

# PASSWORD



OF THE

# EL PASO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# PASSWORD

*Published by:*

THE EL PASO HISTORICAL SOCIETY



*Editorial Staff:*

Editor	Eugene O. Porter
Associate Editor	Frank Feuille III
Assistant Editor	Joseph Leach
Book Editor	Mrs. Phyllis Mainz



All correspondence in regard to articles for *PASSWORD* should be directed to Dr. Eugene O. Porter, Department of History, Texas Western College, El Paso, Texas. All books for review and correspondence regarding book reviews should be sent to Mrs. Phyllis Mainz, 2512 San Diego, El Paso, Texas.

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

# PASSWORD

Volume III, No. 2

Published Quarterly

April, 1958

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## REVOLUTIONARY EL PASO: 1910-1917

by Mardee Belding de Wetter

### Part One of Three Parts

"I maintain that never was there such a colorful, romantic, noble and foolish period as the first revolution in northern Mexico. Juárez and El Paso formed the center of it . . ." <sup>1</sup> El Paso in 1910 (population 39,279) had a rough, tough, exciting atmosphere of border life where, if there were no revolutions to sustain excitement, there was always a cattleman's convention. "For El Paso was then the drinkingest town on the border, a reputation it held until prohibition." <sup>2</sup>

As El Pasoans entered the year 1910 they were totally unaware of the trouble that was brewing south of their river. No mention was made of Mexican affairs; the papers were filled with national and international happenings, murders, and advertisements. <sup>3</sup> The usual Sunday crowd went to the races in Juárez, the chief transportation being the street cars which left San Jacinto Plaza every ten minutes for the grand stand. Not until January 15 was there a hint of revolution and that was probably overlooked by a majority of the people. The notice merely stated that Don Francisco Madero, a Mexican capitalist, was leading an opposition party against the revered Porfirio Díaz. Señor Madero had been making campaign speeches in Chihuahua against Díaz' reelection. When prevented from continuing his campaign he left Chihuahua for El Paso where he obtained apartments at the Sheldon Hotel. There he gave a statement to El Paso reporters: "Personally," he said, "we have not been harmed by Díaz, and we think that he has used his great power with much moderation, but we want full political liberty as guaranteed by the Constitution."

Madero remained in El Paso only a day and the memory of him disappeared with his leaving. El Paso was more interested in the Pinchot-Ballinger national forest scandal and in the fact that "Bird Men Will Fly In Los Angeles Meet." Important events were taking place in a hurried world. Mark Twain died on April 22 and Haley's Comet was soon to flash across the heavens. El Pasoans read avidly in Collier's Weekly the article about General Benjamin Johannes Viljoen, a valley resident, and the Times noted that

In January, 1910, Benjamin Johannes Viljoen, formerly second in command of the armed forces of the Transvaal Republic, but lately a prosperous American ranchman, appeared in the Third Judicial Court

<sup>1</sup>Timothy G. Turner, *Bullets, Bottles and Gardenias* (Dallas, 1925), 23.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid., 84

<sup>3</sup>*El Paso Morning Times*, January 1-9, 1910. Much of the material for this paper was taken from the *El Paso Times* (1910-1917) and the *El Paso Herald* (1913-1916). To save space only authorities other than newspapers will be cited.

of New Mexico at Las Cruces and received the papers which admitted him to full citizenship of the United States. The soldier was overcome with emotion when Federal Judge Frank Parker warmly congratulated him upon the fact that he was the first Boer to become an American citizen. With tears running down his bronzed cheeks, Viljoen made those about him a stirring little speech in which he declared that for seven years he had been a man without a country.

Yet very soon Viljoen's soldier blood would involve him in the affairs of still another country—in the revolution of Mexico.

Meanwhile, Mexico was preparing for her Centennial Celebration of Independence. Even so, the first revolt was brewing. An uprising occurred in Yucatán and thousands of insurgents sacked the town of Valladolid, killing scores of people. The cause of the trouble was the dissatisfaction among the Indians over the action of government officials regarding land. The revolt was easily quelled and seemed to portend nothing serious. The civic-minded El



Francisco Madero second from right.

Pasoans were naturally more concerned about the construction of Elephant Butte Dam which had recently gotten under way.

Francisco Madero almost immediately after the Yucatán uprising (about which he knew nothing) found himself in jail in San Luis Potosí. Held as a formal prisoner he refused defense, saying he "had no faith in justice." He remained in jail until his escape after Díaz' reelection. Díaz, meanwhile, was having further difficulties. The second whiff of revolutionary activity came from the northern part of Sonora. An uprising there began against the federal government and the arms for the revolt were obtained from across the border. President Díaz urged the United States to guard her frontier and to fulfill her international obligations, but the United States was slow in taking action and did not send troops to the border at all during the year 1910.<sup>4</sup>

Regardless of these auguries of revolution, Díaz was triumphantly elected president on June 27 by a large majority vote in all parts of the Republic. From a censor-bound Mexico came no reports of disturbances anywhere. The anti-reelectionist party, with a jailed candidate, received about two per cent of the votes.

El Paso and the United States accepted the reelection of Díaz as a matter of course and once more turned their disinterested backs on Mexico in order to watch more closely the travels of Teddy Roosevelt through Africa to Khartoum, and then to Rome, Vienna, London, and finally to New York City where Cornelius Vanderbilt arranged a festive reception for him.

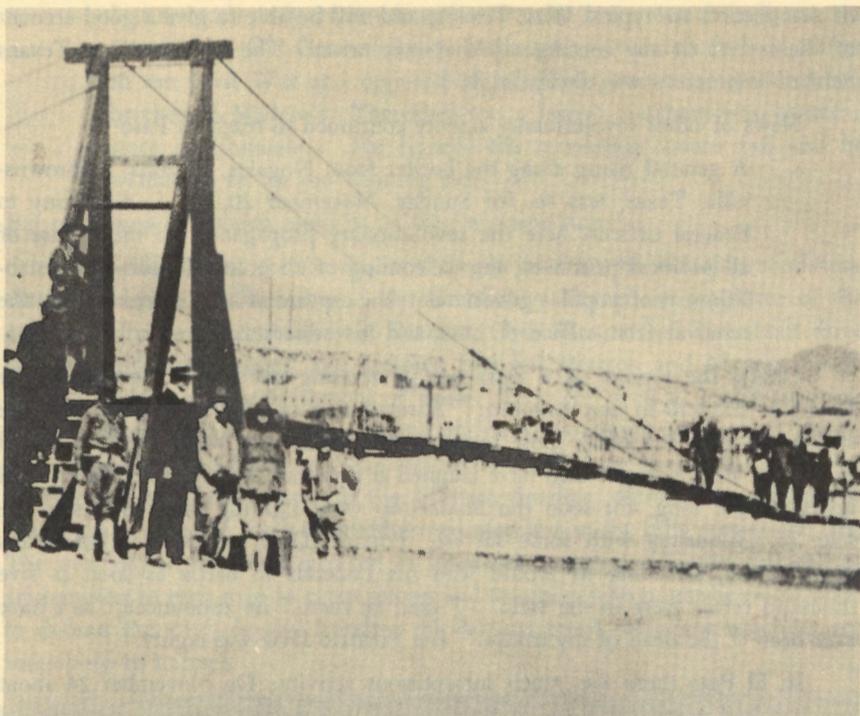
The United States with its usual finesse in Mexican affairs began sending American Commissioners to Mexico City for the Centennial Celebration in September. According to the *El Paso Times*,

General Harrison Gray Otis, the well known editor of the Los Angeles Times, was a passenger on Train No. 10, from Los Angeles last night (August 31) on his way to Mexico City to discharge his duties as Commissioner from the United States to the Mexican Centennial. 'I'm out for a good time,' he admitted frankly. 'All I've got to do according to instructions is to extend the glad hand to the president of Mexico and all of his people.'

The bluff, jovial *gringo* neighbor was going to Mexico. Representatives of every nation were there and towns throughout the republic were decorated for the gala event. Juárez put on its best appearance and at sunrise on September 14 its bells rang out to proclaim the opening of the grand fiesta. The climax of the celebration came two days later and Mexico was filled (so came reports

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<sup>4</sup>J. Fred Rippey, *The United States and Mexico* (New York, 1931), 333.



Footbridge over the Rio Grande leading from American side to Madero's headquarters opposite Smelter. May, 1911.

from the Capitol) with "Viva Diaz! Viva Hidalgo! Viva Mexico!" The City of Juárez proudly unveiled its new statue of its hero, Benito Juárez.\* All was froth and gaiety, north and south.

The much feted American commissioners returned home with stories of enough glitter to last for generations. But in less than two months came outbursts of hatred for the *gringos*. Mexico City resembled an armed camp after much anti-American and anti-government rioting. There was more rioting in Guadalajara. The superficial cause of the disturbances was a misunderstanding. In Rock Springs, Texas, a Mexican had been lynched for killing an Anglo woman. The Mexicans became incensed and began their anti-American demonstrations. Actually the alleged Mexican was a *New Mexican*, but this slight difference could not stop the trouble. It was reported that "armed Mexicans (were) marching on the town of Rock Springs. But," the *Times* noted, "the ranchmen

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\*President Diaz laid the cornerstone of the \$125,000 monument on October 15, 1909, when he came to the border to meet President Taft. (Editor's note.)

of that section are typical West Texans, and will be able to give a good account of themselves in any contingency that may arise." The opinion West Texans held of themselves was always high.

News of other revolutionary activity continued to reach El Paso:

A general rising along the border from Nogales, Arizona, to Brownsville, Texas, was set for Sunday, November 20, . . . . According to Federal officers here the revolutionary propaganda is: the release of all political prisoners; the welcoming of all political exiles; the establishment of popular government; the capture of all customs houses; the removal from office of Díaz and his adherents.

Finally the reports of a forthcoming uprising were given authenticity by Francisco Madero in San Antonio: "A revolution in Mexico is inevitable," he stated. "It may not break loose today, tomorrow or next week, but it is bound to come." People might then have laughed at this frail little man but they would not scoff for long, for soon the *Maderistas* were fighting the Federals in the state of Chihuahua with some success. Porfirio Díaz, on the day before his inauguration, said that he would lead his Federals in battle as soon as five thousand rebels were in the field. "I shall be there," he announced, "as I have ever been at the head of my troops." But Porfirio Díaz was eighty.

In El Paso there was much surreptitious activity. On November 24 about one hundred and fifty boxes of thirty-thirty Winchester cartridges were found in the Union Station by John W. Mershon, the day policeman. The night before several Mexicans were seen loitering around the station on San Francisco Street. But when they were searched and found to possess nothing suspicious they were ordered to leave. This was the first evidence that smuggling had begun. Nevertheless, El Pasoans had no fears, for Texas Rangers patrolled the river.

"From the beginning it was evident that the heaviest fighting would be along the northern border and that the state of Chihuahua would become the storm center of the revolution."<sup>5</sup> Abraham González, provisional governor of Chihuahua, came to El Paso to take charge of the revolutionary activities. Associated with him in the formation of the Madero *junta* in El Paso were Braulio Hernández, a former college professor and a dreamer; Federico González-Garza, a bright young lawyer; Alberto Fuentes, a graduate of an American University; and Cástula Herrera, a very fine, practical man credited with firing the first shot of the revolution. Offices for the *junta* were established on the fifth floor of the Caples Building.<sup>6</sup> The *junta* had many friends in El Paso, Dr. Bush noted:

<sup>5</sup>I. J. Bush, *Gringo Doctor* (Caldwell, Utah, 1939), 162-3.

<sup>6</sup>*Ibid.*, 163.

I can recall only two (Americans) who were not friendly to the Revolution. Old General Anson Mills, who served as a Federal officer in the Civil War and opposed all rebellions, was very insulting to a brother of Madero's. The other was a Jewish merchant who owned a store in Chihuahua. He figured the revolution would fail and he wanted to be on the winning side.<sup>7</sup>

But no *gringo* in Mexico could be on the "winning side."

Americans below the border now began to fear the unstable conditions that existed and on December 2 Mr. U. Mallory Turner, an employee of the Mexican Northwestern Railway at Pearson, Chihuahua, stated that about three hundred American women and children had left Pearson and Madera for El Paso to await the re-establishment of peace. Then followed El Paso's first war scare. Reports arrived of large groups of Madero's *insurrectos* around Juárez. Three days before Christmas a *ranchero* who lived about three miles above the El Paso Brick Works, opposite the El Paso Smelter, reported to officials at Juárez that a body of three hundred armed men was in the hills outside the city. The next day orders were received in Juárez to furnish a rifle and full belt of ammunition to each man in every saloon and to others who might be relied upon to defend the city. Several hundred El Pasoans spent the night watching for something to happen.



THE FOREIGN LEGION

(Blumenthal Collection — Courtesy *El Paso Times*.)

<sup>7</sup>Ibid., 167.

El Paso, meanwhile, began filling up with a large number of deputy United States Marshals who walked the streets with a mysterious air. They were searching for the meeting places of the numerous Mexican *insurrectos* reported organizing in the city and thereby violating United States neutrality laws. El Paso was full of political refugees from the regime of Díaz and consequently it was difficult to determine who were conspirators.

Yet even with such intense activity the Foreign Relations Papers of the United States for 1910 contained no reference to revolutionary Mexico. According to the State papers there existed only cordial relations between the two countries and all that happened of importance was the Centennial Celebration.<sup>8</sup> The succeeding year was to prove that the celebration had been the concluding glory of Porfirio Díaz.

\* \* \*

It was in 1911 that El Paso achieved its first revolutionary importance. The city became the hotbed of activity, since Juárez was the largest port of entry on the Mexican border and its capture was essential to the revolutionists. On January 1 circulars printed in El Paso were distributed in the streets of Juárez, calling upon Mexicans to sacrifice their last drop of blood in a supreme effort for liberty or death. "The circulars were printed on yellow paper in red ink and recited that for the last thirty years the Mexican government had been in the hands of usurpers."

Reports of *insurrectos* surrounding Juárez continued to reach the papers. Nevertheless, on January 3 the *Times* reported that "all was quiet on the Rio Grande last night including . . . Juárez . . . . The mounted policemen in Juárez were suffering with the cold and were more busily engaged in keeping the hoods of their overcoats about their heads than in watching for elusive *insurrectos*." The whole state of Chihuahua, under the governorship of Alberto Terrazas, was watching for *insurrectos*. Governor Terrazas stated that the bands of men who were fighting the government were mostly outlaws and that their complete subjection was inevitable. But this surety was soon removed.

Meanwhile, the United States Secret Service officials in El Paso were not idle in their search for revolutionary plotters but these neutrality-law-breakers proved very elusive. They constantly shifted their meeting places to avoid being caught and continued their work of spreading revolutionary literature. These men were not entirely welcome in El Paso. As Tom Lea said:

There were many Mexican spies in El Paso working for various fac-

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<sup>8</sup>*Papers Relating to the Foreign Relations of the United States, 1910*, (Washington, 1915), 712-6.

tions. Also there were the refugees. Most of the men refugees were cowards who would not fight. These people set up myriads of little Mexican newspapers in the south of the town. Their circulation was in Chihuahuita. They wrote terrible things about the United States and yet they enjoyed American security.<sup>9</sup>

Rumors of advancing bands of *insurrectos* continued to spread and Juárez prepared for a seige. General Juan Navarro, a veteran soldier, was placed in command of federal headquarters in Juárez. Federal troops were camped on the river across from Washington Park. Reinforcements for the Juárez garrison arrived — two hundred cavalymen and their women, the camp followers, who were nearly all barefooted and nearly all carrying infants in their arms. Correspondingly, as Juárez bulged with soldiers, the civilian population began to migrate en masse to El Paso to stay with friends and relatives. El Paso boomed.

The Federal Government became alarmed over the border situation and continued to ask the United States for effective patrol of the boundary. The Mexican Secret Service reported to the United States Secret Service in El Paso that forty armed men had crossed the river into Mexico a few miles below El Paso to join the *insurrectos* and that more were planning to do so. Smuggling, too, was a problem. The Mexican Central passenger train that left the Union Station at six forty-five p.m. on January 28, arrived in Juárez where it was searched. As soon as the train stopped at the Mexican Central Depot, Mexican Secret Service officials looked under the car "Sagamore" and found four cases of ammunition. It was Mexican ammunition, labeled in Spanish, and the secret service men seemed to know exactly where it was. Much speculation followed in El Paso, for it seemed to be an attempt by the Mexican agents to make a reputation for themselves.

Be that as it may, the United States endeavored to comply with Mexico's requests. The Secretary of War issued orders to triple the number of soldiers guarding the border and the Secretary of the Treasury authorized the Collector of Customs at El Paso to appoint ten additional deputies. At the same time Major Nathan Lapowski, commanding the Second Battalion, Fourth Infantry, Texas National Guard, received notice from Sheriff Peyton J. Edwards to have his forces in readiness to cooperate with the sheriff's office in case of eventualities. And the number of soldiers on guard on the American side of the international bridge was increased by forty men.

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<sup>9</sup>Interview with Tom Lea, March 7, 1945. Mr. Lea was a prominent lawyer and mayor of El Paso from 1915 to 1917.

Chihuahuita (Little Chihuahua) was the name given that section of El Paso inhabited exclusively by Mexicans. It is now known as "South of town."

Much more serious trouble than smuggling now faced the border, however. Passengers on a Mexican train reported that twenty-three miles below Juárez they had passed Pascual Orozco, the insurgent chief from the Guerrero district, and that his troops numbering 1,500 men were engaged in unloading horses and a carload of dynamite in preparation for their march on Juárez. Consequently, "Colonel R. G. Martinez ordered everything in Juarez closed in the way of keno games, dance halls and saloons. A large crowd of Americans who were attending the various places made a rush for the street cars." At the same time the Banco Mínero and the branch bank of the Banco Nacional were moved to El Paso where they continued to transact business. Their cash reserves were deposited in El Paso banks. The Juárez post office was likewise moved to El Paso.

Meanwhile, on February 3, announcement was made by Señor Abraham González that he had engaged Dr. I. J. Bush to organize a hospital corps and establish a hospital for the care of the revolutionists. Of this Dr. Bush later wrote:

About daylight February 3, 1911, Abraham González roused me out of bed and told me that a courier had made his way through the Federal lines with a message from Pascual Orozco who was at Samalayuca, twenty-five miles south of Juárez. He had fought a battle at Sierra Mojino Ranch and wanted a doctor to treat the wounded.<sup>10</sup>

Dr. Bush established his *insurrecto* hospital at 410 South Campbell Street where he treated many of the wounded rebels. He also trained a number of Mexican girls to be nurses.

The following day, February 4, the United States Consulate in Juárez reported that notice had been received from Pascual Orozco that he would attack the city within twenty-four hours. Immediately several hundred young men fled to El Paso because they feared that the authorities would impress them into service. But Orozco did not attack. Instead, Juárez was reinforced with Federal troops. But El Pasoans did not know of the changed situation and by eight a.m. on February 6 thousands of people had made their way to the tops of tall buildings and to the Franklin and Krazy Kat mountains. When no battle took place, "the disappointment of the public was something tremendous."

El Paso, with a swollen population estimated at sixty-five thousand, watched and listened. Mexican Federal infantry patrolled the border. They kept a sharp lookout and in the still night air their cry of "*sentinela alerta*" could be clearly heard across the Rio Grande. Orozco, meanwhile, moved north and located his camp on the Mexican bank of the river opposite the El Paso Smelter where it

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<sup>10</sup>Bush, *Gringo Doctor*, 171.

was in full view of El Paso. Immediately *insurrecto* sympathizers flocked to the river and, until stopped by American authorities, threw silver dollars across to the Orozco troops. Within a few days, however, Orozco moved his camp down the Rio Grande to Guadalupe, thirty-five miles south of Juárez, and for a little while at least excitement abated in El Paso.

Now for the first time El Paso felt the pinch of the revolution. The smelter officials announced that the smelter would have to close within five days unless a supply of ore was received from Mexico. The smelter received eighty per cent of its ore from that country but it had not received so much as a ton in five weeks. If the smelter closed, several hundred men would be thrown out of work.

But El Paso made the most of what she had. Newspaper men from all over the country flocked to her. The Sheldon Hotel became their headquarters as it was also the headquarters for the United States Secret Service, *insurrecto* officers, and others interested in the revolution. The revolutionary *junta* in El Paso was besieged by soldiers of fortune. Among the newcomers were Willis E. Taylor of Redlands, California; General Benjamin Viljoen, mentioned above; A. W. Lewis, a Canadian captain of artillery in the Boer War; the "Triplets," Mahoney, McDonald and Charpentier, Irish, Scotch, and French, respectively; Guiseppe Garibaldi, grandson of "Red Shirt" Garibaldi; and "Death Valley Slim" from Arizona. Anglo volunteers of lesser importance were organized into "El Falange de los Extranjeros." At the same time the ladies of the Mexican colony opened a restaurant on San Antonio Street, serving Mexican national dishes. They had so many patrons in one evening that they had to turn away more than five hundred. The proceeds were to be used for Red Cross doctors and nurses for the *insurrectos* in Mexico. Colonel Pascual Orozco also visited the city and almost started a riot. When he emerged from a restaurant on San Antonio Street where he had been dining, he was recognized by a crowd which enthusiastically surrounded him. He had come to El Paso, he said, to spend a few luxurious hours.

But all was not going well with the *insurrectos*. Madero was defeated at Casas Grandes and with the remnants of his army joined Guiseppe Garibaldi's battalion at Bauché. The combined forces marched up the Rio Grande and camped opposite El Paso where Orozco had camped in February. The camp was not more than a mile from the Federal *cuartel* in Juárez but it was not molested by Federal troops.

It was at this time that a famous revolutionist made his first appearance on the Rio Grande. "Major Francisco Villa, in command of seven hundred *insurrectos*, one hundred of them mounted, arrived at Madero's camp." W. H. Fryer was at the camp at the time and he later described the "motley crew" as "walking commissaries." Mr. Fryer stopped to talk with one of the men who was

scooping water from the river to make coffee. He asked if the water was not dirty and the man replied, "If I drink much of this I'll have a 'dobe brick in my stomach."<sup>11</sup> Thousands of El Pasoans visited Madero's camp to take pictures of the mustachioed warriors. El Paso merchants used the presence of the troops to advertise their goods. One advertisement read: "Whether bloodshed or peace in Mexico we don't know; we hope for the best. We do know that the Bazaar has revolutionized the clothing business in El Paso."

On April 23 the El Paso *junta* announced that a five-day armistice to discuss peace was to begin that day at noon. Señor Don Venustiano Carranza, provisional governor of Coahuila, arrived from San Antonio to take part in the conference, and Abraham González arrived shortly thereafter. To celebrate the armistice a concert was given by the Madero army band and several hundred armed *insurrectos* were in attendance as were also Francisco and Raoul Madero, Colonel Garibaldi, Pascual Orozco, Francisco (Pancho) Villa, General Blanco and many other officers of lesser importance. There was also a number of El Pasoans present. Between the Madero camp and the smelter was a swinging foot bridge belonging to the brick plant. United States soldiers were stationed at each end of the bridge to check the crowd and to prevent too great a strain on the structure.

When the armistice came to an end without a satisfactory understanding, a five-day extension was agreed upon. During this time *insurrecto* officers were allowed in El Paso on pass. This was excellent for business and Chihuahuita was crowded until a late hour each night with *insurrectos* buying khaki campaign uniforms, underwear, and shoes. The men, however, showed no inclination to discard their large sombreros for American hats. It was estimated some five hundred men outfitted themselves in one day.

While the men were enjoying their shopping in El Paso, the peace commission continued in session. According to the *Times*:

A prettier or more picturesque spot for holding the Mexican peace conference than the one selected opposite Hart's Mill could not have been found elsewhere on the border. It is a miniature valley carpeted with green grass and shaded by a luxuriant growth of cottonwood trees, The restless murmuring waters of the Rio Grande rushing over Hart's dam, sweep along at the foot of the valley, lying within the shadow of Orozco Hill. The place will hereafter be known as Peace Grove.

The *insurrectos* presented their demands to the Federal negotiators. These included participation in government affairs, representation in the cabinet, and

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<sup>11</sup>Interview with W. H. Fryer, November 9, 1945. Mr. Fryer has been a well-known attorney in El Paso for many years.

twelve state governors to be chosen from *Maderistas*. Although the demands do not seem radical, they were rejected. Madero then demanded the resignation of President Díaz. Díaz agreed to resign but insisted that he remain in office until the peace had been restored. This the *Maderistas* refused to accept and the conference became deadlocked. Both sides then prepared for all out war. And the first objective of the war was Juárez.

The battle of Juárez began very suddenly and without the knowledge of the Federals, El Pasoans, or Francisco Madero. Against Madero's orders a fairly large body of *insurrectos* attacked the border city. The group was led by Pancho Villa and Pascual Orozco and was joined by most of the foreign legion. The *insurrectos* followed the irrigation ditch leading into Juárez and thus were not detected by General Navarro's men. The rebels fell upon the Federals and by the afternoon of May 8 began a general assault on the city. On the second day the battle was fought almost entirely in the center of the city and by nightfall the rebels held all of Juárez except the bull ring, the *cuartel*, and the church. On the third day the rebels captured all of Juárez and General Navarro surrendered with five hundred men. Colonel Garibaldi received Navarro's sword.<sup>12</sup>

The casualties for a Mexican battle were heavy. About fifty Federals and fifteen *insurrectos* were killed. Among the dead was Colonel Tamborrel, one of Navarro's officers. The day before the battle he had called Madero's men a "bunch of cowards" and they had not forgot. After the battle he was found lying on a bed in a hotel with his hands tied behind him and a bullet hole through his head. Above the bed on which he lay was a large picture of Porfirio Díaz.<sup>13</sup>

The *insurrectos* also sought to kill General Navarro but Madero, realizing Navarro's danger, gave him permission to leave for El Paso. The general gave his word of honor he would return to Mexico to stand trial when Madero called him. Navarro then plunged his horse into the Rio Grande and escaped. No one knew his whereabouts until Editor T. G. Turner was called to the phone at the *Herald* and a voice said: "This is A. Schwartz speaking. General Navarro is here and he asks me to tell you to please come to see him. He is in Chinaware in the basement." Turner went to the Popular Dry Goods Store and arranged for Navarro to enter Hotel Dieu under an assumed name where he remained as a patient until the feeling against him had subsided.<sup>14</sup>

Immediately after the battle El Pasoans surged to Juárez. The street cars

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<sup>12</sup>Bush, *Gringo Doctor*, 210. Garibaldi wore a special plushy hat which became very popular in El Paso. It was known as the "Garibaldi hat."

<sup>13</sup>Interview with Mr. Fryer, November 9, 1945.

<sup>14</sup>Turner, *Bullets, Bottles and Gardenias*, 68-70.

resumed service and carried loads of sightseers. A large ad appeared in the *Times* "When you go to Juárez today things of interest are to be seen now that the town is in the possession of the insurrectos." El Paso physicians went for a different reason, to care for the wounded. Much amputation work was done without anesthetics. The stoicism of the *mestizo* who held out a finger to be amputated and, biting his collar, did not whimper, was not an unusual story. The bravery of the Mexicans was supreme. They knew how to die. As the rebels brought in their prisoners to be shot the doomed men shouted to the last, "Viva Don Porfirio Díaz!"

The news of Madero's victory reached Mexico City where it was received with open enthusiasm. Cheers for Madero rang out and the people demanded Díaz' resignation. On May 15 a conference was held across from the El Paso smelter between representatives of the Díaz government and those of Madero. A protocol of peace was drafted and signed on May 21. Díaz agreed to resign within two weeks. Francisco de la Barra\* was to serve as interim president and his cabinet was to be filled with *Maderistas*. Madero bade his army farewell in Juárez and left for Mexico City. On May 26 ex-president Díaz left the capitol for Vera Cruz where a French cruiser awaited to take him to France.

After Madero left for Mexico City a plot to assassinate him was discovered by General Viljoen. A Boer named Villiers was arrested on the charge of conspiracy, indicted, and released on bond. Little was actually known of the plot except that it was instigated by three *científico*\* agents in El Paso and that Orozco and Villa were used as tools. The *científicos* endeavored to implant suspicions of Madero in the minds of these two chieftains and almost succeeded. The plot was the first against Madero and it failed.<sup>15</sup>

With the coming of peace the citizens of El Paso realized the great service the newspapermen had performed for their city. El Paso was now a widely publicized spot, known all over the United States and, in fact throughout the world. To show the city's appreciation the Chamber of Commerce gave a banquet at the Hotel Sheldon for the correspondents.<sup>16</sup>

Another pleasant prospect for El Pasoans was the arrival of the Fourth United States Cavalry. Hopes were beginning to bud that Fort Bliss might be

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\*De la Barra was identified with the Díaz regime and, although he admitted into his cabinet some *Maderistas*, he retained the Díaz bureaucracy and army and attempted to disband the revolutionary troops. (Editor's note.)

\**Científicos* was the term adopted by the "insiders" of Díaz' government, because they claimed to be scientists in government. Their enemies claimed they were scientists only in graft and scoffingly called them "*científicos*," the "hundred consumptives." (Editor's note.)

<sup>15</sup>Carlo de Fornaro, *Carranza and Mexico* (New York, 1915) 36, 132-4.

<sup>16</sup>Turner, *Bullets, Bottle and Gardenias*, 70.

made a regimental post. A few months later their dream seemed near fulfillment when the Secretary of War Henry Stimson said, "El Paso is a highly strategic point."

It was inevitable that commercialism should raise its head to take advantage of El Paso's unusual relation to the revolution. The A. D. Foster Company manufactured revolutionary spoons which sold for two dollars and fifty cents each. There was the Madero spoon, Blue Whistler spoon, Juárez spoon, McGinty Cannon in Action at Ojinada spoon, and the Orozco spoon. They proved to be very popular.

But the peace that had come to Mexico was an uneasy one and was not to last for long; but it was peace nevertheless. Díaz had been overthrown and the Electoral College on October 16 had elected Madero president and Pino Suarez vice-president. Then in December the peace was threatened. El Pasoans learned that Bernado Reyes, a supporter of Díaz, was heading a counter-revolution and had organized a *junta* in their city, and that the *junta* had deposited seventy thousand dollars in an El Paso bank. But the threat to the peace was soon ended, at least temporarily. Fourteen *Reyistas* were arrested and a carload of thirty-three rifles shipped from Chicago was confiscated. Reyes himself was captured in Mexico by Madero's troops and placed in prison in Mexico City.

Thus ended the eventful year of 1911, a year of intense excitement for border residents who were beginning to realize the potency of Mexico's upheaval. "It has not ended," they told themselves, as they looked forward to a prosperous and exciting New Year.

## SCIENCE EXPLORES THE BIG BEND: 1852-1853

. . . . . William H. Goetzmann

The ratification of the Treaty of Guagalupe-Hildalgo in 1948 marked the official end of the war with Mexico. Among the most crucial provisions of the treaty were those which dealt with the land boundaries between the two countries. It had been land, after all, that had been the primary cause of the war. Article Five of the treaty specified the new southern limits of continental United States in terms which the treaty-makers believed would preclude any further disputes along the Rio Grande. The same article also provided for the appointment by each country of a Commissioner and a Surveyor who were to lead parties into the field to run and mark the all-important imaginary line. In the event of any minor discrepancies between the treaty provisions and the realities of geography, the Commissioners and Surveyors were empowered to negotiate a proper resolution of the difficulties. These negotiations, Article Five, declared, "would be deemed a part of the treaty."<sup>1</sup> It was this seemingly innocent provision that eventually resulted in the most spectacular developments. For, as it turned out, the description of the boundary line, so carefully drawn by the treaty-makers, proved to be a total enigma, due to its dependence upon Disturnell's erroneous map of 1847.<sup>2</sup>

A bitter controversy arose between the American and Mexican field Commissions over the correct location of the boundary, and the dispute became at once reflective of the economic and political aspirations of each country.<sup>3</sup> Even the Army Topographical Engineers, who served as technical experts on the survey, entered into the dispute on behalf of the American expansionists. Eventually, feeling ran so high that the Governor of New Mexico, William C. Lane, issued a proclamation declaring his intention of occupying the disputed Mesilla Valley, north and west of El Paso on the Rio Grande.<sup>4</sup> Thus, after five years of diplomatic and political skirmishing over the location of the boundary, the only peaceful solution seemed to be President Pierce's Gadsden Purchase of 1853.

Almost unnoticed in the glare of diplomatic controversy was the achievement of the United States Boundary Commission in exploring and surveying more than two thousand miles of boundary line running through some of the most difficult country imaginable. Even Kit Carson had once declared that "not

<sup>1</sup>30 Cong. 1 Sess., *Sen. Ex. Doc. No. 52* (1848), 44

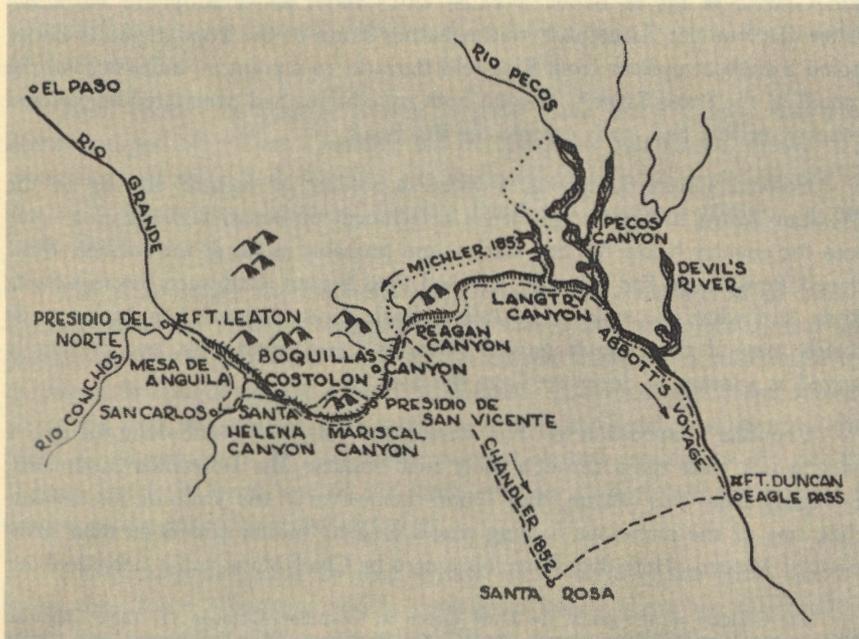
<sup>2</sup>32 Cong. 1 Sess., *Sen. Ex. Doc. No. 119* (1852), 146.

<sup>3</sup>A. B. Gray, "Report and Map Relative to the Mexican Boundary," 33 Cong. 2 Sess., *Sen. Ex. Doc. No. 55* (1855), 27.

<sup>4</sup>Paul Neff Garber, *The Gadsden Treaty* (Philadelphia, 1923), 71-2.

even a wolf could make his living on it.”<sup>5</sup> Yet it is the diplomats and politicians, if any, who are remembered in connection with the boundary survey. The men who led the field parties through the heat and the hostile country in the face of a constant Indian threat by the Apaches and the Comanches, are now almost completely forgotten. Who has even heard of Whipple, Michler, Gray, Radzinski, Martin Luther Smith, Hardcastle, Chandler, or Schott? Only the Topographical Engineer who supervised the whole operation, Major William H. Emory, is commemorated by having his name affixed to the highest peak of the Chisos Mountains in the Big Bend.\* These official explorers hardly deserve the obscurity that their quiet heroism has afforded them. For, it was they, and other groups of unpublicized government explorers like them, who swarmed all over the trans-Mississippi country in the years between the Mexican and Civil Wars, and what they accomplished was the scientific opening of the West.

No group could possibly have been more obscure than the detachment of the United States Boundary Commission which set out from Fort Leaton, near Pre-



The Big Bend

<sup>5</sup>Quoted by Senator Hart Benton in *The Congressional Globe* 33 Cong. 1 Sess., vol. 1, part ii (1854), 1031.

\*Emory Way in the Upper Valley of El Paso is also named after Major William Emory. (Editor's note.)

sidio del Norte, on September 16, 1852, under orders to carry their survey down the Rio Grande from the Presidio to the mouth of the Pecos River. Commanding the party was Marine T. W. Chandler. He was the son of a prominent Whig Congressman, who probably believed he had secured his son a soft berth on a routine government commission. Serving as the officers of the party were Thomas Thompson, the surveyor, E. W. Phillips, assistant surveyor, Dr. C. C. Parry, the naturalist, and Lieutenant Duff Green, who commanded the escort.<sup>6</sup> The total personnel included cooks, laborers, rodmen, and a small contingent of soldiers. Of their equipment, the most noteworthy objects were the inflatable India rubber boats in which they hoped to float down the Rio Grande, surveying and mapping as they drifted along.

They could have had only the vaguest idea of what lay before them, for the country ahead was the unexplored region of the Big Bend of the Rio Grande. Only two other American parties had previously approached this country. One, under a Dragoon Captain named Love, in the spring of 1850, had ascended the Rio Grande as far as Babbitt's Falls, 1,014 miles above Ringgold Barracks.<sup>7</sup> Later that summer, Lieutenant Martin Luther Smith of the Topographical Corps, poled a flatboat upriver from Ringgold Barracks to a point 80 miles beyond the mouth of the Pecos River.<sup>8</sup> Though both expeditions had penetrated unexplored country, neither had really entered the Big Bend.

Colonel Emilio Langberg, a Swedish soldier of fortune serving in the Mexican Army, had previously led a detachment of border fighters on a foray into the country below the San Carlos, and probably as far as the ancient, abandoned Presidio de San Vicente. He had then turned southward towards Santa Rosa, and what was soon to be called, Eagle Pass. Colonel Langberg's crude sketch map of the country guided Chandler's party part way, and eventually served as a means of departure from the river.<sup>9</sup>

Chandler's expedition left Fort Leaton and followed a trail along the river's edge which took them through their first obstacle, the Bofecillos Mountains. Emerging from this canyon, they found themselves at the Vado de los Comanches, one of the numerous fording places used by Indian raiders on their invasions of Mexico. Here they were confronted by Chief Mano and a fierce-looking

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<sup>6</sup>For Officers of the party see Duff Green to Chandler, October 31, 1852; Thomas Thompson to Chandler, November 3, 1852; E. W. Phillips to Chandler, November 4, 1852; C. C. Parry to William H. Emory, November 4, 1852 in the Emory Papers, Yale Collection of Western Americana.

<sup>7</sup>Captain John Love "Report", 31 Cong. 2 Sess., *Sen. Ex. Doc. No. 1*, part 2 (1849-50), 324-329.

<sup>8</sup>Lieutenant M. L. Smith to Colonel Joseph E. Johnston, January 6, 1851, ms. Report, Letters Received, Corps of Topographical Engineers, Record Group 77, National Archives.

<sup>9</sup>Chandler to Emory, Fort Duncan, November 23, 1852, ALS, Emory Papers.

band of warriors. They appeared especially menacing, perhaps, because, according to Chandler, "they had just crossed the San Antonio road and had with them gold, etc., supposed to be taken from the bodies of Americans murdered near Comanche Springs."<sup>10</sup> Despite the Indians' warlike appearance, Chandler and his men, like seasoned plainsmen, managed to avoid a fight. They left the raiders to continue on with their foray into Durango. Mano and his warriors were only the first of many Indians encountered in the course of the expedition.

From the fording place the river entered a long series of canyons hollowed out of the San Carlos Mountains. The explorers could no longer follow the riverbank, so they turned southward and kept to the plateaus overlooking the stream, mapping its course as best they could. Far below, "at a distance so great as to reduce it in appearance to a mere threat," Thompson reported, the river flowed, while the roar of the rapids and falls was scarcely perceptible."<sup>11</sup> With the aid of his telescope, Thompson claimed that he could see a falls at least 10 feet in height, and he estimated that the walls of the canyon rose nearly 1,000 feet above the river.<sup>12</sup> Later explorers, however, could never discover any falls. Only a series of rapids and a natural dam created by falling rocks impeded the progress of the water.<sup>13</sup>

From above, the passage of the majestic Santa Elena Canyon was also deemed impossible. Thus Chandler led his party *via* San Carlos, around the mountains and away from the river. In so doing, they failed to explore one of the really spectacular sections of the Big Bend, the imposing gateway *via* the Santa Elena Canyon.

The point where the explorers again reached the river was at an Indian crossing where the Terlingue desert meets the water. This was probably near the present-day site of Costolon, for it was below the canyon and still somewhat upriver in bearing from the Chisos Mountains. Had they turned and looked across the flats and upriver, they would have seen the bold escarpment of the Mesa de Anguila with its buff-brown rampart slashed asunder by the quietly flowing river. It forms one of the most awesome evidences of the power of erosion in the entire length of the river.

For the next few days the men worked their way over the Texas side towards the Chisos Mountains which loomed out boldly above the surrounding plains and foothills. The going was difficult, over rock-rubble plains dotted

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<sup>10</sup>*Idem.*

<sup>11</sup>Thomas Thompson to Chandler, San Carlos, October, 1852, ms. ALS. Report, Emory Papers.

<sup>12</sup>*Idem.*

<sup>13</sup>Robert T. Hill, "Running the Canons of the Rio Grande," *The Century Magazine*, V. 61 (Nov. 1900-April 1901), 379.

with sage, cactus, and any number of thorny plants. The terrain itself was cut by dry arroyos and studded with low bluffs and volcanic cores. Overhead was the sun. Their course was set towards the Chisos mountain cluster, and they paused only long enough to name its highest peak in honor of Major Emery.<sup>14</sup> There is no evidence to indicate that any member of the party ever approached the crater-like valley in the center of the Chisos that marks the present-day park headquarters. Instead, they concentrated upon turning the Mariscal Mountain which lays across the apex of the Big Bend of the river.

The party divided, with the mule train keeping to the relatively low country north of Mariscal Mountain (following the approximate course of today's park road). Meanwhile, Chandler and the boatmen attempted without success to float their way through the Mariscal Canyon. It took them two days of capsized boats and hazardous labor to negotiate the canyon, but when they emerged, they could see the Presidio de San Vicente, crumbling and abandoned, but still a landmark, as it stood out on a low gravel mesa overlooking the river from the Mexican side. They had turned the apex of the Big Bend, a feat that would not be repeated again for many years.

By the time the two segments of the party had reached the Presidio de San Vicente, the supplies had run dangerously low, and the explorers' clothes were turning to rags. "The spirit of the whole party began to flag," wrote Chandler, and "the loss of the boats, with provisions and clothing had reduced the men to the shortest rations, and their scanty wardrobes scarcely afforded enough covering for decency. The sharp rocks of the mountain had cut the shoes from their feet, and blood, in many instances, marked their progress through the day's work."<sup>15</sup> Some of the men were forced to make coverings of raw cowhide for their feet, and still the thorns and rocks made the going painful and difficult. Some of the men had gone without food for seventy-eight hours, and the constant threat of Indian attack hung over the weakened party.<sup>16</sup>

Dead ahead lay the Sierra Carmel, and the river disappeared into the massive Boquillas Canyon, where it looked as if the canyons might succeed one another all the way to Pecos. In a last desperate try, the explorers struggled by boat and along the shore through the Boquillas Canyon, 12 miles to an open place on the far side of the Sierra Carmel. Here the exhausted party made its last camp on the river. On November 3 and 4, Chandler solicited the opinion of his officers

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<sup>14</sup>William H. Emory, "Report on the United States and Mexican Boundary Survey," 34 Cong. 1 Sess., *H. R. Ex. Doc.* No. 135 (1857), 83.

<sup>15</sup>*Ibid.*, 84-5

<sup>16</sup>Chandler to Emory, Camp on the Rio Grande, November 4, 1852, ALS, Emory Papers.

as to their views about going on with the survey.<sup>17</sup> To a man they recommended abandoning the work.<sup>18</sup> Chandler accordingly decided, with great reluctance, to suspend his operations on the river and follow Colonel Langberg's trail to Santa Rosa and Eagle Pass. They had just enough food to make it. When they turned from the river, they were about 125 miles above the mouth of the Pecos.<sup>19</sup>

But though the main party abandoned the survey and marched towards Santa Rosa, not all of the men took this course. A common laborer named Charles Abbott and several others whose names have not survived, decided to take the remains of the best boat and shoot the canyons and rapids all the way to Eagle Pass.<sup>20</sup> Only oblique references to their extraordinary exploit survive, and even today no official account credits any of Chandler's party with continuing the survey. Yet Abbott and his companions succeeded, floating hundreds of miles downstream through a succession of quiet stately avenues and dangerous rapids, through Reagan Canyon, past the sky-high Langtry Canyon with its eagle's nest suspended on the cliff above the river, past the junction of the deep Pecos River Canyon with the Rio Grande, past the Devil's River, and suddenly out onto the green lowlands that led right up to the new formed post at Fort Duncan. The river party arrived on November 14, 1852, just ten days from their campsite upriver. When Abbott reported to Major Emory after his historic trip, he handed Emory Dr. Parry's note which read:

I have asked one of the boatmen, Abbott, to take some notes on the character of the river below, distance, etc. that you may be able to judge of the best plan of fitting out another party to complete the work. We are probably less than 100 miles above the mouth of the Pecos and therefore below the distance ascended in boats by Lt. Michler last year.<sup>21</sup>

In addition to the notes, Abbott had also been more than faithful in the execution of his duties. He had made a rough map of the river which aided the cartographer, Arthur Schott, in plotting that stretch of the river. Schott himself wrote to Emory, "I found Abbott the man belonging to Mr .Chandler's party more and better provided to answer my questions as I expected. He had made himself a sketch in his own primitive manner, which of course, as it is based only upon guessings without any aid of instruments cannot be of much worth,"

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<sup>17</sup>See replies to Chandler by Thompson and Phillips on November 4, 1852, ALS, Emory Papers.

<sup>18</sup>*Idem.*

<sup>19</sup>Emory, "Report", *loc. cit.*, 85.

<sup>20</sup>Chandler to Emory, Camp on the Rio Grande, November 4, 1852, ALS; Parry to Emory, Camp on the Rio Grande, November 4, 1852, ALS, Emory Papers.

<sup>21</sup>Parry to Emory, Camp on the Rio Grande, November 4, 1852, ALS, Emory Papers.

yet, he added, "it . . . enabled me to sketch that portion of the river, which otherwise had been almost impossible."<sup>22</sup>

Abbott's map, like his heroic deed, has been lost to posterity, and all that remains of his canyon passage are the letters of the survey scientists who profited by his voyage. Yet, though it was exploited to a far less degree, considering his scanty food supply, the state of the boat, and the exhausted condition of the men, this was a feat that easily matched John Wesley Powell's celebrated trip down the Colorado.

Chandler and the main party, meanwhile, had a difficult journey overland via Langberg's trail. In addition to their short rations and the difficulty of the country, they were halted by Wild Cat and his fierce Seminole exiles.<sup>23</sup> For one breathless instant the fate of the whole party must have hung in the balance. But they managed to convince Wild Cat of their peaceful intent, and it must have been obvious to the Indian that the party's supplies were hardly worth an attack. So, on November 24, 1852, ten days after Abbott had landed, Chandler and his men crossed the Rio Grande and straggled out onto the parade ground at Fort Duncan, Eagle Pass.<sup>24</sup> There the first scientific exploration of the Big Bend came to an end with the men still ill-housed, and unpaid, living on credit and in borrowed tents, denied even the privilege of a good spree in the numerous saloons of the town of Eagle Pass.<sup>25</sup>

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On April 4, 1853, Lieutenant Nathaniel Michler was ordered by Emory to complete the survey from Chandler's point of departure to Eagle Pass.<sup>26</sup> Michler then organized a party at San Antonio and marched overland *via* the El Paso road, King's road, King's Springs, and Independence Springs, and along a well travelled Comanche trail to the approximate site of Chandler's last camp.<sup>27</sup> From there Michler and his men worked their way downriver, aided for a time by friendly Lipan Indians. Soon, however, they were forced by the nature of the geography to take to the boats. The wagon train was sent *via* Langberg's trail to Eagle Pass, while Michler and his aids set out to duplicate Abbott's feat of the year before.

They had two flimsy skiffs and a weather-beaten flatboat of larger dimensions in which to brave the rapids. Almost immediately they ran into difficulty.

<sup>22</sup>Arthur Schott to Emory, Fort Duncan, n.d. but before November 25, 1852, ALS, Emory Papers.

<sup>23</sup>Chandler to Emory, Fort Duncan, November 25, 1852, ALS, Emory Papers.

<sup>24</sup>Ibid.

<sup>25</sup>Chandler to Emory, Fort Duncan, December 23, 1852, ALS, Emory Papers.

<sup>26</sup>Emory, "Report", *loc. cit.*, 74.

<sup>27</sup>*Ibid.*, 74-5.

In a narrow canyon bounded by sheer perpendicular walls they were hurled into a chute of rapids where the water foamed and tumbled and drove them along for several hundred feet. The lighter skiffs shot the rapids safely, but the heavily-laden flatboat ran squarely against the side of the canyon shattering the brow and carrying part of it away. The crew was knocked in a heap, the boathooks lost, and the boat and all its supplies was in danger of being a total loss. Only the heroism of two Mexican laborers, who drove into the furious torrent, saved the men and the boat. The following day, however, Michler calmly wrote, "we were again afloat . . . our craft bereft of all her fair proportions."<sup>28</sup>

By timing their passage through the canyons and making careful sketches of the route, Michler's party was able to make a scientific survey of this most difficult section of the river. Their information, more carefully compiled, supplanted that of Abbott, and it is Michler's account that appears in the final printed report.

Dr. C. C. Parry wrote the geological report on this section of the boundary, and though he described the various cretaceous strata, and the volcanic outcroppings, and though he came up with an ingenious idea of the historical development of the Rio Grande (the river was once a series of basins one higher than the other and the water eventually cut through the lips, forming a continuous flow through the canyons), still Parry made nothing like a complete geologic survey of the Big Bend. Perhaps his most valuable contributions were descriptive rather than analytical, such as his cross-section views of the canyons, and his diagrammatic view of the Chisos Mountains.

But in a sense Parry's work can stand for the achievement of these official explorers who first braved the difficult stretches of the Rio Grande. They were describing as scientifically as they could under the circumstances the stupendous mysteries of an unknown country. Later groups would refine the data, but these unsung heroes had been there first, and they provided a broad but accurate outline of the sights they had seen.

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<sup>28</sup>*Ibid.*, 79-80

<sup>29</sup>*Ibid.*, part 11, 54-56.

## HANGED BY THE NECK UNTIL DEAD

. . . . . by Joe K. Parrish

Early-day El Paso was a hell-for-leather village. Life was cheap. But in those days, even as now, it was a good place to kill a man, because murder seldom drew the maximum punishment.

So it is that despite the scores of fatal gun fights, dry-gulchings and plain murders, only four legal hangings show up in the county records. And two of those were for rape, which apparently was considered a worse crime than taking another's life.

They were real nice hangings, too, all of them. Geronimo Parra and Antonio Flores were the main attractions at a double feature, at which both were hanged at one execution. As an added thrill, they tried to stab their executioners with smuggled knives when they came to escort the condemned men to the gallows.

Joseph Brinster also was featured in what might be called a double header, being hanged twice within fifteen minutes. But Rosalio Castillo died in the traditional manner, asking forgiveness for his executioners and calling upon God to witness his innocence. He also gave Baptist and Catholic congregations of El Paso a suspenseful tug-of-war over his soul.

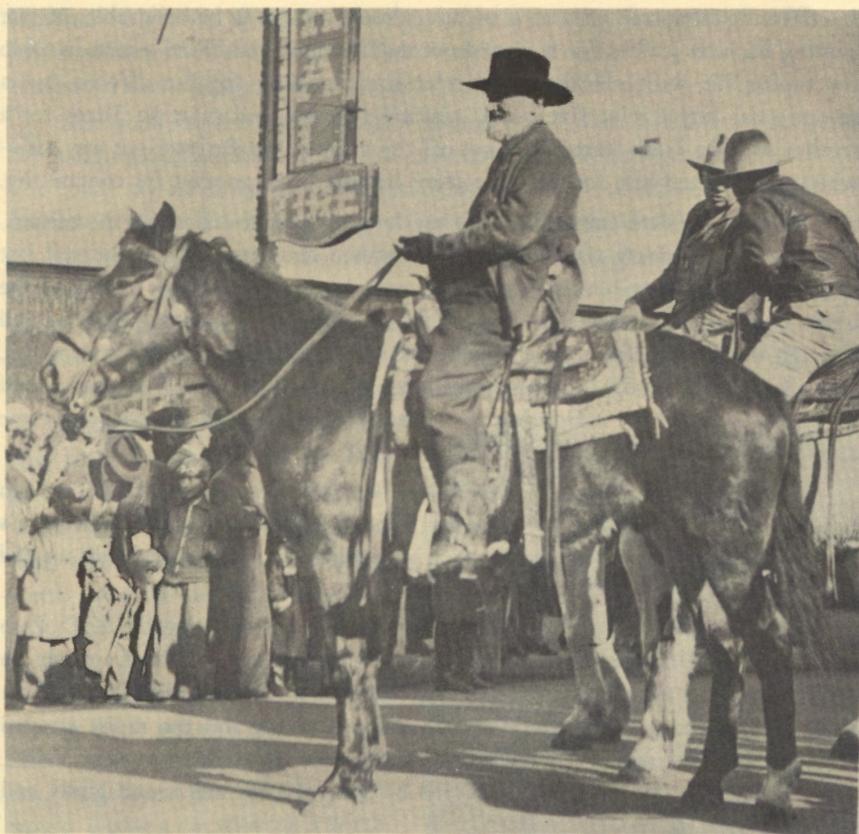
Prior to 1917 persons condemned to death were hanged in the county in which they were tried. In that year the state law was changed and thenceforth all hangings were performed in the state penitentiary.

The earliest recorded hanging found in El Paso County was that of Brinster, who stretched the hemp on July 5, 1883, on a gallows erected behind the Court House then located in Ysleta. Brinster was convicted of the rape of the wife of a non-commissioned officer at Fort Davis, Texas, the year before. He was tried in 34th District Court in El Paso on a change of venue, and found guilty.

Circumstances surrounding the conviction and execution prompted editorials in the *Lone Star*, early El Paso newspaper published by S. H. Newman.\* The paper sharply criticized a legal procedure that permitted a man to be hanged for rape on practically no evidence save that of the injured party. This did seem

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\*For an excellent account of Newman, see John J. Middagh, "Simeon Harrison Newman — The Fighting Editor of *The Lone Star*," *PASS-WORD*, 11, 4 (November, 1957), 115-24. (Editor's note.)



Captain John R. Hughes as he prepared to lead a parade in El Paso in 1840.

to be the case in Brinster's instance, for he maintained that, although he had kicked in the woman's door while drunk, he had not raped her, but instead had tried to help her fix the door. He claimed that she had to explain the broken door to her husband somehow, so she invented the rape story.

Could be. If the flowery prose of the *Lone Star* is to be believed, Brinster died as would an innocent man. "He died bravely," rambled the *Lone Star*, "a young man, the model of physical health, with countenance which betrayed no sign of guilt; clear bright eyes that rather sought than evaded the inquiring gaze of those who tried in vain to discover in them some lurking indication that the heart below was foul and black, and that the outward show of resignation was only a cloak to conceal the damnable thoughts of a human fiend."<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*The Lone Star*, July 8, 1883. On microfilm at Public Library.

The Brinster case presents a picture, almost too pat to be believable, of fate turning back on itself. For it turned out that Brinster had killed a man in Ohio for raping his wife. He had been sentenced to hang for the offense, but a second trial netted him five years, which he served and came to Texas for a fresh start. His fresh start barely got off the ground, but Brinster got way off—when they hanged him for the same crime he had killed another for committing.

Brinster's Ysleta execution made up, however, for the first one he missed. The sentence of death was read, the condemned man made the traditional last speech, the knot was placed around his neck, his legs and hands tied, and the black hood draped over his head. Then the trap was sprung. Brinster fell through the floor. The rope snapped taut and jiggled a bit with his struggles, and all appeared well. But then something happened that made the hair stand up on the heads of the officiating participants. From beneath the platform came a hollow, ghostly, "Say, boys."

Someone hopped down—reluctantly, we can imagine—and checked on things. He discovered that the knot had slipped to the front and that Brinster's neck was not broken. He was not even strangling. So they hauled him up and did it again. Successfully, this time.<sup>2</sup>

Rosalio Castillo was the second man to be hanged legally in El Paso County.<sup>3</sup> Like Brinster, Castillo was convicted of rape, again almost entirely on the unsupported testimony of the victim, this time an 11-year-old girl. The offense occurred near the girl's Magoffin Avenue home, and the rapist escaped detection for two weeks. Then Castillo was picked up on a farm near Ysleta, charged with the offense, and identified by the girl. He was found guilty and sentenced to hang.

On the great day the town had turned out to watch. "The cupola of the Court House swarmed with women eager to see. The roofs of the surrounding houses were converted into temporary platforms from which scores of people had their first looks at the sickening spectacle of a human being being dashed into the Great Unknown at the hands of the law.

"A section of a T & P freight train was run to the side of the yard and the tops of the cars were soon black with people. Pomeroy's large transfer bus stopped for a moment near the south wall of the jail yard and was instantly covered with men and boys crazy for a sight of the scaffold."<sup>4</sup>

Whether Castillo's soul would go to rest in a Catholic or a Baptist Hereafter was in suspense for a couple of weeks. According to the *Times*, Castillo had been visited by Father Bueno, a Catholic priest, but Castillo had been dis-

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<sup>2</sup>*Idem.*

<sup>3</sup>*El Paso Times*, November 26, 1892.

<sup>4</sup>*Idem.*

satisfied with him. Then Dr. Merchand, pastor of the Mexican Baptist Church, began visiting him and was "well received." So well, in fact, that the prisoner renounced Catholicism and was baptised by Dr. Merchand.

The good Baptist doctor thought he had won a soul. But a few days before the hanging Castillo became restless and called for Father Bueno, as he felt that "he could not meet the terrors of death without the confession and Holy Communion. Fathers Bueno and Pinto stayed with him until the end."<sup>5</sup>

At the execution the sheriff asked Castillo if he had anything to say. True to tradition, the prisoner stepped to the edge of the platform and in Spanish, said, "God forgive all the officers executing my sentence and those who have so unjustly accused me of the crime for which I am to die. I forgive all. God knows that I am innocent and that I have been unjustly accused, but they will be rewarded by Him." Then the late Juan Franco, famed El Paso police officer, pulled the trap.

The most exciting hanging, one that made talk for weeks afterwards, was the double header that came off at 12:45 p.m. on January 6, 1900. As background music we have the repeated metallic clanging of the steel gallows trap door as Sheriff Boone, hangman for the day, made sure the lethal machine would operate without a hitch. (The gallows is located in the present City Jail and Police Station and still works. But it soon will pass into history when the building is torn down and the jail moved to the remodeled Court House.)

Jailor T. C. Lyons walked down the jail corridor and stopped before a cell. Inside were Geronimo Parra and Antonio Flores, convicted murderers due to die in a few minutes. The two looked up sullenly. "You ready, boys?" the jailor asked. Flores was first. He walked to the



The gallows in the El Paso City Jail where Parra and Flores were hanged. Note hook at top of picture where the rope was tied.

— (Photo by Luis Perez O.)

<sup>5</sup>*Idem.*

cell door. Lyons took his arm and they proceeded towards the gallows at the end of the corridor. Lyons released his hold on Flores and two deputies began tying his hands behind him and preparing to drop the black hood over his head. Then the proceedings went wrong. Flores departed from the script. The doomed man whipped a crude smuggled dagger from beneath his shirt and lunged at Deputy Ed Bryant, former Ranger and prominent El Paso peace officer.

Instantly the narrow constricted tank was a bedlam. Screaming foul Spanish curses, Flores plunged his weapon again and again into Bryant's stomach. The agonized deputy went down under the surprise attack. Four other officers struggled with Flores, who in a raging fury of desperation and hate, fought with the traditional strength of ten. But not because his heart was pure. Then Parra joined the fray. The cell door carelessly had been left open and he rushed into the corridor, also brandishing a dagger. He stabbed Policeman Christly, then turned on Deputy Ten Eych and stabbed him too.<sup>6</sup>

Captain John R. Hughes of the Texas Rangers stood by, helpless, waiting a chance to enter the struggle. Hughes, one of the few persons privileged to witness the hangings,<sup>7</sup> had been taking no part in the proceedings. But a fleeting, grim smile of satisfaction occasionally played across his lips, for ten years previously he had sworn to bring Geronimo Parra to justice after the outlaw had killed a brother Ranger. It had taken him ten years, but Captain Hughes had brought his man within sight of the hangman's noose. But if it had not been for his good friend Pat Garrett, famed lawman whose name is woven into the legends and history of New Mexico, things might have turned out differently.

Antonio Flores was no frontiersman. He was just a minor league peon who slaughtered his sweetheart in a fit of jealous rage. But Geronimo Parra was a different breed of man. Hughes described Parra as the most vicious outlaw with whom he dealt during his 28 years of service with the Rangers. Stock thief, smuggler, killer, robber, Parra plundered alike the wealthy *gringo* rancher with thousands of cows and the poor Mexican peon with but one ox to pull his plow. He distributed sudden death in the same impartial manner. For years he and his gang had holed up in the rugged canyons of the east side of the Franklins, and *via* a little-known pass in the mountains, had easy access both to Old and New Mexico. But one day Parra made a mistake. He killed a Texas Ranger. The bullets that ripped through the young body of Charles Fusselman would ten years later bring him face to face with the same death he so wantonly dealt others.

The saga of Captain Hughes' ten-year game of hide-and-seek with Parra

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<sup>6</sup>*Ibid.*, January 6, 1900.

<sup>7</sup>Jack Martin, *Border Boss* (San Antonio, 1942), 150.

begins on April 17, 1890. That morning John Barnes, a rancher living near Mundy Springs, galloped his foaming horse up to the sheriff's office. "A gang of thieves just rounded up all my horses and a yearling calf," he blurted to Deputy Simmons. "I tracked them to a pass through the mountains about eight miles north of town."<sup>8</sup>

Ranger Fusselman, who in addition was a deputy U. S. Marshal, was in town from his Marfa Ranger Camp. He was waiting to attend Federal court. Simmons being busy on other matters, Fusselman and George Herold, an El Paso city policeman, set out with Barnes to capture the gang or regain the stolen stock. At Barnes' corral the trio picked up the rustlers' trail leading to the canyon and the pass through the mountains. The pursuers entered the canyon and almost immediately captured Ysidro Pasos, one of the gang's leaders. Ysidro had been out reconnoitering and had gotten careless, allowing the lawmen to catch him unawares. He surrendered without a fight.

Fusselman, Barnes and Herold continued up the gorge with Fusselman in the lead. The Ranger topped a small ridge and found himself almost on top of the outlaw camp, which was nestled some thirty yards away at the bottom. The Ranger's sudden appearance was answered by a singing bullet that missed its mark. "Boys, we're in for it and let's stay with it," Fusselman yelled, pulling his pistol to return fire. Those were his last words. Herold saw Parra fire his Winchester rifle twice. Fusselman reeled in the saddle, threw his hand to his head, and fell backward to the ground. Then the outlaws, laying down a murderous fire ahead of them, charged up the hill. Herold and Barnes were sorely outnumbered so, pistols blazing, they got the hell out of there.

Herold, his lathered horse on the verge of collapse, got back to town at five o'clock and sounded the alarm. Feeling against the outlaws was intense. In a remarkably short time ten hard men, armed to the eyeballs and led by Deputy U. S. Marshal Bob Ross, set out in pursuit. A wagon and team followed the posse to bring in the body of the slain Ranger.

The posse tracked the bandits through the pass and down the west slope of Mount Franklin to the bosque, or swamp, near Canutillo, vestiges of which may still be seen. But no one knew a way through the bog. Constable Patterson rode in a few feet and his horse sank to its belly. They searched up and down for a way through, but could find none. On the other side of the swamp and the Rio Grande lay New Mexico, and the possemen agreed that they would never catch their men in the vast desert stretching west of the river. They abandoned the chase.

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<sup>8</sup>*El Paso Times*, April 18, 1890.

Meanwhile, the Ranger camp at Marfa had been notified by telegraph of Fusselman's murder. Hughes, then a corporal, showed the message to his commanding officer, Captain Frank Jones.<sup>9</sup> After reading the message Jones was silent. Then he spoke. "Corporal, you've still got time to catch the El Paso train." Hughes wasted no time. He arrived in El Paso after the posse had given up. He swam his horse across the Rio Grande and picked up the trail on the other side of the bog, in New Mexico. It lead a short distance into the sandy wastes, then split up. He followed first one, then another, only to lose the tracks in the shifting sand. Although he was out of his jurisdiction, he never thought of abandoning the chase. He learned that his man occasionally was seen around Las Cruces. Then he was ordered back to Marfa for other assignments. But the name Geronimo Parra burned itself into his memory.

Hughes became captain upon the death of Captain Jones in a gang battle on the Island at Ysleta with the notorious Olguin Gang, in 1893. He had not forgotten about Parra. No matter where he was, he asked questions as to Parra's whereabouts. Finally he hit pay dirt. Ben Williams, a deputy sheriff of Doña Ana County, New Mexico, said yes, he knew where Parra was—he was serving a seven-year hitch in the territorial penitentiary at Santa Fé, after having gotten into a gun fight with Williams over Parra's indictment for burglary. Captain Hughes started extradition proceedings, working through the Governor of Texas, and got permission from the Governor of New Mexico to take Parra. But the warden wouldn't turn Parra loose.

Hughes bided his time. Then in 1899 a stroke of luck came his way. Pat Garrett moseyed into the Rangers' Ysleta camp one day. Garret and Hughes were friends from the earlier days and sat around swapping stories. Finally Hughes said, "Pat, I want a man who's in the Santa Fé Penitentiary. He killed one of our best men back in 1890 and I'd sure like to get my hands on him. If anybody in New Mexico has enough influence to get him for me, it's you."

Garrett thought a minute. "Jack," he said, "you get me Pat Agnew who's at large somewhere in Texas, and I'll get you Parra. The deal was agreeable and they shook hands on it. But after Garrett left Hughes realized what a job he had cut out for himself. He never had seen Agnew, knew nothing about the man. And "somewhere in Texas" covered a lot of real estate. But right away he picked up a lead that his man hung out in the Big Bend. At the Big Bend he learned that Agnew had gone to Carrizo Springs, down below Del Rio. At Carrizo Springs he learned his quarry had fled back to Pecos. At Pecos there was no sign of Agnew but the trail was warmer. He learned that his man was work-

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<sup>9</sup>Martin, *Border Boss*, 153

ing as a cow hand on a ranch down by the border. Hughes spurred his pony on. Agnew surrendered without a fight, and the captain took him to El Paso and delivered him to Pat Garrett.<sup>10</sup>

Garrett then went to Santa Fé and got Parra released to Texas authorities. Hughes clapped him in jail and filed a murder charge against him. Court records of Parra's case have been lost; there are no records of the trial and conviction. However, index records in the El Paso District Clerk's office show that in June, 1899, Parra was denied a writ of habeas corpus. And in February, 1900, a charge against him was dropped because he was dead.

As Captain Hughes rushed toward the clot of humanity struggling in the narrow jail corridor, he saw Deputy Ten Eyke, although wounded, succeed in throwing Parra back in his cell and bolt the iron door. The battle with Flores was still going strong, but four men finally overpowered him. They tied his hands and feet, dropped the hood over his head, and Deputy Comstock began reading the death sentence. The noose was slipped over his head. Sheriff Boone moved to the lever. A hush fell over the tank. For a brief eternity, all was quiet. Then a sudden grating clang! and Flores plunged two stories to death at the end of a rope. The sheriff then strode to Parra's cell and marched him to the gallows.

But the others were having trouble getting the rope off Flores' neck, the long drop having knotted it too tightly. Finally they hauled up the body, stretched it out at Parra's feet, and went to work on it. At this point Parra's braggadocio forsook him; he paled, and swallowed great balls of something in his throat. Finally the rope was removed, soaped, and made ready for another trip. The noose was slipped around Parra's neck, the sentence was read, and Boone asked Parra if he had anything to say. Parra mumbled a few words in Spanish, something to the effect that he was dying unjustly, and asking pardon of those he had "offended" in the last few minutes.

Then the black hood fell over his face. At 2:04 Comstock pulled the lever and Parra disappeared through the steel floor. The grim smile still played about Hughes' lips. Fusselman was avenged. And the wild fastnesses of the Franklin Mountains perpetuate his name. For the canyon where the gallant Ranger met death is known today as Fusselman Canyon.

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<sup>10</sup>*Ibid.*, 147-8.

## THE SAGA OF CAPTAIN McRAE

*by Richard K. McMaster*

The march of the Regiment of Mounted Rifles from Fort Clark, Texas, to new stations in New Mexico during the summer of 1856 was no novelty to those veterans of the Oregon Trail commanded by Colonel William W. Loring. Halting at Fort Bliss to rest, the regiment had the opportunity to renew old acquaintances with the garrison there, and to enjoy visits to Franklin and El Paso del Norte. Finding it to their liking, some of the more fortunate troops were later to be rotated between Fort Stanton and Fort Bliss.

Company "I" commanded by Lieutenant Alexander McRae was not to be so fortunate. McRae's troop, as the companies were now being called, was assigned to Cantonment Burgwin nine miles south of Taos, a hot-bed of Apache-Ute depredations. By coincidence, the post was commanded by Major Nathaniel C. McRae, 3rd Infantry, a Virginian who graduated from West Point in 1826.

In early 1861 McRae's troop was ordered to Fort Union to be married to "G" Troop of the 2nd Dragoons for the purpose of forming a provisional light battery of artillery. McRae's battery, with its splendid equipment—four 12-pound and two 6-pound brass guns—was later in the year to be the sole garrison of Fort Garland near the headwaters of the Rio Grande.

Secession was the talk of the post at Fort Union according to the diary of Lieutenant John V. Dubois, who wrote:

Of all the officers here, only Lieutenant McRae of North Carolina, Captain Shoemaker and myself are thoroughly loyal . . . the soldiers are loyal . . . most of the officers going South themselves, and all the West Pointers except Longstreet urge their soldiers to remain true.

Such was the atmosphere at the principal post and supply depot of the Army on the Santa Fe Trail in the fateful days of 1861. In June, McRae was promoted to the rank of Captain, and in August the Mounted Rifles became the 3rd Cavalry.

When General Canby, the Union commander in New Mexico, strengthened the garrison at Fort Craig to prepare for the threatened Confederate invasion of that state, McRae's light battery was on hand. Also present were seven troops of the 1st and 3rd Cavalry, and eleven companies of the 5th, 7th and 10th

Infantry. Colorado and New Mexico Volunteers and militia raised the Union strength to about four thousand men.

Fort Craig was located on the west bank of the Rio Grande, approximately half way between Albuquerque and El Paso del Norte. A few miles to the north of the post where San Marcial Lake now stands, was the Valverde River crossing, ideal for watering animals, with good grazing close by. It was here that the most notable engagement of the Confederate War in the Southwest took place.

General Sibley with a Confederate force consisting of the 4th, 5th and 7th Texas Volunteer Cavalry regiments, a light battery, and a considerable wagon train, marched up the Rio Grande Valley from Fort Bliss and encamped 20 February, 1862 on the east side of the river across from Fort Craig. That afternoon and night General Canby deployed strong detachments across the river to protect the fort from the commanding position of the Confederates. The following morning both sides advanced upon the Valverde crossing which was forded and seized under heavy fire by the 3rd Cavalry. By early afternoon an attack by the 5th Infantry advanced the Union lines several hundred yards east of the river and parallel to it. McRae's battery held the left of the line, near the upper ford, the 3rd Cavalry and 5th Infantry with a two-piece battery were on the right in the shadow of the Black Mesa. Firing continued throughout the afternoon and several Confederate attacks were repulsed. About an hour before dusk a strong attack enveloped McRae's battery and its weak infantry support, causing the entire command to withdraw to the west bank of the river and finally to Fort Craig. The guns on the right were saved but McRae's fine battery was in Confederate hands. A Confederate eye-witness reported that "the battery was taken but not until every man in it was killed, Captain McRae fell, pierced by many bullets."

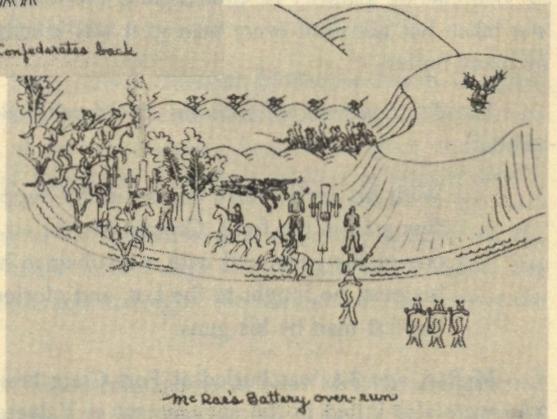
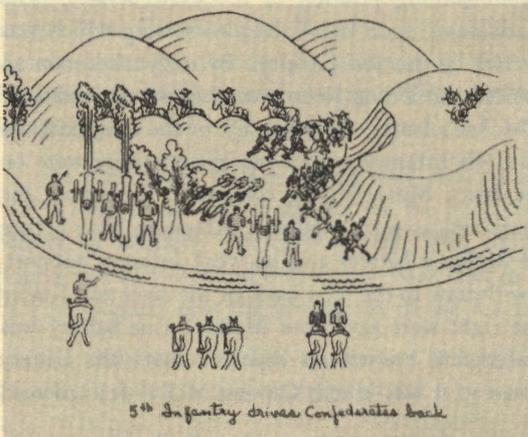
The *St. Louis Republican* on 23 March, 1862, published the following account:

With his artillerymen cut down, his support either killed, wounded or flying from the field, Captain McRae sat down, calmly and quietly, on one of his guns, and with a revolver in hand, refusing to fly or desert his post, he fought to the last, and gloriously died the death of a hero, the last man by his guns.

McRae, age 32, was buried at Fort Craig beside three other West Pointers who were also killed in the engagement at Valverde. For five years no relative visited his grave. His family and kinsmen are said to have disowned and disinherited him when he remained loyal to the North at the outbreak of the war.

In 1867, all other bodies having been removed by relatives, the Army directed his disinterment and reburial at West Point. The passage of his remains through Albuquerque, Santa Fe and St. Louis was the occasion for elaborate military ceremonies as well as the publication of numerous and lengthy eulogies in his honor. Fort McRae, New Mexico, bore his name throughout its existence, 1863-1877.

McRae's guns, which immediately after capture were turned upon the troops at Valverde, subsequently were used in the fighting further north. Following Sibley's defeat at Glorieta Pass the guns were dragged back to Fort Bliss even after all their own artillery had been abandoned. Renamed "The Valverde Battery," five of the guns were used by General Dick Taylor until the close of the war, and then dumped in the Red River to prevent capture. The sixth gun, with a damaged axle, is said to have been left in El Paso.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Colonel Matthew H. Thomlinson, U.S.A. (Ret.), who only recently retired as Curator of the museum on the Texas Western College campus, is of the opinion that a gun in the basement of the museum is the McRae gun.

# BOOK REVIEWS

## TEN TEXAS FEUDS

*C. L. Sonnichsen*

(Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1957. \$5.00)

Leland Sonnichsen's own prologue expresses it best. "The earliest form of criminal law known to our race was feud law—an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth. Revenge was a duty which a kinsman could not shirk. The manslayer must be slain."

And slain he was, singly and in numbers, across the length and breadth of Texas, from the days of settlement until the dawn of the twentieth century. The antecedents, the aftermaths, and the blood-lettings proper of ten of the most famous, most varied, and most sanguinary of these frontier tete-a-tetes are the subject of this intensely interesting book.

The Moderator-Regulator war in Shelby County in the early 1840's began when "Moderators" sought to moderate the over-zealous regulatory tactics employed by the "Regulators" in vigilante law enforcement. Hot lead perverted both of the original commendable aims and ignited a holocaust which consumed scores of victims and left embers which smouldered nearly fifty years. On the other hand, the feuding days of "Gentleman Jim" Miller of Pecos were inspired from the beginning by mere blood-lust, were played as a lone hand, reached their climax when he finally caught up in Toyah in 1896 with a man who had twice before disabled him in shooting sprees, and gunned the latter down for good. He ended up choking out his own life at the end of a posse rope, to no one's dismay and the loss to the community only of the most polished set of ballroom manners in the area.

Both stories are told, as are the intervening ones (including El Paso's own Salt War), in a lucid fast-paced style which makes liberal and highly-effective use of dialogue and reads more like fiction than authenticated and thoroughly-documented history which it is. Not the least of the many favorable attributes of this book is the instant identification with its esteemed author which each pithy paragraph conveys to any reader who has been privileged to have heard Dr. Sonnichsen speak. The dry humor, the subtle emphasis and declinations, the range and choice of diction, are all so much his delightful spoken expression,

it is almost a bi-sensory experience to read his book, and a highly pleasurable one.

Any Western American collection will be enriched with the addition of this volume. El Paso Historical Society members will particularly enjoy it, as both its theme and its locale are within their area of special interest, and its author is an active and original member.

*El Paso, Texas*

Frank Feuille III

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**FORT CONCHO:  
It's Why And Wherefore**

. . . . . *J. N. Gregory*

(San Angelo, Texas, 1957. \$1.00)

For Concho (1867-1889) was situated on the Concho River at San Angelo, Texas. In appearance it was like most frontier forts, a rectangle formed by officers' quarters on one side of a neat parade ground and barracks on the other, with the post headquarters building flanking the two at one end. In front of the headquarters the flag pole loaned dignity and authority to the orderly scene. Buildings serving various other needs were located conveniently in the vicinity. All were constructed of stone quarried locally.

Following the Mexican War (1846-1848) and the discovery of gold in California (1848) there was an unprecedented exodus of people from the east to the new lands of the West. To protect the emigrants, the mail, the supply routes, and to honor our responsibilities under the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo our small Army was taxed to the limit. Army forts moved west on a north and south line, keeping abreast of the tide of migration into the new lands across the Mississippi River, and dotted the mail and supply routes all the way to the Pacific Ocean.

In Texas the Comanche, Apache, Kiowa, and Kickapoo Indians raiding into Mexico from north of the Canadian and Red Rivers ran head-on into the Anglo-Saxon moving west. The result was war to the finish.

During the Civil War the Federals vacated the forts in Texas. The Confederates were too busy elsewhere to man the forts and control the Indians. As a result the Indians presented a greater problem in 1865 than they had before

the war. With the end of the war it became necessary, therefore, to reoccupy the old forts and to build new ones. Fort Concho was one of the latter.

Many well known officers were stationed at Fort Concho. Among them were Colonel William R. Shafter, later a general during the Spanish-American War. Both General Sherman and General Sheridan visited the post at times.

By 1889 the Indians were no longer a menace in Texas. Thus Fort Concho along with most of the other forts was abandoned. Although the walls of this old fort no longer contain a garrison, still the people of San Angelo entertain in their hearts an abiding affection for the memory of those who served there. This is symbolized by the activities of Mrs. Ginevra Wood Carson who has organized the Fort Concho Museum for the purpose of preserving the pioneer relics and buildings of the old fort.

The book is unusually well written for a local history, and is packed with interesting and historically important information. Too, the pen sketches add greatly to the beauty of the book. The profits from the sale of the book go to the maintenance of the museum. Request and remittance should be made to Fort Concho Museum, San Angelo, Texas.

*El Paso, Texas*

Albion Smith

# CONTRIBUTORS



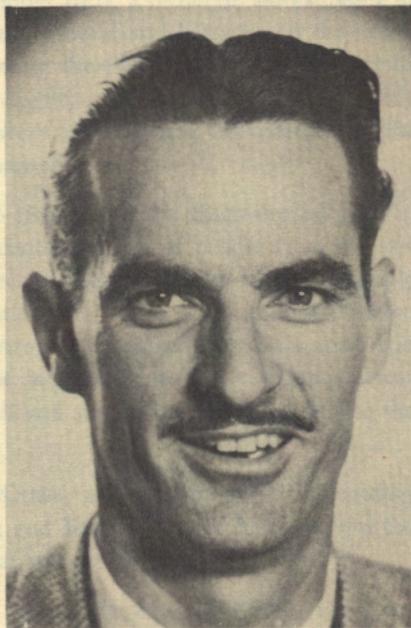
MARDEE BELDING DE WETTER

Joe K. Parrish, a charter member of the El Paso Historical Society, was graduated from Texas Western College with a degree in journalism. While in college he was the editor of *The Prospector*, the student weekly publication, and was elected to "Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges." He is a former president of the TWC Ex-Students' Association.

Mr. Parrish is a former staff writer for the *El Paso Times* where he published numerous articles on local folklore, history, lost mines, buried treasure, etc. History of the Southwest is

Mardee Belding de Wetter has long been interested in local history. Her grandfather, the late Dr. Henry Safford, came to El Paso in 1898 to serve as the physician at the Smelter which had been founded by his uncle, Robert Towne. Mrs. de Wetter and her husband, Peter, live in El Paso and have two sons, Charles and David.

The present article and the two to follow were taken from Mrs. De Wetter's Master's thesis, an unpublished MS. at Texas Western College.



JOE K. PARRISH

## CONTRIBUTORS

one of his major hobbies. He is currently manager of Camera House, Inc. a downtown photographic supply store. He is married to the former Faith Foster and lives at 30 Mary Jeanne Avenue.

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William H. Goetzmann is an instructor in History at Yale University. He was born in Washington, D. C., in 1930, but attended public school and made his home in Houston, Texas. He received his B. A. from Yale in 1952 and his Ph. D. from Yale in 1957. His doctoral dissertation was entitled *The Corps of Topographical Engineers in the Exploration and Development of the Trans-Mississippi West*. It is a definitive work and will be published by the Yale University Press. The present article is based on part of his dissertation.

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Frank Feuille III, ex-president of the El Paso Historical Society, is the author of *The Cotton Road*, a story of the Civil War laid in East Texas.

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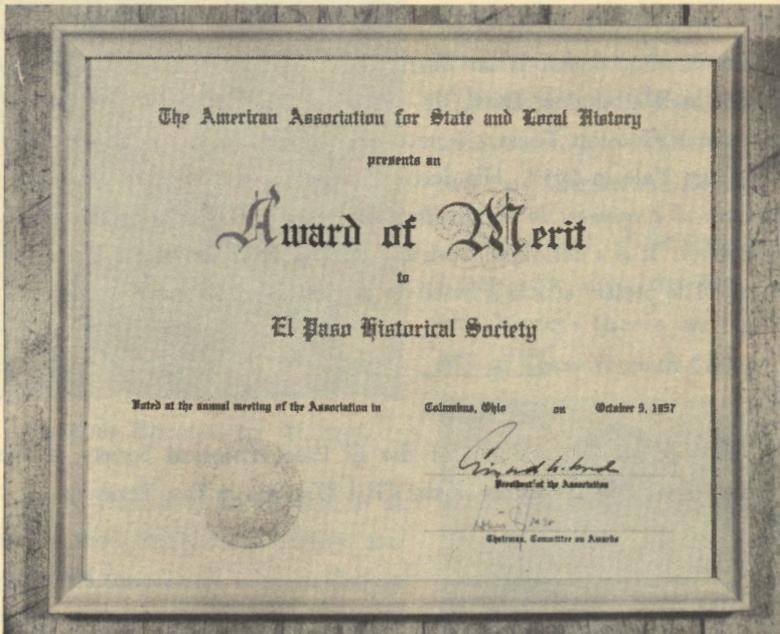
Colonel Albion Smith, U.S.A. (Ret.) is a frequent contributor to PASSWORD. He resides at 4500 Hastings.

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Major Richard K. McMaster, U.S.A. (Ret.) is a frequent contributor to PASSWORD. He is also the official cartographer for the quarterly. The map of the Big Bend country on page 61 above is from his pen as are the three imaginative drawings which accompany his article. Incidentally Major McMaster has presented the society with thirty-five unusual and rare photographs of the Mexican Revolution and of the Pershing Expedition.

# HISTORICAL NOTES

The El Paso Historical Society was given an "Award of Merit" by the American Association For State And Local History at its annual meeting in Columbus, Ohio, on October 5, 1957. The Award, pictured below, now hangs in the Society's room at the Public Library.



One of our new members, Mr. Jack Findlay of Madeira Beach, Florida, has given the Society two valuable books. One is the *Report of the Secretary of the Territory, 1905-06, and Legislative Manual, 1907, of the Territory of New Mexico*. In addition to an excellent index the book contains a "Chronological Table" which lists events from 1325 when the Aztecs founded Mexico City to 1900 when the "New Capitol building (was) completed and dedicated." The population of New Mexico in 1900, according to the "Table," was 195,310.

The other book is Volume IV of the United States Supreme Court Case "The State of New Mexico *vs.* The State of Texas," dated November 19, 1914.

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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.