, Texas to San Francisco, in the Spring of 1859." It was published in *The Quarterly* of the Historical Society of Southern California, Vol. XXI, Nos. 2, 3 (June-September, 1939).

The editor's introductory note states that "George F. Pierce was Bishop of the Georgia, Methodist Episcopal Church South, in 1859, when he was sent to California, taking with him his wife and daughter. These two were probably the first woman and child to make the Overland Stage trip across the continent, this being the first year of the operation for the great Butterfield Stage Line to the coast. The narrative begins at San Antonio, the eastern terminus of the San Antonio-San Diego Mail Route, whose stage they took to El Paso, Texas, where they transferred to the Butterfield Line, which carried them on through to San Francisco."

The editor adds that "the description of each town, the country in between, and the method of operation, is more graphic than any we have encountered describing the Overland Stage routes. This little known narrative is taken from the biography of Bishop Pierce, published at Sparta, Georgia, in 1888, four years after his death."

Bishop Pierce reached Fort Quitman in June, 1859. He described the place as being composed of "a few adobe houses and some rude stick tents, deep sand, and broad sunshine, as hot as I ever felt.

"After dinner we started for El Paso, with the assurance that the road was bad, and that we might travel all night. We verified both declarations.

"The sand was deep, and occasionally the rut was cut into holes of great depth, and the mere shaking of the vehicle was torturing to tired limbs.

"In the morning we reached San Elizario, an old Mexican village, with a few Pueblo Indians scattered around. Some Americans, too, have found their way out here.

"We halted for breakfast and fared very well. The host was an American and his wife a Mexican. Here, too, are gardens and orchards and fields. The sight was reviving. For production, the sole dependence is irrigation. The soil is fine—a rich alluvial. Soon we came to another village, Socorro; and

then to Isleta—all of them old Catholic stations On the Texas side the valley of the Rio Grande is narrow, and not of much value.

"We passed Fort Bliss in a cloud of dust, and soon drove into El Paso. Alighted at the only hotel in the place, glad to escape the scorching sun and to rest for a season.

"The stage from Antonio runs no further than El Paso, and we had to wait two days for 'the Overland,' as it is called. Here my *free ticket* expired, and new arrangements had to be made. We had traveled *seven hundred* miles, and had *thirteen hundred* more to go, so that a little rest was not out of order.

"El Paso, Texas, is a very small town; but El Paso in Mexico, directly opposite, is a considerable place. It is a very old town,¹ and like Mexican towns generally, is very irregular in shape. It had an air of antiquity about it that interests, and signs of dilapidation and abandonment which tell of revolution and bad government. During Santa Anna's last reign,² windows were heavily taxed, and to evade his oppression in many houses the sash were removed, and the opening walled up. I saw several habitations without a window, and with only a single door.

"The present contest between the Liberal and the Church Party³ has driven many of the best citizens into exile; some are imprisoned—and the business and prosperity of the place are much damaged.

"The valley of the Rio Grande is one of the richest and loveliest I ever saw. Here are the largest pear-trees I ever beheld. Fruit trees in general are cultivated by every housholder. The vineyards are the chief dependence for money. It was too early for grapes, but I tasted the wine and found it excellent—far superior, to my *uncultivated* taste, to most of the European brands. The vines are singularly managed. There is no frame for them to run on—no stake to uphold them. They are pruned very close every year, and the main stem becomes stout and strong, and looks like a stump, usually about two feet high. The young vines shoot out from this old stock, and are left to wave in the wind.

Wheat grows finely here. The fields are not enclosed. Irrigation is universal. There is one large canal (we would term it—The Mexicans call it *acquia*—pronounced *acokia*) with little trenches running in every direction, which forms squares; in these the water is allowed to stand still absorbed by the earth.

¹El Paso del Norte [Juarez] was exactly 200 years old when Bishop Pierce visited it. The present city was founded as the mission of Guadalupe del Paso del Norte by Friar García de Zuñiga in 1659. See Robert M. Zingg, "The Importance of the El Paso Area in the conquest and Reconquest of New Mexico," PASS-WORD, 1, 84 (August, 1956). [Editor's note.]

²The dates of Santa Anna's "last reign" were 1853 to 1855 when he left Mexico forever and went into exile at Cartagena, Columbia. [Editor's note.]

³This was the famous War of the Reform. Benito Juarez was the leader of the Liberals. [Editor's note.]

"I was much interested in the style and instrument of ploughing. A long pole, with natural or artificial prong—sometimes faced with iron at one end, a pair of oxen, with the yoke *lashed fast to the horns*; one Mexican to hold the plough, another to drive the team—constitutes the arrangement. It is a scratching operation. Nebuchadnezzar, at the end of his grazing, could have done as well with his finger-nails.

"The cathedral is a venerable building, said to be one hundred and fifty years old.⁴ It is an adobe structure, and looks like it might last another century. It is the chief building in the town—fronts the Plaza—and is conspicuous from many points of observation.

"At El Paso [Texas] I found several pleasant acquaintances. Among them Judge Hart, whose kindness I can but commemorate. He was once an officer in the U.S.A., but resigned, married, and settled near El Paso, on the banks of the Rio Grande. His location is as barren as can be found in the Union, and yet he had the forecast to see that a fabulous fortune could be made just there. He built a mill for grinding wheat, and has a monopoly of the Far West in the flour trade. Intelligent, refined, and liberal, he has made a character as well as a fortune; and, in his adobe palace, he dispenses an elegant hospitality. His house is an oasis in a desert. His polite attention and exceeding kindness to me and mine will be long remembered. He is a Catholic by education and profession, but generously proposed to aid me in building a Southern Methodist church, and in supporting a preacher."

The editor of the article interposes to state that in El Paso the Bishop "found himself in quite an embarrassment. His free ticket had given out; and all his money was in bills of exchange on San Francisco. He went to the stage office, and to his astonishment the clerk said: 'Why, Mr. Pierce; I know you.' They found that they had known each other in Warren County, Ga., when the agent drove a stage there. He relieved the Bishop's mind by telling him, he could pay his travelling expenses in San Francisco. Judge Hart, whom he mentions so gratefully, sent his carriage for him and took him to his house, where his lovely Spanish wife received him with kindest hospitality. He had him at his house, which was on the way the stage went, and ere it came the Judge went to a desk and taking ten gold eagles gave them to the Bishop, to pay his expenses by the way."

The article continues for fifteen more pages in *The Quarterly* or until the Bishop and his family arrive safely in San Francisco.

* * *

⁴The mission is not now nor has it ever been a cathedral. It was founded in December, 1659. The foundation and cornerstone were laid on April 2, 1662, and the building completed on January 15, 1688. [Editor's note.]

PERHAPS TEXAS CAN LEARN FROM MINNESOTA

According to *History News*, V. XI, No. 10 (August, 1956), "Minnesota has two laws on its books that enable county boards to appropriate funds for the support of county historical societies. One of these laws was passed in 1945, the other in 1953. The more recent law provides that a maximum tax of one-half of one mill may be levied for this purpose in all counties in the state with the exception of those three containing cities of the first class. As the years pass, county boards have increasingly made use of the law to give assistance to the work of local historical societies. Today more than thirty county societies are receiving regular annual appropriations, varying in amount from \$300. to \$1,000. Two county societies are currently receiving maximum appropriations under the law.

"Minnesotans interested in history have long pointed with pride to the fact that Minnesota is the only state in which a county historical society has been organized in each county. Of 87 county societies, approximately 70 are active and carry on valuable programs. More than 60 of these groups have museums or museum displays."



The Winona County Historical Society of Minnesota recently purchased the 96-foot Mississippi River steamer *James P. Pearson*. The steamboat will be a monument to pioneer river days and will be a nucleus for a marine museum.



Mr. Clifford L. Lord, Director of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, was recently elected President of the American Association for State and Local History. It may be remembered that Mr. Lord was quoted in the May, 1956, *PASS-WORD*. He wrote of *PASS-WORD*, "With such a handsome first issue I'm sure you will be encouraged to maintain your standards. You certainly should attract many good contributions with this kind of outlet available for their publication."

A Texan, Virginia L. Gambrell of the Dallas Historical Society, was elected a Vice President of the Association, and Dr. James H. Rodabaugh of the Ohio Historical Society, who has also been quoted in *PASS-WORD*, was elected Editor.



ATTENTION — TEACHERS OF HISTORY

The Service Center for Teachers of History, a service of the American Historical Association, began operations in July and is located at 400 A Street, S. E., Washington 3, D. C. The director is George Barr Carson, Jr., formerly a member of the department of history at the University of Chicago and editor of the *Journal of Modern History*. The Service Center has undertaken the publication of a series of pamphlets to provide summaries of research and annotated lists for the use of secondary school teachers. Inquiries should be addressed to the Center.



The Old Lincoln County Memorial Commission has published an interesting booklet by John Boylan, Custodian, entitled *The Old Lincoln County Courthouse*. It discusses such items as "Fort Stanton," "Old Lincoln County," "Billy the Kid," and "The Lincoln County War."

The Commission was created by an act of the New Mexico State Legislature in 1949. Its purpose is "to maintain the Old Lincoln County Courthouse State Monument; to create and operate an active museum at the Courthouse for the regional history of Southeast New Mexico; to conduct research in the history of Old Lincoln County; to assist wherever possible in the preservation of historic buildings in Lincoln; to acquire historic buildings and sites in the town of Lincoln; to preserve those that still stand; and to reconstruct those that were important in frontier history."



JUDGE THOMAS A. FALVEY

Mrs. Leigh White Osborn¹ has given the society some newspaper clippings which belonged to the late Miss Mabel Falvey, daughter of Judge Falvey. Among these is an "Intimate Sketch" of Judge Falvey, written at the time of his death in 1919 by Llew H. Davis.² The headline of the article reads: "Judge Falvey Tames Bad Men of Woolly West." The article follows:

¹Mrs. Osborn is the sister of Owen P. White who wrote *Out of the Desert* and other books on the Southwest.

²Llewellyn H. Davis was the mining editor of the *El Paso Times* when he wrote the sketch reprinted here. Davis was an interesting figure in the Southwest. A graduate in law from the University of Michigan, he came to El Paso in the 1880's. Later he prospected in Arizona where he was a friend of Wyatt Earp and Doc. Holliday. He returned to El Paso where he practiced law, operated a drug store and served as mining editor for the *Times*.

"The sudden death of Judge Thomas A. Falvey Saturday night was not only a shock to his family and the community, but marked the passing away of one of the most prominent and beloved members of the bar of El Paso and the state of Texas. Born in Jasper County, Texas in 1853, he grew to manhood and studied law and soon after being admitted to the bar he struck out for the then wilds of western Texas. He soon afterwards became district attorney of the largest judicial district, including Tom Green County and all the counties west of the Pecos River, including Brewster, Pecos, Jeff Davis, Presidio and El Paso, which now includes Ward, Reeves, Culberson and Hudspeth counties.

"At that time he traveled by stage from one county seat to another to attend court, presided over by the late Judge Allen Blacker, at San Angelo, Fort Stockton, Fort Davis, and Ysleta through an unsettled country subject to constant raids of Apaches, Lipans, and other savages, and infested by cattle thieves, outlaws and desperadoes who defied the law and made the life of a brave prosecuting attorney one of constant danger.

"In an incredibly short time he cleared the frontier of this element by his fearless prosecution.

"About 1880 he was elected district judge and removed with his family to Ysleta, the county seat of El Paso County, to live, later moving to El Paso upon the removal of the county seat to this city.³

"The late James P. Hague⁴ had also been district attorney of the same judicial district and used to travel over the same circuit.

"During Judge Falvey's first term as district judge, the late John M. Dean was district attorney and together they traveled through the different counties to attend court.

"In those early days the few members of the bar of El Paso used to accompany them on the long stage journeys, hundreds of miles away through the different counties, including judges W. M. Caldwell, J. A. Buckler, Allen Blacker, J. P. Hague, John Bailey, Noah Flood, and other pioneer members of the bar. At that time the nearest railroads were at San Antonio and Fort Worth. They constituted a jolly party and furnished their own amusement as they journeyed or stopped at some lone stage station for the night. Judge Falvey was the life of the party and entertained them with his inimitable wit and stories. In those days he was considered the handsomest member of the

³The county seat was moved to El Paso from Ysleta in December, 1883.

⁴For the life of Judge James P. Hague see Lillian Hague Corcoran, "He Brought the Railroads to El Paso—The Story of Judge James P. Hague," PASS-WORD, 1, 45-54 (May, 1956).

bar, his hair as black as the raven's wing and his dark eyes twinkling with mirth. Politeness was his religion and consideration for others his nature.

"While on the bench he tried some of the most important civil and criminal cases tried in the district. He displayed a marvelous acumen and ability in analyzing the evidence and applying the law to the same. Rarely were his rulings and decisions overruled or reversed by the higher courts. The jurors loved and respected him and it was their common talk on the streets that when Judge Falvey charged them it was correct. When the history of the El Paso bar is written a large part of it will be devoted to the important transactions of which Judge Falvey was a prominent participant.

"About 1892 he resigned from the bench and became a member of the legal firm of Hague, Falvey and Davis, which partnership continued until he became a member of the firm of Falvey and Davis.⁵ They at once had a large and lucrative practice, trying some of the important cases in the history of the bar. For the past few years he practiced alone, or in association with his friend, Judge Price. He was retained in many of the leading cases and his counsel was sought by a large clientage."

Another clipping presented by Mrs. Osborn includes an article by Norman M. Walker entitled "Roy Bean at Close Range."⁶ Mr. Walker quotes Judge Falvey as follows: "That man [Roy Bean] did a world of good. He was the man for the place. The rough community where he had settled would have tolerated no enforcement of the law as it was printed in the statute books. But they tolerated Bean because he was both law and equity, right and justice. He filled a place that could not have been filled by any other man. He was distinctly a creation of circumstances.

"He was in control of the situation and his control was the only one possible. His decisions were not always according to the law and the fact, but they were accepted and that was the big point. Roy Bean's part in the pioneer history of west Texas cannot be written in a page. He was what he claimed to be—the law west of the Pecos'."

⁵The new firm was very likely organized because of the death of Judge Hague in 1895.

⁶The clipping offers no information as to the paper it is from or the date, but as Roy Bean died in 1903 the clipping is very likely from a paper of that year.

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To promote and engage in research into the History, Archeology, and Natural History of West Texas, Southern New Mexico, Eastern Arizona, and Northern Mexico; to publish the important findings; and to preserve the valuable relics and monuments.