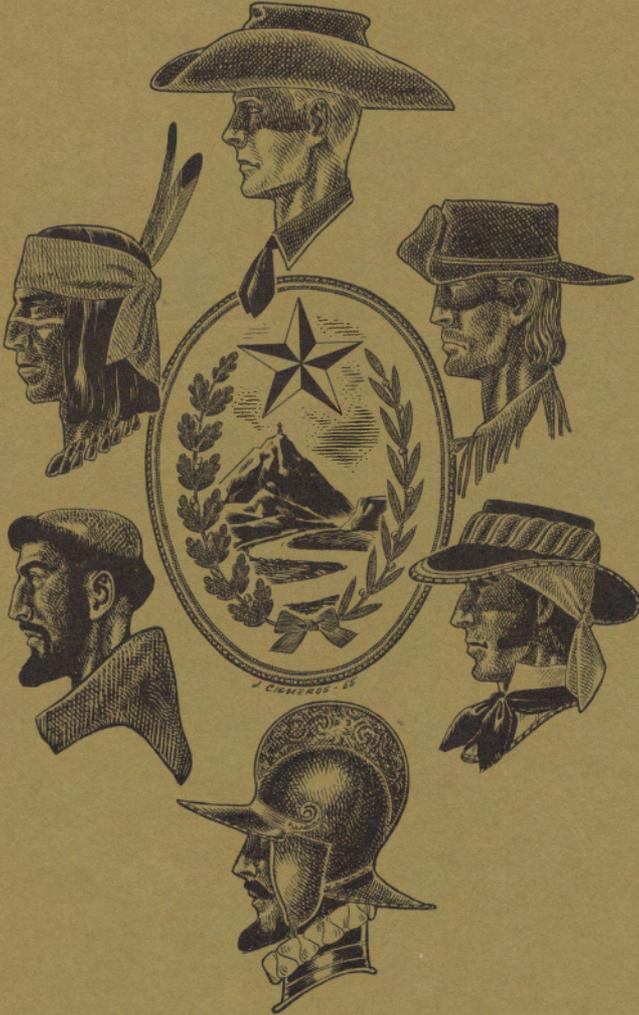


PASSWORD



THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL. XV—No. 3

FALL, 1970

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THE ARMY OF THE WEST, commanded by Colonel Stephen W. Kearny, was organized at Fort Leavenworth in June, 1846. The advance division consisted of 300 regulars of the first United States dragoons under Major Edwin V. Summer, a regiment of mounted volunteers called out for the campaign by Governor Edwards of Missouri and commanded by Colonel Alexander W. Doniphan, and five additional companies of volunteers, including one of infantry and two of light artillery, for a total of nearly 1700 men. The second or reserve division, under the command of Colonel Sterling Price, comprised another regiment of Missouri volunteers, a battalion of four companies under Lieutenant-Colonel Willock, and the Mormon Battalion, in all about 1800 men.—Bancroft, *The History of New Mexico and Arizona*

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EUGENE O. PORTER, *Editor*

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RICHARD FENNER BURGES AND THE CARLSBAD CAVERNS

by BARBARA HOOTEN LUCKETT

CARLSBAD CAVERNS in New Mexico are internationally known for their significant beauty but few people know the true story of the process of their recognition or even the man who was actually responsible for bringing this geological wonder to the public's attention. Indeed, even the Caverns' discoverer, Jim White, a New Mexican cowhand, deserves very little of the actual credit in the movement to publicize the caves. Actually, twenty-two years elapsed between White's discovery on June 1, 1901, and the initiation of what was to bring this magnificent accident to the attention of the world. White's energies had been directed towards informing local residents of the Carlsbad area of what he had found. His power of description, however, must have been rather limited, for until White lowered Richard Fenner Burges into the cave by the rickety bucket which was the only way in or out of the cavern, what is now a national monument was but a local oddity of eastern New Mexico.

Richard Fenner Burges, the son of W. H. Burges, was born in Seguin, Texas, January 7, 1873, and spent the larger part of his youth in that area. Young Burges attended Texas A. & M. College where he received several scholarly honors before coming to El Paso in 1892 at the age of nineteen. After his arrival he was admitted to the bar and went into practice with his older brother Alfred Rust Burges. Another older brother, W. H. Burges had already established himself as a practicing El Paso attorney.

Whatever R. F. Burges did, he did thoroughly. This trait can be traced to his father, who was said to be "a man with strong convictions and with the nerve and will always to do right."¹ The elder Burges was one of the most brilliant lawyers in the South, and a most eloquent speaker. He was a gallant Confederate soldier, a staunch and life-long Democrat and, for a number of years, a member of the Texas Senate. Richard Burges inherited most of his father's favorable traits.

Richard Burges soon became well known and respected by the citizens of El Paso. When he married Ethel Shelton, daughter of a pioneer El Paso family, on December 7, 1898, the local newspaper described him as "one of El Paso's youngest as well as ablest attorneys, now enjoying a lucrative practice, winning the confidence and esteem of all with whom he comes in contact, and whose character has always been above reproach."²

Throughout the early 1900's the Burges brothers fought El Paso's frontier hangovers—including gambling and prostitution. These men were

instrumental in disrupting these immoral city institutions even though the life of W. H. Burges (Billy Burges) was threatened by the gambling ring for doing so. Richard Burges' other community achievements included writing the present city-charter as city attorney in 1907, planning the construction of a new courthouse and auditorium, and serving as a member of the House of Representatives for two successive terms—from 1913 to 1917.³

In 1917, Richard F. Burges organized a company of men which eventually became part of the 36th Division of Texas and Oklahoma National Guardsmen to fight in World War I. By the time the unit reached the European theatre, Burges was its captain. On October 16, 1917 an Associated Press dispatch spoke of the valiant Texans for their part in turning back the German troops facing the famous city of Rheims. An article recalling their exploits stated:

The work of the Americans was more notable because one of the American divisions—the 36th entered the terrific battle at an important point. Although new to fighting and without ever having heard shell-fire before, the division withstood the most bitter German counter-attacks without flinching.⁴

Moving on to the Forest Farm where the French had made two desperate attempts to dislodge the enemy, the Texans overran the Germans, killing hundreds and capturing hundreds more—not a single German escaped. In later years, members of the division remembered:

Many El Pasoans took part in the savage fighting of the 36th. Some lost their lives, many received decorations for valor. Most of these El Pasoans were in Company A, 141st Infantry, commanded by Captain Richard Burges, who was promoted to command of the regiment's First Battalion, as a major on the field of battle.

Major Burges was awarded the French Croix de Guerre with gilt star for heroism in action.⁵

An official history entitled *The 9th U. S. Infantry in the World War* credits Major Burges (then a captain) with personally leading his Texans in a savage attack which crushed the core of German resistance.⁶

When Major Burges returned from Europe he was urged by El Paso leaders to run for governor of Texas but he declined because, at that time, the position paid only \$3,000 a year which was not enough to recover his financial loss incurred during the War. He felt that "a man's duty is first to his family, then to his community, then to his state, then to his country."⁷ Burges saw patriotism as a progressive duty.

Major Burges' family by then consisted of his daughter Jane Burges (Perrenot), whom he reared after his wife died when Jane was only twelve years old. Miss Burges was given the responsibility of running the father's house at an early age. Today she recalls that he was always cer-

tain that whatever plans she had made would turn-out all right. One time he asked "a few people" to a dinner which his daughter was to prepare. The night of the dinner she discovered that "a few" meant some sixty people. Inversely, another time he asked her to prepare for a large cocktail party which in the end produced *five* people for dinner. But Major Burges never apologized for his daughter, believing everything was fine as she had prepared it.⁸

In August, 1923 Burges traveled to Carlsbad to attend a meeting of the Pecos Valley Water Users Association. A fateful postponement of the meeting left Burges with time on his hands and, during his boredom, he wandered through the lobby of the hotel where he was staying. Here he noticed a number of snapshots of the caverns which interested him enough to make him ask Jim White to show him the caves. Jim White consented.

Once he was beneath the surface Burges realized that the Caverns' beauty far surpassed that of the two similar national landmarks—Mammoth Cave of Kentucky, and Luray Caverns of Virginia. By the time he returned to the surface and climbed out of the bucket elevator, Burges was convinced that the nation should be informed of the splendor of this phenomenon.

When he returned to the town of Carlsbad, Burges asked the Chamber of Commerce what steps had been taken to publicize this wonderful curiosity. Apparently, the local citizens were indifferent to the cave's splendor, for nothing had been done. They did mention, however, that a Mr. Hulley of the United States Geological Survey had studied the cave over a three mile area.⁹

Returning to El Paso, Burges wrote an article for the *El Paso Times*, espousing the magnificence of the little known caverns. In the article he predicted that "the world will have to revise its estimate of dimensions as applied to caves when this mighty cavern has been forced to give up its secrets."¹⁰ He described the beauty of the vast chambers which he called the "Council Chambers of the Gods" and the "Kings Palace."¹¹ He advised that a safer route be found for an entrance, suggesting that a tunnel be built into the side of the hill. Concluding, Burges exclaimed that "no word of the writer can do justice to this marvelous work of nature. It will be enough if what has been stated leads others to explore for themselves."¹² He stressed that the residents of Carlsbad would do themselves and the traveling public a service by developing the wonder.

This article was only the first step of Richard Burges' promotion of the caverns. Next, he embarked upon a voluminous correspondence in an effort to obtain proper recognition. His first letter was to the director of the United States Geological Survey (U.S.G.S.) to ask for a copy of

the survey Mr. Hulley had made of the caverns. The acting director of the United States Geological Survey, H. C. Rizer, wrote back that there was no record of a Mr. Hulley and that records were "wanting" on the caverns in the vicinity of Carlsbad, New Mexico. The Survey was, Rizer said, interested in sending a geologist to the caverns if Burges could supply further information.¹³ In addition, Burges communicated with the Department of the Interior, The National Geographic Society and several citizens of Carlsbad—including the president of the Carlsbad Chamber of Commerce, W. F. McIlvain.

Richard Burges' enthusiasm and continuous correspondence had a telling effect, for on October 25, 1923 President Coolidge signed a proclamation making Carlsbad Caverns a national monument. But the proclamation only served to spur Major Burges to greater efforts. For almost a year he urged Congress to appropriate \$5,000 for improving the caverns. Congressman Hudspeth emphasized Burges' involvement and concern when he addressed a committee which was considering another appropriation for the building of roads to the caverns from Van Horn, Texas. At that time Hudspeth said:

If you are going to take it [the caverns] over, and you have wisely expended \$5,000 on a cave which I am told, far surpasses the wonders of the Mammoth Cave in Kentucky, I see no reason for not spending the amount I ask in this amendment on the building of accessible roads. By the way, I wish to state that I saw in the current press a few days ago that some little whipper-snapper who writes for some magazine claims he discovered this cave.¹⁴

At the same time Burges' efforts did not go unnoticed by interested persons. He was commended by a Carlsbad citizen, Mr. Francis Tracy, who thanked him in a letter, saying: "Where all our political lights have failed, you single handed and unaided have landed a National Monument in New Mexico, within easy access from El Paso."¹⁵ Not satisfied with direct praise, Tracy wrote the United States Senator from New Mexico, Holm Bursum, again commending Burges and reminding Bursum that W. T. Lee of the U.S.G.S. had not heard of the caverns until Richard Burges' article was called to his attention. Lee, ironically, managed to retain all the credit for the promotion of the cave in later years. Congressman Hudspeth was aware of this situation when he reminded Congress that:

The history of this thing is that this cave was discovered by Major Richard Burges, of El Paso. He is the man who came here and interceded before this committee for the \$5,000. I want to go into the RECORD. He was one of the heroes of the World War. He organized a company in his home city, and it fought as red-blooded Americans, and especially Texans, always fight. He is the man

who first brought to the notice of the public and Congress this cave—Major Burges—and I want that to go into the RECORD. This little fellow [Lee] never heard of this cave until Major Burges had been there and told the committee about it, and he got \$5,000 for providing a way of getting into it.¹⁶

Richard Burges' fight for the recognition of Carlsbad Caverns is but one significant example of his exemplary personality. His contributions to his city, his state and his country were many and varied. On a local, state, and national level Major Burges held many positions of importance including the job of counsel for the United States, organizer of the Citizens' Reform League, and charter member of the El Paso Bar Association. In addition, Major Burges had several hobbies: one of which was his beautiful garden, and another was his library. The library contains some 8000 volumes and has been called the finest state history collection in private hands. Among original manuscripts in the Burges library is a letter by Sam Houston to Colonel Bowl, Chief of the Cherokee Indians, about a land grant and also a number of letters written before Houston became president of the Texas Republic.¹⁷

The library also contains many older books from Europe. One of these is a copy of the famous "Breeches" Bible, a "Septauguant" Bible, and an illuminated Bible which at one time belonged to a partner of Daniel Webster. The library is housed in a fire-proof addition to the Burges home and was built specifically for that purpose. Against one wall of the library can be found scrapbooks and diaries telling of the lives of Major Burges, his family, his friends and many clippings concerning their place in Texas history.

Major Burges' thoughts and ambitions can be found in these scrapbooks and diaries. Through them, and the Northeast Branch of the El Paso Public Library named after him, he lives on.

In November, 1962, the El Paso County Historical Society elected Major Burges to the organization's Hall of Honor, and in their publication, *PASSWORD*, C. L. Sonnichsen, a noted Southwest author and historian, wrote:

No citizen of El Paso, living or dead, could be more deserving of a place in the Historical Society's Hall of Honor than Richard Fenner Burges. Few men have done more to influence the course of events in West Texas and New Mexico. None has given himself more fully and freely for the good of his community, his state, and his country. No seeker after publicity or public honors, he lived and died with dignity. Soldier, philosopher, statesman, scholar, and gentleman, Richard Burges belongs in the front rank of the builders of El Paso and the Southwest.¹⁸

Certainly, this tribute illustrates the magnitude of the accomplishment

of one of the forgotten men of Southwestern history—Richard Fenner Burges.

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4. Paul Yates, "Graying Texans Recall Amazing World War I 36th Division Exploits," *El Paso Herald Post*, November 26, 1943.
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14. *Congressional Record—House*, December 6, 1924, 246.
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17. "Richard F. Burges, Pioneer Attorney, Taken by Death," *El Paso Times*, January 13, 1945.
18. C. L. Sonnichsen, "Richard Fenner Burges," *PASSWORD*, Vol. VIII, No. 1, (Winter, 1962), 5.

ARE YOU A COLLECTOR?

The following items are very much in demand by "antique" collector: Old magazines such as *Doc Savage*, *Shadow*, *Jungle*, *Wierd Tales*, *Unknown*, *Dime Mystery*, *Science Fiction*, *Westerns*, *Movie*, *Spicy*, *Horror*, *Terror*, *Flying*, *Police Gazette*; also comic books, Sears and Montgomery-Ward catalogues, and railroad timetables.

Other items include, old picture postcards, old picture plates, old sheet music, presidential campaign buttons, badges and ribbons, old fruit jars, china dolls, and cylinder phonograph records.

THE TIGUA name for Isleta is "Chiawipia."

THE BOUNDARIES OF THE CITY OF EL PASO were established on May 17, 1873 by an act of the Texas legislature, as follows: "Commencing on the Río Grande at a point five hundred yards north of Hart's Mill, thence east to the northwest corner of what is known as the Cummings' Survey, to the banks of the Río Grande, thence west and north following the banks of said river to the place of beginning."

Gammel, *The Laws of Texas*, Vol. VII, 1138

Captain John Hughes, the historian of the Doniphan expedition, gave birth to a legend when he wrote that Colonel Doniphan, playing three-trick loo just before the Mexicans attacked at Brazito, laid down his cards with the remarks: "Boys, I held an invincible hand, but I'll be d d if I don't have to play it out in steel now."

Among some of the American Indians there were three kinds of marriages: by seizure of the woman, by purchase, and by elopement without the consent of the parents.

SUNDOWN IN WEST TEXAS

by EUGENE O. PORTER

IN FEBRUARY, 1924, West Texas became a gigantic stage for a motion picture titled *Sundown*. The vast cattle ranges of Hudspeth County formed a perfect setting for this western classic in which 10,000 cattle were used. The Henry Reynolds ranch, fifteen miles northeast of Sierra Blanca, was turned into a miniature Hollywood and several others were featured as parts of a great cattle kingdom. These included the ranches of Bob Lane and John Helms in the northern part of Hudspeth County and of Tom Beall and George Love on the Río Grande.¹

The picture attempted to depict the passing of the cowman. One newspaper called it "Twilight on the Range."² It was a story of "history and love."³ It was suggested by *The Covered Wagon*⁴ that dealt with another era, with the days when only the Mormons and a few explorers had gone into the West.

Sundown is of particular interest to El Pasoans, not only because of its West Texas setting but also because of two young ladies who were members of the cast—Bessie Love and Helen Leavitt.

Bessie Love was born Juanita Horton in Midland, Texas, on September 10, 1898. According to her birth certificate⁵ her father was John Cross Horton, a native of Arkansas. Her mother's maiden name was Emma Jane Savage. She was born in Kansas. At the time of Juanita's birth her father was thirty-two years of age and her mother twenty-nine. The certificate further noted that the mother was a housewife but a former schoolmate of Juanita's insisted to this writer that the mother was a school teacher when she was married.⁶ The father's occupation was listed as "Liquor Business" but the schoolmate stated that he was a bartender.⁷

In an interview published in *The El Paso Times*⁸ when Miss Love arrived in the city to make *Sundown* she was quoted as saying that her "family had the wanderlust." This may account for their moving to El Paso where the three lived at 416 North Oregon Street. Anyway, Miss Love stated in her interview: "It is just like coming home to be here now." She further stated: "I remember I started to go to school here." This is indeed true. A check with the records department of the El Paso Public Schools revealed that Juanita Horton attended the "old Sunset School" during the schoolyear 1905-06.⁹

Just when the Horton family moved from El Paso and where-to is not known to this writer.¹⁰ It is known, however, that Juanita attended

the "sixth or seventh grade" at the Griffith Avenue School in Los Angeles. It was there that Mrs. Myrtle Laessing Hamrick was her classmate (see footnote 6). At that time the Hortons were living at 39th and Central Streets.¹¹

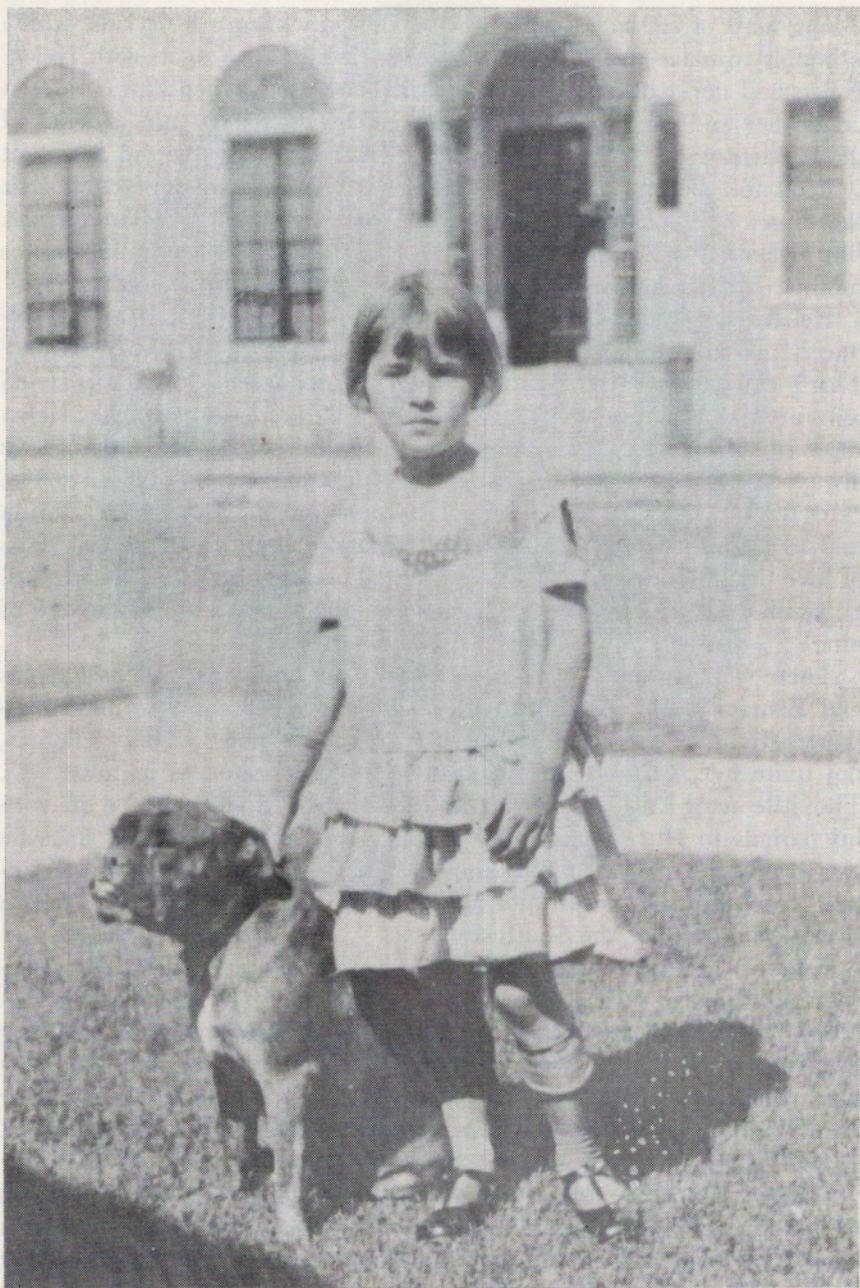
It is not known for certain how long Juanita attended Los Angeles Public School but when she was "about fourteen" she enrolled in the Egan Dramatic School in that city.¹² It was while a student at the Egan school that D. W. Griffith¹³ signed her to a contract to play with Mary Pickford in *The Poor Little Rich Girl*.¹⁴ This was Juanita's first motion picture as it was also the first time she used the name Bessie Love. Her history as a "movie star" since then is public knowledge. [Incidentally, Miss Love is still living at the age of seventy-two. She is a practicing Christian Scientist and a sometime contributor of articles to the *Monitor* (see footnote 13)]*

The other young lady, Helen Mary Leavitt, was a dyed-in-the-wool Paseña. She was the five-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Leavitt. Mr. Leavitt was the Morse supervisor in the local Western Union Telegraph Office and Mrs. Leavitt, née Glorian Dormand, was deputy county tax collector under Del Richey. Helen was chosen to take the part of Bessie Love's sister after being interviewed "by the movie people at the suggestion of Mr. Jack Dawson." Mr. Dawson, by the way, was a former city clerk and the next door neighbor of the Leavitts¹⁵ in the Texameda Apartments.

The contract between the company and Helen was "made and executed on the 20th day of March, A. D., 1924." The effective date, however, was March 6th. W. G. Crosby signed for First National Pictures and Mr. Leavitt for his daughter. Mrs. Leavitt acted as a witness to the signing. The contract called for a salary of seventy-five dollars a week and expenses for Helen and fifty dollars a week and expenses for Helen's grandmother, Mrs. Margaret Dormand, who served as chaperon. At the time Mrs. Leavitt had a "small baby"¹⁶ and therefore was unable to leave home for location nor later to journey to Hollywood for the filming of the interior scenes of *Sundown*.

Helen did not disappoint the "movie people." She proved to be a good actor and an appealing one. Bob Chapman of *The Times* described her "as about the cutest little bit of blond femininity on two feet." He further noted that "although she had never faced a movie camera before, Helen stood before the machine as if it were the most natural thing in the world to do."

Continuing, Chapman wrote: "There is one part in the motion picture when Helen rides in a big covered wagon, one of a string following



*Helen Mary Leavitt
age five*

a long herd of cattle. En route the cowboys pick up a little calf, which is unable to make the journey, and throw it into the wagon with Helen. Helen had never been so close to a calf before, but when it was thrown beside her and the cameras were clicking away, so that not a detail of the incident would be lost, Helen never batted an eye. She did not want to spoil the picture.¹⁷ In fact, Helen became so good an actress that the director of *Sundown* offered her a part in a Rin Tin Tin picture. But Helen's grandmother did not want to stay in Hollywood and Helen's mother, for the reason given above, could not leave El Paso.¹⁸

Helen became a favorite with the movie folks. Her "most ardent admirer, perhaps, was that famous, charming, little star, Bessie Love."¹⁹ This is evident from the fact that Miss Love continued to write to Helen long after the picture was finished. In April, 1925, for instance, Helen received a postcard signed "Bessie Love and Mrs. Love." (Mrs. Love always accompanied her daughter, an only child, as a chaperon). The card read: "Dear Helen: We are working on an island near Florida and living on a ship. This place is even more beautiful than Cal. Lots of love to you and your dear grandma." This friendship continued until September 12, 1928, when Helen died of polio in El Paso at the age of nine.

There were two other child actors in the *Sundown* cast—Billy Thomas and Bennie Alexander. Billy was given special attention by the newspapers. In a box on page ten *The El Paso Times*²⁰ noted: "Billy Thomas, not quite five, sir, and an honest-to-gosh movie actor, is in town . . . The little actor is to have a part in 'Sundown' and will soon be off with his parents to Hueco Tanks. He has been in the movie game since he was two and a half years old and likes his work. He'll tell you so himself. Bessie Love is his girl and he's going to play little brother to her in the great picture of the Southwest."

Bennie Alexander, "red headed and freckled face,"²¹ was the twelve-year-old "hero of several Booth Tarkington plays." In an interview Ben told a reporter that he liked to act. He admitted, however, that a "crying part" did not appeal to him. "I hate to cry," he said, "and I'm hoping there won't be any crying to do in *Sundown*."²² (By the way, the reader should remember Ben Alexander as Officer Frank Smith in the T.V. series "Dragnet").

Altogether the *Sundown* cast numbered sixty-odd and included such well-known film personalities as director Laurence Trimble; Roy Stewart who played opposite Miss Love; the character actor Hobart Bosworth; C. A. Collon who played the part of the frontier cattle king and the father of Miss Love, Helen Leavitt and Billy Thomas; Charley Crockett,



Bessie Love—1924

a great grandson of Davy Crockett; Charlie Murray, famous for his “sit down dance” as a member of the comedy team of Murray and Mack; Margaret McWade; Winford North; Arthur Hoyt; Charles Sellon; Tully Marshall; and W. G. Crosby who was in charge of filming.²³ Also included in the sixty-odd cast were twenty-five cowboys brought from Hollywood and an unspecified number of local cowboys hired as extras.²⁴

The reception of *Sundown* by the critics was mixed. The movie critic of *The New York Times* noted, for instance, that “Bessie Love does the best she can with the part of Ellen Crawley.” He concluded: “As we heard some one say, this picture is all very well if you like cows.”²⁵ The



Ben Alexander
age 12 in 1924

critic of *The Los Angeles Times*, on the other hand, called the picture "another epic of the West" and added: "It is a colorful and moving spectacle that will serve to depict the passing of the herds that once made the fame of the ranges."²⁶

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2. *The Los Angeles Times*, April 16, 1924.
3. *The El Paso Times*, February 18, 1924.
4. *The Covered Wagon*, starring Lois Wilson, was taken from Emerson Hough's romance of that name and produced by Famous Players—Lasky Corporation. The picture played in El Paso in February, 1924.
5. *Old Date Birth Records*, Vol. 3, p. 297, Bureau of Vital Statistics, Midland County, Texas. Incidentally, the record of birth was filed as a "Delayed Birth Certificate" and is dated July 19, 1944. It was signed and sworn to by Charles Savage in Encinitas, California. Mrs. Alma Rea Johnson, Deputy Clerk of Midland County, kindly sent this writer a copy. She believes that Charles Savage was Miss Love's maternal uncle.
6. Telephone conversation with Mrs. Myrtle Laessing Hamrick, 423 Mission Street, El Paso, December 20, 1969.
7. *Idem*.
8. February 15, 1924.
9. Information furnished by Mrs. Marguerite Kerr, PBX operator, the El Paso Public Schools. When Juanita Horton registered at Sunset School she gave her birthday as September 19, 1898.
10. This writer wrote to Miss Love for help in filling in the details of her early life but received no reply.

11. Telephone conversation with Mrs. Hamrick, December 20, 1969.
12. *Ibid.*, July 5, 1970.
13. Bessie Love, "Grease Paint and the Rent," *The Christian Science Monitor*, December 5, 1969. As Mrs. Hamrick remembered, Miss Love was "discovered" by Tom Mix who recommended her to D. W. Griffith.
14. Telephone conversation with Mrs. Hamrick, December 20, 1969.
15. Letter to this writer from Mrs. Glorian H. Leavitt, 4841 Los Reales Street, El Paso, July 1, 1970. Also Bob Chapman, "Pretty 5-Year-Old El Paso Girl Breaks Into Movies with Role as Bessie Love's Sister In Sundown," *The El Paso Times*, March 8, 1924.
16. Letter from Mrs. Leavitt, July 1, 1970. The "small baby" was Helen's sister Leslie. After being graduated from high school she attended the University of Texas at El Paso where she met her future husband, Charles A. Wales. Today the couple live in Marietta, Ohio.
17. Chapman, *loc. cit.*
18. Letter from Mrs. Leavitt, July 1, 1970.
19. Chapman, *loc. cit.*
20. February 12, 1924.
21. *The Los Angeles Times*, April 16, 1924.
22. *The El Paso Times*, February 12, 1924.
23. *The El Paso Herald*, February 20, 1924.
24. *Ibid.*, March 22, 1924; *The El Paso Times*, February 9, 1924.
25. *The New York Times*, December 1, 1924.
26. *The Los Angeles Times*, April 16, 1924.

ARIZONA, at the height of the Geronimo campaign in 1886, was occupied by 5,000 soldiers, one-fifth of the U. S. Army. General Sherman believed that Mexico got the better of the bargain in saddling the United States with "that miserable desert land." He told a congressional committee: "If you, gentlemen, will get Mexico to take Arizona back, I will agree to knock two regiments of cavalry from our estimates."

Columbus, New Mexico, seventy-five miles west of El Paso, was named by the first settlers for Columbus, Ohio.

Elizabeth Garrett, the blind daughter of Sheriff Pat Garrett, wrote the New Mexico state song, "Oh, Fair New Mexico."

YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK, the first of its kind, was established by Congress in 1872.

In the presidential election of 1848 Texans gave 4,509 votes to the Whig candidate, Zachary Taylor, and 10,668 votes to Democratic Lewis Cass.

TAOS, NEW MEXICO, the northernmost of the Indian Pueblos, appears to have been visited by Alvarado, one of Coronado's lieutenants, in 1540-42; Juan de Oñate came into the vicinity July, 1598; actual occupation by Spanish colonists dates from the early seventeenth century.

The backwoodsmen were Americans by birth and parentage, and of mixed race; but the dominant strain in their blood was that of the Presbyterian Irish—the Scotch-Irish as they were often called. The Presbyterian Irish stock furnished such leaders as Andrew Jackson, Sam Houston, and David Crockett.

—Theodore Roosevelt

THE FATE OF LONGSTREET'S GUIDE

by LEE MYERS

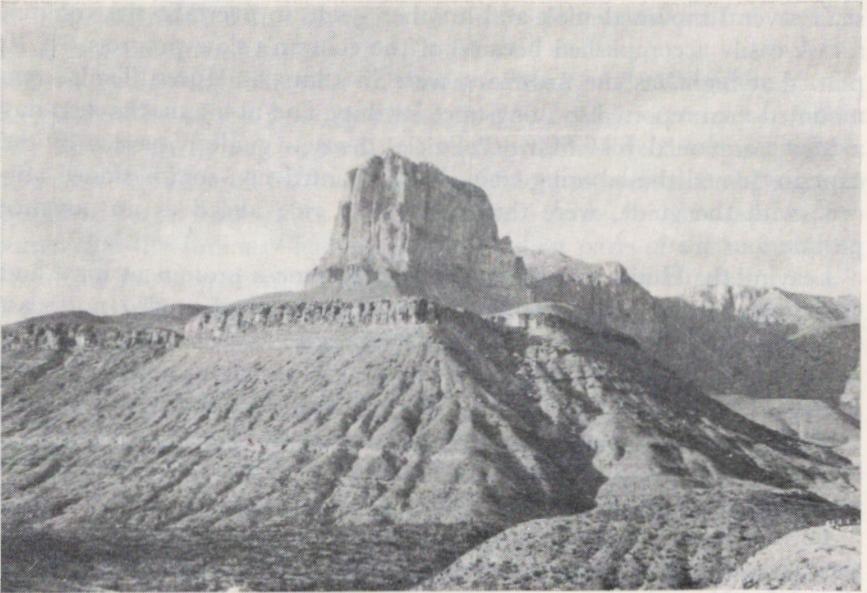
[AUTHOR'S NOTE: Letter, Captain James Longstreet, 8th Infantry, United States Army, to Lieutenant J. M. McIntosh, Post Adjutant, Fort Bliss, Texas, February 17, 1855. Filed in Letters Sent, Dept. of New Mexico, 1855, (U.S. Army Commands) National Archives, Record Group 98.]

Signal Peak, at the southern end of the Guadalupe Mountains and just over the line dividing New Mexico from West Texas, is a landmark famous throughout the Southwest. "Majestic," "brooding," "silent sentinel," are only a few of the terms that have been used inadequately to describe its splendor. Aside from its aesthetic appeal it has for years jealously guarded one of the myriad of untold mysteries of the West and only now has this story been sifted out of the musty files of National Archives in Washington, D.C.

For many years residents of the area have known of an isolated, forgotten grave in Guadalupe Canyon, close under the foot of this famous peak. It is dry desert country, hot as Hades in summer, wind swept and cold in winter, but it lays claim to an important niche in western history. It was there, perhaps in sight of the grave, that the first west-bound and the first east-bound butterfield stage coaches met on the night of September 28, 1858, during the epoch-making opening drive of that now famous overland transportation service.

Traces of the old stage road may be found today, passing within a few feet of the grave, while above and within sight of it hundreds of automobiles rush by on U.S. Highway 62-180, El Paso to Carlsbad, New Mexico, heedless of the historic importance of the location. The grave itself is a jumble of rocks piled up to protect it. It is further marked by a slender stone slab about four feet high bearing the roughly carved name of the unfortunate man buried beneath it. Of Spanish extraction, he had been hired to guide an army expedition into the Guadalupe and was killed by Apache Indians. The inscription on the stone, still legible today, reads: "Jose Mario Polancio—Guide, killed February, 1855, by Indians."

Now, after all these years, the story of this tragedy can be made public through a yellowed four page report signed by James Longstreet, then captain, 8th Infantry, stationed at Fort Bliss, Texas. Captain Longstreet is the same "Old Pete" who became a confederate lieutenant general under Robert E. Lee, and who strongly advised Lee against ordering Pickett's famous, but ill-fated, charge at Gettysburg. It is of added interest to learn that Pickett, then a lieutenant, was a subaltern in Longstreet's Company I, 8th Infantry, at Fort Bliss, but did not participate in the events leading to Polancio's death.



Signal Peak. Guadalupe Mountains

In January, 1855, an expedition against the Mescalero Apaches was launched into that tribe's homeland in the Guadalupe. Longstreet was ordered to march from Fort Bliss with Companies I and K of his regiment and to operate between the Hueco Tanks and Guadalupe Mountains in conjunction with the expedition. He was also to cooperate, if possible, with Captain Richard Ewell and Major John S. Simonson who commanded units of the forces working north and south in the Guadalupe.

Captain Longstreet's report is dated Fort Bliss, February 17, 1855. On the 24th of the preceding month he had marched from Fort Bliss with two companies whose total strength, including three officers and one musician, was 54. Captain Edmunds Holloway and 2nd Lieutenant Frederick M. Follett were his junior officers. Supplies for the expedition were carried in wagons, all heavily loaded, and the consequent slow progress over bad roads, through miles of loose, shifting sand, vexed the captain from the start.

Fretting from the slowness of his progress, he was forced to cut short his daily marches. He was accompanied by a pueblo Indian, probably from nearby Isleta, Texas, named José, as a guide. But José did not fill the captain's exacting expectations so the next morning he was sent back to Fort Bliss with a letter requesting the commanding officer there to

Jan

Jan 25

Jan 26 send several mounted men and another guide to overtake the column, a task easily accomplished because of the column's slow progress. At 10 p.m. that night, as the soldiers were in camp at Hueco Tanks, two mounted men reported to Longstreet for duty, and at 9 a.m. the next day a Mexican named José Mario Polancio, the new guide requested by the captain, joined the laboring train. The mounted non-commissioned officers, with the guide, were then ordered to ride ahead as an advance party.

Leaving the Hueco Tanks, which later became a prominent meal and change station on the Butterfield stage line, the road angled northeast through a canyon at the base of the highest mountain in that immediate area, known today as Cerro Alto Mountain. The captain probably never knew a name for it and very likely gave it a salty one, for the road through there was once described by pioneer travelers as the worst stretch between the Pecos and San Francisco. His men were forced to spend several hours working the trail before the wagons could pass over it.

Jan 27 Beyond Cerro Alto the road showed little improvement and one of the teams failed, with the result that the men were forced to halt for the night. Next day another team gave out. The fourth day out the column reached what the captain called "Cunpo Ponds," a name that appears to be unknown today. They were still headed toward the Guadalupe and at 1:30 that afternoon they discovered a smoke column in that direction. At 6:30 that same afternoon one of the non-coms of the advance party rode back to report the trail of what appeared to be about forty cattle, driven by eight or ten Indians, joining the road ahead. Thinking that the Indians and cattle were still at the ponds, the captain gave orders to advance and attack them at once. It was then night and, leaving the wagons to come on after, the soldiers advanced to the water holes but were disappointed in finding no Indians. The guide believed, as did Longstreet, that the Apaches were only a short distance ahead, still traveling in the direction of the Guadalupe.

Lieutenant Follett, with twelve men and the guide, were then ordered to follow the trail at once, in an attempt to discover the Indians' whereabouts. He was directed however, not to attack unnecessarily until joined by the main body of the troops, nor to go more than ten miles in advance of the column. At 10 p.m. the lieutenant sent back word that he had entered the mountains and was halted about six miles beyond the ponds, still on the trail of the savages.

Upon receipt of Lt. Follett's message, Captain Longstreet issued orders for two non-coms and twelve men to remain behind to guard the wagons.

Jan 29 At 3:30 next morning the rest of the command, with six days rations in

their haversacks and full canteens, set out to follow the trail of the Indians and the advance party.

Even to one familiar with the savage desert and Mountain wastes over which the troops were operating, it is difficult to determine at this time exactly where they camped. It is equally difficult to determine where their next day's march led them. It is possible, however, that they struck the Guadalupe some miles north of Signal Peak, for the captain reported that the Indians "had taken the roughest parts of the mountains, frequently crossing then where footmen could scarcely climb."

Before dark the entire command was without water and too exhausted to continue their march into the night. They made a dry camp—and dry camps in that country meant miserable camps—in a "pinery on top of one of the highest mountains," another indication that they were in the Guadalupe. The future of their present course appeared bleak. Accordingly, the mounted men were sent to bring up a fresh supply of water in canteens, while the suffering men retraced their way until they again joined the wagons and water.

Longstreet and his small party had evidently made their way to the top of the mountain north of Signal Peak, but after returning to his wagons he continued on his former course toward the more negotiable hills south of the peak, approximately where highway 180 now crosses. He believed that by advancing on this route as far as practicable with the wagons, then marching his infantry, supplied with water packed on one of the wagon mules, he still might overtake the fleeing Indians, or "at least recover the cattle."

Advancing on this new course they soon were again cruelly frustrated by the heavy, sandy trail over which the teams could hardly move the wagons. The first day one team gave out and another had to be sent back for their wagon. Still they made twelve miles "traveling all day." Next day the same team gave out and they made but nine miles and camped at "the 1st spring in the Guadalupe Mountains." Jan 3

Present day knowledge of the mountains and of the old road across them indicates that they were now probably at Guadalupe Spring, long since dried up, and in the canyon of that name. Today that canyon is just west of and below the beginning of the long sweeping curve of U.S. 180, which skirts the grave site. Jan.

Hopes of overtaking the Indians had faded as the overworked mules floundered through the loose sand with their heavy wagons. Longstreet decided, therefore, to wait at the spring until joined by either Captain Ewell or Major Simonson. That afternoon, as the men rested from their killing marches, the guide was found to be missing. The day before, Feb 1

while on the march, the captain had scolded him for leaving the mounted men and now supposed him sulking over the indignity of the reprimand and on his way back to El Paso, leaving the soldiers to their own devices.

Next day, however, a detail of six men under a sergeant was sent to follow his trail in an endeavor to be certain that he had actually left, or if he might possibly be nearby and in trouble. The sergeant found the guide's trail, believed him now headed for camp, and returned with his search party. About 4 p.m. one of the soldiers reported to Longstreet that the guide's naked body had been discovered lying on the mountain side only a short distance from the spring.

The captain and Lieutenant Follett followed their soldier guide to where the unfortunate man lay, stripped of his clothes and his body pierced by seven arrow wounds. It was removed to camp and buried. Wood was very scarce at the camp site so it was decided to move about seven miles farther on, to a spring with "fine pine timber with grass," which had been located by a scouting party sent out for that purpose. Longstreet's report gives no clue as to just where this spring and fine pine timber and grass was located, but it was probably near Pine Springs Cafe, Texas, along U.S. 180 at the divide between the east and west slopes of the pass. There were, until recent years, several fine springs in that area and it was only the year previous to Longstreet's expedition that Captain John Pope had reported good stands of pine timber near the spring. That was also the site, in 1858, of a stone change and meal station on the Butterfield Mail line, and it is also significant that the station was called The Pinery, or Pinery Station, because of the timber nearby.

Three days after the camp was moved to the new location Major Simonson arrived with his command and also went into camp there. A part of his command, passing the guide's grave, reported that the Indians had dug up the body, scalped and further mutilated it and robbed it of the buffalo robe in which it had been wrapped for burial. Although the report does not say so, the soldiers no doubt reburied the body and it is also likely that the grave was marked in some manner.

Longstreet now urged Major Simonson, with his mounted men, to follow the trail of the Apaches and their stolen herd but that senior officer declined to do so. He preferred instead to take a less exhausting way around the mountains to Delaware Creek, near its junction with the Pecos River, just over the territorial line in New Mexico. The two officers seem to have come near to quarreling over Simonson's refusal to cooperate. In fact, Longstreet later preferred charges against the major for his refusal. What the result of these charges was is unknown, but the captain and his exhausted foot soldiers were forced to retrace their way



Grave of Scout José Mario Polancio. Signal Peak

through the sandy wastes to Fort Bliss without ever sighting an Indian. Someone, either Longstreet's men or a future resident of the area, carved the rude inscription on the stone slab which has stood silent watch over the lonely grave, and National Archives have, after so many years, divulged the secret of the unfortunate man's death.

THE COLONY OF SAN PATRICIO in East Texas was composed of Irish from many counties of Ireland. The people had not only varying accents but groups differed among themselves in outlook and tradition.

—Oberste, *Texas Irish Empresarios*

HORSES were not native to the Western Hemisphere—only the four-toed eohippus and the three-toed mesohippus which were the prehistoric ancestors of the modern horse.

THE VAQUERO, counterpart to the *gaucho* of the pampas, was the original cowboy. His techniques, accoutrements and even terminology were taken over and adapted by the more famous Texas cowboys.

THE HAND-FLOWER TREE, found in Mexico, is so-named because its blooms are like a human hand. The extended fingers emerge from a wrist and are complete with apparent fingernails.

WILLIAM NELSON FINK: MINING ENGINEER

by DOROTHY FINK MERRILL

[EDITOR'S NOTE: The author of this article was the younger sister of William Fink and the wife of J. W. Merrill who, for most of their married lives, was supervisor of county agents for the State University at Ames, Iowa. Mrs. Merrill was a graduate of the Milwaukee College of Music and "a fine organist." Mr. and Mrs. Merrill are buried in a plot on the Ames campus.

The paper was written fifteen years ago and was found only recently among some keepsakes by Mrs. William Fink.]

HERE UNFOLDETH the saga of William Nelson Fink,¹ once of South Milwaukee, Wisconsin, but now of El Paso, Texas, who occasionally finds time between flights to and from Mexico to tarry briefly by the side of his beloved wife, Maribelle Harris Fink.

After working his way thru the Michigan College of Mines,² he was graduated in 1904. Following graduation he went to Huepac, Sonora, Mexico where he worked in a lead smelter for two months. He then walked to Cananea³ where for four months he worked for the Henrietta Consolidated Copper Co., and then for the Green Copper Co.

From Cananea Will moved to Pearl, Idaho, 28 miles north of Boise. After working there four months he went to Baker, Oregon, where he stayed six months. He then went to Niblack, Alaska, where he worked two years for the Niblack Copper Co., but the mine proved to be a "dud," so that ended that! Incidentally, in Alaska he hired an Indian to catch some sables for me, but alas! the poor Indian ran afoul of the law and landed in jail, so I have had to struggle thru life sans sables!

From Alaska Will went to Tonopah, Nevada, where he worked for the Tonopah Ex Mining Co., of which D. B. Gillies was president. By the way, Will first worked there with pick and shovel as a common laborer. C. M. Schwab became interested in the San Toy Mining Co., at Santa Eulalia, Mexico, and Will was offered the job of running the mine, the El Potosee. He accepted on one condition, that he have no interference in his management. The company was losing \$50,000 a month and owed more than a million dollars. Soon after he took over Will opened up veins in another direction from the old course and broke into an enormous cave of real silver, a most marvellous ore-body. In less than a year Will was able to pay the debt and to capitalize the company for five million dollars. This was in 1908. In 1910 the Mexican Revolution began and the management personnel were obliged to leave the country frequently.

In 1914 Will began to run an old mine at Cusihuirichic.⁴ It was owned by the Potter Palmer estate and was largely silver, lead and zinc. It was richly productive but the Mexican government made such excessive demands on the American owners to finance the revolution that it

became impossible for them to continue operations. They were not permitted an abstract title and had to pay thousands of dollars monthly for a sort of title that allowed them only to work the mine. When the mine was finally abandoned it filled with water and in post-revolutionary days it cost \$500,000 to pump it dry.

Meanwhile, Will had many hair-raising adventures. He was held for ransom by Orozco⁵ for \$10,000. The company was given three days to obtain the money or off would come his head. Needless to say, the company got the money to Orozco in time!

Then Villa, ordered out of the United States, began to operate in Mexico against "The White Chinamen," as he called Americans. By 1915 the peons were starving so Carranza,⁶ then president, sent pleas to the American mining companies to reopen the mines. At the same time he issued papers of safe conduct and promised a troop of soldiers to escort the Americans. So about 20 young American engineers arrived at Chihuahua on their way to the mines. But all the food supplies for Will's camp failed to arrive on time so he urged the 19 others to go on with the soldiers and he'd follow later. Of course, they felt that he was committing suicide but he persuaded them to go without him. Not far from the city the soldiers announced that they would go no farther and left the train. The Americans were ambushed by Villa's men, horribly mutilated, and killed, all save one, Tommie Holmes, who managed to crawl into a stream and finally run down the track, back to Chihuahua. That night Will and 14 others went out and gathered up the remains of their young friends, while soldiers fired at them from the hills. Returning, the engine went off the track—it's a hair-pin curve all the way—and the party did not get back to Chihuahua City with their tragic burden until 2 a.m.⁷

With this adventure Will had had enough of Mexico for awhile and went to Ozark, Missouri, where he managed a zinc mine for several years. Later he returned to Mexico as manager of the Cusi mine owned by a new company of which H. C. Dudley of Minneapolis was president. However, the oppressive taxes imposed by the Mexican labor government made it necessary to abandon Cusi. Even though pure silver could be mined, there was not enough to pay for the smelting. Actually, the mine at Maguriachic was a real bonanza of extraordinary high grade ore. It was among the first eight gold producers in the world. But again excessive labor demands, exorbitant taxes, inability to discharge worthless employees—and another mine was abandoned.

In 1938 a Mexican, Efren Escobar by name, who had done time in three or four penal institutions for forgery, etc., accused Will of having

sent a time bomb which killed the mayor of Juárez.⁸ Thus Will was unceremoniously thrown into the cellar of the prison at Chihuahua City where he was forced to sleep on the wet floor for a month. Meanwhile, all of the private papers in his office were rifled.

Immediately upon Will's arrest steps were taken by his friends to obtain his release. The brother of the dead Mayor came to see Will in prison to assure him that he knew it a cruel, unjust accusation. The Supreme Court of Mexico ordered his release, but for a month the powers behind his accuser continued to harass him.

We have newspaper editorials eulogizing my brother as the most loved American in Mexico.⁹ Will was deeply touched by the printed words and also by the tears of his old employees at the Cusi mine, many of whom came on foot 90 miles to express their belief in his innocence. So there were some compensations!

Since 1947 Will has been in charge of a mine at Namiquipa,¹⁰ another good property of lead, zinc and silver. However, operating costs are high. The mine is located in open country so the company was put to the expense of building roads. It also constructed schools and houses for the workers. But excessive taxes as well as the costs of keeping the pumps running day and night, pumping 5,000 gallons of water a minute, make operations an uphill job.

Meanwhile, Will has interests in several small mining properties which keep him constantly on the go—more dreams which too may prove to be only a will-o'-the-wisp where dealing with the Mexican government, metal prices, and the like.

But if William Nelson Fink hasn't accumulated much of the earth's treasures, he has made a great name for himself as a man. As an associate once said of him: "He's the most even-tempered man I've ever worked with—a wonderful person."

In February he was to have received the 50-year award as a member of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, but unfortunately his wife was hospitalized by an eye-operation, so Will was unable to attend. And so at 75 he continues on his way, always cheerful and good company.

When I was a little girl I used to hear him "dream" of being a mining-engineer. Several years ago I said: "Will, after all these years, what do you think of being a mining engineer?" "Why," he said, with all the enthusiasm of a schoolboy, "it's the most wonderful profession in the world—the ore is all there waiting to be discovered and used."

NOTES BY THE EDITOR

1. William Nelson Fink, now retired, will soon celebrate his 91st birthday. He was born on January 22, 1880.

2. The Michigan College of Mines was founded at Houghton in 1885 as the Michigan Mining School. The name was changed to Michigan College of Mines in 1897, to Michigan College of Mining and Technology in 1927, and to its present name, Michigan Technological University in 1964.
3. The Cananea mine in Sonora along with the El Boleo mine near Santa Rosalina on the Gulf of California, have been the largest producers of copper in Mexico.
4. Cusiuhiriachic is 90 miles west of Chihuahua City. See below, footnote 7.
5. Pascual Orozco, a storekeeper of southern Chihuahua, joined Francisco Madero who gave him 50,000 pesos and a federal generalship. But Orozco became dissatisfied. Thus, in February, 1912, he announced against Madero and within a short time controlled all of the state of Chihuahua. But General Victoriano Huerta crushed Orozco and drove him and the remnant of his army into the United States where a group of American ranchers surprised them and in the resulting skirmish Orozco was killed.
6. Venustiano Carranza (1859-1920) was a lifelong friend and supporter of Madero. After Madero's assassination in 1913, Carranza published the *Plan de Guadalupe* in which he disavowed the newly established Huerta government and in July, 1914, forced Huerta to resign as President. In March, 1917, as President, Carranza promulgated a new constitution which nationalized subsoil deposits, provided for breaking up the large estates, and curtailed the power of the Church, among other things. The 1917 constitution remains the fundamental law of Mexico.
7. Cusiuhiriachic made newspaper headlines on January 10, 1916, when Mexican bandits stopped a train at Santa Isabel, 35 miles west of Chihuahua City and took off 15 American officials of the Cusi Mining Company. (The number varies in the several written accounts). The men were shot to death and their bodies stripped and mutilated. As Mrs. Merrill notes, one American escaped. Pancho Villa always denied responsibility for the atrocity but, according to Dr. Haldeen Braddy, an authority on Villa, "all evidence points towards the guilt of that outlaw." When the mutilated bodies arrived in El Paso, passions flared so high that General Pershing, in command of Fort Bliss, had to deploy troops to protect the Mexican quarter of the city from attack.—Haldeen Braddy, "Pancho Villa at Columbus: The Raid of 1916 Restudied," *Southwestern Studies* (El Paso: Texas Western Press), Vol. 3, No. 1 (Spring, 1956).
8. José Borunda E., mayor of Juárez, was killed by a bomb in his office in the Municipal Palace shortly after 8 p.m. on Friday, April 1, 1938, and Domingo Barrazas, a city hall employee, was fatally injured. He died the following day in Providence Hospital in El Paso. The bomb was inside a package mailed in Chihuahua City. Efreñ Escobar, a citizen of Mexico who had served two terms in Texas State Penitentiary for forgery, was identified as the person who mailed the bomb. "An act of formal prison," equivalent to an indictment, was issued and Escobar was arrested. He confessed to the charge and named Alfredo Asis, former Juárez tax collector, as the person who hired him to mail the package. Confronted by Asis, Escobar refuted the accusation and named William Fink and M. S. Little. At the time, Mr. Fink was vice president of the Maguriachic Mining Company and general manager of the mine. Little, an employee of the mine, was soon released without being charged. Fink's motive, according to his accuser, was to remove Borunda who, with his lawyer, "were leading political influences in an attempt to obtain control of the mining company." Mr. Fink was freed under 8,000 pesos bond on Saturday, April 23 and a week later unconditionally released.—*The El Paso Times*, April 2 through May 1, 1938.
9. A petition bearing the signatures of 1500 mine workers, including 418 of Fink's employees at the Maguriachic mine, was filed with Governor Gustavo Talamantes of Chihuahua in the name of the Ricardo Flores Miners Syndicate, the strongest union in the State of Chihuahua. Following presentation of the petition a huge mass meeting of the main branch of the union was held at which time a resolution was passed. It read in part: "Mr. Fink is a man of excellent character, who treats everyone alike."
10. Namiquipa was a small mine in Casas Grandes.

BOOK REVIEWS

WINGS OVER THE BORDER

by STACY C. HINKLE

(El Paso: Southwestern Studies, No. 26, 1970, Texas Western Press, \$2.00)

El Paso's strategic location on the Mexican border has been both a blessing and a curse since the establishment of that border by the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo in 1848. Inhabitants of the area have long enjoyed the advantages of a bi-cultural environment, but their proximity to the border has also caused a great deal of trouble on many occasions.

In May, 1911, Francisco (Pancho) Villa captured Ciudad Juárez, and in the battle several El Pasoans were killed or wounded. During the next few years Villa's military ambitions caused more bloodshed, loss of life, and destruction of property along the border. The Mexican government was unable to handle these volatile revolutionaries, so the United States dispatched over one hundred thousand troops to the border, authorized General John J. Pershing's expedition into Mexico, and designated Fort Bliss as an air terminal. The last of these defensive measures provided the material for Mr. Hinkle's very interesting book.

The book will be especially appealing to those who are interested in early aviation. The author was a flying officer in this early Army Border Air Patrol, and recounts many of the "ups and downs" of flying those "flaming coffins," the DH-4 bombers, as well as his experiences as a young man in an El Paso which was just then coming into its own early adulthood.

The airplanes provided by the United States were far from perfect, their problems ranging from a linen-covered spruce construction to their fondness for turning over onto their backs during landings or takeoffs on the rough desert terrain. Their flying time was only about four hours and the most important piece of equipment on them was "the faith of the flyers that they would return." The disadvantages of the aircraft and the inhospitable stretches of burning desert combined with the ferocity of the Mexican rebels to turn out a formidable breed of fighting men—the pilots of the Army Border Air Patrol. They were pioneers in a land which had seen other determined pioneers before them, and some of these more modern pioneers left their bones in the Southwestern desert, as had their predecessors. Two such men were Lieutenants Fredrick Waterhouse and Cecil Connoly, who were forced down in Mexico, and after a valiant attempt to survive, were murdered by Mexican bandits. This suspenseful tragedy and the subsequent investigation of it are related in detail by the author, along with many more interesting stories.

This volume is a welcome addition to Mr. Hinkle's first book, *Wings and Saddles*. He has recorded the story of the border pilots as only a participant could have done. This authenticity, plus his entertaining style, makes the book easy to recommend to anyone interested in the Southwest.

Ysleta Independent School District

—JAMES A. MILLS

MORELOS OF MEXICO

by WILBERT H. TIMMONS

(El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1970, \$6.00)

The war for Mexican independence was a lengthy struggle of approximately eleven years, during which time the movement frequently vacillated

between victory and failure. Certainly one of the most noteworthy figures of this revolution against Spanish colonial rule was José María Morelos, by profession an obscure rural priest, and by dedication a leader of his people. José María Morelos y Pavon was born in the picturesque provincial capital of Valladolid, now called Morelia in honor of its most distinguished son. In his early years, Morelos worked as an *arriero*, or mule driver carrying goods from the port of Acapulco to the viceregal capital of Mexico City. Here he became acquainted with the region where in later years he would wage his struggle against Spanish forces.

At about the age of twenty-five, Morelos left his life as a mule driver to begin his new career in the priesthood. After terminating his studies, Morelos was assigned to parishes in the outlying regions of his native province where he became more directly concerned for the social injustices of Spanish colonial society.

In Mexico, another priest, also from a small Indian parish, was the first to raise the cry for independence. On the night of September 15, 1810, Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla called on his Indian parishoners to revolt against the injustices of the colonial system. Beginning with this call to arms, the Mexican struggle for independence was launched.

Hidalgo was a former rector of the seminary where Morelos had received his training for the priesthood. Following the famous interview with Miguel Hidalgo, Morelos was commissioned as an officer in the revolutionary army, thus beginning his final and most important endeavor, that of liberating his country from oppressive Spanish rule.

Both as a military commander and as a statesman, José María Morelos proved to be an outstanding leader. With the death of Hidalgo, Morelos assumed the leadership of a movement which, under his guidance, took on a deeper philosophical motivation, especially in the area of social reforms and racial equality.

Morelos of Mexico is an excellent biographical work vividly portraying the life of this most interesting Mexican hero. In this second printing, Dr. Timmons has made important additions to the work. Apart from the study of the Morelos' movement, the author has added new information concerning the diplomatic adventures of one Tadeo Ortiz, apparently a self-commissioned representative from Mexico to the insurgent governments of South America. He has produced a well-documented book, but above its scholarly value, Dr. Timmons has skillfully taken historical fact and created a readable, animated biographical study. Beautifully illustrated by the superb sketches of José Cisneros, *Morelos of Mexico* is certainly a worthwhile contribution to any library.

The University of Texas at El Paso

—SALVADOR A. SANDOVAL

RALPH OGDEN, by RUTH GODDARD

THE SEVEN MUSTANGS, by J. FRANK DOBIE

(Austin: The Pemberton Press, 1970, \$4.95)

"On May 31st, 1948, a group of Seven Mustangs, sculptured by A. Phinister Proctor and presented to the people of Texas by Ralph R. and Ethel Ogden, was unveiled in front of the Texas Memorial Museum on the University of Texas grounds at Austin." This delightful little book presents Ruth Goddard's story of the Ogdens and J. Frank Dobie's story of the mustangs.

Ruth Goddard's first sight of the "seven great horses running wild and

free" in front of the Memorial Museum in Austin caused her to wonder what kind of man would spend \$60,000 for a statue. Curiosity led her to an interview with Ralph Ogden's widow, and Ethel Ogden's story unfolds like a romance of the old West.

Ethel met and married Ralph Ogden in San Antonio in 1910. At that time Ralph owned a wax factory in Mexico and their honeymoon was spent peddling his product to companies in St. Louis and Chicago. The wax, a product of the candelilla plant, was praised in the East as being superior to the carnuba wax. Things looked rosy for the young couple—and were for a time—until bandits burned his buildings, destroying everything.

What ensues is a story of failure and final success. Ogden had engaged in a variety of business ventures before his marriage, all foredoomed. He drove cattle and mustangs to Kansas and drouth wiped out the herd. The Galveston flood of 1900 destroyed his grain shipping business. After the burning of the wax factory, the young couple returned to the states and he engaged in car manufacturing in Austin. The tornado of 1922 took this. After a few other defeats, Ogden, never one to be beaten by failure, became interested in oil drilling. This paid off.

Ralph Ogden knew and loved the Southwest and the mustangs "that carried the men who made Texas." In his later years he wanted to do something for this land he loved and he proposed a statue centering around the beloved mustang. This, then is the kind of man who would spend \$60,000 for a statue.

J. Frank Dobie's story of the Seven Mustangs is an essay written to be delivered at the unveiling of the monument in 1948. In it he tells the history of the mustang. It was Dobie who suggested the seventy-year-old Phimister Proctor to cast the statue and he outlines his dealings with Ogden and Proctor. There is no need to delineate the beauty and simplicity of Dobie's prose—it is a magnificent tribute to Ralph Ogden, Phimister Proctor and to the mustang.

This little book, 54 pages, is a gem. Ruth Goddard's delightful story of two delightful characters, Dobie's mastery of depiction and Mac Tatchell's typography and design, add up to another superlative edition for the Pemberton Press.

El Paso, Texas

—MARY ELLEN B. PORTER

BAPTIST JOURNALISM IN NINETEENTH-CENTURY TEXAS

by TOM BERGER

(Austin: Department of Journalism Development Program, University of Texas, \$4.00)

This history of nineteenth century Baptist journals and journalists within the state of Texas mirrors the initial struggles, gradual development, and eventual internal conflict of the Texas Baptist Community. The book traces the history of the Baptists from 1835 when there were only fifty communicants without, of course, a church paper, through 1882 when there were 120,000 communicants grouped in 2,100 churches with "many papers." The author discusses in detail the five major papers and the "just under 20" minor ones published during the century. The first, *The Texas Baptist*, was founded in 1855 and discontinued in 1861 with the coming of the Civil War and the resultant nonavailability of newsprint. This short-lived paper is important, however, because it "set the tone and pattern for subsequent

ventures of Baptist editors in Texas."

The Baptist Standard, founded in 1892, remains today the major publication of the Baptists of Texas. It grew out of the old *Baptist News*, first published in Honey Grove in 1888. The *News* moved to Dallas in 1894 and two years later combined with *The Western Baptists* to form the present Baptist Standard.

Through the years the papers dealt to a large degree with theological questions but gradually social and technical strides heralded a more sophisticated selectivity of content. In 1898, for instance, *The Standard* joined the W.C.T.U. in the fight against the saloon. After that, no issue was complete without attacks upon demon rum.

Baptist Journalism is a good book, well-researched and well written. It should be of interest not only to Baptists but also to those who like to read in the field of Texas history.

This book, by the way, and the one reviewed below were made possible by a 1966 grant of the Borden Company to the Department of Journalism of the University of Texas at Austin for the publication of books about the Texas press.

JAMES STEPHEN HOGG: The Short Step from Printer to Editor

by CHRIS DAVIS

This small pamphlet of eighteen pages is more important than its size would indicate. It is the story of the little known and certainly neglected newspaper career of James S. Hogg, populist governor of Texas in the 1890's. It was as a newspaperman—printer, editor, publisher—that Hogg first attracted attention as "a courageous young man" who wrote "fearless and intellectual editorials on the issues of the day." His newspapers, *The Longview News* and later *The Quitman Weekly News*, were virile opponents of Reconstruction. They poured forth scathing volleys against "infamies visited upon people by a corrupt and oppressive officialdom." Later, as a politician or statesman, if you wish, Hogg continued to pour forth "scathing volleys" against those he considered enemies of Texas, in the pungent vocabulary he had learned as a newspaperman.

University of Texas at El Paso

—EUGENE O. PORTER

MUSTANGS is the English adaptation of *mestiñas* which means unbranded, "escaped" horses. They were like the wild, unbranded and ownerless cattle called mavericks.

THE OLDEST EXISTING COURTHOUSE west of the Mississippi River was built in Independence, Missouri, in 1827 at a total cost of \$150.

The winning of the West and Southwest is a stage in the conquest of a continent.

—Theodore Roosevelt

SOUTHWEST ARCHIVES

[*This column is published as an aid to history students.*]

Title: Claude B. Hudspeth Papers.

Location: Archives, University of Texas at El Paso.

Claude B. Hudspeth stereotypes the man who pulled himself up by his own bootstraps. He was born in Medina, Bandera County, Texas on March 12, 1877 and left home at the age of nine to make his own living. He worked first as a range rider and horse wrangler and, while still in his teens, became an office clerk. When he was eighteen he contracted tuberculosis, so he moved over to the Pecos country where the climate was dryer and established a ranch. The vigorous outdoor activity soon restored his health.

A little bit later, Hudspeth entered politics. First, he became a justice of the peace and then, in 1902, he was elected to the Texas House of Representatives. From 1906 until 1918, he served as state senator, sitting as President of the Senate for four terms. During this period he studied law in the offices of W. W. Turney and W. H. Burges in El Paso, and was admitted to the bar in 1909. Afterwards, he became an associate of the law firm of Nealon, Hudspeth and McGill in this city. While serving as senator, he sponsored a bill establishing a school of mines in El Paso which, over the years, has blossomed into the present university. Also, he authored another very modest bill creating Hudspeth County, which covers an area about the size of the state of Connecticut, although there is not much out there, we must admit, except sand.

In 1919 he was elected to Congress as representative for the 16th District. By this time he had developed into a dyed-in-the-wool politician who sent out plenty of sunflower seeds but who shied away from political controversy like a horse from a rattlesnake. Nevertheless, through his efforts William Beaumont General Hospital was established here by the army and Fort Bliss was enlarged.

Samuel Ealy Johnson (father of Lyndon B. Johnson) was one of his admirers and, in the late twenties, started a movement to draft Hudspeth as democratic gubernatorial candidate. Hudspeth declined, however, stating that while he thought he would make a good governor, the new ideas and "isms" which had crept into the Democratic Party, did not appeal to him in the least. Sure enough, he retired from Congress in 1931 and was succeeded by Robert Ewing Thomason. He died of pneumonia on March 19, 1941 in San Antonio, Texas. His papers are available at the Archives without restriction.

THE AYUNTAMIENTO OF EL PASO DEL NORTE (modern Juárez) "sold and conveyed" the first land grant in what is now El Paso, Texas, to Juan María Ponce de León on September 20, 1827.

HISTORICAL NOTES

BUFFALO BONE DAYS

The following note and letter were taken from the April, 1970, newsletter sent to members of the Lexington Group. This is an informal organization of both professional and amateur historians who are interested in railroad and business history. Richard W. Barsness, Associate Professor of Business History, Graduate School of Management, Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois, is Acting Secretary of the Group. Your editor, incidentally, has been a Lexingtonian since 1944. The note and letter follow:

"Professor Leroy Barnett, a National Science Fellow at Michigan State University [East Lansing], recently sent along both some intriguing information and a request for assistance with an unusual research topic. The following statement is quoted directly from his letter:

"The Great Plains of late nineteenth century America have traditionally been expressed economically in two terms: ranching and farming. Contemporaneous with these endeavors, however, was a third that probably played a more interesting, though not more significant role, in the region's development. This subordinate activity was, incredible as it may seem, a multi-million dollar trade in buffalo skeletons. Attributable, perhaps, to the ephemeral nature of this traffic, few records were kept and, moreover, due to the relative unimportance of the pursuit, little was written about it. Consequently, today, almost nothing is known of the business. In an effort to dispel this ignorance, I have undertaken a study designed to assemble those facts yet available about this commerce and tell the story of our nation's 'buffalo bone days.'

"America's railroads played a prominent part in this trade. Such lines as the Fort Worth & Denver, Great Northern, Northern Pacific, Santa Fe, Texas & Pacific, and Union Pacific shipped tremendous quantities of bison remains from the prairies to the carbon and fertilizer plants across the country. One firm, the Empire Carbon Works of Saint Louis, processed over 1.25 million tons of buffalo skeletons before the raw material was exhausted about the turn of the century. Other concerns, like the Michigan Carbon Works of Detroit and the Northwestern Fertilizer Company of Chicago, also consumed substantial amounts of buffalo bones.

"As you can imagine, acquiring data about the movement of such an exotic commodity is extremely difficult, and months of research have provided me with only a few figures. For example, nearly all the literature on buffalo bones cites statistics obtained by Colonel R. I. Dodge shortly after the traffic in this item developed.

<i>The Santa Fe Railroad</i>	<i>Union Pacific and all others</i>
1872—1,135,300 pounds shipped	2,270,600 pounds shipped
1873—2,743,100 pounds shipped	5,486,200 pounds shipped
1874—6,914,950 pounds shipped	13,829,900 pounds shipped

from: Frank Roe, *The North American Buffalo*, Toronto Press, 1951. Later values for the Union Pacific have been procured from the *Report on the Internal Commerce of the United States for 1885*. On page 134 of this volume it is noted that the system carried 2,644,850 pounds of bones in 1882 and 3,741,245 pounds the following years.

"Freight statements received from the Fort Worth & Denver Railway Company show that bones were big business in Texas, as well. From the northern part of the state the road hauled about 1,750,000 pounds of bison

remains in 1883; appreciated an increase to 2,574,341 pounds in 1885 and 6,554,080 pounds in 1886; then dropped to 1,861,466 pounds in 1887 and 1,449,895 pounds in 1888.

“Concurrently, buffalo skeletons were moving out of western Gulf ports to New Orleans on Morgan’s Louisiana & Texas Railroad and Steamship Co. According to the *Report of the Internal Commerce of the United States* for the fiscal year 1881-82, page 37, this line forwarded 966,500 pounds of bones in 1881 by rail and 2,419,350 pounds by boat. The 1885 edition of the same Treasury Department series lists, on page 523, a total of 1,653,383 pounds of bones transported by Morgan to New Orleans in 1883, with no distinction made as to the means of conveyance.

“By the time the bone pickers had cleaned the central and southern plains, collection activities were underway in the north. The Northern Pacific Railroad Company’s annual report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1885, shows that the firm carried 212 tons of bones during that period. Supplementing the line’s official figures is a notation on page 39 of the January 15, 1887 issue of *Harper’s Weekly* to the fact that ‘during the season of 1883-4 there were shipped east over the Northern Pacific alone 7,856 tons of bones.’

“Although numerous references can be found in newspapers and books to the amounts of buffalo bones shipped from various points for certain short periods of time, I have not been able to locate any other annual statistics for the railways. Accordingly, if I am not being too presumptuous, I would like to ask the members of the Lexington Group to share with me any information they may have that will help to illuminate this unusual facet of American railroading.”

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Dr. Martin H. Hall, Associate Professor of History at the University of Texas at Arlington, is a member of our Society and a valued contributor to *PASSWORD*. In a recent letter to the editor Dr. Hall pointed out some errors on Kenneth Goldblatt’s “The Defeat of Major I. Lynde, U.S.A.,” *PASSWORD* (Spring, 1970). Actually, Dr. Hall went beyond pointing out errors and included a large amount of new material. For this reason we believe that his letter is important and should be reproduced almost *en toto*. Part of Dr. Hall’s letter follows:

“According to the Compiled Military Service Records, George Wythe Baylor *enrolled* in Captain H. A. (not H. H.) Hamner’s Company in Weatherford on April 15, 1861. The 2nd Regiment Texas Mounted Rifles (later known as the 2nd Regiment Texas Cavalry) was created by the Secession Convention for State defense. The Convention elected John Robert Baylor lieutenant colonel on March 19, 1861. When Texas joined the Confederacy, the 2nd Regiment was mustered into national service for a 12-month term on May 23, 1861, at San Antonio. Captain Hamner’s company became Company H, and George Wythe Baylor was reelected 1st lieutenant. Incidentally, the 1860 Parker County Census lists Lieutenant Baylor’s occupation as “Indian Killer.”

“Dr. John Walker Baylor, father of John and George, did not die while a member of the 7th Regiment. Dr. Baylor was appointed assistant surgeon on July 8, 1824, but was dismissed from service on May 28, 1825. He was restored to duty on July 11, 1825, but was dropped on May 20, 1833. Dr. Baylor died a civilian near Natchez, Mississippi, on January 20, 1836.”

CONTRIBUTORS to this ISSUE

BARBARA HOOTEN LUCKETT, a native El Pasoan, is the great granddaughter of Richard Burges and the granddaughter of Mrs. Jane Perrenot, a director of our Society. Barbara is married to Joseph F. Lockett, a graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso. The couple live in Parkersburg, West Virginia, where he is employed by Du Pont.

LEE MYERS was born in Chanute, Kansas, sixty-eight years ago. He attended public school and then "fiddle-footed, hoboed, worked on farms and ranches, in mining camps, oil fields, sawmills, shipyards and at sea." He has worn the uniforms of three military services—army, navy, and marine corps.

Mr. Myers has published in several journals including *New Mexico Historical Review*, *Southwest Heritage*, *Old West*, and *The Southwesterner*. He is married, has one son and two daughters, and resides at 505 South Mesquite, Carlsbad, New Mexico.

JAMES A. MILLS teaches high school history in the Ysleta Independent School District. He is a regular contributor to *PASSWORD*.

SALVADOR A. SANDOVAL, a native El Pasoan, is a 1969 graduate of the University of Texas at El Paso in Inter-American Studies. At present he is a teaching assistant in the Department of Political Science at his alma mater where he is also working towards a master's degree. He was a member of the team that prepared the Janos and Morelia, Mexico, archives for microfilming. This is his first contribution to *PASSWORD*.