

PASSWORD



OF THE

EL PASO HISTORICAL SOCIETY

PASSWORD

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EL PASO DEFENDS HER CULTURE — OPERA AT THE PASS OF THE NORTH*

. by Estelle Goodman Levy

The newspapers of early El Paso contain many columns of intense interest which indicate that even in this small community there were many fine opera presentations which were enjoyed by an understanding and enthusiastic audience. The phrasing of the items in those early newspapers is especially interesting. The reporters used big sounding words and fine writing in their efforts to please their readers. A couple of their favorite expressions were: "the audience embraced the elite of the city" and a "large and fashionable audience filled the auditorium."¹ One newspaper reported "quite a treat for the theater going people of El Paso when the opera company of sixteen people from the city of Mexico presented the great dramatic opera *Don Juan*."² Later when the Hess Opera Company brought *The Bohemian Girl* here a news item noted that the company "exhibited to an opera house full of people" and that it was "the largest audience ever assembled to witness a performance in El Paso."³ It was also recorded that Bellini's opera *Norma* was well received and that "El Pasoans are looking forward to the presentation of *Il Trovatore*."⁴ Many of the operas seen in those early days are not too frequently produced today. In 1883, for instance, the Calhoun Opera Company offered *Boccaccio* and "It was greeted by another large audience." In advertising *Fatiniza* it was stated that the "Calhoun Opera Company will give you a feast of melody if you attend the opera tonight."⁵

One of the highlights of those early days was the presentation of *Lohengrin*. This was the first production of a Wagnerian opera ever given in El Paso.⁶ In 1905 Luiza Tetrzini played the lead in *Lucia di Lammermoor*.⁷ El Paso gave this new star a tremendous ovation. She played three nights here and went on to San Francisco where she was acclaimed a prima dona of the highest degree.⁸

Those early settlers had a deep appreciation for opera, and from time to time presented their own talent. Because there were so few traveling companies

* This paper tied for second place in Category III in the Society's Writers' Contest, 1958. [Editor's Note.]

¹Condensations of articles in card index files under Music and Opera in El Paso Public Library.

²*The Lone Star* [El Paso], June 11, 1884.

³*Ibid.*, June 14, 1884.

⁴*El Paso Herald*, March 8, 1889.

⁵*El Paso Evening Tribune*, April 1, 1893.

⁶*El Paso Herald*, March 19, 1891.

⁷*Ibid.*, May 18, 1905.

⁸Interview with Mrs. W. D. Greet, October 20, 1959.

to stop in El Paso during the winter of 1893-94, the music lovers of the city banded together and created their own entertainment. In the fall, rehearsals were started for the *Bells of Carniville*.⁹ The opera was so successful from an artistic as well as a financial point of view that the group planned to form a permanent organization to present opera. The same winter the Silver City Opera Company presented *Patience* to a "large audience of discriminating music lovers."¹⁰

Opera companies from all over the world came to the Pass of the North to stop for rest and to give performances. The Mexican National Grand Opera Company,¹¹ the Grand Spanish Opera from Madrid¹² and the Tavery Grand English Opera Company¹³ were outstanding visitors to the city near the turn of the century. The Grand Opera Italian Company enroute to Hermosillo passed through El Paso in 1902 and was billed to give a performance but the opera house was too small to accommodate the immense company and the forty-piece orchestra.¹⁴ However, in February, 1903, this company returned and gave two fine performances—*Rigoletto* one night and *Lucia di Lammermoor* the next.¹⁵ The Judie French Opera Company, bound for Chihuahua and the City of Mexico, "laid over" in El Paso. "They came from San Francisco."¹⁶

El Paso was the half-way station between San Francisco and New Orleans and between Chicago and Mexico City. Many traveling shows spent a night here enroute to the larger cities. And so it was that the San Carlo Opera Company on its way to Los Angeles, where they were to open an engagement on Monday evening, March 4, stopped for a day in El Paso. It was advertised that the San Carlo Company would give one performance of the *Barber of Seville* on Sunday afternoon, March 3.¹⁷ Weeks ahead people were talking about Alice Neilson who would take the lead and everyone was going to the El Paso Public Library to get a libretto to brush up on the story.

The show was to start promptly at two p.m.¹⁸ and at the appointed hour the seats were all occupied and everyone was anticipating an enjoyable afternoon. My mother thought it important that I attend, and so she took me to my first opera. It was a gala occasion. I can remember how thrilled I was when the lights were darkened and the orchestra played the overture. Then the curtain went up and I was in a different world, a world of glamour and romance.

⁹*El Paso Evening Tribune*, October 28, 1893.

¹⁰*El Paso Herald*, January 2, 1894.

¹¹*El Paso Sunday Telegraph*, October 2, 1897.

¹²*El Paso Herald*, August 25, 1892.

¹³*Ibid.*, January 11, 1896.

¹⁴*Ibid.*, October 30, 1902.

¹⁵*El Paso Herald*, February 7, 1903.

¹⁶*The Lone Star*, December 28, 1885.

¹⁷*El Paso Herald*, January 19, 1907.

¹⁸*Idem.*

The music was gay and the story was easy to follow. At the end of the first act I heard people saying "Where's Companari? Where's Constantino? The substitutes are no good." But to me everything was perfect.

Then the second act began. When the curtain went down after the fifth scene, everybody sat still, not dreaming that the performance was concluded.¹⁹ But when the members of the orchestra began to leave, there were exclamations of "Is that all? It can't be. What has happened?" When the orchestra leader called out, "That's all," Mr. A. H. Richards jumped to his feet and shouted, "Keep your seats. Don't be bunkoed. Let's have our money back or the rest of the show." He kept this up for several seconds. Then the audience joined in "Let's have our money back or the rest of the show."²⁰ Professor A. M. Otten who had conducted the French Opera in New Orleans was in the audience and he declared, "You have cut it all to pieces. You have not given us the full opera." Mr. Will Burgess was called and he said that he had seen the San Carlo Opera Company in Chicago but that he had not heard their presentation of the *Barber of Seville*.²¹ He added, "however, they had women in the chorus there" while for the El Paso performance there were only men. It seems the women were attending the bullfight in Juárez.²²

By this time there was so much confusion and noise that it was impossible to hear anything. Then Manager Russell came forward and obtained quiet, in a measure. He declared that they had given the opera exactly as it was given in Chicago, Louisville, and New Orleans. There were cries of "We don't care what you gave elsewhere. We want the whole show. We want Companari." Mr. Russell shouted, "Companari is ill in New York." Finally the curtain was raised and Miss Neilson came before the footlights and volunteered to sing some songs. At first "bravo" and "go on" and applause filled the auditorium and then cries of "go away" and "give us the opera" were taken up by the audience. Someone shouted, "Do they think we are cowboys and will stand for anything?" Then Manager Russell said, "the opera was cut but it was exactly the same as it was given elsewhere." Some woman in the audience spoke up and said, "But you sell librettos giving the entire show. You say nothing in them about cutting it." In a rage the manager shouted, "people should be satisfied with a two hour performance." This infuriated the audience and someone cried out, "*The Barber of Seville* is so short that it is given in larger cities with *Cavalleria Rusticana*."²³

During a silent moment Miss Nielson started to sing, but people hissed

¹⁹*Idem.*

²⁰*Ibid.*, March 4, 1907. Mr. Richards was a prominent jewelry merchant of the city.

²¹Mr. W. H. Burgess was an attorney of the firm of Turney and Burgess.

²²Interview with Della Moye Weinstein, October 23, 1958.

²³*El Paso Herald*, March 4, 1907. All quotations in this paragraph were taken from this issue.

so loudly that the song was drowned out. Suddenly a man in the audience stood up and cried, "Be Quiet! Have respect for a Southern woman. Let her sing." On that empty stage, without scenery, without properties, Alice Neilson sang *Annie Laurie*, but even the pathos of the song and setting did not soften the hearts of the audience. Miss Neilson was forced to stop singing. The audience rushed to the lobby and surrounded the box office. The corridors were packed. There was scarcely breathing room. People "were denouncing, applauding and discussing the show pro and con."²⁴ Again there were shouts of "Give us our money back."

I remember how disillusioned I was. The beautiful opera was gone. Rossina was just an everyday woman singing in a very sordid setting and the action of the audience—the people standing in the boxes and in the aisles—was rather frightening. However, the older people did not appear frightened. They seemed to be in a jovial mood, calling to friends and acquaintances in the theater.

Dr. J. B. Brady, L. M. Turner, Dr. Coffin, Dr. Huffaker, and B. P. Michelson cornered the treasurer and called Captain Greet who told the management that he would have to hold the treasurer until the money was returned. But Greet hesitated to act without a warrant.²⁵ Robert Silverberg wrote an agreement to protect Greet on his bond.²⁶ The proceeds of over \$2000 was already in the private car which was waiting for the members of the company at the railroad station. The cash was brought to the box office and people began forming a line to get back their money. The local manager of the Crawford Theater announced that those who preferred could return Monday morning for their refund.

The headlines in the papers the following day were sensational. In large letters the *El Paso Times* stated that "ALICE NEILSON SANG ANNIE LAURIE."²⁷ In equally large letters the evening *El Paso Herald* blazed forth "OPERA CUT. AUDIENCE FORCES THE COMPANY TO RETURN MONEY. ALMOST A RIOT IN THE HOUSE."²⁸ There were columns and columns which described in details the commotion. That Sunday afternoon witnessed the most exciting time in the history of opera in El Paso. From time to time theatrical companies had come to El Paso and failed to fulfill their contracts. The San Carlo Opera Company saw fit to palm off on El Pasoans such a performance because they thought the people in the Southwest knew no better. Management received just what it deserved from a "public grown tired of being considered provincial enough to accept just any indifferent sort

²⁴*El Paso Times*, March 4, 1907.

²⁵Captain Bill Greet was police captain in El Paso at that time.

²⁶Mr. Robert Silverberg, a prominent merchant of the city, was one of the men who protested and demanded the entire show.

²⁷March 4, 1907.

²⁸March 4, 1907.

of performance."²⁹ The company deliberately deceived El Pasoans in regard to Companari. There were conflicting reports as to the reason he did not appear. The management said he was ill in New York. Another report said Companari had to leave the company at Topeka and return to New York on account of the critical illness of his wife. A third report stated that he was in Juarez attending the bullfight.³⁰ In New York Companari denied the story that he was ill and stated that his contract called for his appearance only in the larger cities.³¹

The following three days the *Herald* printed letters from many sources. A letter from A. H. Richards said, "I was the first to make demands for the right of the people who paid a price—for merchandise that was not delivered."³² The same day a letter was published which had been written by Mr. Richard T. S. Bergey of Chicago:

I noticed an article in one of our papers telling of a riot caused by the San Carlo Opera Company failing to give the *Barber of Seville* as it had advertised to do. I am in sympathy with you in regard to this for we were treated in a like manner in Chicago but no one had the nerve to say a word or do a thing about it. In fact only a few people realized that the opera was cut but I, for one, felt very much like doing as you did. I want to congratulate you and say if everyone would do as you did, we would not be held up as we have been in the past.³³

Even fifty years ago news traveled far and fast. The *El Paso Herald* of March 6 quoted an article from the *Kansas City Star* in which credit was given to the people of El Paso for the action they took against the San Carlo Opera Company. "The popular impression prevails, nevertheless that El Paso is a sort of bull baiting, cow punching town with the sort of nebulous conception of grand opera that might be construed as slight," the *Star* noted.

But El Pasoans of fifty years ago had been exposed to operas since the early eighties. The operas mentioned in this paper are only a few of those presented—there were from six to twelve different operas yearly. Even in the summer, without air conditioning, there were crowded houses and appreciative audiences.³⁴ Perhaps not all were of Metropolitan Opera standards but the opera lovers supported every performance and were able to distinguish the good from the bad. They knew the scores. They were familiar with the librettos. They were music critics. The San Carlo Opera Company caused a most un-

²⁹*El Paso Times*, March 4, 1907.

³⁰Interview with Mrs. W. D. Greet, October 20, 1958.

³¹*El Paso Herald*, March 6, 1907.

³²March 5, 1907.

³³T. S. Bergey was director of the Bergey School of Music, Chicago.

³⁴*El Paso Herald*, August 25, 1892.

pleasant row in the community but it served as a little lesson in opera ethics. The *Chicago Tribune* noted editorially:

The discriminating musical populace of El Paso . . . rebelled forcibly and nosily. . . . The result of this demonstration may be far reaching. In the first place it has been made clear that such is the wonderful spread of musical intelligence in the United States that Rossini would feel quite as much at home in Texas as in the Metropolitan Opera House in New York.³⁵

The *Denver Republican* commented on the El Paso incident in "verse":

We may be shy of boiled shirts here in Texas,
And of shoes that have to get a daily shine,
But we're up to date in music down here stranger,
Clear from "Lohengrin" right down to "Auld Lang Syne."

The leit motif don't trouble us in Wagner—
We can tell 'em with one hand behind our back;

And there can't no four flush impresario
Try to throw us off the operatic track.

We can pick a hum note, blindfold, in "The Dutchman,"
And we know just when a dissonance is sprung;

We can whistle "Parsifal" with variations—
We can sing, or dance, "The Gotterdammerung."

So when some op'ry manager gets chesty
And gives it to us in our sev'ral necks,

We make him rue the day he ever tampered
With this music lovin' burg—El Paso, Tex.³⁶

All of this publicity probably put El Paso on the map in the musical world. The Pass of the North was no longer just a place for a traveling company to add revenue while stopping to rest between tiresome train rides from city to city. El Paso was now known as a community of intelligent people anxious to take advantage of the kind of entertainment offered in the large cities and capable of appreciating what was good. The San Carlo Opera Company judged El Pasoans to be uninformed and crude, thus offending their sensibilities. They were excited by a sense of injury which was fanned into anger. El Pasoans felt that they must take a stand or suffer from the unfair treatment that had been inflicted on them by the theater world from time to time. It was well that El Paso took this means to defend her culture.

³⁵Quoted in the *El Paso Herald*, March 7, 1907.

³⁶March 7, 1907. The *Denver Republican* prefaced the "poem" with a "Press Dispatch"—"The manager of the San Carlo Opera company almost caused a riot when he cut a scene out and then some of 'The Barber of Seville,' at El Paso, Texas."

Monsignor Henry D. Buchanan gave the writer a copy of this "poem" taken from his scrapbook. Interview with Father Buchanan, January 22, 1959.

THE MANSFIELD REPORT — 1853*

. edited by Richard K. McMaster

The first troops to occupy the vast Territory of New Mexico, acquired by the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, were four companies of the 1st and 2nd Dragoons with Bragg's Light Battery of the 3rd Artillery.¹ These troops, the last of the Army of Occupation at Saltillo, had marched to Santa Fé via El Paso del Norte in the fall of 1848 under Colonel John M. Washington. This small force, after conducting an expedition into the Navajo Country, was dispersed to occupy the river towns of Santa Fé, Taos, Albuquerque, and Socorro. Small detachments were also made to the garrison Tomá and Doña Ana.

In the summer and fall of 1849, the entire 3rd Infantry with two companies of the 2nd Artillery attached, arrived in the Territory. Four companies of infantry with the two companies of garrison artillery² arrived at Santa Fé in July, marching across the prairies from Fort Leavenworth. Headquarters and the other six companies of the 3rd Infantry arrived at a point five miles below El Paso del Norte on September 8, having marched across the desert from San Antonio.

The newly arrived troops at Santa Fé also conducted an expedition into the Navajo Country to the west, and in 1851 became the garrison troops for the new post of Fort Union and Fort Defiance. One company of the 2nd Artillery was assigned to each of these forts, thus relieving Bragg's Battery which marched out of the Territory to Jefferson Barracks.

The remainder of the 3rd Infantry was soon deployed above and below El Paso del Norte. Headquarters was transferred to Santa Fé, Company A became escort for the Boundary Survey and Company B was sent to Doña Ana for station. Companies I and K were assigned to the thriving community of San Elizario, and Companies C and E to Magoffin's Ville opposite El Paso del Norte. When the Post at El Paso was abandoned in 1851, only an officer's escort remained. The new Fort Filmore at Mesilla then became the principal post in the El Paso area.

* The correct title is: *Report of Jos. K. F. Mansfield, Colonel & Inspector General, United States Army, Regarding His Inspection of the Department of New Mexico During the Summer and Fall of the Year 1853.*

¹Companies G, H, I, 1st Dragoon; Company H, 2nd Dragoons; Company C (Horse), 3rd Artillery.

²Companies D, F, G, H, 3rd Infantry; Companies B and D, 2nd Artillery.

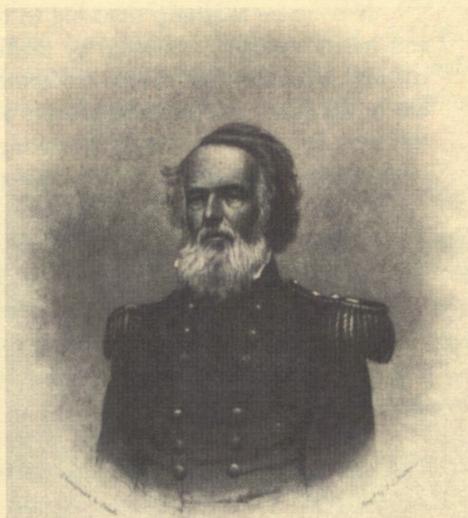
In 1853 the Inspector General of the Army, the distinguished military engineer, Colonel Joseph K. F. Mansfield, made a thorough and critical inspection of the Territory. Pursuant to his recommendation that a post was indispensable at El Paso, four companies³ of the 8th Infantry under Lieutenant Colonel E. B. Alexander arrived in early 1854 and built the post that was soon named Fort Bliss. Growing from a frontier post to a division garrison, and now a famous missile center, Fort Bliss has been instrumental in creating the modern El Paso of today.

* * *

Following a five-year cadetship at the Military Academy where he was graduated second in the class of 1822, Mansfield was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant of Engineers. Until the Mexican War he was engaged mainly in the construction of coast defenses of the South Atlantic States. During 1846 and 1847 he was Chief Engineer of the Army under General Taylor in Mexico, and as such served with great distinction, receiving three brevet promotions for gallantry in action at Fort Brown, Monterey, and Buena Vista. Upon being appointed the Inspector General of the Army in 1853 he traveled extensively inspecting frontier posts in Texas, New Mexico, California, and Oregon. He was wounded at the battle of Monterey, Mexico, and again mortally at the battle of Antietam, Maryland, in 1862. At the time of his death he was fifty nine years of age and a major general, commanding the Federal XII Corps.

Colonel Mansfield entered the Department of New Mexico with the new department commander, Brevet Brig. General John Garland, who marched across the plains from Fort Leavenworth with troops and supplies. Leaving Fort Leavenworth in late June, the Column arrived at Fort Union on the last day of July, 1853. Commenting upon the march, Colonel Mansfield took note of the profanity used by the civilian teamsters:

³Companies B, E, I, K, 8th Infantry.



MAJOR GENERAL J. K. F. MANSFIELD
(The picture was kindly loaned to the writer by the United States Military Academy, West Point.)

If there be anything shocking to the moral sense, it is the awful and hearty swearing bestowed by them on their mules. On the most trifling occasions, the whole vocabulary of 'bilingsgate' is poured out to the annoyance of every person within hearing. I have no doubt this evil can be corrected by a making it a matter of sufficient importance to be noticed by wagon masters and others in authority.

On file in the El Paso Public Library are photostatic copies of Colonel Mansfield's original report. Unfortunately his introductory comments and most of the appended material are missing. The following information has been extracted from the main body of the report. The detailed reports of the inspection of troops have been reduced to the designation of units, troop strength, and post and unit commanders. Some of Colonel Mansfield's typical comments have been listed in closing.

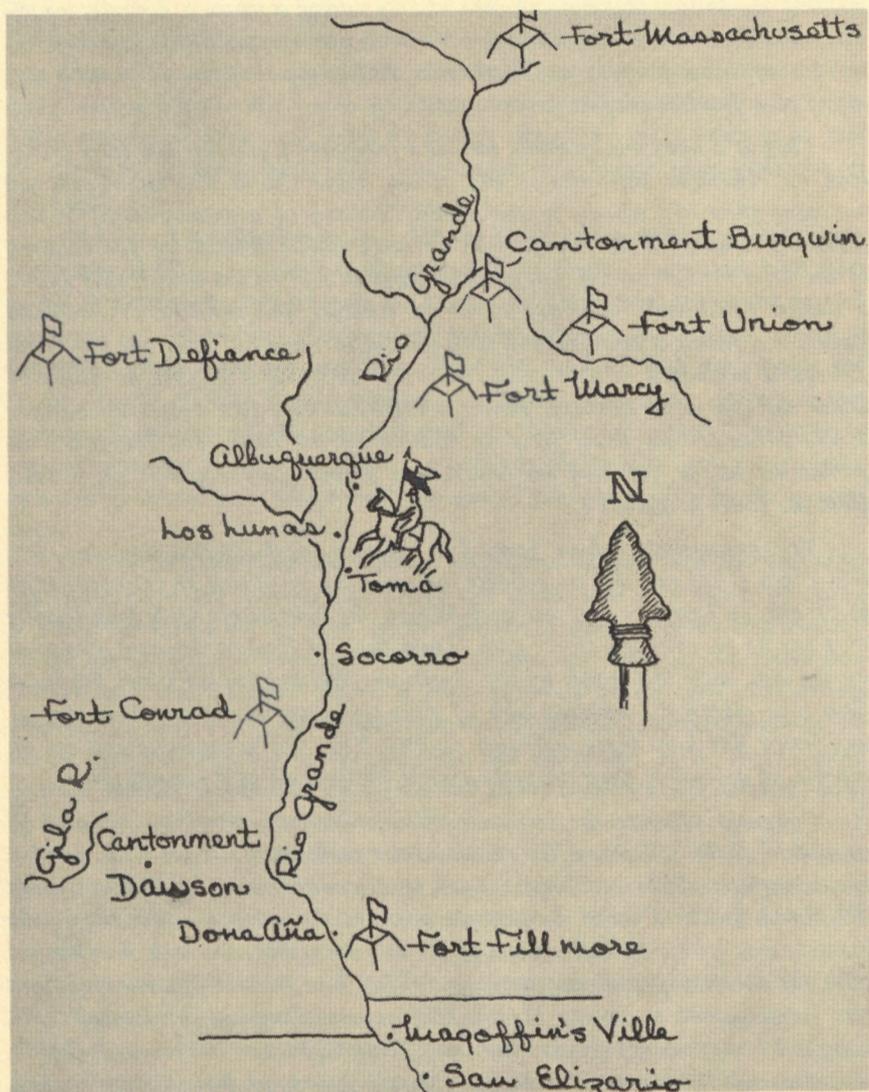
* * *

The climate of this Territory is unsurpassed as to healthiness, and it would seem that this Territory only wanted facility of communication with the States to bring all its resources into account. Such communication can be affected readily by a railroad from the western part of the state of Missouri to Santa Fé, and from the southern part of Texas (say San Antonio) to El Paso. Over either route there can be no possible obstacle to laying one of the cheapest roads in the United States. The level prairie and table lands extend for miles as far as the eye can see; and the distances that now take days to overcome; with the iron horse would be passed over in as many hours. Travellers would with these roads enter New Mexico in the fall via the northern road and in the spring return via the southern.

The advantages of these rail road communications would not be confined to this Territory. Once in New Mexico, at Albuquerque, for instance, about half the distance to California is accomplished. Thence a westerly course could be followed it is believed without difficulty by wagon. A rail road constituting one grand trunk that would meet the northern and southern branches via Santa Fé and El Paso, and goods shipped to Galveston and Indianola, Texas, would meet other articles from the west of Missouri and the upper-Mississippi and travel together to the Pacific Coast.

The true boundary of New Mexico which adjoins the State of Texas on the east and south, has not been defined by monuments. This subject was brought to my attention by Judge Joel L. Ankrim who resides at San Elizario in the County of El Paso, Texas. He represents the difficulty of administering justice within certain limits for want of these marks; and informed me that the State of Texas had authorized the Governor to appoint proper agents on the part of, to meet corresponding agents on the part of the United States whenever the United States shall notify to that effect. It seems to me in a place

like this; there should be no obstacle to the administration of justice: and that the southern boundary of New Mexico as it borders on the County of El Paso in Texas should be run and marked at once. The eastern boundary will probably run through the wild Indian country and may not now be readily established by land marks.



THE FORTS INCLUDED IN THE MANSFIELD REPORT
 (Map drawn by Major McMaster—photo by Lucky Leverett)

This Territory is inhabited by two distinct races of people besides the Americans. The most civilized of the two is the Mexican who speaks the Spanish language, being a cross with the Spanish and Indian, and this class is the most numerous being about 50,000 souls. They are located almost entirely along the valley of the Rio Grande del Norte where they maintain a subsistence by planting the bottom lands of the river and by raising stock such as mules, cattle, sheep and goats which the extensive table lands and mountains which are worthless for any other purpose, enable them to do by the abundance of grazing they afford. But few horses or hogs are raised.

They as a body are ignorant, and as a community, jealous, and their priests look on American Missionaries and school masters with distrust. There are not more than two schools in the whole Territory of a population of 50,000 Mexicans. One of these is organized by the Catholic Bishop for the children of the most influential persons, and the other is kept by the Rev. Henry Smith, a Baptist Missionary, who has 12 or 14 scholars, the children of American fathers and Mexican mothers, and both located in Santa Fé. Only one Protestant Church is organized in the whole Territory, and that a Baptist, in Santa Fé under the charge of the Rev. Henry Smith—but very few people attend this, as the Mexican race know little or nothing of the Bible, and the American population in the Territory are few. There probably are not over six females from the States in Santa Fé.

The impressions I have formed in relation to this population are such, that I may safely say, that no reliance whatever can be placed on them as militia to defend the Territory in a war with Mexico, the only nation from their locality they can be brought in contact with. Their peculiar location however, bounded on the east, west and north by the American race and Indian tribes precludes their ever taking the hopeless task of aiding Mexico in any war that may at any future day have place with that country. They are not warlike and are incapable of defending their property against the Indians as a general thing.

The next race are the civilized Indians, known as Pueblos, the original occupants of the soil, when the Mexican race came among them. They number about 10,000 souls in 28 villages located mostly on the valley of the Rio Grande del Norte. Scattered from the extreme north to the extreme south and to the extreme west of the habitable parts of New Mexico, and, although incorporated with the Mexicans, speak languages as follow. The Pueblos of zuni and Jemis one language—of the seven Moquis Villages one language, of Taos, Picuris, Sandia, Isleta one language—of San Juan, Santa Clara, San Ildefonso, Pujuaque, Tesuque, and Nambe one language—of Santo Domingo, San Filipe, Chochile, Santa Anna, Cilla, Laguna, Acoma and Seutis one language—of Islata and Socorro one language.

They obtain a subsistence by planting bottom lands, and by raising stock like the Mexicans. As good wheat, corn, onions, pumpkins and fruit are raised by this people as by the Mexicans. Like the Mexicans they have no schools except one established by the Rev. Wm. Gorman, a Baptist Missionary at Laguna, and as a matter of course are extremely ignorant, and primitive in all their ways. No reliance whatever can be placed on this class of the population for National Defense as Militia, or even against the wild Indians. Yet they are free from the prejudices against the Americans that the Mexican possess; and being naturally acute and quick of comprehension might be made a very reliable population in a few years by proper means by the Government, and Philanthropy should prompt the Government to improve their condition if practicable.

And here I would recommend that the Government send into each of the above named villages a sound moral man with his family, a mechanic with tools would be preferable: and let it be his business to teach these people the English language, not by reading and writing, but by learning the English names of everything about them and also teach them the mechanic and useful arts, and in the process of time finally weed out the Indian Languages entirely by the substitution of English. Mr. Gorman with his family at Laguna is effecting a great reformation by the small means afforded by the Baptist Society and should be aided by useful tools and a small amount of funds furnished by the government.

Of this race there are the wild or uncivilized Indians who live in lodges and move about the Territory in Tribes and bands, and as a matter of course at times when in want of food in the absence of game, commit depredations on all the rest of the population. These Indians are often highwaymen who murder small parties when found in their power to obtain their animals and supplies. In large bands, they cross over to the Mexican Territory and rob the people near Chihuahua of droves of cattle and mules and horses etc. In short, by their nomadic habits they are a great evil to the country and a constant drawback to the industrious population, and have almost destroyed the grazing interests by their attacks on herdsmen and seizing of the herds. If these Indians could be induced to settle down and build permanent villages and plant and have a permanent interest in a locality, there would be no further trouble with them, and in such cases, they could always be reached by a Military force: whereas now it is very difficult to punish their aggression, and under their present robbing and thieving habits they are destined to be finally exterminated by the sword as an inevitable consequence. This is an unhappy prospect for them, and if practicable should be averted by all the philanthropy our Government can extend to the wild man and the original possessor of the soil.

It seems to me that the Indian Agents could aid immeasurably the cause

of civilizing these Indians by gathering the old and infirm into villages where the land can be cultivated. Such a locality for instance as Fort Webster on the Mimbres, with the aid of a small amount of funds, to assist them in building houses and paying the young for planting the fields of the old, would gradually bring them into industrious habits and to the supply of their wants by planting and raising domestic animals in preference to the laborious and uncertain life of the hunter. Certainly this plan would bring the aged and the very young to the influences of such a method as a nucleus which would soon acknowledge the benefits of industry over the risk of life in committing depredations on the other races and the uncertainty of hunting.

These wild Indians are known by different names, and seem to have a claim among themselves to different Ranges of Country for hunting. There are the Chayon and Arrapahoes on the Arkansas River of about 500 warriors—the Comanches on the Cimarron of about 1000 warriors—The Utahs who occupy the country from Taos north and west of the Rio Grande del Norte under different specific or local names to the Rio Grande River of about 500 warriors—The Hickory Apaches who occupy the country from Santa Fé to Taos of about 100 warriors—The Navahoes who occupy the country west of the Rio Grande del Norte and south of the Utahs to the dividing lands between the sources of the little Colorado and the Gila of about 1000 warriors—The Apaches who occupy the region of the Copper Mines and the Gila and stretch eastward across the Rio Grande del Norte and occupy the country east of that river to the White and Sacramento Mountains and to the northward under different specific and local names of about 1000 warriors. Thus showing warriors scattered over New Mexico to the number of 4000 and upward, constituting a population say of 6000 souls dependent for support on hunting and fishing and plunder.

The American race so called in this Territory is quite limited and merely nominal besides the troops that occupy the several posts. There is but little to invite the American Race—but little is done at mining, and trade is quite limited; and the labors of cultivating lands that are inferior to lands in the States, and the great distance from a profitable market, precludes the settlement of Americans. It is quite probable however that the facility of a rail road communication would lead to a more complete examination of the mineral lands, and to the discovery of valuable gold and silver mines, of which there are great indications. Such discoveries in a short time would change the character of its population and lead to immediate changes in the moral and political condition of this Territory. As it is, I doubt if the population will think seriously of taxing themselves to support a state Government for many years to come. At present a valuable trade is carried on through the County of El Paso, Texas with the Mexicans in Chihuahua and Sonora etc. that will in due time lead to the

occupancy of all the bottom lands of the Rio Grande del Norte from El Paso about 100 miles down the river, provided the Government affords suitable protection against the Indians by establishment of posts at convenient distances.

The bottom lands of the Mesilla Valley directly opposite Fort Fillmore, and about 45 miles above El Paso on the Rio Grande del Norte, comprising about 30 square miles, have latterly been occupied by the Mexicans, although the village was laid out by Major E. Steen of the U. S. Dragoons, and a flourishing population of 3000 souls produce as good crops as are to be found in New Mexico. There are other bottom lands capable of cultivation and will be occupied as soon as the country is secure against the depredation of the Indians.

I have thus given the character of the Country and Population generally with a view to consider the location of the Military Posts and their strength; and in order to a full understanding of these a more particular account of the Indian Tribes seems necessary in connexion. Santa Fé the capital of New Mexico is about 800 miles from Independence. To reach this place the road crosses the great plains via Fort Atkinson on the Arkansas River, and the Cimarron River and Fort Union, which is about 700 miles from Independence. Along this route the mail and traveler are exposed to the exactions, depredations and attacks of the Arrapahoe Indians who number about 275 warriors. From Fort Leavenworth to Council Grove is 118 miles, thence to Fort Atkinson 165 miles, without a single settlement, thence to Fort Union 325 miles, and thence to Santa Fé about 100 miles. At Fort Union the settlements on the bottom lands commence on the Moro River.

FORT UNION is situated at the foot of the mesa opposite Gallinas mountain on the west side of a valley stretching nearly north and south say 35 miles. About 7 miles to the southward is Burclay's Fort on the Moro River, where the old road to Santa Fé crosses the valley. About 15 miles to the northward and the road from the Valley of Moro crosses this valley, and 5 miles further is Ocati Creek, and 3 miles further still in a "Ganon" of the mountain is the farm attached to this post. This valley is well adapted to grazing and large quantities of hay are annually cut on the Ocate for the public animals. This post is now directly on the shortest road to Santa Fé. A change having been effected through the exertions and reconnaissance of Major I. H. Carleton, U. S. Dragoons, to open the road to the northward of Wagon Mound and Gallinas Mountain, thereby saving in distance about 13 miles. And by the exertions of Major E. S. Sibley, U. S. Quartermaster, to open the road from the post to Las Vegas direct, thereby saving several miles in distance westward.

Thus situated it is well located for a depot for the supply of the northern posts direct to Burgwin and Fort Massachusetts through the valley of Taos, and to Santa Fé and Albuquerque either via Burgwin or Las Vegas. It is well adapted for keeping Beef Cattle and supernumerary Dragoon Horses and mules, etc.

The supplies of Flour, Corn and Hay and Fuel are obtained from the neighboring valleys as conveniently as at other posts in New Mexico and on reasonable terms. The building of all kinds are good as at any post and there seems to be enough of them to satisfy the demands of the service. It is important however that a good wagon road be opened across the mountains directly to Burgwin about 12 miles south of Don Fernando de Taos, and a distance of about 50 miles. For this object I would recommend an appropriation of Two Thousand Dollars.

This post is established on a reservation of 8 miles square and like the farm is claimed by the citizens. It was commenced in 1851 by Brvt. Lt. Col. E. B. Alexander of the 8th Infantry and continued successively by Brvt. Major I. H. Carleton, 1st Dragoons, and Major G. Morris of the 3rd Infantry, and Brvt. Lt. Col. H. Brooks, 2nd Artillery. It is too close under the Mesa for a tenable position against an enterprising enemy, unless the immediate heights be occupied by a Block House which could readily be done. It seems to have been selected on account of a good spring of water, and will undoubtedly answer a very good purpose, and should be retained. This locality like that of the Moro Valley and the sources of the Pecos River, is exposed to the depredation of the Hickeray Apache and Utah Indians who frequently are quite annoying and troublesome.

CANTONMENT BURGWIN is located on the Rio Grande, an eastern tributary of the Rio Grande del Norte, and about twelve miles from the latter in the valley of Taos and about twelve miles southward of Don Fernando de Taos, on the only wagon road to Santa Fé. It lays about 50 miles west of Fort Union which is separated from it by the Moro Mountains and the Moro River with its beautiful and fertile valley of about 4000 population, where wheat, corn and beans grow luxuriently.

From this point troops can move directly to Fort Union, Fort Massachusetts, Fort Marcy at Santa Fé, and west to Abiquiu, and supplies of wheat, corn, beans, fuel, etc. convenient and abundant at reasonable rates. Further, it is on the only wagon road from Taos to Santa Fé and about twelve miles from Sienea, the crossing of the Rio Grande del Norte at Taos: a more northern crossing being about 40 miles further up the river. The river for this distance runs at the bottom of a very deep canon with precipitous and impassable sides except at half a dozen places where mules have crossed it. Hence it is well located to intercept the passage by Indians of the Rio Grande del Norte in the valley of Taos. The Indians that occupy the Taos mountains and extend down to Santa Fé are the Hickeray Apaches who number about 150 warriors. This valley however is also exposed to the depredations of the Utabs, who occupy the country from Taos to the Grande River, and the Salt Lakes, can bring into the field in one week about 500 warriors. The tillable lands of the Valley of Taos that are irrigated by four small streams issuing from the mountains, extend

north and south about 10 miles and will average about 8 miles in breadth, thus affording abundant crops for the population which numbers about 7000 souls. Under such views of this post, I can speak favorably of it and believe the location a good one, and should not be dispensed with. The post was planned and the buildings put up under the direction and command of Lieut. Robt. Ransom, Jr., U. S. Dragoons; and for its size, being calculated for a company of Dragoons, deserves commendation as well adapted to the service. The wagon road to Santa Fé from this post over the mountains to La Joya is precipitous and impassable for loaded wagons, and requires an appropriation by Congress of \$4000.

FORT MASSACHUSETTS is situated in the Valley of San Luis 8000 feet above the sea, and 10 or 15 miles east of the Canon of the Rio Grande del Norte, and directly north of the Valley of Taos say 105 miles from Burgwin and 92 miles from Don Fernando de Taos. It is seated at the foot of the White Mountains which are perpetually snow-capped; and on Utab Creek at the mouth of a ravine out of which the creek flows a cool limpid stream. There is abundance of wood and in summer the grazing is good, but the warm season is short, and it is doubtful if corn will ripen here. The nearest settlement is 30 miles to the southward on the Calubre River where there are about 25 families engaged in planting corn and wheat. The next settlements south are as follow—on the Castille River 18 miles further, about 25 families; on the Colorado River 17 miles further, about 50 families; at San Cristobal 13 miles further, about 12 families; on the Rio Hondo 4 miles further, about 80 families. At all of which corn, wheat, beans etc grow. Thence 12 miles to Don Fernando de Taos. The road throughout the whole distance is from 3 to 10 miles from the Rio Grande del Norte and the rivers crossed run westward to that river. This road is good and passable for loaded wagons with the exception of six steep and difficult hills between the Rivers Colorado and Hondo which will require an appropriation by Congress of \$6000.

The design of this post was to keep the Utab Indians in check and it is calculated for Dragoons and Infantry. It was commenced in June 1852 and built under the direction and command of Major George A. H. Blake, 1st U. S. Dragoons, and the buildings are good and suitable as well as abundant. They are however placed too near the spur of the mountain for a good defense against an enterprising enemy. All supplies for this post come from the settlements at the south as far as Taos Valley, and Fort Union, which may be called 165 miles distant. In the winter the snow falls here to a depth of four feet.

My impressions are that this post would have been better located on the Calubre River, the most northern settlement in New Mexico, where access would be had to the Troops by the population of the valley, without the hazard of being cut off by the Indians. The home of the Utab Indians is here, and particularly on the west of the Rio Grande del Norte. A post is therefore necessary

in this quarter; and this valley may before long be a good route of communicating with the States in the summer season, and it probably is the best route of communicating between New Mexico and the Great Salt Lake and Northern California.

FORT MARCY is the only real fort in the Territory and is located at Santa Fé, seated on a spur of the mountain $\frac{1}{4}$ mile long and about 1000 yards to the north east of the Plaza, and commands the City perfectly. It is well planned and provided with a magazine and its entrance is commanded by a Block House within musket range. The troops do not occupy this fort but it can be occupied by the troops at short notice. It has the disadvantage of no water, but its guns will readily supply that deficiency, and control a city of 1000 population mostly of the Mexican race. Fort Marcy is accessible from Fort Union by two roads, the most direct via the sources of the Pecos and Las Vegas and may be called 100 miles: and the other via Cantonment Burgwin which is 75 miles and thence over the Moro Mountains 50 miles. I have already referred to the necessity of an appropriation for the road over the mountain from La Joya to Burgwin and from Burgwin to Fort Union. The other road via Las Vegas also requires an appropriation of about 2000 dollars to make it suitable for military purposes and supplies. The communication of this post with Albuquerque is good by two routes. The Troops that occupy this post live in the Public Buildings in Santa Fé; and as this is the seat of Government of the Territory seems indispensable to preserve order and sustain the Authorities in cases of domestic excitements, against the Indians, although there are no troublesome Indians near this place. I look upon this post as desirable and should not be abandoned.

ALBUQUERQUE is about 65 miles south of Santa Fé on the Rio Grande del Norte. It is the Headquarters of the Commanding General of this Department and well located therefor. At this place communication is had directly with Fort Union 135 miles, Santa Fé 65 miles, Fort Defiance 200 miles and other posts south: and here news of the doings of the Apache Indians on the east and the Navahoes on the west are readily obtained. The Troops here are quartered in hired buildings of the usual style in this Territory. This post therefore should be retained and is probably well selected and suitable for a second depot for the supply of the posts south and west. At this place the road comes in from Fort Defiance and San Francisco via Zuni.

FORT DEFIANCE is located in the middle of the Navahoe Indian Country which is about 150 miles square, and is about 200 miles west of the Rio Grande del Norte, and of Albuquerque; and is seated at the eastern entrance of the Canon Cito in a beautiful valley about 55 miles north of Zuni; and so far west the waters of the neighborhood flow into the Pacific. It was commenced by Major E. Backus commanding in September 1851, who put up about 6/10 of

the buildings before he relinquished command in August 1852, when Brvt. Lt. Col. Jas. H. Eaton, was left in command till 8th September 1852, when the work was continued to the present time under the command of Brvt. Major H. I. Kendrick who put up about 4/10 of the buildings. The buildings are good and mostly of logs and mud, but some good stone store houses have recently been completed. The grazing in this locality is excellent and hay and wood abundant, and the soil affords good garden produce, and the seasons favorable to corn, wheat, beans, cabbages, turnips, potatoes etc. etc., and the Indians bring in peaches abundantly. The post has the disadvantage of being commanded within musketry range by a rocky ridge on the east; but this evil can readily be remedied by the erection on the ridge of two small Block Houses. This is the most beautiful and interesting post as a whole in New Mexico. There are two roads leading from it to Albuquerque, one via the Pueblos of zuni which is 35 miles the longest and in the aggregate 200 miles: and the other via Bear Creek which was adopted and made under the direction of Brvt. Major Kendrick. This road however requires an appropriation of 1000 dollars to make it a suitable military road at all seasons. They both unite at the River Gallo, thence through Corvero, a Mexican village, and the Pueblos of Laguna across the Rivers Puerco and Rio Grande del Norte. The supplies of this post are all obtained through Albuquerque with the exception of corn which is obtained of the Pueblos of zuni, Laguna etc. It is calculated for three Companies, the least force that should be kept here. It appears well located to watch over the doings of the Navahoe Indians, who number about 1000 warriors; and no doubt will one day be found on or near the best overland route to San Francisco. It should be preserved in the system for regulating Indian Tribes and protecting Traders to California.

LOS LUNAS is merely a temporary station for a Company of Dragoons on the west bank of the Rio Grande del Norte. It is 24 miles south of Albuquerque and 85 miles north of Fort Conrad, and in direct communication with Fort Defiance and conveniently located to intercept and influence the movements of the Apaches and Navahoes in their depredations in driving off sheep and cattle etc.: and afford protection to the inhabitants in this neighborhood who otherwise would be much exposed. This post can be changed up or down the river at will, to advantage, having in view the thwarting of the movements of the Indians. The supplies are convenient here and the soil good, being cultivated by the Mexicans.

FORT CONRAD on the west bank of the Rio Grande del Norte, was commenced in August 1850 under the command of Major W. S. Howe, 2d Dragoons, and is opposite the locality called Val Verde and 24 miles south of the flourishing town of Socorro; 88 miles south of Los Lunas; 135 miles north of Fort Fillmore and 150 miles northeast of Fort Webster. Grazing, hay and

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wood are abundant here, and other supplies convenient. To the northward of this post along the bottom lands of the river there are settlements and the lands generally improved. But at this place and along the bottom lands south through the locality of Santa Barbara to the vicinity of Dona Ana and Mesilla, the Indians have devastated the country. The buildings that were erected here for accomodation of the Troops are falling down, and a claim has been set up for the land by individuals. A better site I have no doubt can be found some 10 miles further south, between this post and Fra Cristobal, that will more effectually intercept the trails of the Indians, and I would according recommend the breaking up of this post and the building of an entire new one. A post in this neighborhood seems necessary to complete the chain of communication through this country to El Paso; particularly as from this point there are two roads to Fort Fillmore, one following the west bank of the river, via Santa Barbara which requires an appropriation by Congress of 1000 dollars to make it suitable as a military road. The other over the famous Jornada on the east side of the river where murders by Indians residing at the White Mountains and on the Gila River are frequent. The route on the west side of the river is certainly the best although the longest, as wood, water and grazing are abundant, and it forms part of the route to Fort Webster where as the route of the Jornada in dry season is without water for 80 miles. This post was designed for two Companies and is not too large.

FORT WEBSTER is on the Mimbres River about 14 miles east of the Copper Mines. It was commenced in October 1852 under the command of Major G. Morris of the 3d Infantry but in November Brvt. Major E. Steen of the 1st Dragoons was in command. Grazing, hay and wood are abundant here, and the soil on the bottom lands is good. It is among the Apache Indians, and dependent for supplies on Fort Fillmore 135 miles and Fort Conrad 150 miles. The distance however to Fort Fillmore via the Jornada where the road forks at Cooks Springs and in dry season 50 miles without water, is 30 miles less. This route strikes the Rio Grande del North opposite Dona Ana at the commencement of the cultivation in the Mesilla Valley and it is usual to pass through the village of Mesilla and cross the river directly over to Fort Fillmore. This road is very good with some minor exceptions. The buildings of this post are made of logs and mud and quite indifferent and not sufficient for the command as one Company and the sick were in tents.

CANTONMENT DAWSON, the old post at the Copper Mines has nothing at all to recommend it, and was judiciously abandoned. All posts through an Indian country should be placed on, or near the great thoroughfares where aid and protection can be had by the Traveller in case of necessity. Such position would be equally convenient to overaw the Indians, and their depredations, and murders would soon come to the knowledge of the Troops there

stationed, and therefore protection or assistance readily afforded. My opinion is that this post was not properly located; that it should be on the Gila River, on the route traveled by the Traders to California, and thus form one in a chain of posts that must certainly extend across the Pacific; and that the present post should be given up to the Indian Agent Mr. I. M. Smith who resides here, and encouragement given to these Indians thereby to settle permanently where they can be reached.

FORT FILLMORE is on the east bank of the Rio Grande del Norte and 42 miles to the northward of El Paso with a good road of communication therewith. It is directly opposite the town of Mesilla of 3000 souls and 14 miles south of Dona Ana. This post was commenced in September 1851 under the command and direction of Lt. Col. D. S. Miles of the 3d Infantry who was succeeded by Major E. Backus of the 3d Infantry in August 1853. The buildings and store houses here are good. Grazing, hay and wood abundant, and the soil where cultivated good. All supplies such as corn, flour and beans and beef readily obtained in the neighborhood, and at El Paso; and all other supplies through Albuquerque and Fort Union. A post just south of the Jornada is necessary, and is convenient to operate against the Apaches at the White Mountains etc., and the Gila River. These Apaches are very troublesome at times, and number 300 warriors. And as the post is already established will answer that object well.

POSTS RECOMMENDED. I found no post at San Elizario. While on this subject it may not be out of place to recommend the establishment of other posts, according to the importance of protection to the citizens of the country.

A post is indispensable opposite the Town of El Paso, either at Magoffin's Ville or Smith's Ranch. The former would be preferable. There are but four settlements on the American side at this place, to-wit, Hart's Mill, Smith's Ranch, Magoffin's Ville and Stevenson's Ranch. These few families are exposed at all times to the depredations of the Indians, and since the Troops were removed in September 1851 many depredations have been committed. Further a post established here would have the effect to protect the American citizens against any excitement in El Paso where there is a Mexican population of 700 souls, and a small garrison under the command of a captain of the Mexican Army. By a post here the bottom lands of the river at this place would be occupied, and cultivation extended down the river to Isleta, and a Trading Town would soon spring up with an American population capable of self defense. At this point the mail comes in from San Antonio, and as I returned to Head Quarters over this mail route, it may not be out of place here to express an opinion as to additional posts in Texas.

From El Paso to San Antonio is 674 miles via Fort Clark on the Mora River and Fort Inge on the Leona River. To Fort Clark is 544 miles without a settle-

ment of any description after leaving San Elizario 20 miles from El Paso, and exposed to Indian attacks at all times. The trade that is carried on over this route is great, it is one of the overland routes to California and to Chihuahua, and across this route the Indians travel at different points to commit their depredations on the Mexicans. There should be at least three posts established along this road as places of protection and resort to travelers in distress. One should be established where the road leaves the Rio Grande del Norte 83 miles below El Paso. Another at the headwaters of the Limpia about 183 miles from the last mentioned place, and another at Live Oak Creek 158 miles further and 174 miles from Fort Clark. These points are selected for the abundance of grazing and wood and good water they afford and as excellent locations to overaw the Indians. By the establishment of these posts too, the mail contractors would be enabled to have relays of mules, and the mail might then be readily carried twice a month with much greater ease than it can now be done once a month.

INSPECTION OF TROOPS

FORT UNION, 1st to the 6th August 1853, Capt. and Brvt. Lt. Col H. Brooks,
2d Arty.

Company D, 2d Arty, Lt. Col. H. Brooks	1 officer 66 men
Company D, 3d Inf, Capt. N. C. Macrae	1 officer 56 men
Company K, 1st Drgs, Maj. I. H. Carleton	1 officer 41 men
	42 horses

CANTONMENT BURGWIN, 11th to 15 August, 2d Lt. Robert Ransom,
1st Dragoons

Company I, 1st Dragoons, 2d Lt. R. Ransom	1 officer 70 men
	58 horses

FORT MASSACHUSETTS, 18-21 August, Maj. G. A. H. Blake, 1st Dragoons

Company F, 1st Dragoons, 2 Lt. R. Johnson	1 officer 67 men
	DT horses

Company H, 3d Infantry, 2d Lt. A. Jackson	1 officer 58 men
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FORT MARCY, 27-31 August, Brvt. Maj. and Capt. W. L. H. Brooks, 3d
Infantry

Company G, 3d Infantry, 2d Lt. L. H. Marshall	1 officer 74 men
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ALBUQUERQUE, 3-8 September, Brvt. 2d Lt. K. Gerrard, 1st Dragoons

Company H, 2d Dragoons, 2d Lt. K. Gerrard	2 officers 80 men
	62 horses

FORT DEFIANCE, 15-20 September, Capt. and Brvt. Maj. H. L. Kendrick,
2d Arty

Company B, 2d Arty, 1st Lt. C. Griffin	3 officers 68 men
Company F, 3d Inf, 1st Lt. H. B. Schroeder	2 officers 56 men
Company B, 3d Inf, Maj. C. L. Shepherd	2 officers 55 men

LOS LUNAS, 25-27 September, Capt. R. S. Ewell, 1st Dragoons

Company G, 1st Dragoons, Capt. R. E. Ewell	1 officer 72 men
	59 horses

FORT CONRAD, 30 Sept to 4 Oct, Capt. and Brvt. Lt. Col. D. L. Chandler,
3d Inf

Company I, 3d Infantry, Lt. Col. Chandler	1 officer 53 men
Company K, 2 Dragoons, 2d Lt. H. L. Delano	1 officer 41 men
	54 horses

FORT WEBSTER, 10-13 October, Maj. E. Steen, 1st Dragoons

Company H, 1st Dragoons, Maj. E. Steen	1 officer 64 men
	43 horses

Company K, 3d Infantry, Maj. L. B.

Richardson	2 officers 74 men
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Company E, 2d Dragoons, 1st Lt. W. D.

Smith	2 officers 63 men
	42 horses

FORT FILLMORE, 17-28 October, Major E. Backus, 3d Infantry

Company D, 2d Dragoons, 1st Lt. I. C.

McFarran	1 officer 68 men
	51 horses

Company A, 3d Infantry, Capt. Johns

Company K, 3d Infantry, 1st Lt. J. N. Ward	2 officers 64 men
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Company E, 3d Infantry, 2d Lt. Daniel	2 officers 75 men
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Thus having completed the inspection of all the Military posts in this Department, I hereunto append a table of the Strength of the Military Posts in this Territory with the servicable small arms and cannon; amounting in the aggregate to 1624 officers and soldiers: 1743 muskets: 1583 rifles: 940 pistols: 1106 Musketoons: 430 Colt Revolvers: 5 6-pounder field guns: 13 12-pounder howitzers: 2 24-pounder howitzers etc. The supply of ammunition in the Territory is commensurate with the arms. It will be seen that the supply of Dragoon horses is too limited, there being but 383 horses to 483 rank and file.

All of which is Respectfully Submitted

Jos. K. F. Mansfield

Col. & Insp. Genl.

1st March 1854

COMMENTS REGARDING TROOP INSPECTION

The troops at this post have not been paid for five months. There seems to be no good reason for so much delay.

I observed one ignorant German who could not understand English when spoken to. Such men are not fit for this service.

This is a chaplain post but the council of administration have not succeeded in getting a chaplain to conform to their peculiar views.

It is a misfortune to have men that cannot understand English when spoken to, but is still worse to have them near sighted, and a left handed man is quite awkward in the ranks.

The Chaplain gives satisfaction. There are no children that would make a school necessary.

Drawers too small and short in the leg.

Farming duty of the troops seems to have proved a failure generally.

The Musketoons as an arm for the Dragoon is almost worthless.

The Mexican Poney is unsuitable for Dragoon service.

The Dragoon horse should be shod on the hind feet as well as the fore.

There can be very little call for the mountain howitzer and field piece among the Indians.

It was gratifying to learn that most of the men of his company had joined the temperance society.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The several divergent spellings of proper names, as Hickary, Hickeray and Hicheray, are not typographical errors but actual reproductions of the original.

BY WAGON FROM EL PASO TO THE BONITA VALLEY IN 1894

. *edited by Eugene O. Porter*

Sixty-five years ago a young girl named Grace Gertrude Austin came to the Southwest for her health. She was born in Kansas City where her socially prominent family held open-house for army officers stationed at nearby Fort Leavenworth. Many of the officers had served at army posts in the Southwest and they delighted in regaling their listeners with stories of this fabulous country. One officer waxed so enthusiastic that Mr. Austin was prevailed upon to purchase unseen two adjoining ranches—the Littlefield and Bingham places—in the Bonito Valley in Lincoln County, New Mexico. The ranches were located about a hundred miles from Santa Fé. The nearest railroad station was San Antonio where the Hilton family was engaged in the freighting business.

Later the Austin family moved from Kansas City to Chicago where Grace's health rapidly declined. Her doctor advised that she be sent immediately to the Southwest, as she could not survive another Chicago winter. Thus it was that Grace and her mother moved in the spring of 1894 to the Austin Ranch in the Bonita Valley.

Meanwhile, Dr. James Warren Laws of Memphis, Tennessee, just out of medical college, had taken a temporary position with the Merchant Marine and Public Health Service in Memphis. When he had a hemorrhage, his commanding officer, a Dr. Magruder, obtained his transfer to the Merchant Marine tubercular hospital which had been only recently opened at the abandoned army post of Fort Stanton, New Mexico.

Grace Austin and Dr. Laws met at social affairs in the town of Lincoln and soon were affianced. They married in 1904. After three years at Fort Stanton, Dr. Laws believed that he could cure tubercular partients and consequently purchased the 200-acre Ellis Ranch in the Bonito Valley where he opened a sanitarium. In 1914 the Laws moved to El Paso. Three years later they sold their New Mexico ranch and bought a half-interest in Dr. Hendricks' sanitarium—to be known as the Hendricks-Laws Sanitarium. The building still stands on the corner of Memphis and Radford streets, a short distance north of the Radford School for Girls.

The Laws enjoyed a long and fruitful life. In 1954 they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. Two years later, on June 15, 1956, Dr. Laws passed

away at their home at 701 North St. Vrain Street, El Paso. Mrs. Laws now makes her home at 3423 Del Monte Drive, San Mateo, California, with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Bailey.

In 1955 Mrs. Laws recorded the memories of her early life in the Southwest—*Memoirs of Grace Austin Laws: 1894-1917*. The following account of her trip by wagon from El Paso to the Bonita Valley was taken from her memoirs.

* * *

Like most railroads, the Santa Fé follows easy grades across desert lands, and most of the passengers could never guess the beauty of mountain valleys and forest covered areas, dashing streams that were hidden in the distant mountain ranges, nor had the Rio Grande Valley as yet come into its fruitful renown. We



Mrs. Grace Austin Laws
Christmas, 1958

came to the old town of Albuquerque where the grandparents of the same tribe of Indians that meet trains today were on hand to sell their pottery, blankets, and trinkets, as they have ever since the white man drove his iron horse into their lands. Albuquerque was just waking to its possibilities that have grown and developed beyond the early settlers' fondest hopes.

Our objective was Las Cruces, farther down the Rio Grande Valley. It was a forlorn little place not yet aware just how lush and rich its land was. It had the distinction of having the New Mexico Agricultural College,¹ located nearby at Mesilla Park, a struggling institution bravely trying to

¹The New Mexico Agricultural and Mechanic Arts College was founded in 1889 under the Morrill Act of Congress by the 28th legislative assembly of the Territory of New Mexico. It succeeded Las Cruces College which had been established the previous year. In 1890 the college was moved from a small rented building in Las Cruces to its present site. In 1958 its name was changed to "New Mexico State University."

The Morrill Act of 1862 provided that the Federal Government should give public land to the various states and territories, in ratio of 30,000 acres or the equivalent in "land script" for each representative and senator in Congress, for founding colleges.

survive. Its one and only hotel² was the regular Mexican adobe type, built flush with the main street, an unpaved dirt road that was bordered for several blocks with other like primitive buildings. Its office and dining room faced the street and back of these was the usual patio, a large barren square, surrounded by rooms that opened into it. There was the old-fashioned iron pump and some struggling bushes in the center. We were given a comfortably furnished bedroom. Our landlady was a friendly American woman³ of the pioneer sort. She did what she could to make us comfortable the few days we were her guests. She proudly showed several of her paintings. She used regular house paint on the reverse side of oilcloth, stretched on a frame as canvas is used. They were primitive all right. She must have had a strong creative instinct, at least to try to express herself even thus crudely, and she outdated Grandma Moses, who has come to fame and fortune with her pictures of like nature. But here was the golden sunshine we were seeking, and the bitter cold wind off Lake Michigan at Chicago, and sloppy streets of warmer but still snowy Kansas City faded from our memories. We joined the natives enjoying its warm rays, singly and in groups we saw them on all sides, just sitting and soaking it up. Soon we had word from father, a tenderfoot in these parts, too, who had gotten a wrong steer when he was advised to have his family leave the railway at Las Cruces for his ranches in the Bonito Valley, some hundred or more miles from the railroad. The road from Las Cruces was through the mountains and the snow was still too deep to make the route practical, so we were to go down to El Paso, where we would find better accommodations and await further instructions.

Father, it seems, had ordered a mountain wagon, fitted with a white canvas carriage top so as to reflect the sun's rays and make it cooler. It was built extra heavy to his own specifications, for the rough roads of those days, to be shipped from the Studebaker factory direct to El Paso, where we were to await its arrival. Mother found rooms in the private home of Colonel Marr,⁴ which was conveniently located beside the city jail. Here we had a front upstairs bedroom with an alcove, a type of architecture much in vogue at that time. For meals we had to walk a couple of blocks to Mrs. Kingsbury's boarding house located in one of the town's best homes, the Crosby house, a two-story red brick

²This was the Amador Hotel which was established as the Amador Rooming House in 1874 by Don Martin Amador. By 1885 it had become the outstanding hostelry in the Southwest with accommodations for theatrical performances and *bailes* [social dances]. It has remained one of the show places of this area.

³This was Mrs. Amador Campbell. Some of her paintings are still extant.

⁴Colonel S. H. [owe?] Marr was an early settler and prominent citizen of El Paso. His home on South Campbell Street was later used by the City-County Health Unit which is now located in the old library building. Colonel Marr's son, James L., laid out Austin Terrace.

Today no one seems to know where the colonel obtained his title. Mr. Otis Coles told the editor that in early El Paso everyone had a title, the most common being "colonel," "major," and "judge."

with a nice yard, trees and grass.⁵ It was the town's best boarding house, and was patronized by some of the town's elite. We were nicely located and comfortable. Working for the American Smelting and Refining Company was the son of an old friend in Kansas City, Fred Slosson⁶. He, like me, came to El Paso for his health. It seems both his sister and mother had succumbed to consumption. In Kansas City where the head office of the American Smelting and Refining Company was located, friends had gotten him the position in El Paso. At that time their downtown office was in the southeast corner of what is now the Hilton Hotel facing the small plaza.⁷ Later when I met his friends and his sweetheart, Mary Rand,⁸ we used to drive to his office and visit him when we were out driving in her two-wheeled cart.

⁵The Crosby house is still standing, on Myrtle Avenue between Kansas and Stanton streets. Today it is a rooming house with some office space. The D. C. Crowell Company has offices in the building.

⁶Mrs. Laws believes that Slosson's name was Charles Fred. At least he was known as Fred in Kansas City and to his friends in El Paso as Charles.

⁷This was the Sheldon Building. It was later converted into the Sheldon Hotel and then razed for the construction of the present Hilton Hotel.

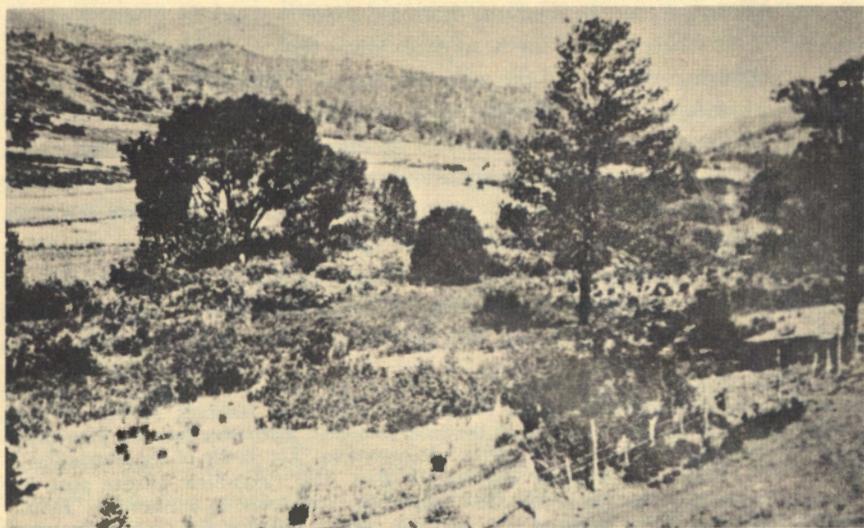
⁸Maud Rand, the beautiful daughter of Major and Mrs. Noyes Rand, had a tragic life. She and Slosson were married, had two children, and were divorced. She then married R. H. Case of the famous J. I. Case family, manufacturers of farm equipment. On February 21, 1919, at their home in Santa Fé, Mrs. Case shot and killed her husband in self defense. She was tried in Santa Fé and acquitted. She spent the last twenty-five years of her life with her son, a retired army officer, in San Antonio, Texas. She died in 1958.



Mrs. Laws as a girl in 1895

I was quite a young girl then, had not been strong for many years, the youngest of six children, the nearest me in age were two sisters, 8 and 10 years older. I was much beloved, petted, and spoiled as invalid children frequently are. Here in the warm sunshine I blossomed out into a real young lady for the first time and thoroughly enjoyed the attention of the younger set which I met through Fred Slosson, this Kansas City friend. For four of our six weeks we were in El Paso. They were very wonderful days for me, among the happiest of my life. All too soon for me, the mountain wagon arrived. Father sent Mr. Robinson, a reliable man, who had been in his employ for many years, before I was born even, down from the ranch with a teamster with a covered wagon and camping equipment, for it was a five day trip with a load such as ours with our trunks, and so forth. Mr. Robinson was a good judge of horses, and was to buy a team for our new vehicle. The teamster who was to drive the covered wagon that carried the camp outfit was also employed on the ranch. Father wrote, we were not to bother our heads about anything, the men were experienced campers, and would get all the food and supplies necessary for the trip. Just to supplement camp fare, my mother had Mrs. Marr, our landlady, bake us a large nut cake, and fortified herself was a gallon demijohn of Dr. Alexander's fine wine.⁹ This pioneer physician raised on his ranch near

⁹Dr. E[dward?] Alexander was a German physician who received a land grant from the Mexican Government sometime around 1858. His vineyard was located on the Mexican side about opposite the present El Paso Coliseum. He later sold his ranch and moved to El Paso where he practiced medicine in a "mild" way. He always signed his name "E. Alexander."



The Bonito Valley

El Paso, fine wine grapes, and the vintage from them was greatly prized. This man Robinson played an important part in our early ranch experience and in inducting me into the mysteries of frontier life, for I was a cityborn and bred girl. He was a Vermont yankee, country raised. He knew about the dairies famous for their fine products that were sold to the particular customers on the eastern market. He was a keen observer and good judge of horseflesh. He seemed to know what they would do under all circumstances. Later on he taught me to make butter, ride and drive horses, and something about poultry, how in general to be useful and adequate in my new surroundings. He was interested in politics, and would talk at length on free silver and bimetallism which then were the main political issues. A member of the Populist Party,¹⁰ he would explain its precepts at length, an ex-schoolteacher and a good all round man. The wagon was set up, a team of horses bought, my mother packed our trunks, and all was made ready for the start. My young friends brought me parting gifts of books and candy, and I seem to recall the faint perfume of roses. Could there have been a bouquet of roses among those farewell gifts?

We left El Paso right after luncheon for Flink' Well,¹¹ a short drive of twenty miles to a cattle watering place, the first leg of our journey. We drove southwest to the Bonito Valley in the full rays of the noonday sun on an April day. We passed Fort Bliss sitting high on its mesa, with its low spreading barracks clustered around the soaring flagpole from which fluttered the Stars and Stripes, past the two-story imposing red brick officers' quarters out into a vast level plain on which nothing obstructed the view for miles and miles to distant mountains that rimmed the horizon. Here we passed a shack saloon labelled "Last Chance," and my heart sank lower with each turn of the wheels. At nightfall when we reached the well, we came to a tangled barbed wire fence, a windmill, a large tank with cattle troughs spread around. Did you ever hear a windmill draw water on such a place? It carries its burden reluctantly with a whine to the very top of the tower, lets it go and rushes below for more. Most of the desert wheels are very busy turning around and around, and the most lonesome sound I have ever heard is their screech. I've never heard a banshee but for wierdness we can do just as good a job with iron and water and a good upward pull of a windmill pump. Our "A" tent with its two single cots was made ready for mother and me. The men would sleep in the big wagon, so

¹⁰The Populist Party ran its first candidate for president in 1892. In 1896 it nominated the Democratic candidate for president, William Jennings Bryan, and practically fused with that party. It was in the 1896 campaign that free silver and bi-metalism were the chief political issues. That election is known as "The Battle of the Standards."

¹¹Mrs. Laws is in error. It was *Fleck's* Well. The Texas-New Mexico state line divided the ranch. According to Mr. Otis Coles, Mr. Fleck loved to tell how he "fooled" the tax collectors. When he heard that the New Mexico collector was coming, he would drive all of his cattle to the Texas side of his ranch, and when the Texas collector came, he reversed the proceedings. Later G. L. Hitt purchased the ranch and it became known as the Hitt Ranch.

following a meagre supper around the campfire we all turned in early after the excitement of getting off. The windmill kept up its complaining. One could hear the cattle coming in for water, I guess all night. Only youth and its sleepy-headedness didn't stay awake to find out, and I slept soundly all night, so peacefully, in fact, my mother got up in the night to assure herself it was really natural slumber. Next morning our cook got the woman at the house by the windmill to bake us some biscuits for breakfast. Poor soul! She gave them too much soda, and they were as yellow as Chinamen.

That day we made a long drive to White Sands. I felt fine, the sky was beautifully blue and a few white clouds floated serenely in the clear sky. It seemed a case of "God's in His heaven: all's right with the world."

It was all new and wonderful to me, and when I saw in the distance on that particularly waterless day way ahead and a little to the left, a clump of green trees that would in such a place promise water, I wasn't surprized and proudly called attention to what I saw, only to be smiled at condescendingly, as befits the tenderfoot by an experienced plainsman, and was told the pretty green trees were really not there. It was a phantom of the desert, a mirage, that had fooled many a thirsty stranger before me.

Our camp that night at White Sands was so pretty and interesting. These fields of gypsum that spread out for miles over a naked plain on which small bushes grew, where little white animals, lizards and field mice, scurried among the stalks. Here we found a happier camp than the night before, no regrets, now, glad we came. I have a photograph of that camp with mother in her bonnet, sitting primly on a folding arm chair while the man, Minter, busies himself around the campfire.

Father had bought a 5 x 7 Kodak, quite the latest thing then in cameras. It was so constructed it could carry glass plates as well as a roll of films. It came with a tripod, and was quite a professional outfit, way beyond any former experience of mine which was confined to a small box camera with a pinhole lens. My lack of knowledge of photography was quite apparent in the pictures I took. Our route next day was devoid of water and some of the stops where we had expected to find water, the men reported that the sheepherders had filled them up with rock. For at this time the sheep and cattlemen were contending for this free range, and their fight was long and bitter. Our freight wagon carried on one side a small barrel for water, fitted with a bunghole for emergencies and one had to be very saving of water around the camp. None whatever for toilet purposes. I took a picture of a rocky place called "Lost River"¹² where a small stream came to the surface, flowed about ten to twelve

¹²This may have been Tularosa Creek which disappears underground southwest of the Mescalero Indian Reservation.

feet and sank back into the ground. It was strong with alkali and the report was, would kill animals which drank of it, but our Mr. Robinson gave our team a small amount as the night before we had been short of water for them. I'm uncertain as to whether we camped a third night on the plain, but I am inclined to think not, but made Tularosa, a regular oasis on the desert—with lots of water running down the sides of the few streets in full open *acequias* or irrigating ditches which made the little town bloom like a rose as its name implies. Here a little modest hotel took mother and me in, while the men camped at some corral for the horses. Tall cottonwood trees lines the streets, the flowers in the yards of the houses looked lush and lovely to us. Tularosa is still a small place, but I always drive into it with a feeling of entering an oasis, a place of rest and comfort.

From here on the country through which we traveled became very different, for we were approaching the mountains, and the following day's drive was through the Mescalero, the Apache Indian Reservation.¹³ The road curled up a beautiful valley, pine and spruce trees covered the mountainsides, with a dashing stream at their base. I was spellbound by the magnificence of the scene. Never had I ever guessed of such grandeur, and the clear pure pine-scented air filled our nostrils and lungs. Surely "Only God can make a tree." Here were thousands of them, marching like legions up the majestic mountainside. We passed the Indian school, the Reservation offices, the buildings for personnel, the little church with its steeple so dwarfed in these surroundings. We passed on the road Indians going about their affairs. The Indian brave riding his pony, might have been Charlie, Big Rope, or Man Not Afraid of His Horse, or some such name as they give themselves. A young squaw carrying her papoose in its basketlike case, on her back, with its little square brown face and stiff black hair looking both content and comfortable, or some old wrinkled woman, feeble after the years of toil, following her warriors on many a hunting expedition to make camp and care for the skins and meat of the game they killed. Here we heard of an Indian maiden, daughter of the famous chief, Geronimo, who had received a ten thousand dollar education from the government, and was reported to have said, all that she had learned of value to herself from the white man was personal cleanliness. It made one more comfortable. The Indian is picturesque with his beaded buckskin, gay colored blankets, the fancy hairdos, long black hair braided in two braids with bright red cloth to set it off. The children are gay and happy, for the Indian is an indulgent parent, and here we were seeing them in their home surroundings and background in all this beauty.

The road carried us up the divide from which the watershed sends its steams in opposite directions, and descended through a long narrow canyon,

¹³The Mescalero Reservation was first established in 1854 but during the Civil War it was neglected and finally abandoned. The present reservation has had a continuous existence since 1874.

called the "Dark Canyon."¹⁴ In its dense shade history tells us a troop of U. S. Cavalry was overtaken and slaughtered by the Indians in early frontier days of the Indian wars. Generally the road descends, opening out like a fan to spread out in broad fields on the valley floor, where the Rio Ruidosa, which means "noisy river," dashes and splashes over its rocky bed, before it is channeled off into irrigating ditches to be of use to man, as well as beautiful in itself. From now on the scenery was less spectacular. We had left the higher mountains and their Indians, and were once more back in the white man's domain. Just at the head of the valley, we stopped at Prude's ranch overnight. The kind woman with her large and growing family, out of the goodness of her heart, made it a practice to accommodate travelers with meals and lodging. Our men made the mistake of not setting up our camp for sleeping that last night on the trail, and mother and I had a real initiation into the mysteries and miseries of frontier life. The memory is still fresh in my mind, and the kindest thing is not to go into detail, but in all fairness I will add, the meals were fair and her fried chicken and hot biscuits as good as most on this frontier where the cooking was more often poor than good.

Now we headed toward our goal. The Bonito Valley, that like the Ruidoso, headed in the White Mountains, the highest in the Territory of New Mexico, and looking higher in their magnificence, snowcovered in winter and carrying a cap of white way into June some years. They stand there, a landmark for the whole district, and with their double peaks above timber line, one looking rugged and rocky, the other more rounded, with a ridge of rocks joining them. Our wagon splashed through the rocky bed of the Ruidoso, for we headed north now, drove across the valley not yet fenced, climbed a row of foothills that separated the broad valley from a couple of smaller ones, Little Creek and Eagle Creek. The country was heavily timbered, only now mixed with the pines and spruce and outnumbering them were the rounded cedar and juniper trees, reminding one of huge apple trees, especially if standing as they often did on rolling ground in the flatter places. The more pointed piñons added their foliage to this bouquet of evergreens. The road was rocky and rough, and we had to brace ourselves as we clung to the struts that carried the top of our mountain wagon to maintain our places on the slippery leather seats. My mother was a brave woman with apparent calm. So we rocked and rolled up one hill and down another through country beautiful to behold but uncomfortable to experience until we headed the last foothill that lined the Bonito Valley and looked down into our future home, my father's ranch that we later called "The Willows," because of the many willows that lined the lovely little mountain stream

¹⁴There are several "Dark Canyons" in New Mexico. Mrs. Laws may be referring to Dog Canyon near Alamogordo which was the scene of five engagements between Indians and U.S. troops in the 1870's and 1880's.

that ran the length of the property. It must have been with mixed feelings our party viewed the scene. To my mother, no doubt she looked on this ranch with fear and foreboding. To the man, Minter, he was just back home. Mr. Robinson must have been hoping the venture would turn out for the best, while to me it was just one grand adventure. I was feeling fine. All this country in 1894 was so beautiful. Men had not yet come in numbers sufficient to ravish its beauty, so here we were the first of my father's family to invade his Shangri-La.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE MESCALERO APACHES

by C. L. Sonnichsen

(Norman: The University of Oklahoma Press, 1958. \$5.75)

Both as art and as history this book is one of the most important ever brought to the attention of members of the El Paso Historical Society. With his characteristic smooth blend of accuracy and wit, Dr. Sonnichsen tells here the full story of the Mescalero Apaches: their turbulent past, their troubled present, their uncertain but hopeful future. Unlike many whites who have written on Indian subjects, the present author has achieved a remarkable objectivity.

The task was a difficult one, for the record of Apache-White relations bristles with mistakes, bad judgments, broken promises, bull-headed determination to misunderstand. Too often, the white man bore most of the guilt. At first with his guns, later with his legislation, he attempted to subdue the Indian to a position that, to that Indian, was worse than death. The Apache has been painfully slow in discovering any possible way to live in a white man's world. This is the theme of most of Dr. Sonnichsen's chapters.

A sampling of the volume's chapter titles will indicate its scope. "The Apaches and Their Way of Life," "Apache Against Spaniard," "The Americans Take Over," "The Mescaleros Give Up," "Fifty Years of Difficulty," "The Indians Get a New Deal," "The Mescaleros Face the Future." A wealth of illustrations rounds out the story.

What makes this book of special importance is the light it sheds, within its small geographical limits, upon the world-wide problem that the American creates for himself in his dealings with people of other cultures. All too often the American cries, "Worthless!" when he might better remark, "Different." Dr. Sonnichsen's work steers wide of any preachment, but its facts and its quotations clearly imply, "Great profit could have resulted for both sides if each had sincerely attempted to utilize the good that each offered."

The white man has ignored much that the Apache could have given him. A simple example is the Apache's knowledge of local plants. A white man would starve today in the midst of what, to an Indian, was an abundance of ready food. Over 100 plants found in the El Paso area were useful to the Mescaleros. As the author points out, "Picture to yourself a meal of cottontail-rabbit stew with sunflower-seed bread, some dried mescal boiled for the occasion and kneaded up with ground walnuts or juniper berries, . . . boiled yucca flowers as a vegetable,

pigweed greens, chokecherry jelly, and some dried grapes for dessert. It sounds nourishing and even appetizing—and all of it free and readily available.”

On an ideological plain the white man's loss may be even greater. The white thought the Indian was lazy; the Indian thought the white man “ran himself to death.” One of the great Mescalero chiefs during the 1860's, Cadete, pointed out this vast gulf separating the philosophy and attitude of the two races. In an interview with Captain John C. Cremony, he declared:

You desire our children to learn from books, and say, that because you have done so, you are able to build all those big houses, and sail over the sea, and talk with each other at any distance, and do many wonderful things; now, let me tell you what we think. You begin when you are little to work hard, and work until you are men in order to begin fresh work. You say that you work hard in order to learn how to work well. After you get to be men, when you say, the labor of life commences; then too, you build big houses, big ships, big towns, and everything else in proportion. Then, after you have got them all, you die and leave them behind. Now, we call that slavery. You are slaves from the time you begin to talk until you die; but we are free as air. . . . Our wants are few and easily supplied. The river, the wood and plain yield all that we require, and we will not be slaves; nor will we send our children to your schools, where they only learn to become like yourselves.

From this theme stemmed the waste of human life and knowledge and spiritual insight that epitomizes the Apache-White record. Today, the hopeful sign that Dr. Sonnichsen sees is that gradually appreciation and mutual respect are supplanting the tragic notion that the only good Indian is a dead one and the only good white is a scalp.

Texas Western College

Joseph Leach

FRONTIER NEWSPAPER: THE EL PASO TIMES

by John Middagh

(El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1958)

Social institutions, like individuals, develop personalities of their own. John Middagh's recent book is an historical portrait of one such institution, *The El Paso Times*. Beginning his story with the crucial year 1881, Mr. Middagh traces the development of *The Times* from the year of its origin until 1956 and, coincidentally, presents a history of El Paso's growth from a frontier outpost into a modern American city. And, just as the character of El Paso has changed during this period, so also has the personality of *The El Paso Times* been transformed. Although stated more by implication than by explicit preachment, the underlying message of this book is that *The Times* is a reflection of the interests and attitudes which gave meaning to the lives of those who ventured their hopes and fortunes in order to build a city in the coffin corner of Texas. Within the limits imposed by his subject, Mr. Middagh has successfully shown that "the story of a newspaper is also the history of its town."

Written in a clear and straightforward style, *Frontier Newspaper* will commend itself to those who are interested in the complexities of newspaper publishing and, certainly, will delight the readers whose own lives were touched by the event described therein. The book is liberally spiced with anecdotes which at once give the story immediacy and provide a clearer understanding of the problems which confronted the men and women who brought the newspaper into existence and kept it going over the years.

Finally it should be noted that *Frontier Newspaper* is notable for its design and has already been awarded recognition as another example of the fine craftsmanship of Carl Hertzog, one of America's most able typographers and Director of the Texas Western College Press. Carefully researched over a period of many years, succinctly written in a lucid, reportorial style, *Frontier Newspaper* is a worthy eulogy to *The El Paso Times* and the "home town" of which it is so proud.

Texas Western College

Jack C. Vowell, Jr.

CONTRIBUTORS



Estelle Goodman Levy

Estelle Goodman Levy reports: "I was born, I was married, and I have nothing left to do but to die." Readers of her excellent article will disagree, however. Her long and useful life in El Paso has given her many memories that should be recorded.

Mrs. Levy's father came to El Paso in the early 'eighties and established a wholesale grocery business on the first floor of the old Myar's Opera House. Ten years later he was married in Nashville and the young couple moved into their new home on North Oregon Street. This house had the first porcelain bath tub in El Paso. The plumbing was so modern that a *Times* reporter wrote a column describing the "most recent novelties and appliances of the plumber's art."

Mrs. Levy's mother returned to Nashville where Estelle was born. The two returned to El Paso four months later and Mrs. Levy has lived in the border city ever since, except for her preparatory school days which she spent in Kentucky. In 1916 she married Charles Levy, a native of New England.

Mrs. Levy is past president of the El Paso Section, National Council of Jewish women and past president of the El Paso High School P.T.A., and of the Cloudcroft Baby Sanitarium. Her son Robert has a Ph. D. in physics from the University of California and her daughter Amelia a Master's degree from Texas Western College.



Major Richard K. McMaster

Major Richard K. McMaster, a graduate of the United State Military Academy, is no newcomer to the readers of *PASSWORD*. His several articles on the military in the early Southwest have gained him as well as our quarterly national recognition. He is also the author of a book published by the Exposition Press, New York, *Polo For Beginners and Spectators*.

Major McMaster is married and lives with his wife Jane at 4523 Trowbridge.

* * *

Dr. Joseph Leach is Professor of English at Texas Western College. He spent the school year 1957-58 in Europe as an instructor with the University of Maryland. He returned to Europe this summer as the director of a group of TWC students.

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Jack C. Vowell, Jr., is an Instructor in Government at Texas Western College. He is serving his second year as president of our historical society.

HISTORICAL NOTES

A LETTER FROM THE CALIFORNIA GOLD MINES

Reprinted below is a document describing conditions in the California Gold Mines in 1849. Letters of this kind were perhaps among the most effective causes for the large migration to California in the late 1840's and early 1850's. The traffic to the gold fields followed three major routes, among which the southern route through El Paso, Arizona and into Southern California bore its share of migration.

So far as can be determined this letter has never been published. It was presented to our Society by Dr. Jack L. Cross, Assistant Professor of History at Texas Western College.

FROM THE MINES

Sacramento City, Nov. 6, 1849.

RESPECTED FATHER:—I should like to give you a description of my travels to this place in full, but have not time nor room in this. If any of our friends think of coming next season, tell them to get a good stout wagon and put staples in the box for the cover; couple the wheels close together, and not have the box over nine feet in length; put one lock chain on each side; bring one extra king-bolt, four lynch-pins, one stout rope 100 feet in length to lower the wagon with; and have the wagon tire at least $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch thick, and well bolted on. Tell them they want five good yoke of cattle (not things) not less than 5 nor more than 6 or 7 years old, and cross the Missouri river by the 10th of May, and sonner if the feed will possibly answer; and put out and never let their cattle out of sight day or night, without a guard. Tell them they want a good grass-fed horse or mule to each man, and take turns in going ahead to hunt feed and water. Their very lives depend on this.

We were compelled to drive our stock, after leaving the Platte from 3 to 7 miles from the road into gorges for feed. Tell them to keep the old road to the little Sandy, 24 miles from South Pass, or Pacific Spring on the summit of the Rocky Mountains; thence to Big Sandy, 6 miles, and take Sirblet's or Greenwood cut-off, 43 miles over a desert to Green River, without grass or water; thence over the Bear River Mountains to Bear River; down the river to the old road, travel over this to Steamboat Springs, or Big Bend, where river turns and runs south, (old road runs north to Ft. Hall.) Here take the left hand road, Hedspith's cut-off, leaving Ft. Hall on the right, and Salt Lake on the left, distance 120 miles, good grass and water to head of Raft River; intersect Salt

Lake road, and thence take the old road through. Tell them not to take the right hand road, at the Big Bend or Humboldt's or Mary's River, as some three or four thousand teams did this year, and lost half their cattle and three or four weeks' time, getting out of provisions; and half of them would have lost their lives, only for the Government sending one thousand mules, packed with provisions, and some 500 yoke of cattle to their relief. Tell them to follow this to the Sink, there recruit their cattle for the desert, (be careful not to get on the desert before you know it,) and pull for Trucky River—follow it to Trucky Lake, and there is no more turn-off after this, but pull away for the summit of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Tell them to lose no time after they cross the Missouri, except Sundays and rainy days, and they are good for California.

I had 2 wagons and nine yoke of cattle, and never lost an ox or broke a wagon, and did not even turn over—in short not the least accident occurred to me or our train. I have been hearty and well ever since I left the States. I did not see any rain from the 1st of June until the 1st November—then the rainy season commenced here, and it does it up brown.

I suppose you will want to know something about the gold, so here goes. There is just as much gold here as you read about in the prints, and no mistake. The whole country is full of it, and I can get all I want in a short time, if I have my health. I have been offered \$300 per month and board, for the next six months, by Martin & Gregg, formerly of Boston. They are wholesale provision dealers; but I shall go to the mines, because I think I can do better there, if it is the poorest time to work, on account of rain &c. The least gold I dug in one day was \$7, and the most in one day was 6 oz. 8 pwts. In short, when the spot where miners are at work won't pay two ounces per day, they try a new place, being pretty sure they cannot do worse. I sold one of my wagons for \$150, and the cattle belonging to it at the same rate.

I have just loaded my wagon, and shall start it to-morrow morning south in dry diggings for winter quarters, in company with H. Merrill and J. Com-mack, of Milwaukee, and J. Rogers of Rock Co., Wis., formerly from Bedlam Corners, Washington Co., N.Y.—son of Dr. Rogers. The difference between dry and wet diggings is, that wet diggings is where you can get the dirt and wash it on the banks of living streams—the dry is where you can get water to wash with, in the rainy season only. There is gold enough any where, but you can't get water to wash it, without hauling the dirt. This will be done when it can't be got without. You nor I never will see the day that a man can't dig one ounce per day, and as for stealing, there is no such thing in this country. Every thing is left in tent among thousands of persons. The owners go about their work, and return and find everything safe. In short, men and property are safer here than in the States. Give my respects to brothers and sisters, &c. I will write

you again from winter quarters. I have spent \$200 in time and money in going to the Bay to get letters from home, and I did not get a single letter; but I think some of you must have written, and I shall get them some time. I have made arrangements with Wells & Co.'s express to bring my letters from the Bay here, and I have to pay them one dollar each letter for it. You will direct yours to Sacramento City, California.

. . . my team I paid . . . clear Boston pork, \$15 for beef, \$6 per bushel for beans, \$25 per cwt. for sugar, \$75 per cwt. for dried apples, \$1 per lb. for dried peaches, \$25 per cwt. for dried plums, \$50 per cwt. for currants, \$2 per lb. for saleratus, 76 cents for tea, 12½ cts. for coffee, and \$16 per cwt. for flour.— They sell potatoes from 45 to 50 cts. per pound, and onions for \$1 per lb., but I did not buy any. These same provisions sell in the mines for double this amount, and I shall have some to sell when I get there. \$1.50 is the price for a meal of victuals, and \$2.50 for lodging. Well, I can pay it easier here than I could one shilling in Wisconsin. I have seen one man dig sixteen hundred dollars in one day, and no mistake.

Yours, &c.,

M. R. McWHORTER.

* * *

UTAH STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY RECEIVES UNUSUAL BEQUEST

"The Nicholas G. Morgan, Sr., Foundation has presented to the Utah State Historical Society the leases, rights, and royalties to approximately 8,000 acres of mineral lands in the Paradox Basin, all under lease to national oil and gas companies. Nowhere in this country has any philanthropist made a comparable contribution to the cause of a state's culture and history.

"It is intended that this initial gift is only the beginning of other endowments to come, both in money and other mineral properties. The endowment constitutes one of the greatest acts of philanthropy of any kind in the state of Utah." From *History News*, XIV, 6 (April, 1959).

TAX SUPPORT FOR LOCAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES

Your editor has noted on previous occasions that several States in the Union permit the granting of taxes in support of county historical societies. The following item was taken from *History News*, XIV, 5 (March, 1959):

Since the enactment of legislation by the Ohio Legislature in 1947 providing county commissioners with power to appropriate funds to historical societies, many groups have been able to continue and even expand their activities.

Out of the fifty-four societies today, twenty-seven are receiving county funds. The average amount received annually is \$3,600, but excluding the three societies receiving over \$10,000 a year, the average drops to \$2,300. In all cases, the amount appropriated is below the maximum permissible under law.

* * *

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Colorado is celebrating the centennial of the discovery of gold in the State. "Rush to the Rockies," it is called.

* * *

Col. Albion Smith, no stranger to readers of *PASSWORD*, came across an interesting letter on Fort Bliss while "musing through the reports of the secretary of war for the year 1877." It was written by Brig. General D. S. Stanley, commanding the Department of Texas, which in that year, for the first time, included Fort Bliss. The letter follows:

Ft. Bliss is one of the mistakes in the way of locating a military post which amounts to a blunder. Situated in the narrow pass just north of the City of El Paso, or rather the city itself, there are 35 acres of land (135) available for building, for drills and for parades. High hills, amounting to mountains, are on each side of the Rio Grande; those on the Mexican side dominating the post. Two railroads, with right of way, run through the crowded post; and smelters immediately adjoin the small government reservation, poisoning the air with the fumes of their furnaces. This place is utterly unfit for military purposes.

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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.