PASS-WORD



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THE BEGINNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF IRRIGATION IN THE EL PASO VALLEY

. by Alice White

Irrigation was begun in the El Paso Valley nearly three hundred years ago and has been a continuous process down to the present time. It has been the life blood of a social structure which has grown from a small nucleus of several Spanish priests and friendly Indians into the great urban and suburban communities occupying the Valley today, and its history is intricately interwoven into the political, economic, and social features of that development.

Although the Spaniards had known of this valley and were passing through its upper gateway, the Pass of the North, as early as 1581,¹ the earliest record of agriculture is found in documents covering the trial by Inquisition in 1663 of Don Bernardo López de Mendizábal, whose term as governor of the northern province of New Mexico lasted from July, 1659, to the latter part of 1661.

During the course of this trial, Mendizábal made reply to some of the charges against him of harsh treatment of the natives of the Guadalupe Mission at El Paso del Norte [Juarez]. In so doing he made the following statements:

Fray García was there attending to the establishment of a farm, and obliging even the heathen to construct a ditch for it, with great labor, from the Rio del Norte.²

Fray García came to "El Paso del Rio del Norte" in 1659 to establish a conversion among the Indians of that vicinity.³ He began immediately the construction of his mission and, since he was a long way from any source of supply, it is reasonable to assume that he lost little time in planting a garden of vegetables and a field of maize. From Mendizábal's statement regarding the construction of the ditch, it is easy to infer further that he soon engaged in raising crops on a larger scale.

There is no reliable evidence that the Indians who inhabited the valley in the vicinity of the Pass before the coming of the Spaniards were an agrarian

¹Carlos E. Castañeda, Our Catholic Heritage in Texas, 1519-1693 (Austin, Texas, 1936), 1.80.

²Charles Wilson Hackett (ed.), Historical Documents Relating to New Mexico, Nueva Vizcaya, and Approaches Thereto, to 1773 (Washington, 1937, Bandelier Collection), 111, 193, 211, 213.

^{193, 211, 213.}Anna E. Hughes, The Beginning of Spanish Settlement in the El Paso District (University of California, 1914), 305-318.

of California, 1914), 305-318.

"The Pass of the River of the North," was so named from the gap in the Organ Mountains through which the river flows. From this gap the settlement that followed the first mission established nearby received its name, "El Paso del Norte."

people; but there is at least one observation, recorded in 1626, to the effect that they definitely were not.4 It may be assumed, therefore, that irrigated farming had its beginning in the El Paso Valley with Fray García sometime between 1659 and 1661. The exact extent of Fray García's farming, however, is not known, nor is there more than an occasional reference to agriculture in the Valley until after 1680.

In that year the Pueblo Indians of the province of New Mexico, ably led by one of their own people, revolted against the Spaniards and succeeded in driving them out. The Spaniards, accompanied by a large number of natives who had remained loyal to the white man, fled southward to El Paso del Norte.5 After crossing the river they established their own camp near the mission, and the Indians who had accompanied them were settled in camps [reales] at intervals of two leagues down the river from the mission and along the left bank.6 In order to feed the refugees some effort was made to increase the farming being done around the Guadalupe mission and to enlarge and extend the mission irrigation system. However, existing records of these encampments indicate that the effort was disappointing.7

During the first two decades of their existence these settlements of Spaniards and Indians suffered distressing hardships from droughts and from sporadic raids by the hostile Apaches.8 Nevertheless they managed to survive and, in 1726, had developed agriculture in the valley to a laudable degree. This is evident from the report submitted by Brigadier General Don Pedro de Rivera who made a tour of inspection of the northern departments in 1726. He wrote:

In this same direction [that is, east of El Paso] there is a spacious valley dotted with farms where they plant wheat, corn, beans, and all kinds of vegetables, as well as a quantity of vineyards which yield fruit of superior quality to that of Parras. The natural fertility of the land is improved by the number of irrigation ditches which carry water from the said Rio del Norte, making the farms independent of drought.9

The luscious grapes grown in the Rio Grande Valley immediately below El Paso del Norte and the excellent wine and brandy made from them were

^{&#}x27;Alonso de Benavides, Memorial on New Mexico in 1626 (MS. in New York Public Library, no date), 3-4.

⁵Hubert Howe Bancroft, History of Arizona and New Mexico (San Francisco, 1889), 174

Charles Wilson Hackett and Charmion Clair Shelby, Revolt of the Pueblo Indians of New

Mexico (Albuquerque, 1942), Part 1, 215. Castañeda, op. cit., 1, 263-4. Ibid., 244-5; Hughes, op. cit., 328, 370-380; Alfred Barnaby Thomas, Forgotten Frontiers

⁽Norma, Oklahoma, 1932), 108-9.

⁸J. Manuel Espinosa, First Expedition of Vargas Into New Mexico (Albuquerque, 1940), 280.

[°]Castañeda, op. cit., 111, 233-4.

destined to be mentioned with great praise by almost every writer who visited this vicinity for more than a hundred years after Rivera's visit. In 1760 Bishop Pedro Tamarón, after a visit to El Paso, wrote a somewhat fuller description of valley agriculture. He mentioned the large irrigation ditch "which took about half the river's water," and numerous smaller canals that carried the water to the fields. He also made specific mention of the vineyards, "where excellent wines were made, better even than those of Parras in Coahuila," and it is Tamarón who gives the first account of the difficulties the inhabitants were having with the dam that diverted water from the river into the canal. Each year the dam was washed away by floods that ordinarily lasted from May until the end of July. Bishop Tamarón gave the following description of how the dam was rebuilt after each flood:

The settlers rebuild the dam in this manner. Out of willow wands and slender twigs they make large cylindrical baskets. These they fill with small stones and gravel and when the flood subsides they roll them in position.¹⁰

Three of the original camps settled by the refugees from the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, Ysleta, Socorro, and San Elizario, as well as traces of others, have survived as agricultural communities until the present. Over a period of more than two hundred years following their founding these communities developed an irrigation system which changed very little from generation to generation and the operation of which was an intimate and vital element of their social structure. Each community had its own canal or acequia which headed either directly from the river or from another canal. This main canal, usually referred to as the acequia madre or mother canal supplied numerous lateral ditches throughout its length. The operation, maintenance, and general control of these acequias and their laterals were the responsibilities of the community to which each system belonged, and the assumption of these duties was the binding force which held the people together as a social unit.

Prior to 1890 there were four leading acequias operating in that part of the valley lying along the left or American side of the river and no fewer than ten lesser systems. The history of some of these systems can be traced back without a break for more than a hundred years. The four larger systems were the Ysleta, Socorro, San Elizario, and the Salatral. All of these systems,

¹⁰ Ibid., 111, 233-4.

together with their many laterals, veined approximately thirty thousand acres of land, although it is not likely that this much land was ever under cultivation at any one time.11

Although all of these communities were founded and for nearly two centuries flourished along the right bank of the Rio Grande, they eventually found themselves situated on the left bank. This was due to an avulsion or perhaps a series of avulsions of the river prior to 1852. Consequently, since the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo following the war between the United States and Mexico, they have been American communities.12

The population of the valley on the American side, however, up to the end of the nineteenth century and longer, was preponderantly Mexican and the control of the older ditches had always been in their hands. For generations they managed their acequias under the old Spanish system in use across the river, and they were little disturbed in these usages after passing into the possession of Texas and the United States, Although Texas did not continue in force any of the Mexican laws pertaining to irrigation, it was the intent of the State Legislature in its earlier enactments upon the subject to carry out the principle of the Mexican law so as to disturb as little as possible the old customs established under that law.13

Texas Statutes at various times prescribed specific powers and limitations of the commissioners court over canals, ditches, dams, etc., owned conjointly by two or more persons, but the provisions of these statutes permitted the commissioners to recognize regulations set up by the joint owners that "are consistent with the ancient usage and the law of the state."14 Since the various communities in the valley had made their own regulations for generations, it appears to have been the policy of the commissioners, after the organization of the government of El Paso County in 1871, to encourage the continuance of that usage, and to exercise only a supervisory control over the acequias organization.

[&]quot;The location of these ditches of the El Paso Valley as they existed prior to 1891 has been determined from a study of the old petitions and ordinances on file in the Archives of El Paso County and by a comparison of such data as they offered with old acequias shown on map No. 29 of the United States Boundary Survey of 1852 (Department of State Proceedings of the International (Water) Boundary Commission, United States and Mexico, 1, 100, hereafter cited as Proceedings), and with a blueprint of the canals and ditches of the El Paso Valley prepared in 1914 by Herbert E. Yeo, former State Engineer for New Mexico. See Yeo, Report on Irrigation in the Rio Grande Basin in Texas above Ft. Quitman and in New Mexico 1907, 1920, and 1928, 1, No. 2, 248. The history of the acequias is taken from Yeo. 111. No. 3, 18-32. is taken from Yeo, 111, No. 3, 18-32.

Anson Mills to the Secretary of State, December 10, 1888, in *Proceedings*, 11, 394-5. Also

¹⁸ A. Hutchins, "The Community Acequia: Its Origin and Development," in the Southwestern Historical Quarterly, XXXI (January, 1928), 266-269.

14 O. A. Critchett (compiler), Abstract of the Laws of the Several States and Territories on Irrigation and Water Rights (Washington, 1893), 166.

For a number of years after the formation of El Paso County the business of the *acequias* in some of these communities continued to be conducted in Spanish and the records were kept in that language. As a result Spanish designations for the various *acequia* officials and for the different physical and mechanical features of the irrigation system persisted in many of the communities until after the Reclamation Service took charge in 1914.¹⁵ Indeed, some of the terms are still in use by the farmers of the valley.

The election of the acequia officials under the old system was usually accomplished at a mass meeting of the water users of a particular community. At the same time a committee would be selected to draw up a set of regulations governing the operation and maintenance of the acequia, fixing water rates, apportioning the community work to be done on the acequia system, and other matters pertaining to the management and control of the system.

The officers elected were usually a chief overseer or alcalde mayor and an assistant overseer or subalcalde. Sometimes two subalcaldes would be elected or appointed. It was the duty of the alcalde mayor to supervise the operation and maintenance of the canal, regulate the distribution of water, and look after the general business of the system. The subalcalde usually was designated by the alcalde mayor as the water distributor or repartidor. If there were two subalcaldes, one might be appointed to supervise repairs and maintenance or such other work as the alcalde mayor might assign him.

Cleaning out the canals and ditches and repairing them, construction of diversion dams, gates, outlet boxes, flumes, etc., or the construction of extensions of the acequia was the responsibility of the water users; and it was the duty of the alcalde mayor to distribute such work among them according to their individual use of the water and the amount of land watered. The actual manner of apportioning the work on the acequia varied among the different communities, but in general each user was required to do a prescribed amount of work on the irrigation system in accordance with the number of hours required to water all of his fields at one watering, or in accordance with the number of acres which he had to water.

According to the rules adopted by the Socorro community in 1887 a farmer who needed sixty hours to water his fields at one watering was required to do sixty days of work on the canal during the year. This was called a full fatiga. This did not mean that a man was required to irrigate for sixty hours each time it came his turn to receive water but that for sixty days of work each

¹⁰This is attested to by numerous original manuscript documents in Spanish from these communities in the Archives of El Paso County, many of them being drafts of the *acequia* ordinances submitted by the various communities for the approval of the commissioner court, and petition on a variety of matters.

year he was entitled to irrigate as much land throughout the season and as often as necessary as could be covered in sixty hours. The rules also stipulated that the sixty hours would be divided among his crops as follows: twenty-four hours for wheat, twenty-four hours for corn, six hours for garden, and six hours for beans. He was also entitled to all the water needed for his stock and for domestic purposes.

A half fatiga required a man to do thirty days of work on the acequia and entitled him to thirty hours of water in his turn. His water was divided among his crops in the same manner proportionately as for a full fatiga; that is, he was allowed twelve hours for his wheat, twelve hours for corn, three hours for his garden, and three hours for beans. He was also entitled to water for his stock and domestic purposes.

A fifteen day fatiga, that is, that part of a full fatiga calling for fifteen days work a year on the acequia, entitled the user to all the water he needed for his stock and for domestic purposes only. A ten day fatiga entitled the user to water for domestic purposes and for his animals not to exceed ten in number. A five day fatiga entitled the user to water for domestic purposes only. It was the duty of the alcalde mayor to see that each man did his full number of days of fatigue each year or pay seventy-five cents a day in lieu of a day's work.¹⁶

Other communities used a modification of the fatiga system known as the tarea system. Under this system a water user was awarded so many tareas or "tasks" on the canal in accordance with the number of acres irrigated by him. A tarea in some communities was the work done on a section of the canal equal to its width, or as agreed, to certain multiples of its width. If a canal was eight feet wide, the work necessary to repair a section measuring eight or sixteen or thirty-two feet long constituted a tarea. The number of tareas assigned to each user was based on the ratio of the number of acres irrigated from the acequia to the length of the canal. In other words, if an acequia eight feet wide and eight thousand feet long watered two hundred acres, the rate for each acre watered would be the work needed to be done on a section of the canal forty feet long, which was one tarea.¹⁷

The San Elizario ordinances, on the other hand, defined a tarea as a reasonable day's work and worth not less than fifty cents. A water user was assessed one tarea per acre for his water. The ordinance also provided that

Ordinance for the Town of Socorro Governing the Distribution of Water, Fatigas, Regulations, etc., February 1, 1887. Manuscript Document in the Archives of El Paso County.
 Ordinance of Clint, February 10, 1896. Manuscript Document in Archives of El Paso County.

water should be free to the old and disabled and for household purposes and small gardens. ¹⁸ Each system had its merits as well as it faults; but the water users under either were accustomed to it and seldom voiced any complaint against the system itself so long as it was administered fairly and equitably.

One of the unusual features of these old acequia systems, which was to cause a little difficulty later, was that the community did not own the canal right-of-way or the right-of-way for any of the lateral ditches. When it became necessary to build a community ditch the owners of the land through which it was to pass merely permitted the community to use as much of the land as was needed. Sometimes when it was difficult to obtain this permission the community would obtain the services of three disinterested appraisers, or the commissioners would appoint them, who would determine the amount of damages suffered by each objecting landowner over whose land the canal crossed. The landowner then received out of the acequia fund whatever amount this board of appraisers allowed and the canal would be built without further obstructions. Should the canal or any part of it cease to be used, the land in that case reverted to its original owner.¹⁹

There was no attempt to regulate the crops a farmer might plant on his land but wheat and corn were the principal ones and took preference over other crops in the distribution of water. Other important crops were grapes, peas, beans, and onions. Alfalfa is said to have been introduced in 1849 by James Wiley Magoffin,²⁰ but it did not become a principal crop until 1900. In addition to the grapes a variety of other fruits were produced, such as peaches, pears, apricots, apples, quinces, and figs. None of these, however, was produced in very large quantities except grapes and most of the crops were either consumed locally or allowed to go to waste. The grapes, on the other hand, were an important commercial item. Some fresh grapes and large quantities of raisins were shipped and a considerable amount of wine was made and sold. In 1897 the Bartlett pear was introduced to supplant the inferior Mexican pear and within a few years several large orchards were in production.²¹

Periods of drought were not uncommon in the valley before 1890, nor were periods of damaging floods. After 1900, however, the steady diminution of the water supply in the river was no longer the result of occasional climatic conditions but rather the direct result of a heavy use of the water by farmers farther up the stream, in New Mexico and Colorado.

August 9, 1897.

¹⁸San Elizario Ditch Ordinance, No. 10, November 11, 1895. Manuscript Documents in the Archives of El Paso County.

³⁹Yeo, op. cit., 111, No. 3, 2. ³⁰The City and County of El Paso, Its Resources and Advantages (El Paso: Times Publishing Co., 1886), 26. ³¹Texas Almanac, 1859, 1866, 1873. Also The Monday Morning Graphic (El Paso, Texas),

Conditions grew steadily worse for the valley farmers and various frantic efforts to solve the water problem were made of which an attempt to build a main canal on the American side to be known as the Franklin Canal project was probably the most expensive and the least profitable in the long run. Beginning about 1901, however, a new experiment was undertaken which for a while showed some promise of success and probably would have tided over the farmers while the problem of building a large storage dam across the river, either at El Paso or farther upstream, was being settled, had it been within the means of the small landowners.

The impression had been created that there was an inexhaustible supply of water underlying the El Paso Valley which, by sinking wells, could be pumped to the surface in sufficient quantities to irrigate every acre of land in the valley.²² One of the earlier and most enthusiastic experimenters in this method of irrigation was J. A. Smith, owner of a large farm about six miles east of El Paso and manager of the El Paso Dairy Company. On his own farm Smith dug a well and installed a small pumping plant, and on the El Paso Dairy Company farm he installed a larger plant capable of irrigating one hundred acres. That was in 1902.²³ By the end of the year a half dozen farmers below El Paso had followed Mr. Smith's example, and it seemed to be the general opinion that the irrigation problem for the El Paso Valley was definitely solved if only the farmers could be persuaded to invest in the necessary machinery and begin pumping.

Assuming that there had been an inexhaustible supply of water beneath the valley floor, there still remained one large drawback to the project—it was not for Juan Fulano. He might stand and admire the abundant supply flowing from the El Paso Dairy Company's well and marvel at its expensive pumping plant. Or he might look wistfully upon another farmer's smaller plant. But neither the one nor the other was within reach of this man who was accustomed to trading a day of work for enough water to irrigate an acre of beans. The story was told of one enterprising and ingenious Mexican farmer who dug a well twenty feet in diameter and twenty feet deep and cased it with wood. From this well he lifted with a homemade, horse-powered, chain pump enough water to irrigate about five acres a day. With twenty such outfits he might have been able to compete with the El Paso Dairy Company's expensive machinery.²⁴ It was a heroic effort with but small returns and to

²⁸El Paso *Herald*, June 30, 1902; September 23, 1902; October 12, 1902: Industrial and Investment Edition, May, 1903.

²⁸ Ibid., June 28, 1902; November 4, 1902.

²⁴ Ibid., June 30, 1902.

Juan Fulano, who was not so mechanically endowed, it had little appeal. He and his brethren began forsaking their farms by the familiar acequias to find jobs elsewhere at seventy-five cents a day.²⁵

American and German-American farmers began to replace the departing Mexicans, and some of them by 1902 had put in pumping plants. They were not coming in nearly so rapidly, however, as the Mexicans were leaving, and in another ten years hardly twelve thousand acres were in cultivation in the valley out of the thirty-five thousand acres or more that were under ditch and waiting for water.²⁶

This was a period of transition in the El Paso Valley. The old community ditch system was coming to an end and a new order was about to begin. Many of the old ditches that had carried water to the fields for a hundred years or longer would continue to carry water to the same acres; but the days of the alcalde mayor and the repartidor with their systems of fatigas and tareas would soon be ended. The new order would bring prosperity to the valley some day but not to Juan Fulano. His little fields of wheat and corn, his vineyards and garden, and his patch of beans would give way to large fields of alfalfa and orchards of Bartlett pears, and these in turn would give way to vast acres of cotton. Before another fifty years should pass most of the small farms would become consolidated into huge agricultural enterprises capable of cultivating more soil in one day with their powerful and expensive machinery than the farmers of the old order could till in a season.

²⁶Proceedings, 11, 366. El Paso Herald (Industrial and Investment Edition), May, 1903. ²⁶Yeo, op. cit., 111, No. 3, 18-32. (Listing acreage under cultivation under each ditch.)

SIMEON HARRISON NEWMAN— THE FIGHTING EDITOR OF THE LONE STAR by John J. Middagh



S. H. NEWMAN, Publisher

Probably the most belligerent newspaperman to appear on the El Paso newspaper front in the years prior to 1900 was Simeon Harrison Newman. Irascible and acerbic, he was the editor of The Lone Star from its first issue, October 12, 1881, through most of its existence, until it ceased publication on January 6, 1886. He took on all comers, from the editors of the Herald and Times to the leading political and business figures of the growing city of El Paso. Probably his favorite foe was the Times and its editors but he could always spare a moment for any who disagreed with

him or who was conducting himself in a manner which he thought was to the detriment of El Paso's progress.

Newman was born on January 12, 1846, in Richmond, Madison County, Kentucky. He first visited El Paso in November, 1876, "when the town consisted of adobe houses around what is now Pioneer Plaza [Little] and extending down El Paso Street in almost a continuous row on both sides of the street to where afterwards was built Myar's Opera House."

^{&#}x27;Biographical sketch of S. H. Newman, dated January 12, 1906, now in the possession of Newman's son, Lee Newman of El Paso. The sketch was never finished. Newman took thirty-four close-written pages to tell the story of his life to young manhood before he moved West. The MS. is a detailed account of his early years. Had he finished it, the MS. would have been a treasure of history of early El Paso, because of the detail with which Newman wrote. Lee Newman says his father "just got tired" and never finished his memoirs.

^aFrom another MS.—this one undated—also owned by Lee Newman. He says that he does not know when his father wrote it. It contains a full description of the town and of some of the early citizens. S. H. Newman makes an interesting reference to another early newspaper of the Southwest when he says that the latest news at that time was brought to El Paso "by the Stockton Telegraph, a little three-column paper published by a soldier at Fort Stockton, to which point the U.S. had a military telegraph line." Inserted above these last words, in the manuscript, is the phrase: "Afterwards '34' Plant."

Newman returned to New Mexico following his visit here in 1876 and in 1878, at Mesilla, started publishing a political campaign paper, El Democrata, in Spanish. So successful was he that his paper was credited with being a big factor in a Democratic election victory that year, the first time Doña Ana County went Democratic. The Democrats won by thirty-four votes. In honor of this feat, Newman moved to Las Cruces and established Thirty-Four, an English-language paper which he published until he moved to El Paso.

The year 1881 was a year of transition in El Paso. With the coming of the railroads in May of that year and the subsequent growth, many eyes turned to the town at the Pass. Newman's eyes were among those which looked towards the booming town. Legend and some newspaper stories in recent years tell that a group of El Paso businessmen offered Newman \$1,000 to move his Thirty-Four to El Paso. Lee Newman says he never heard this story from his father, but that such a promise might have been made. However, he says, he is almost sure that the promise was not kept because he heard his father speak of early tribulations in getting the newspaper under way.

Nevertheless, the Newman paper, its name changed to *The Lone Star* in honor of his new Texan allegiance, began operating here on October 12, 1881. Charles Shannon, a miner and rancher, was Newman's partner in the paper and provided the financial backing.³

The Lone Star appeared on December 16, 1882, as a seven-column newspaper. In a statement on Page Two, the proprietors explained that

The Lone Star appears today as a seven-column paper, and still the advertising columns have so encroached upon the reading matter that we find the paper entirely too small to meet the demand. We cannot publish a larger paper on our press, but are now figuring on the purchase of a five cylinder press large enough to print a nine-column sheet.

The Lone Star was a four-page newspaper published on Wednesdays and Saturdays. Its subscription rates were \$5. a year; \$2.75 for six months; sixty cents a month. Single copies sold for ten cents. Its advertising rates were \$2 an inch for the first insertion and \$1 an inch for each subsequent insertion.

^{*}El Paso Public Library's bound volume of The Lone Star starts with the issue of December 16, 1882. The proprietors are listed as "Newman & Shannon." The volume contains a sheet of stationery from the office of the late Dr. S. H. Newman of El Paso, another son of Editor Newman. Dr. Newman wrote that his father published "34" in Las Cruces from December 18, 1878, to June 23, 1880. "At that time, just before the advent of the railroad to El Paso, it was moved to the latter town [El Paso] and its name changed to The Lone Star," Dr. Newman stated. A look into the files of the paper show that the doctor was mistaken. In his good-bye to readers in the final issue, January 6, 1886, Newman wrote that "it is now more than four years and three months since the first number of The Lone Star was published in El Paso," which places the date in October, 1881, not 1880 as Dr. Newman believed.

The paper was well-patronized by the advertisers, as Newman claimed in his notice of increase in size to seven columns. Of the twenty-eight columns, an average of eighteen or nineteen were devoted to advertisements. Page One always carried four or five columns of ads, with columns on "General News," "State News," or "New Mexico Notes," filling out the rest of the page. Page Two contained "readers," a combination of editorial and news matter which was the meat of the newspaper. "Latest News," or clippings from exchange papers [in absence of telegraph news], filled out the three columns not devoted to advertising on the second page. Pages Three and Four were largely devoted to advertisements, except for a "Locals" column and a column on "Mining Notes."

It was a well-printed newspaper, with comparatively few typographical errors. It was well-written, albeit bitter in tone. The readers of today's newspapers would find it difficult to separate the news stories from the editorials because, in *The Lone Star* style, there were no headlines as in today's papers. The paper was published in the tradition of "personal journalism" harking back to Greeley and Bennett, where the editor had his personal following, and his comments on the day's happenings were the reason people bought his newspaper. The news which the editor thought should receive good play was handled fully. The news which went against what he believed, tended to be slighted. The opposing political party or group, for example, could expect little mercy at Newman's hands when he laid about him with his editorial weapons. The same went for any opposition editor who chanced to get into an editorial argument with *The Lone Star*.

Perhaps Newman's fighting methods can be illustrated by recounting one imbroglio in which Richard J. Hinton, editor of *The El Paso Times*, was his opponent. The July 11, 1883, issue of *The Lone Star* carried a story of the killing of a policeman, Tom Mode, in a sporting house shooting scrape. Mode was shot when he attempted to keep Howard Doughty, a visiting tough, from abusing the inhabitants of one of the houses. This story started a trend of events which ended shortly with the departure from El Paso of the *Times* editor because of the stand he took in his paper on the action of Nicolas Biddle, young *Lone Star* reporter, who was present when the killing took place.

According to The Lone Star's account of the killing, young Biddle, Doughty and three others—Dr. J. Mears, W. O. Burt, and George Horn—visited the National Theater where Doughty became drunk and insulted the actors. To quiet him the party left the theater and repaired to the "Mansard Roof," where Doughty again became obstreperous. He broke a door panel with his pistol and raised such a commotion that his companions took him on to "No. 19,"

another house of ill repute. Here Doughty continued his trouble-making until the madam called the officers. Mode and another officer answered the call and ordered the group to come outside. Doughty remained in the house and Mode went in after him, leaving Biddle and the other men with the other officer.

Those outside heard several shots. When they got into the house, Doughty had fled, leaving Mode on the floor with bullet wounds in the chest. He died a few minutes later, despite Dr. Mears' efforts to save him. Biddle and the others gave themselves up to the officers.

The next issue of *The Lone Star*, on July 14, told of the examining trial of the four and of how Biddle had been released on \$1,000 bail. Horn and Burt were bound over on \$3,000 bail each. No mention was made of Dr. Mears. [The doctor was described elsewhere in the paper as being in El Paso at the time for his health.]

During these days of excitement, Editor Hinton of the *Times* was attempting to link young Biddle with the murder, according to Newman's stories in *The Lone Star*. He thus came under the fire of Newman, to the extent that on July 25 the latter wrote a bitter editorial, headed "A Moral Assassin:"

We have for several weeks been possessed of some interesting facts in the history of Richard J. Hinton, the editor of the Times of this city, but have hitherto forborne to make any public use of them, preferring not to use our journal for the venting of personal spites. But since the self-styled "colonel" has seen fit to use his position to malign, villify, and persecute an employe of this office, forbearance has ceased to be a virtue with us and we propose now to cry havoc and let slip the dogs of war. As for our object, it will be sufficient for our present purpose to state that we consider the rights of American citizens to be in jeopardy in any community where the mighty engine of the press is under the direction and control of such moral assassins as the man who during the progress of the legal investigation not simply perverted the truth but added direct and malicious falsehood to his report of every circumstance connected with the unfortunate death of Thomas Mode, in order to avenge himself upon an innocent youth who was personally obnoxious to him and whom he had not the manhood to call to a personal account for any grievance real or fancied. We believe truly that the lying villain who penned the editorial entitled "Murder of Mode" which appeared in the daily Times of July 12th, the 4th paragraph on the editorial page the following day, the perversion during the progress of the investigation, and the malicious lies the paper constantly presented its reader in order to cast reproach upon the name of Nicolas Biddle would, but for the fear of prosecution of perjury, have gladly placed himself on the

witness stand, have gladly sworn away the life of an innocent man. This cowardly assassin of character is more dangerous than the man who sped the bullet to Mode's heart. The latter had the frenzy of drink to drive him to the deed; while the former gray haired old sinner, with no other incentive than a cowardly hatred for an unfortunate boy, deliberately and coolly seats himself in his secure office and, with lies and malicious perversions of the truth, endeavors to inflame public passion against a private enemy in order to accomplish what he himself is too cowardly to attempt. These are bitter words, and no one knows better than the writer their true import; but they are true, and in the next and succeeding issues of our paper we propose to prove them.

When Newman spoke of the "true import" of the words he wrote he was, of course, referring to libel. In that editorial he libeled a man as completely as one man can libel another—unless he could convince a jury, in case of suit, that what he wrote was true. The fact that Hinton never sued for libel, and that he left town in a few days, as it developed, indicates that Newman knew what he was talking about, or that Hinton thought that he knew what he was talking about.

The next issue of *The Lone Star*, July 28, told of the freeing of young Biddle in "just thirty seconds." According to an editorial titled "Just Thirty Seconds," Newman told how District Judge T. A. Falvey discharged the prisoner after only a few words with the defense and prosecuting attorneys. Admitting that he had "no excuses to offer for Mr. Biddle's connection with the scenes that led to the murder of Mode," Newman wrote that nevertheless, Biddle

is an inexperienced youth and is not expected to possess as much discretion as "Colonel" Hinton, who has set himself up in this community as a social criterion and endeavored to reform society while at the same time associating in public theaters and other places with prostitutes. Nor would he [Biddle] have received at the hands of the *Times* the attention he did receive, but for the fact of his connection with this paper.

Newman ended the editorial with the statement that he was going to rid El Paso of this "dangerous man [Hinton]—dangerous on account of the position he occupies as editor of a paper." Newman said he had called Hinton a moral assassin for a purpose and that, starting next week, he would present evidence in *The Lone Star* of the truth of that charge. "We are going at it systematically," he wrote, "and in order to make our point it has been necessary to publish this article first. Next week we will give a chapter from the 'colonel's' Washington City record."

By "next week," however, Hinton had capitulated. The August 1, 1883, Lone Star said merely that "the 'colonel' will leave El Paso as soon as somebody will take his place on the Times." In the next issue, Newman wrote: "That was a sorry day for the 'colonel' when he declared war against The Lone Star. The 'colonel' has stepped down and out and our fight against him consequently ceases. The 'colonel' is down. We never strike a man when he's down. Consequently those letters remain unpublished." With that, Newman let the matter drop. "Those letters" never saw the printed page and the reader is left to wonder on the interesting background of Hinton, who left little other impression on the newspaper pages of El Paso than this brush with his antagonist of The Lone Star.

In his politics Newman was a Democrat and he carried his fighting tendencies into the political arena. In the city election of August, 1883, Newman supported Joseph Magoffin for mayor against a field which included Captain J. H. Bate, one of the officials of the Times. Magoffin won, to the high delight of The Lone Star, and Newman didn't let the Times forget who won or who backed and fought for the winning candidate. For many issues following the election Newman kept referring to "the Times newspaper ring" and to El Paso's great good fortune that "Hagueism" had been "snowed under." Hague,* a friend of the Times, was another candidate Newman had attacked during the campaign.

It was during this campaign that another newspaper appeared in El Paso. Called The Rescue, it was started as a political paper and was printed in The Lone Star's shop. That was its only connection with that paper, Newman was quick to point out in his August 8 issue. "The editor of The Lone Star," Newman wrote, "desires to announce to the people of El Paso that he is in no way responsible for the utterances of the campaign paper The Rescue. It is published at this office as a piece of job work...". The Rescue was continued for a week after the election by J. M. Scanlan, in an effort to give El Paso another paper, but "it died a natural death for lack of proper support" on August 23, 1883, a story in The Lone Star said.

Life for Newman was rather quiet after the departure from El Paso of 'Colonel' Hinton but in September, 1883, things started picking up, and The Lone Star pages again became a battleground when Newman started after the new editor of the Times, Sydney Shaw-Eady. He plagued Shaw-Eady, kidded him about his handling of news stories, and of his method of sending news releases to the Associated Press, until on September 29, 1883, The Lone

^{*}James P. Hague. See his story written by his daughter, Lillian Hague Corcoran, "He Brought the Railroads to El Paso—The Story of Judge James P. Hague," in PASS-WORD, V. 1, No. 2 (May, 1956), 45-54. (Editor's note.)

Star carried a note to the effect that Shaw-Eady had stepped down as manager and editor, to be succeeded editorially by S. C. Slade, managerially by Captain Bate. The item also said that "Mr. Hawkins, local editor, resigns in favor of Juan Hart."4

In an editorial of September 8, 1883, entitled "The Reason Why," Newman stated his credo for an editor. The editorial was in answer to the questions of some El Pasoans on why The Lone Star did not become a daily newspaper. Newman explained that in his opinion there was not enough business in the city to justify another daily paper and that, despite the fact that the advertising lineage in The Lone Star exceeded that of the Times, he had "received less for our services than any clerk who works for the individual interest of his employer." He continued to fight the idea of a daily paper until he suspended The Lone Star.

According to Newman,

There is no man on earth so poorly paid for his services as an editor of the local paper. He occupies an important place in the community, is expected to risk his health, his fortune, if he has any, and even his personal safety for the benefit of his patrons and generally ekes out a precarious subsistence by working all day and half of the night and spending half of the remaining hours begging for credit. The only person who fails to make money out of a local paper is the editor.5

Later, Newman had to admit that there were many who did not agree with his lugubrious financial approach to the editorial profession. He called attention in an editorial, "With Malice Towards None," of several new newspaper enterprises starting in El Paso. He wrote:

From the number of newspaper enterprises being inaugurated in this vicinity at present, one would naturally be led to conclude that the newspaper business is a most profitable one and that the old established journals of this city have already accumulated such stores of wealth as to become the envy of aspiring journalists. The International Review, the Times, Progress, and Leisure Moments are just starting into existence, and the Herald and The Lone Star are expected to welcome all and afford them every facility for appropriating unto themselves a share of the patronage upon which the two older papers are ekeing out a precarious existence. This certainly is expecting too much.... The expressions of such views may sound to some like the outpourings of journalistic jealousy, but such is not the case. The Lone Star entertains no such feelings, but it knows that El Paso is not a good newspaper field and that the established papers are not making enough money to justify them in giving up any of their patronage.6

⁴Juan Hart was the son of Simeon P. Hart. ⁵The Lone Star, September 8, 1883. ⁶Ibid., March 5, 1884.

The inclusion of the *Times* in the list of papers "just starting into existence" is a strange bit of editorial reasoning on Newman's part, since the *Times* had been published in El Paso longer than *The Lone Star*. The only reasoning Newman could have followed in alluding to his competitor as a johnny-comelately to the publishing field, in comparison with his newspaper, was that *The Lone Star's* ancestor, *Thirty-Four*, had been established in 1878. The fact that the *Times* had the temerity to publish as a daily newspaper at this time also might explain a part of Newman's aversion towards his competitor.

Be that as it may, Newman was essentially a crusader and a fearless, courageous man.⁷ He did not let the advertising columns of his newspaper interfere with the editorial policy of *The Lone Star* and that contributed to the fact that the newspaper was forced to suspend, despite its fighting qualities which were always dedicated to battle for the good of El Paso—as Newman saw it.

It was at this time that the *Herald* replaced the *Times* as Newman's chief editorial target. Two reasons are apparent for this change. First, Newman never forgave the *Herald* for what he termed its "unbusinesslike" approach to the City printing bids.⁸ Second, a change of management on the *Times* had placed S. C. Slade in command as editor and Newman had an evident liking for Slade, as is shown in a series of stories which appeared in the April, 1884, issues of *The Lone Star*. These stories, incidentally, finally led to indictment against Newman for libel, some months later.

The stories arose out of circumstances leading to the trial of H. H. Doughty, the killer of Officer Tom Mode. Newman was among those El Pasoans who thought the murder trial should be moved from El Paso on a change of venue because of local feeling concerning the murder. In the issue of April 23, 1884, in a column titled "A Damnable Conspiracy," Newman told of the efforts of a group of citizens to thwart the change of venue. The group had signed an affidavit calling on the court to refuse the move. The affidavit contained a statement which infuriated Newman. This statement attacked Newman's reasons for wanting the change of venue and alleged that he had not mingled "enough [with the people] to be able to judge public opinion." Newman had backed the venue change on the grounds that public opinion was too inflamed to allow a fair trial. His opponents said that he really sought the change because he had always sought to protect Doughty.

Interview with the late Maury Kemp, prominent El Paso lawyer from the early 1900's until the present. Mr. Kemp knew Newman well, from personal acquaintance in his youth and from reputation.

Newman had placed a bid for the City printing and when it was given to the *Herald* he believed that he had been cheated for personal reasons.

Doughty was granted a change of venue to Alpine where he was acquitted.

The affidavit further stated that Newman "has a great many personal enemies in this county" and "that there exists a considerable prejudice against said Newman in this county."

Newman was quick to admit that he had many enemies in El Paso but he wrathfully argued the falsity of the charge that he mingled little with the people of El Paso to know their attitudes. He took this as a reflection on his work as a news gatherer in his own town. For the next several weeks Newman filled his newspaper with sarcastic statements, almost to the exclusion of other news or editorial matter, directed at the signers of the affidavit,

This continuation of abuse, heaped on the head of any one who opposed him, was sure to set trouble on the trail of Newman. On October 22, 1884, trouble caught up with him. He was indicted for libel, the County Grand Jury finding that there was evidence of libel in remarks he printed on October 15. Newman beat this case. It never came to trial and was dismissed in the County Court on December 8, 1884, without explanation. 10 Unfortunately for Newman, this case was only the first of a series of suits which were to harass the fighting editor. On November 12, 1884, three more libel cases were filed against him.11 These cases lay on the court records for a year before they were finally dismissed—on November 13, 1885. The notation of dismissal says there was "no evidence accessible to the State to warrant a conviction."

A more likely reason for the dismissal of the cases is the fact that Newman and The Lone Star were struggling in hard times. To explain these reversals in fortune, we must return to November, 1884. In the issue of November 1, 1884, Newman printed a notice that on that day the business department of The Lone Star had been leased to John F. Edwards and James Kibbee and that editorial direction of the paper would pass to them with the issue of November 8.

Edwards and Kibbee kept the paper only two months before they had to return it to Newman. In that time they attempted to put out a daily paper, El Paso Morning Star, 12 but failed and on January 14, 1885, Newman again took over.

Perhaps Newman was slowing down, or perhaps the libel suits, which were still pending, had something to do with it, but The Lone Star of the

¹⁰Book One, Minutes of the County Court, El Paso County, 199-200.
¹¹These were charges of criminal libel, which meant that Newman, if found guilty, could be sentenced to jail. Criminal libel, which meant that Newman, it found guity, could be sentenced to jail. Criminal libel suits are seldom brought against newspapermen today, having given way to civil libel suits, in which the person libeled may recover monetary damages, if the suit is found in his favor. This indicates that the persons who brought the action did not want Newman's money. They wanted Newman in jail.

¹³Rackliff & Wainey, El Paso Business Directory for 1885. This directory, the first printed for El Paso, is in the files of the El Paso Public Library.

subsequent weeks and months lacked the fire of earlier days. Newman steered an even course in his "journalistic craft," and avoided the rocks and reefs of political and personal controversy. Then on March 14, 1885, Gay E. Porter became editor and proprietor, to publish the paper until the following August 5. Porter evidently wasn't mad at anyone, either, because this was the quietest period of *The Lone Star's* existence. During this period, Newman, who had never severed his relations with the prominent men of New Mexico, was being considered for the post of United States Marshal for the Territory of New Mexico. He had the support of several papers in the Territory but failed to gain the appointment.

Then, on August 4, 1885, "unlooked for business complications" again threw The Lone Star into the hands of its founder. In his statement of return to management Newman said that he had to "return to his old seat in the sanctum" because the business had "overwhelmed his successor" and that he [Newman] had returned to El Paso despite his previous hope that he could "take up his home in New Mexico."

Again it can only be said that *The Lone Star* was a much quieter journal than the old organ of personalities it had been in Newman's lustier days. The end of his career as an editor was drawing to a close, and it was a quiet close. There was scarcely a mention of politics, or old enemies, or of attempts by the "corporations" to injure the public good. The fact that the libel suits were dismissed towards the end of 1885 did not even appear in the paper. Then, on January 6, 1886, Newman wrote his last *Lone Star* column. He called it "Particular Parting Compliments." It was a brave but sad farewell.

New York in 1886 and remained with that firm as an agent until 1909.¹³ Following the organization of the Pioneers' Association of El Paso County in May, 1904, Newman was active in its affairs. He was elected secretary of the association at its first organization meeting on May 10, 1904, and served in that office until April 30, 1909, when he resigned because his technical residence was in Las Cruces and 'because of the fact that the life insurance company which he represented was not permitted to do business in the State of Texas.''14

Newman died in El Paso on March 2, 1915. He is buried at Concordia Cemetery.

¹⁸Letter to the author from John P. Brion, assistant director of publicity for the company, December 14, 1951.

¹⁴Minute Book of the Pioneer Association of El Paso County, May 10, 1909.

EL CHATO'S BURIED TREASURE

by Eugene O. Porter

Would you like to find 1,010 silver bars and two large and one small caldrons filled with *pesos* and gold coins? Then listen closely: "Inquire in the city of El Paso del Norte where the old *presidio* is located. From the *presidio* you will see a small hill with four peaks. To the left of this hill is a valley called 'Horses' Valley.' In this valley you will find a round butte at the foot of which there is a water spring which [is] covered with a large, blue stone. This stone bears a chiseled [sinsel] inscription which reads: 'This is the Todos Santos Springs.' At a distance of 100 yards,¹ directly west, you will find a small mine covered with oak wood and stones." Remove the cover and you will find the treasure.

Or perhaps you would rather find a silver mine "so rich that in one of the tunnels you can cut the silver with a chisel"? Then read carefully:

Ask in north El Paso where is the Organ Mountain that is located along the river on your right hand side. There is about a two days traveling on the road on horseback. It is a long range with lots of woods, principal of which is the juniper.

There are two ports [passes or canyons?] on these mountains. One is named Tortugas and the other Soledad. Before you enter the first port, on your right hand side, go about half way up a little hill until you find an old juniper tree. From that tree you measure a little over 100 yards [varas] and you will find a little dump with a lot of small rocks over it. There is a large pebble, kind of blue in color. It has a cross made with a chisel. Lift it and dig down less than one man and you will find silver in bars that was hauled by six herds of mules.

Take the planks away and you will find current money that was hauled by 75 mules. After you finish this, go to Soledad port. As you pass it, travel east until you get to a water spring. The water runs down to a canyon. Start from the spring and follow the canyon on your right hand side higher than half way up the mountain. Go very carefully until you find three big juniper trees not very far from one to the other and right in front of the juniper trees you will see three small cliffs and on one you will see a cross made by the point of a bar.

Between the juniper trees and the cliffs east is the stopped up rich Spaniard's mine of the Spaniard Colón. This mine is so rich

²Translated by the author from a copy of the original.

¹A Spanish yard, vara castellana. It equals 838 millimeters while an English yard equals 914.4 millimeters.

that in one of the tunnels you can cut the silver with a chisel. This has one door made of big timbers and has a lock on same. On top it is covered with a big red boulder that was moved by 25 men. You can see the door through the cracks at the side of the boulder. The boulder has several marks on it made by a pointed bar. Look carefully for all these signs I have given you. If you find the mine thousands and thousands of families could be helped.

As you open the door of the mine you will see a great number of images, also you will find a lot of glasses, crystals, plates, crucifixes and crosses. Take these out, go down the first ladder and you will see a great number of silver bars, mining tools, etc., that belong to the mine. To find the place I am recommending, it is in a big gulch.

This letter³ is dated February 5, 1650, in the Convent of San Augustín, Mexico City. It is signed by "Pedro Nervarez, alias El Chato" or The Flatnose. About El Chato nothing definite is known except that there are several copies of letters supposedly written by him. No one has any proof that he ever lived. Two Mexican scholars assured this writer that he was a real person but they were unable to give any factual details concerning his life, nor could they give directions to any material pertaining to him. One authority believes that he exists only in folklore as a sort of Robin Hood. Another insists that he actually existed and operated in the Rio Grande Valley between Radium Springs and Fort Hancock and that "he spent his time holding up caravans and travelers, raiding settlements, and burying his loot."

Of the three known copies of El Chato's letters one is dated 1616 and the two others 1650. All are supposed to have been written in the convent of San Augustín. This convent was converted into the Mexico national library during the presidency of Benito Juarez but the old convent records remain intact. However, they have never been classified or catalogued. Perhaps El Chato's original letters are still there.

One letter in the original Spanish was found on the ranch of Mr. B. E. Stevens in the mountainous regions of northern Chihuahua. It was found by a vaquero who saw in the distance what appeared to be a wild animal. Approaching the figure up the mountain side the cowboy saw only a small cave. Its jagged entrance and dark interior gave from afar the appearance of a crouching bear. Inside the cave, a few feet from the entrance, the vaquero found a paper sticking out from under a rock which had evidently been used

^aThis is a translation of a copy supposedly made from the original on January 4, 1861, by the assistant father of St. Augustin Convent, Vicente Vasquez. The copy was passed down from nun to nun until today it is in the possession of a nun who is in a California convent. Her brother is reported to have looked for the treasure. See Joe Parrish, "El Pasoan Sure He Has Clue to Buried Treasure," in El Paso *Times*, June 24, 1951. **Idem.

as a paper weight. He took the letter to Mrs. Harriet J. Stevens, wife of the owner of the ranch, and she has the letter in her possession today. Her daughter kindly gave this writer a copy.

The writing of the original letter is in part illegible, being too blurred and faded to read. Parts of the paper which were unprotected by the rock and thereby exposed to the elements are perforated with holes. The paper itself is very brittle. The "envelope" is merely a folded piece of paper. The Spanish script is typically 17th century. For instance, the "l" is made with a loop like the modern script "l" in Russian, thus making it look more like a "d." The spelling is not always correct. River, for example, is spelled with two r's, rrio, and very is spelled mui. Some of the words are unintelligible, as zirui and guangaches. This is the letter which tells of the 1,010 bars of silver.

The letter dated 1616 tells of a cache of treasure in the Franklin Mountains. To find the cache it is necessary, the letter states, "to stand in front of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe in a city by name El Paso del Norte" and on the right will be seen a range of mountains running north and south. On the "oriente" or eastern side, the letter continues, there is a "broken place" with red cliffs and tinajas farther up. The treasure is in this canyon and has been "sealed over with mud and a large rock on which is carved a cross."

Are the letters authentic? Was there a bandit who called himself El Chato? There are several valid reasons for questioning the existence of such a person. In the first place El Chato writes of the Rio Grande. Mexicans have never known the river by that name. Originally they called it "Rio del Norte" and later "Rio Bravo del Norte." It has been known as the Rio Grande only since 1848 and then only to Anglo-Americans.

El Chato also writes of the "city of El Paso del Norte" and of the church of "Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe." But the city of El Paso del Norte did not exist in 1616 nor in 1650, the dates of the letters. In fact, the "Villa de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe del Paso del Norte de los Manos" was not founded until December 8, 1659. And the foundation and cornerstone of the church were not laid until April 2, 1662. Its construction was completed on January 15, 1688. Perhaps El Chato was a prophet.

Nor could El Chato have spent his time previous to 1650 "holding up caravans and travelers, raiding settlements, and burying loot." There was very little, if any, commercial activity between New Spain and her colony of New Mexico until after the suppression of the Pueblo Revolt in 1692. Certainly

⁵A tinaja is a large earthen jar and also a natural hollow in the rock that holds water. ⁶Joe Parrish, loc. cit.

the friars and soldiers who came north carried no such treasure as El Chato describes. And the only settlements were those of the mission Indians. Moreover, the nearest silver mines to the Rio Grande known at that time were in the vicinity of Santa Barbara, Chihuahua.⁷

Thus it would seem that the letters are a hoax and that the treasure they describe non-existent. But if any of you good people should find the treasure, will you kindly remember this poor writer who gave you the tip?

^{&#}x27;Robert M. Zingg, "The Importance of the El Paso Area in the Conquest and Reconquest of New Mexico," in PASS-WORD, V. 1, No. 3 (August, 1956), 83n.

BOOK REVIEWS

DESTINY AND GLORY

. . . by Edward S. Wallace*

(New York: Coward-McCann, Inc., 1957, \$5.)

Members and friends of the Society who were present at the February meeting will remember Edward S. Wallace as the featured speaker on that occasion. They will not be surprised to know that *Destiny and Glory* is a very readable, interesting and thoroughly worthwhile book. They will recognize in this book one of the unusual female characters he told us about (Jane McManus Storms Cazneau, who used the pen-name Cora Montgomery), but there is much more than her story to be told.

The author focuses attention on a number of largely overlooked personalities in the America of a century ago—filibusters, they were called, not because they were long-winded but rather because they were latter-day freebooters who thought that the "Manifest Destiny" of the 1830's and 1840's was only beginning, not fait accompli following the Mexican War and the Gadsden Purchase. The South and California were their chief breeding ground, the Knights of the Golden Circle perhaps a chief source of infection in the South. Southwestern readers will be interested to know to what a large extent Mexico figured in these affairs.

From the returning American army of the Mexican War, for instance, a filibustering force was recruited for service in Yucatan: a story of foolhardy gallantry heretofore almost unrecorded, but well sketched here. The relatively large-scale expeditions of Narciso López to Cuba and William Walker to Nicaragua are familiar to professional historians but hardly at all to laymen. Their stories as told here will interest both classes of readers, for the author has carried his research far beyond the functory investigation often observed in popularly-written books. William Walker's first filibustering exploits were directed at nearby Sonora and Lower California, Southwesterners will learn. Other filibustering expeditions into Sonora were led by Marquis Charles de Pindray, Count Gaston Raousset-Boulbon and Henry A. Crabb. Readers will not easily forget the latter's party as the victim of the "devilish Caborca massacre." Caborca is not far from Nogales.

In the final chapter of *Destiny and Glory*, after a diverting pursuit of Jane McManus, she of the many names and interests, including Eagle Pass, Texas, the scene returns to the Halls of Montezuma: General "Fighting Jo" *Mr. Wallace is a member of our Society. (Editor's note.)

Shelby's gallant, eventually bedraggled and exhausted Confederates, offering their services to the Emperor Maximilian. Knights-errant from Missouri and elsewhere, their fate was dispersion if not disaster when they elected another "Lost Cause."

Destiny and Glory is well calculated to capture and hold one's attention. Professional historians may well envy Wallace's flair for writing. Among the most interesting features of the book are the numerous digressions into side-issues such as Simón Bolívar's pessimistic near-death letter of 1830, in which he made six dire predictions: 1) America cannot be governed by democratic Americans; 2) He who serves a revolution plows the sea; 3) The only thing to do is to emigrate; 4) America will fall inevitably into the possession first of frenzied mobs and later petty tyrants; 5) After the scourge of crime and ferocity, Europe will have no use for America; and 6) A return to primitive chaos, if such a thing is possible, will be the last phase of America. This was the rationale of Manifest Destiny, Wallace believes—that it was the United States' divine purpose to lead her hapless southern neighbors away from this pathway to chaos and into the route of progress and prosperity. As this example suggests, the digressions are pointed and do not get out of hand.

If there is an exception to this rule, it is in the author's tendency to launch into the realm of the might-have-been. He believes, for example, that American annexation of Cuba in the 1850's "might just possibly have been the factor to tip the scales for a Confederate victory in the impending Civil War." This reviewer cannot follow him in that belief, or in characterizing President Grant in general terms as an "extreme imperialist."

The author and publisher are to be commended for including a useful bibliography and index, and the author for frequent flashes of humor. Referring to a plebiscite in the Dominican Republic, for instance, he says of the result: "It probably helped when President Baez threatened to shoot or exile any man who voted against the proposal."

John P. Bloom

Texas Western College

TRAILING THE COWBOY

by Clifford P. Westermeir

(Caldwell, Idaho: The Caxton Printers, 1955)

Since the turn of the century volumes have been published about the cowboy. These chroniclers have woven an incredibly rich tapestry of truth and fiction about him, his capable horse, his dexterity with the rope, his skill in riding the wild bronco, and his boisterous conduct. These accounts have been told and retold, each telling being more delusive and enchanting than the previous one, until the old-time range cowboy has been removed from the realms of reality and has become essentially a creation of legend.

The author of this unusual book has undertaken to depict the cowboy as he actually was by a source study of the newspaper files, periodicals, and books of the early days of the West. The result presents to the reader in a most interesting fashion the character of the times, the truth and fiction, the recklessness of the cowboys' daily life, the sleepless vigilance of the long drives, and the tireless activities of the range. Forming an integral part of the narrative are the accounts of drinking, carousing, deviltry, dancing, bawdy women, and life in the cow towns as opposed to the better side of his character, loyalty to outfit, respect for good women and for children, love for his horse and gear, rollicking songs and melancholy ballads, his fatalistic philosophy, sports and tournaments.

The changes in life on the range, both social and economic, are also told in an interesting manner. American immigrants eagerly inherited from the Mexicans the spirit and culture of the range, and added to its lore. The ending of the Civil War and the coming of the railroads caused the population of the range to increase greatly and brought lush days to the cattlemen on the fenceless prairie. Just the same the railroads spelled the doom of range herding because they brought in the grangers who fenced in the range to protect their crops from the cattle. The hatred and warfare between the rangers on the one hand and the grangers and sheepherders on the other, resulting in violence and bloodshed, is dealt with in detail by the author.

In the end the granger and the rise of towns forced the ranger from the open range onto the ranch where he soon aligned himself on the side of law and order with the new country which he had created and became the staunchest of its citizens.

Albion Smith

El Paso, Texas

TRACKS ALONG THE PECOS

by Bill Leftwich

(Pecos: Pecos Printing Company, 1957, \$1.00)

Bill Leftwich, well known Pecos cartoonist, and illustrator of the book Cow-Killers, was prompted to write Tracks Along the Pecos when it occurred to him that many questions were still unanswered about this historic part of the country during the days when "boot tops and cattleboards were high but wages and steers were low."

After two years of research, which included many interviews with well-known old-timers of the area, Mr. Leftwich has presented three phases of Pecos history: history of the area from Indian times through the Spanish; early Pecos on the River; and the new town. The story is written in the easy informality of the cowboy lingo, which is perfect for this type of study. The contents of the book, however, merit a much better format than that employed by Mr. Leftwich. It is paper backed and printed from the original typescript, which looks like ordinary mimeographing. The typing leaves much to be desired and contains many typographical errors and much faulty Spanish.

In spite of the foregoing rather harsh criticisms, however, *Tracks Along the Pecos* is a valuable historical study and the 21 photographs and clever illustrations by the author are outstanding.

Mary Ellen B. Porter

El Paso, Texas

CONTRIBUTORS



ALICE WHITE

Alice White is the Chairman of the Department of Social Science at Burges High School, El Paso. She attended Augustana College, the University of Iowa, the University of Southern California, and Texas Western College where she received her Master's Degree in History. The present article was taken from her Master's thesis.

John J. Middagh, it will be remembered, was the author of "Editor Cutting's 'War' With Mexico" in the August, 1957, issue of PASS-WORD. The present article was taken from *Frontier Journalism In El Paso*, 1872-1900, an unpublished MS. offered in partial fulfillment for the degree of Master of Arts (History) at Texas Western College.

Mr. Middagh is Co-chairman of the Department of Journalism and Radio-Television at TWC. For further biographical data and a photograph see the August issue.

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John P. Bloom is Assistant Professor of History at Texas Western College. He received his doctorate in history from Emory University.

Colonel Albion Smith, U.S.A. (Ret.) should be well-known to readers of PASS-WORD. For biographical data and a photograph see the August, 1957, issue of the quarterly.

Mary Ellen B. Porter is the wife of Dr. Eugene O. Porter. A native of Ohio she is a graduate of Ohio State University. Mrs. Porter is a frequent contributor to the "Book Shelf" of the El Paso Herald-Post.

HISTORICAL NOTES

Your Editorial Committee wishes to announce that beginning with Volume III (1958) the publication dates of the quarterly will be advanced to January, April, July, and October in order to parallel the quarterly meetings of the Society as stipulated by the constitution. Also the hyphen will be dropped from the title of the quarterly, making it read PASSWORD.

:-: :-

Dr. Joseph Leach, Professor of English at Texas Western College and Assistant Editor of PASS-WORD, has been granted a year's leave of absence by the Board of Regents to teach in the European Division of the University of Maryland. He reported for duty at Heidelburg, Germany, on September 3rd.

:-: :-

According to *History News* (July, 1957) "The Arkansas History Commission, Old State House, Little Rock, has published in very handsome format a pamphlet entitled *The Butterfield Overland Mail in Arkansas* by W. J. Lemke and Ted R. Worley. Original drawings by Lemke, maps, and photographs add greatly to the value of this little study of the overland mail route through Arkansas, 1858-1861."

: Handory out to water :-:

"The Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C., has just put on sale a new illustrated booklet, *The National Park Story in Pictures*, which provides a pictorial record of the scope and variety of the scenic, scientific, and historic areas of the National Park System," according to History News (July, 1957). "Containing 148 illustrations of some of the most striking scenes in the system, the booklet is sold at 65¢ a copy."

:-: :-

The Humble Oil & Refining Company in cooperation with the Texas Historic Foundation has published A Map of Historical Homes and Buildings Throughout Texas. A short narrative accompanying the map tells of the various immigrant groups—Spanish, Canary Islanders, German, and French—and their contributions to Texas architecture. Humble Oil should be highly commended for its contribution to a better understanding and appreciation of Texas history and culture.

:-: :-:

"The first number of a 'critical checklist of current Southwest Americana,' Books of the Southwest, compiled monthly by Lawrence Clark Powell and issued by the Library of the University of California at Los Angeles, appeared in June. This initial issue is a roundup of 1956 publications in the region," according to History News (July, 1957).

"The Southwest, for the purposes of the checklist, includes Southern and Baja California, Arizona and New Mexico, and parts of adjacent lands."

As we go to press word has been received by Associated Press that the El Paso Historical Society has received an award from the American Association for State and Local History as the outstanding local historical society in the United States.

:-: :-:

Readers of PASS-WORD have a treat in store for them in 1958. Among the many excellent articles that will be published are the following: "The El Paso Tin Mine," "Recollections of Old Fort Bliss," "The Border Meeting of Presidents Taft and Diaz," "Journal of Ebenezer Hanna," "The Beginning and Development of Irrigation in the City of El Paso," "Hanged By the Neck Until Dead," a story of legal hangings in El Paso, "Ciudad Juarez and the Escobar Revolution," "Science Explores the Big Bend," a story of the United States Boundary Commission's survey of the Rio Grande from Presidio del Norte to the Pecos River in 1852-1853, "The Saga of Captain McRae," "Washington Slept Here," a story of John Macrae Washington, the son of George Washington's second cousin, who was stationed at Fort Bliss, "The Good Old Days," the story of El Paso's first social club and natatorium, "Prince John Magruder at Fort Bliss, 1855," and a number of other excellent papers.

ANYBODY SEEN AN ICE WAGON LATELY?

The following item appeared in *History News*, Vol. XII, No. 11 (September, 1957). "From Lawrence B. Romaine, of Middleboro, Massachusetts, comes a plea for preservation (if it isn't already too late) of an ice wagon or two.

"He has inquired widely among museums and restored villages without finding an example. Even museums specializing in carriages, wagons, and other vehicles report 'no ice wagons.' Curators whom he has contacted say they have never seen one in their travels.

"In an article, "The Case For the Missing Ice Wagon," published in the July issue of *The Spinning Wheel*, Mr. Romaine sums up the results of his search and reports some facts he has dug up on the once thriving ice industry.

search and reports some facts he has dug up on the once thriving ice industry. "Many colorful and pictorial wagons were made for the trade by the Knickerbocker Ice Company of Philadelphia. The company's first catalogue appeared in 1864. Mr. Romaine's article is illustrated with six colored pictures of ice wagons from the 1897 catalogue. According to the catalogue, ice wagons sold for from \$175 to \$460, and those with pictures on the sides cost \$75 extra. The Knickerbocker Company sold their vehicles in New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, California, Virginia, Florida, Texas, South Carolina, Quebec, Bermuda, and elsewhere, yet it appears that not one has found its way into a museum."

AN APPEAL FOR OLD AUTOMOBILE CATALOGUES

The Buffalo Historical Society, Delaware Park, Buffalo 7, New York, has issued an appeal for "Old automobile catalogues, maintenance manuals, pictorial folders, etc. Particularly the Pierce-Arrow and Thomas. Any will be welcomed, however."

OLD TEXAS FORT FOR SALE

Some 73 acres, a major portion of old Fort Crockett, has been offered for sale in parcels ranging in size from two to ten acres by the United States Government. The original fort was built by the Republic of Texas in 1836 to provide protection to Galveston against coastal pirates. It was named for Davy Crockett, revered hero of the Alamo.

The fort was purchased by the federal government in 1897, and actively

used since then, particularly during the two world wars,

AN APPEAL FOR FUNDS

The following item appeared in the San Diego Historical Society Information Bulletin, September, 1957: "IN FAR-AWAY MALLORCA, the birth-place of Fr. Junipero Serra, an active movement is afoot for a museum which will be a credit to the memory of the founder of California's mission; a leader in this project is our energetic Mallorcan member, Mrs. Dina Moore Bowden, well-known to scores of San Diegans who have visited the Balearis Islands. As is the case in all such projects, there is a need for funds, and Mrs. Bowden has asked that members of our Society be advised of the work which they hope to accomplish. Anyone desiring to contribute to this worthwhile project should contact John Davidson, 3228 Carleton St., San Diego 6; he has been appointed chairman of the local fund-raising committee."

A MORAL

:-:

Your Society has made several appeals for old letters, journals, diaries, photographs, etc., for its archives. The following item, taken from a recent issue of the Mirror, the monthly publication of the Kansas State Historical Society, contains a moral that should emphasize this appeal.

"For years we have been working with the son of a colorful pioneer jurist of western Kansas hoping to have the judge's papers deposited with the Society. The son, who lives on the West Coast, was almost ready to turn the papers over to us when he wrote a couple of weeks ago that they had all been destroyed by a fire. He concluded, 'I should have turned them over to you long ago but have been busy at other things.'

"Nyle H. Miller, Secretary of the Kansas Society, says this 'calls to mind some other papers intended for us that were lost last spring when vandals broke into their place of storage in the Kansas City area before the family could get around to authorize the transfer."

A SUGGESTION

A member of the Missouri Historical Society, David M. Warren, recently gave five life memberships in the Society to University of Missouri faculty members. Previously he had given two life memberships to a high ranking student with interest in history and a faculty member at Greenfield High School,

Greenfield, Missouri. Over a thirteen year period Mr. Warren has given a total of 109 life memberships in the Society. In 1956 he also gave 200 annual memberships to interested persons.

NEW BOOKS ON THE WEST

:-:

Two books on the West, reviewed by Donald H. Stewart in a recent issue of History News, should be of interest to readers of PASS-WORD.

"The cowboy country, particularly the famous cattle trails, is represented by Will Tom Carpenter's Lucky 7: A Cowman's Autobiography (Univ. of Texas Pr., \$3.50). After living in Kansas and Colorado, the author moved to Texas at 18; his story is a saga of unfenced plains and longhorn drives in the romantic days before barbed wire ruined the free, though not always easy, way of life he loved so well."

The other book, Jackson Burgess, Pillar of Cloud (Putnam's \$3.50) is a novel. It is "the story of a party of seven (with one wagon) which tried to pioneer a new trail in the late 'fifties from troublesome Kansas Territory to the high Rockies, bring alive the Pre-Civil War frontier. Indians, a prairie fire, and friction within the party produce heightening interest in a tale that is noteworthy for its realistic portrayal of the obstacles of that frontier and their effect on the people who faced them."

NEW MEMBERS - 1957

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PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY

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.