

PASSWORD



THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL. XVII, No. 3

EL PASO, TEXAS

FALL, 1972

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EUGENE O. PORTER, *Editor*

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Elliott Coues, editing Zebulon Pike's journal in the 1880's, carefully noted that there were two San Elizarios. Pike had written that on March 26, 1807: "At one o'clock, we bid adieu to our friendly hostess, who was one of the finest women I had seen in New Spain. At dusk we arrived at a small pond . . . Here we overtook Sergeant Belardie with the party of dragoons from Senora [*sic.*] and Biscay, who had left us at Fort Elisaiira . . ." Coues then stated in a footnote: "The Fort Elisaiira' which Pike had just left must not be confounded with the place on the river called Elizario, Eleazario, Eliceario, etc."—Coues, *The Expedition of Pike*, 11, 649, 649n.

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EUGENE O. PORTER, *Editor*

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ART BY AND FOR THE BILINGUAL

by JOSÉ CISNEROS

At the request and kindness of my good and distinguished friend Dr. James Day my vanity was convinced that I should talk to you. My only qualifications and credentials to take the podium are to have pictured some fellows on horseback and to have recited the office of the dead to a huge pile of rocks called Mount Franklin.

Due to what I consider a short notice to prepare my chat, I decided to read to you excerpts from a paper presented at the National Conference on Bilingual Education this past April at the L.B.J. Library in Austin. The title of my sketch was *Art by and for the Bilingual*. It is something not quite appropriate for my present audience but with your kindness, indulgence and deference let us pretend, if you will, that we are a group of Latin Americans, anywhere in the Southwest, sharing our views and trying to solve our particular problems.

With this in mind, and the desire to contribute a little to the upgrading and betterment of our less fortunate bilingual brothers I will begin with my theme. "Art" is a subject with very extensive implications. It reflects the many cultural facets of our Southwestern bilingual's past and present; it arms him with a powerful medium of communication; and, at the same time, Art in all of its aspects provides many opportunities for careers.

As a practitioner of Art¹—if book illustration may be considered as such—I would limit myself as much as possible to my particular field of endeavor, trying to connect visual reconstruction with the study and research concerning historical events in our Southwest.

To appreciate the importance of Art as related to our regional history and culture, we must delve into the past for a retrospective view of the conditions and circumstances in which it evolved and developed, as well as give a brief account of some artists who have made significant contributions.

Nearly four and a half centuries ago, when the first Europeans traversed this land, little did they realize the great impact their visit would have in changing the environment and in altering the native economy—in warping or obliterating governmental structures, customs, beliefs, and cultural levels. These Europeans brought with them not only the blessings of civilization but also the beginning of its decline. They introduced innovations in transportation and facilitated the movement of antago-



J. CISNEROS
EL PASO

Sanish Soldier Middle 16th Century
(FROM RIDERS OF THE BORDER—COURTESY TWC PRESS.) .

nistic ethnic groups. They brought agricultural improvements and started destruction of the native flora. They increased the production of domestic animals and began the eradication of wild life. In short, civilization arrived to speed the depletion of natural resources. New settlements displaced the aborigines from centuries-old habitats, creating frictions which have lasted to our day.

And these visitors came with pre-conceived notions as to what was Art and what was not.

Except for items of gold and silver, which could be reduced to bullion or items of jade, which were thought to have medicinal value, the first European visitors to the New World found little use for American handicrafts, and few regarded them as Art. The loot of Mexico—detailed inventories of which still exist—found little favor in Spain. The works of the Aztec and Inca artists were distributed as curios, chiefly to friends of Charles V and Cortes in Spain, Italy, and Austria—largely unappreciated except by an artist here and there such as Benvenuto Cellini or Albert Dürer. Few items survived; virtually all that we know or have of pre-Columbian Art comes from later archeological work.

Later on, groups from the north and east forced their way into this vast territory, bringing with them a different concept of life, other ideas and beliefs. The commingling of these peoples impressed upon our region peculiar characteristics and idiosyncrasies which set us apart from the rest of the nation. Within this framework and under the influence of the unique atmosphere, Art has evolved and grown in the Southwest as an inseparable element of the culture.

The first manifestations of European Art in this country may be found in the early reports and codices of the Spanish conquistadores and explorers who started the occupation of the new lands. They were punctilious and finicky in keeping records of all their activities with detailed and exacting verbal descriptions from which artists—even today—can render visual reconstruction of the past. The scribes and cartographers would add lively decorations and descriptive sketches of the things they thought significant.

Those who engaged in the conquest of Mexico may have had little heed for the artistic heritage of the peoples they were conquering, but they were highly conscious of the "now" of their lives. They made many written records as well as an abundance of graphic renderings concerning the events in which they were participating. We are fortunate to possess a wealth of such information, scattered in museums, libraries, and archives of different countries, waiting for students to decipher them and bring them to common knowledge.

Considering that the nature of the expeditions almost demanded rude and rough adventurers, it is amazing how many men of letters showed

up in the different enterprises. We will never know how many of their precious documents have been lost through ignorance, carelessness, war, or unpredictable circumstances such as deterioration.

We have to look southward to trace the origins of the meager Art brought to and practiced in our Southwestern settlements. A brief account of its development, particularly painting, might help us in our understanding of its influence and significance.

Painting under European concepts originated in Mexico in the early sixteenth century with the arrival of artists from the Iberian peninsula. The activities of the newly trained native elements reached its first peak under Renaissance influence during the beginning of the seventeenth century with such outstanding artists as the Echaves—four in the family—and the Xuárez family group; José, Luis, Matías, and Tomás. Later, during the last decades of the same century and the first part of the eighteenth, the Baroque movement culminated with artists such as Sebastián López de Arteaga, the Rodríguez Juárez brothers, Juan and Nicolás, Cristóbal de Villapando, and Juan Correa. In the eighteenth century there was a considerable diminishing of artistic quality; however, influenced by contemporary Spanish masters, originality appeared in the works of such as José de Ibarra, Miguel Cabrera, José de Páez, Francisco Antonio Vallejo, and José de Alcibar.

Toward the end of the eighteenth century, principally due to the founding of the Royal Academy of San Carlos in 1784, Neo-Classical Art was introduced into Mexico, officially taught by Academicians sent from Spain for the purpose. The Neo-Classical movement was of great importance in Mexico, developing such major figures as Rafael Jimeno y Planes, José Luis Rodrigues Alconedo, Francisco Eduardo Tresguerras, and the great Manuel Tolsá. With them ends the direct Spanish influence in Mexico and our Southwest.

In addition to the great painters that New Spain produced, there were others—some lost in anonymity—who left valuable contributions to the iconography of the borderlands. To an illustrator, the set of drawings known as the Vinhuijsen Collection in the New York City Public Library is of particular value. They were done by an unknown artist in the early eighteenth century, depicting Northern Mexico Spanish soldiers, and militia men, several on horseback. There is another set of scenes and regional types from early Alta California in the Museo Naval in Madrid, drawn by Juan Cardero,² who visited the West Coast with the Alessandro Malaspina Expedition in 1791.³ An invaluable collection of watercolors at the Gilcrease Institute in Tulsa was done by José María and Lino Sánchez y Tapia in Texas in 1827. They show different frontier and Indian characters. These are just a few isolated instances of



Lancer of the Gulf Coast—1770
(FROM RIDERS OF THE BORDER—COURTESY TWC PRESS.)

valuable aids to visual reconstruction of our picturesque and colorful past.

The infiltration of English-speaking artists into the Southwest has been so great that it would be a difficult task just to name them, to say nothing of discussing the great impact they have had in the movement known today as Western Art.

More than painting, architecture had a most profound influence on the frontier. The Spanish, like the Romans, were great builders. Prominent in each settlement was the church or mission—a lasting mark standing as a symbol of Spanish power in the wilderness that was our land. They transplanted to the new lands the prevalent styles of architecture from the old country; Gothic, Plateresque, Herreriano, Baroque, Churrigueresque, Mudéjar, Neo-Classic. Of these styles Churrigueresque and Mudéjar have very special peculiarities. Churrigueresque originated in Spain but when brought to Mexico it acquired an exuberance of ornamentation that transformed it into a new style, completely Mexican, sometimes referred to as Ultra-Baroque or Mexican Churrigueresque. Good examples of the style are the Convent of Tepotzotlán, now a Spanish Colonial Museum, the Sagrario Metropolitano adjoining the cathedral in Mexico City, Santa Prisca Church in Taxco and many others. Moorish and Islamic influence permeated all styles of architecture in New Spain and transcended into many early structures in the Southwest. It can be detected in the frequent use of tiles and bricks, horseshoe arches, stucco decorated walls, carved beams with wooden corbels as supports, intricately assembled wood ceilings with geometrical interlaced designs and profusely ornamented iron grilles. The style is Mudéjar.

It has been my privilege to have illustrated several books dealing with historical aspects of the Southwest, past and present. In connection with my activities as illustrator I pride myself to have been associated with some prominent bilinguals in the realm of history such as Dr. Carlos Castañeda of happy memory in the letters of Texas, Fray Angelico Chávez who has made outstanding contributions to the knowledge of the Spanish past of New Mexico and our own region of Paso del Norte. Dr. Julián Nava of Los Angeles, Dr. Severo Gómez of Austin and Dr. Félix Diaz Almaráz of San Antonio, three young and energetic intellectuals of the new crop very much interested in our past and present. Dr. Eduardo Enrique Ríos and Joseph Hefter of Mexico City as well as Dr. Cleofas Calleros whose labors became welded to mine in the printed page. Not to forget my local friends and collaborators who may not admit being bilinguals but who can perfectly communicate in both of our border languages; John Haddox, Haldeen Braddy, Leon Metz, Wilbert H. Timmons, Eugene O. Porter, and Charles Leland Sonnichsen, whose books I greatly enjoyed decorating.

Special mention goes to a fellow who has meant so much in my life and who can communicate in any language through the goodness and kindness of his big heart, my pal and maestro, Carl Hertzog.⁴

In conclusion, I should like to add that in Art as in many other activities, there are great opportunities for our people if only we can find the way to channel so many wasted energies in a constructive way. I feel that if we complain less and work for improvement harder, if we avoid unjustified protesting and learn more, we shall sooner achieve and gain as a group our rightful place in the affairs of the nation. It is mostly through education and self-discipline, with the advantage of bilingual communication, that we can attain our goal . . . We never learn enough.

Es viejo el que deja de aprender? Is an old man he who quits learning?

EDITOR'S NOTES

1. For examples of the art of Mr. Cisneros see his *Riders of the Border: A Selection of Thirty Drawings* (El Paso: Southwestern Studies, No. 30, 1971, Texas Western Press, \$2.) It was reviewed in *PASSWORD*, xvi, No. 3 (Fall, 1971), 123-25. The drawings accompanying this article were taken from the book.
2. For a picture based on a drawing by José Cardero see *Riders Of The Border*, 24.
3. For a short discussion of the Alejandro Malaspina expedition see *Riders Of The Border*, 24.
4. Dr. Carl Hertzog, internationally known book designer, was director of the Texas Western Press, University of Texas at El Paso, at the time *Riders Of The Border* was published. He has since retired.

Valley Fever, technical name coccidioidomycosis, is most prevalent in the dry areas of the West and Southwest. It is contracted by breathing dust that contains a fungus, coccidioides.

Mrs. Susana Dickinson, survivor of the Alamo, is buried in the Oakwood Cemetary in Austin. The grave marker identifies her as "Mother of the Babe of the Alamo."

"Under the favorable land policy which was virtually continuous under the successive governments of Spain, Mexico, the Republic of Texas and the State, it is not surprising that the whole vast cattle industry of the United States had its beginning in Texas.

"In the other states," according to Walter Prescott Webb, 'All legislation was made in favor of the farmer; none was ever made for the cattleman, so far as disposal of the public domain was concerned, except in Texas.' Whatever progress the cattlemen made in other states, says Dr. Webb, they made by evading the law."

—ASHFORD, *Spanish Texas*

ANGRYTOWN AND ITS BEACON

A REMINISCENCE

by CHRIS P. FOX

Back in almost mythical times there existed within the confines of the corporate limits of the city of El Paso several "kingdoms" or, at least, they might be referred to as "principalities." The one we're talking about was called "Angrytown" but it was a happy place. Within its borders lived a happy people. They were neighbors in name and in fact. It was a robust area during the emergence of this city. The time was *circa* 1905 to World War I. But, if so happy a place, why was it called "Angrytown" and what was its "beacon"?

At that time El Paso was divided into "territories" or neighborhoods, usually of a size that could be controlled and protected from the "invaders:" Angrytown encompassed many modest homes plus the great El Paso High School. The boundaries were Stormville on the mesa to the north, Virginia Street to the east, Arizona Street to the south, and Stanton Street to the west. It included thirty blocks of hard-working adults and equally hard-working (at play) youngsters, all pleased with and grateful for that which life had to offer.

So, why "Angrytown"? Well, it's a long story but we'll make it as short as possible. In about 1912, in addition to table-gambling in Juárez, a race track was built out in the suburbs and was reached by an "express" streetcar that ran from El Paso's San Jacinto Plaza to the track door. The fare was five cents each way. Remember that for a teenager in those days five cents was real money. It would buy many things. It is on that five cent fare, or the lack of it, that most of this story hangs.

About that time a boy named "Paul" entered El Paso High. He was the son of a widowed bookmaker from back east. Paul was a fine person and, incidentally, a good baseball player. Also about that time a great Texas horse, a filly named Pan Zareta, was racing in Juárez and doing much winning. Texans were proud of her and became really excited when she was matched to race a British horse named Iron Mask for one of the largest purses ever presented. Moreover, there was a track and a world's record at stake. Being loyal sons of the Lone Star State but knowing nothing about gambling or the race track, we prevailed upon Paul to escort us, as we felt it was our beholden duty as loyal Texans to go to Juárez and bet on Pan Zareta.

So seven of us, Steve Lattner, a cripple on crutches, George (Pie) Leighton, Cliff Gaylord, Bob Bryant, Cooper (Coop) McKemy, Stanley

(Stuney) Shea, and I with our pooled resources of about seven dollars got on the car and met Paul, who escorted us to the "louse-pit" where bets of one dollar or less were taken. Yes, indeed, we put our "money where our mouth was" right for Pan Zareta. And as we had a little extra change, very little extra, when we saw Pan Zareta parade by, we were completely overwhelmed and "shot the works" up to and including our return carfare and soda pop money.

Soon the great Iron Mask came by and when we looked at that great, big, black horse, we had a few misgivings. He was beautiful, indeed a real "Black Beauty." At last the long race started. The crowd got to its feet and went wild because Pan Zareta was leading as she came into the turn, looking like a winner. But then, out of nowhere came that great, big black horse and he beat Pan Zareta about six lengths going away.

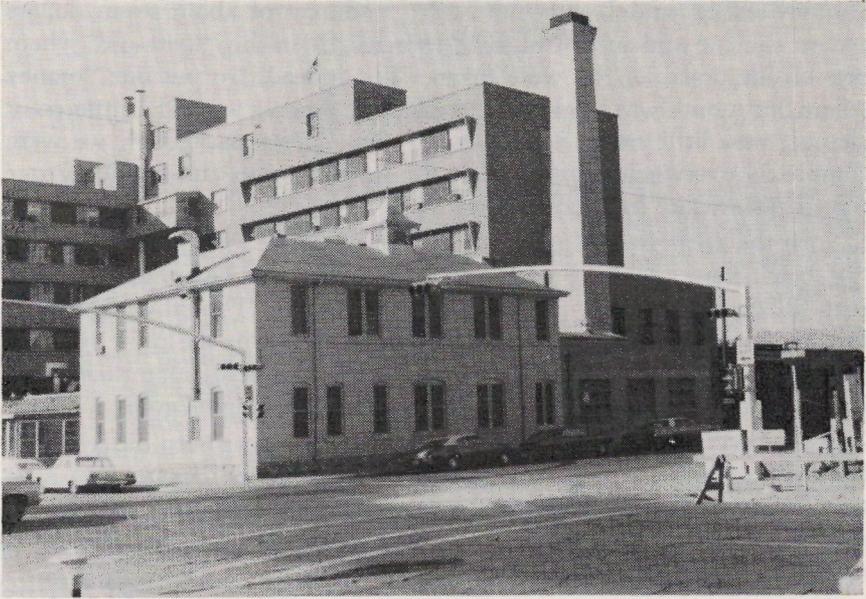
We were disappointed. We were shocked. We were even bitter. And, for sure, we were broke—and angry, too. We loyal Texans had been taken, but good. We heard later that smart money knew that Pan Zareta didn't have the proverbial "Chinaman's chance," as she was over-matched.

Also, before us was a ten-mile walk home over dusty streets and alleys. But for poor Steve who was on crutches, Fate was kind. Among us was found five pennies that put him on the streetcar while only our legs took us towards home. It was during that long walk home that "Angrytown" was born. Soon our misfortune was told and retold, and the name "Angrytown" became known to all, including that great educator, citizen, and solid friend, A. H. (Pop) Hughey¹ who ruled the affairs of El Paso High School with an iron hand and a warm and understanding heart. He later became widely-known, respected and long-time superintendent of El Paso Public Schools.

* * *

But what about the "Beacon" of Angrytown? Well, it is a square, tapered, brick chimney about one hundred feet tall that served the heating and laundry needs of Hotel Dieu Hospital² at Kansas and Arizona Streets. Soon it will be torn down to make way for Hotel Dieu's 80th anniversary expansion. The first part of this laundry and chimney was built about 1905. It was enlarged several times to its size of today. The laundry machinery succeeded the many women and their merrily boiling kettles, washtubs, rub boards and lengthy clothes lines in the east patio of the hospital at that time.

Soon this chimney will be torn down and another reminder of the years in that neighborhood will go into limbo. The chimney has looked on many scenes and on many people going their many ways. It has seen the Hotel Dieu stables and carriage yard where well-fed and fleet-footed



The chimney known as "The Beacon." Modern Hotel Dieu is seen in the background. (As PASSWORD goes to press (August 1), Hotel Dieu is completing plans for having the chimney torn down, about October 1.)

horses drew ambulances and hearses, plus the surreys "with the fringe on top," loaded with the pleasant and capable members of the Sisters of Charity, who have always directed the affairs of that great hospital. This chimney also looked down on the grounds of El Paso High School and at the goings-on at that citidel of learning that became Morehead School after the new and present El Paso High was built and occupied in the fall of 1916. This beacon also saw the buzzing and clanging back and forth of Arizona Street electric cars, and saw the controller box on one of the cars blow up and a panicked rider jump to his death in front of EPHS. The big chimney heard the roar and saw the dust from the collapsing front porch of the then-a-building Frank Ainsa home³ at North Mesa and Arizona. It has seen the building of St. Patrick's Cathedral.

The beacon also saw an early-day traffic crash. The spicy, Spanish mules of the Eyster Cash Grocery ran away with a wagon full of groceries and in front of EPHS near the Frank Scotten home it crashed into a Purity Bakery wagon. Mules, horses, wagons, pastries, groceries, and drivers wound up broadside against an Arizona Street electric car which had stopped either to view the spectacle or to avoid it. Goodies of various sorts were scattered far and wide and soon young "helping hands" arrived

on flying feet. You know, they can turn up from nowhere on a summer vacation day. It is assured that the inventories of groceries and pastries before the crash showed quite a "lack" after all the helping hands had finished with their "assistance program."

So it was that from every point in Angrytown and most of the nearby "domains" the beacon could be seen as it either belched steam vapor or the black smoke from the coal-fed boilers. It stood tall and it stood supreme, and over all that area Angrytown and its "officers" ruled the boyhood roost. In Angrytown lived families whose heads were doctors, contractors, apothecaries, jewelry store owners, railroaders, dentists, physicians, school teachers, machinists, coal yard operators and, in fact every type or kind of person that it took to provide community services and the spirit to build a city. Yes, Angrytown also had folks from city hall and from the county government and a postmaster but I can't recall a preacher in the area. In retrospect, perhaps I have the answer which I will keep unto myself.

Angrytown is no more and shortly the same will hold for its beacon. But the spirit of the robust neighborhood is perpetuated in many parts of El Paso today, as the teenagers of that time are now grandparents and with pride watch their children and grandchildren. In some instances their grandchildren carry on the splendid traditions of El Paso. They are assisting in furthering the noble character and the fine opportunities for all who live in this City of Destiny at the Pass to the North.

NOTES

1. Allen Harrison Hughey was posthumously elected to El Paso's Halls of Honor in 1964. See Clifford M. Irwin, "Biographical Sketch of Allen Harrison Hughey," *PASSWORD*, ix No. 4 (Winter, 1964), 131-136.
2. For the story of the founding of Hotel Dieu and a picture of the first building see *PASSWORD*, xiv, No. 3 (Fall, 1969), 91-92.
3. For the story of the Frank Ainsa home see "Heritage Homes," *PASSWORD*, xvii, No. 2 (Summer, 1972).

Early artists could not draw the Indian face. Their savages were undressed Europeans.

Santa Rita is the patron saint of stray lambs, or humans.

Mexicans called a native of Spain a *Gachupín*.

The Indian name for a photographer was "Shadow Catcher."

During the Gold Rush a longhorn worth five or ten dollars in Texas brought as much as \$150 in California.

line did not have a mail contract which at that time was a subsidy, it lost money. This affected the lines operating through El Paso. On January 21, 1930, there was a recommendation that the Aero Corporation of California, of which Standard Air Lines was a subsidiary, accept a merger offer from Western Air Express. This resulted in Western Air Express replacing Standard in its operations through El Paso.

Meanwhile, Southern Air Transport had taken over Texas Air Transport and had begun operating a line between El Paso and Atlanta, Georgia. About the same time, Western Air Express made its last flight from Los Angeles through El Paso to Dallas on October 9, 1930.

THE FIRST EAST-WEST AIR MAIL

On September 17, 1930, Postmaster General Brown announced that he had awarded to the Aviation Corporation of New York City, in conjunction with Southwest Air Fast Express, a contract for carrying mail on the new Atlanta to Los Angeles route. Southern Air Transport, which had been operating between El Paso and Atlanta for nearly a year, was a subsidiary of the Aviation Corporation. It became the operating company for the All-Southern Line on October 15, 1930. It carried mail and passengers from Atlanta to Los Angeles through Dallas and El Paso, using the El Paso municipal airport.⁴

El Pasoans were so delighted with these turns of events that October 15 was declared "Air Mail Day" and more than 15,000 persons gathered at the airport to celebrate. To show their appreciation the celebrants mailed 17,000 letters and cards weighing a total of 246 pounds.

That day, October 15, is important. It marked the culmination of the tremendous efforts the citizens of El Paso had put forth to bring air mail, express and passenger service to their city. Starting with Lindberg's visit in August, 1927, the dedication of the first municipal airport on September 8, 1928, the first passenger service on February 4, 1929, the first air express on February 15, 1929, and the first air mail flight on October 15, 1930, El Paso had taken her place on the airways of the nation, fulfilling Mayor R. E. Thomason's prophesy made at the dedication of the first airport that "This City today becomes one of the Country's future air centers."

THE FIRST NORTH-SOUTH AIR MAIL

Although the east-west mail service through El Paso was inaugurated on October 15, 1930, the north-south mail service was not begun until August 1, 1931.⁵ Previously, on July 22, 1931, the Post Office Department had announced that a contract had been concluded with American Airlines to carry mail from El Paso northward to Albuquerque, New Mexico, Pueblo and Denver, Colorado, and Cheyenne, Wyoming.

THE EL PASO AERO CLUB

FOUNDED SEPTEMBER 16, 1927
BY TWENTY-THREE WORLD WAR I AVIATORS
IN ORDER TO SECURE A MUNICIPAL AIRPORT
COMMERCIAL AIRLINES AND AIRMAIL SERVICE FOR
THE CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS

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AIRPORT AND AIRWAYS COMMITTEE COMPILED PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS
RECEIVING THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE CLASS A RATING FOR DAY AND
NIGHT FLYING. THEIR REPORT WAS APPROVED BY MAYOR R. E. THOMASON
AND CITY COUNCIL ON APRIL 5, 1928, AND THE NEW "AIRPORT" WAS
DEDICATED BY MAYOR THOMASON ON SEPTEMBER 8, 1928.

Photo of bronze plaque dedicated to the El Paso Aero Club and placed in the main foyer of the El Paso International Airport on July 7, 1972.

(Note the author's name listed on Board of Directors.)

Previously, in 1929, the El Paso Aero Club and the Chamber of Commerce had contacted the Post Office Department for a contract for the northern route. At that time members of the two organizations canvassed all El Paso business firms to get an estimated commitment as to the number of air mail letters they would send north on the proposed route.

The number was small and apparently the Post Office Department felt there would not be sufficient poundage to warrant a contract.

But the work started by the Aero Club and the Chamber of Commerce was to pay off on August 1, 1931. R. E. Stretton, Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce Aviation Committee, was in charge of the ceremonies at the inauguration of the new route. Mayor R. E. Sherman, Postmaster H. C. Cramp, Paul Stanley of American Airlines, and E. E. Hale, Midcontinent Air Express (subsidiary of American Air Lines), spoke and assisted in loading the mail on the Midcontinent plane which was scheduled to take off for Cheyenne at 11:30 A.M. The first plane north carried 3,000 letters, 1,500 of which were sent here from throughout the United States. The first plane carrying mail from Cheyenne, Denver, Pueblo, and Albuquerque south to El Paso arrived at 1:00 P.M. Thus, El Paso had taken another step forward in its aviation history. The north-south service greatly expedited air mail service from and to El Paso as the northern terminal at Cheyenne made connections with the east-west transcontinental airlines serving the entire northern half of the United States.⁶

NORTH MAIL SUSPENDED

In 1933 Congress was still reducing appropriations and expenses because of the continuing depressed condition of the United States economy. The Postmaster General announced on July 17, 1933, that the "economy axe hung over the El Paso lines." The announcement was followed one week later by another to the effect that air mail service would very likely be curtailed. The axe fell on August 30, 1933, when the Post Office Department announced that Western Air Express Contract No. 23 on the El Paso mail service line north to Albuquerque might be dropped because of a reduction in air mail appropriations from \$21,000,000.00 to \$14,000,000.00. The next day⁷ the final announcement stated that the service would be suspended on the El Paso-Albuquerque route on September 5. This left El Paso again with only the east-west air mail service.

NORTH MAIL RESUMED

It was not until July 15, 1934, that service to the north started on air mail route No. 29, El Paso to Pueblo and Denver, with one plane each way daily.⁸ El Paso Postmaster M. L. Burselson gave the oath of the Post Office Department to Pilot Jesse E. Hart, Varney Speed Lines, before he took off at 9:00 A.M. He was carrying approximately 100 letters in his Lockheed Vega plane. Incidentally, the Varney Line was taken over in 1937 by Continental Air Lines.

Meanwhile, in 1936, El Paso acquired the 640-acre site where Standard Air Lines had built its field, called "Air Mail Field."⁹ (This is the site

of the present International Airport.) Within a few years, American Airlines abandoned the old municipal port and moved to the new port where all commercial air transportation is now located. With the latest expansion in 1971, the International Airport is a \$36-million investment, capable of handling the largest commercial airplane flying, the 747 Jet.

REFERENCES

1. For complete details of the revised contract see *Minutes El Paso City Council*, Book T-2, October 8, 1928, 341.
2. *El Paso Post*, February 4, 1929.
3. *El Paso Herald*, February 16, 1929.
4. *Ibid.*, October 15, 1930.
5. *Ibid.*, August 1, 1931.
6. *El Paso Times*, July 22, 1931.
7. *Ibid.*, August 31, 1933.
8. *Ibid.*, July 15, 1934.
9. *El Paso International Airport—Land and Facilities Inventory*, 1964.

Everyone remembers the Tootsie Roll from his childhood. It recently celebrated its 75th birthday and it still looks and tastes as good as it did when it was born.

It was in 1896 that Leo Hirschfield rolled and wrapped a piece of candy made from a recipe he brought from Europe. At loss for a name, he called the confection "Tootsie," a pet name for the girl he'd left behind in Austria.

The popularity of the Tootsie Roll grew with³ years. From a one-man operation, the firm now employs more than 1,100 persons in its Chicago factory and scores more in its six warehouses located around the country. Eleven million Tootsie Rolls are produced daily, plus five million pieces of a younger product, Tootsie Pops.

Christian Science Monitor, MAY 3, 1972

Eighty West Point graduates born in non-seceding states fought with the Confederacy. Twenty-five of the eighty served in general grade. Their states of origin and grades in which they served follow:

Indiana, one brigadier general

Maine, one brigadier general

Massachusetts, three brigadier generals

New Jersey, two major generals

New York, five brigadier generals and five major generals

Ohio, four brigadier generals and one major general

Pennsylvania, two brigadier generals and one lieutenant general.

162 West Point graduates born in seceding states remained with the Union.

The first permanent mission in what is now the state of Texas was the Mission of Corpus Christi de la Isleta del Sur. The town of Isleta is the oldest settlement in Texas.

—ASHFORD, *Spanish Texas*, 158.

LETTERS HOME: W. W. MILLS WRITES TO HIS FAMILY

Notes by

EUGENE O. PORTER

(PART THREE OF FOUR PARTS)

[Editor's Note: the footnotes are numbered sequentially throughout this series. For this reason it is necessary to state that if the material in the notes comes from the text of W. W. Mills, *Forty Years at El Paso 1858-1898*, edited by Rex W. Strickland (El Paso, 1962), the citation will read *Forty Years*, and if from the Introduction or notes of Dr. Strickland, the citation will read "Strickland." It should also be repeated that the letters are published as they are in the original, with *italics* and without corrections in spelling, punctuation, and capitalization or with the use of the tedious [*sic*.].]

Santa Fe New Mexico

April 21st 1862

My dear Father

After the battle of Valverde we returned to Fort Craig and the texans seeing that they could not take that Post passed above us into New Mexico. At and immediately after the battle nearly all the mexican Volunteers except Kit Carson's Regiment diserted leaving us of fighting men only about half the number of the texans. Col Canby chose rather to let them enter New Mexico than to fight them two to one and we remained idle at Fort Craig while they pilaged New Mexico. They went through the territory like so many Locusts destroying what they could not steal. about the time they arrived at Santa Fe a regiment of Pike's Peak Volunteers arrived at Fort Union.⁵⁸ Each force went out to meet the other and while we were idle at Fort Craig the battle of "Pigeon's Ranch"⁵⁹ of which you have read was fought. in this battle as at Valverde the texans suffered terribly. they retreated to Santa Fe and then Col Canby⁶⁰ formed the design of uniting his force at Fort Craig with the regiment of Pike's Peak Volunteers.

We left Fort Craig with Eleven hundred regular troops about the time that the regiment of "Pike's Peakers" left Fort Union with a thousand when we reached Albuquerque we found that place occupied by about 200 texans, their main force being on the way down from Santa Fe. here we had a skirmish and evry one supposed that we would take the place by storm but we did not and it is not for me to say whether we should have done so or not. *We should have done it* of course but it is a strong position and would have cost us many brave men and after all we would have gained little by it.

We moved of into the mountains and in two days joyned the "Pike's Peakers." this gave us two thousand men, the best fighting men in the world. the texans now commenced a retreat from the territory but by a night march we overtook them at the residence of the Governor. You

would hardly believe that out of the 24 hundred men with which they entered the territory they had now only 12 hundred available men left, *one half* of their boasted army were among the killed, wounded prisoners or sick.

that night with two thousand men we camped so near them that the first round shot they threw next morning at day light whistled clear over our camp. Here again evry one thought we would have a fight but Col Canby being convinced that he could *wear them out* without sacrificeing his brave men did not bring on a general engagement. His plan is to follow them up and annoy them so that they will be obliged to surrender. I do not think there will be another general engagement. the texan army is perfectly demoralyed, they direct to our camp in squads of 20 and give themselves up. the only hope of their leaders is to escape with their stolen property. Col Canby is close after them and they can not escape him. before long he will have possession of the whole country without needless loss of life. I must say that I do not like this mode of war fare but I am confident that it will succeed.

I came here with Col Roberts⁶¹ after the skirmish at the Governor's house and have been appointed Quarter Master & Commissary at this place a very good position but I have the promise that as soon as Col Canby moves down to El Paso I shall be ordered to report to him.

A word of explanation, in the first place I was appointed Aid to Col, now General Canby but at Col Roberts request was attached to his staff which suited me better for I like the old veteran. the other morning after the skirmish at the Governors Gen Canby thinking I would not like to leave the scene of action attached me again to his staff but as Col Roberts promised to send me to report to Gen Canby as soon as he should go below I came with him.

By the time Anson can have official notice of my appointment as collector sent to me at this place I hope to be able to proceed to El Paso give bonds and enter upon the duties of that office. the position I have here is an excellent one and I would like to live here but the collectorship will suit me better. I will now write often but Anson must see to this matter without delay. I have been in one battle and four skirmishes. I wrote you a description of the battle of Valverde which I hope you received. I arrived here yesterday. Would like to go home very much but cannot now.

Asever

W.W.Mills

Santa Fe, New Mexico

April 25th, 1862

Dear Father

Gen. Canby followed the retreating texans so closely that they were obliged to abandon Artillery Wagons and evry thing and run for dear life. The way is now clear to El Paso and our troops will certainly go there from Fort Craig very soon. I have not changed my intention of going with them though I should like very much to remain in my present position if I though it would be as well for me in the long run. I have as yet received no official notice of my appointment but I know it is all right and I am determined to make it stick a long time. I hope Anson or some friend will inform the Treasury Department that a communication will reach me if directed to Santa Fe and that I am ready to give bonds and enter upon the duties of the office.

Young Watts, a son of the Judge will write to his Father about it tomorrow but the Judge may not be in Washington and I want to be *sure*. Watts Jr. is about my age and distinguished himself in the battle of Pigeon's Ranch. the texans *may* make a sort of stand at Mesilla or El Paso but they cannot hope to succeed, it will only delay us a little.

I have drawn no pay as a Lieutenant yet and of course I have spent some money during the last ten months. I have nearly \$600 due which if I get it will set me on my feet.

I paroled over 100 texan prisoners yesterday by order of Col Roberts and started them with enough of Uncle Sam's Flour & Bacon to take them back to "Dixie" among them were several well known to Anson & myself.

Asever

W.W.Mills

Thorntown, May 25

My dear Brother

I arrived here two days ago on my way to Washington city. We have the texans in New Mexico pretty well whiped and Gen Canby gave me two months leave. I will probably stay in Washington a week and may resign my Lieutenancy there and stay longer, If I can be qualified and commence to draw my salary as Collector I will take off the the shoulder straps. I have some fine letter to Washington and will be all right there.

I am figuring for a contract to take 600 horses to New Mexico. My chances there are better than ever before, the old contractors there are busted up and I think I stand first on the list for contracts now. I will leave the service with regret but will always be on hand when there is any fighting but I do think I had as well make a fortune as those *Secession*. contractors. Capt Nicodemus A A Gel of New Mexico came with me and is enlisted in my favor.

the texans have retreated to Mesilla but Gel Canby will move down there in force in about two months.

Write me to Washington (Brown's Hotel) and to Thorntown. I am hopeful that the Government will sustain itself and think you will gain the battle before you but you will have a *desperate* fight. You have an excelcent position in which to distinguish yourself.

this trip is costing me a mint of money and if you can cend me a draft to Thorntown for \$100 or \$150 please do so, though I can get along without it.

Asever

W.W.Mills

Thortown June 17th

Dear Brother

I wrote you from this place three weeks ago but as I have not heard from you I am afraid you have not received my letter.

Since then I have been to Washington and have given bond and received my commission as Collector and my wages (5\$ per day) is now going on.

I ought to return to New Mexico immediately but do not like to go without going to see you and I may go that way if I receive a letter from you in time stateing that I could do so without loosing much time.

Allen has enlisted for three months and is now at Camp Morton where he will probably remain his time out. then he must go to New Mexico and act with me as "mounted Inspector" at a salary of \$2.50 per day, I have made proper inquiry and I know that he can fill the place.

I will stay here a week and it may be longer. Write immediately to this place and if you can send me some money \$150 or such a matter as I have spent so much and am nearly out of funds. I have not drawn any yet nor can I for three months. at last accounts the texans were yet at Mesilla but as we have some reinforcements on the way from California there is no doubt of their being driven out soon. I will live at El Paso as Watts has got a bill through attaching El Paso county to my district.

There is no foundation to the rumor that Emmet was not killed, they time write *also* to Kansas City Missouri but write to this place as soon as confounded me with him.

Write to this place and if you think the letter will not reach me here in time write *also* to Kansas City Missouri but write to this place as soon as you can.

Asever

W.W.Mills

Santa Fe N. M.

Aug. 1st 62

Dear Brother

I arrived here yesterday by stage from the states. the California troops are at La Mesilla and El Paso and I leave for *home* tomorrow. I go by mail to Fort Craig and Genl Canby gives me transportation and an escort, so you see I do not return as I left.

I am determined to make some money then besides my salary and to return to Indiana in about a year but you need not write this to Thorn-town. my love affair is yet in doubt but the Girl loves me and the contract with the preacher *shall be broken*.

I spent \$500.00 this trip and will spend as much next time, she will cost me a thousand dollars but she is worth more than that.

Send Father \$100.00 or more immediately to pay money which he borrowed for me as I will be short for some time yet. I have not drawn any soldier pay for I intend to draw as collector from my appointment in July of last year if I can. This will give me 2000\$. I will write you from home. for the present direct to Santa Fe.

I'm in a hurry

Asever

W.W.Mills

Home: Aug. 22d 1862

My dear Brother

I have been confined to my room by sickness for near a week and am now just able to Set up to write. three days after arriving here I was taken with feaver and a Sore throat, the effects of over exercion and exposcure, but I am recovering very fast. We have no mail to this place now and our letters will be a long time getting through. I want to write you a long letter but can not now. The Texans that I left here a year ago are gone, *gone forever—one half* of the three thousand have left their bones to bleach on the banks of the Reo Grande. the remainder when they left here were in a Starveing condition and were really objects of pity. what they will suffer on the road to Texas God only knows. Of our friends(?) all left except Dowell⁶² John Gillett⁶³ Jim Lucas⁶⁴ and Col Jones.⁶⁵ of these all went to the other side of the river except Col Jones who stayed at La Mesilla and took the oath of allegiance. Yes, Morton⁶⁶ is here too but no one pays any attention to him, he actually *begs* in the streets. Genl Carlton⁶⁷ with 23 hundred California troops occupies the valey and we will soon be all right again. Don Vincente⁶⁸ and Schuts⁶⁹ and I are *runing the Ranch* all the rest of the residents seceded and these property is confiscated. Genl Carlton is station a large Garrison here and loyal U S Soldiers are stationed in the houses of Hart of Dowell of Gilletts of Crosby of Gillack of OBannon of Nanzle⁷⁰ of McGaffin and in the two mail buildings. we will have a pleasant place here again. My

tryump is perfect and complete, by friends are satisfied and my enemies dou'nt know what the D—I to do. Old Stephenson Vincente and Schutz were all the Union men in this place. Caniffee went to Chr[illegible] long time ago to get out of the way but he was *always* a good Union man and I am glad that he is now coming back.

Musick⁷¹ is in Chihuahua but he will be up here soon. as soon as I get a little ahead I will pay him what we owe him for he is a good man.

Asever

W.W.Mills

Please send to Anson

Fort Craig N. M.

Aug. 7th 1862

General

I arrived here yesterday and shall proceed immediately to La Messilla, but from what I can learn from Mr. Lyon,⁷² I have but little hope of being able to accomplish any thing there until some change is brought about in the conduct of affairs in that District. Some of the leading Secessionists of La Messilla have succeeded in deceiving the Military Authorities, and remain in the Country to embarass the Union Cause: to deceive Union men: and should an opportunity again occur, to *act* against our Government. One of them is Samuel J. Jones the former Collector, who was one of the first to hoist the Secession flag: whose name is signed to several papers notifying Union men to leave the Country under penalty of death: and who *did* take arms against the Government fo the United States. He has taken the oath of allegiance, but as he did not keep his oath to execute faithfully the duties of the office of Collector, it seems strange that his oath should be regarded now. Mr. Lyon says that he is roaming at large and is treated as a Gentle man by some Officers who wear the Uniform of the United States. If there are man in this Country who deserve to suffer for Treason, one of them is Samuel J. Jones. I respectfully suggest that an order be sent for his arrest.

The case of Jones is only a single instance there are others at La Messilla who have from the first acted with the Texans: Among them are Mr. Thomas Brell and Judge Hopper.⁷³ Several other Secesseionists, and among them at least one Officer of the Texan Army have taken refuge in El Paso, Mexico. I do not know that our Government has a right to disregard the neutrality of Mexico because she allowed the Texans to take Lieut Stith and myself from her soil a year ago, but Mr. Lyon says that the Authorities of El Paso are willing and anxious to give these refugees up whenever they shall be demanded, and from what I know of the people there I believe they would do it cheerfully. From my knowledge of the character of these men I believe that if they are allowed

to go at large they will do everything in their power to injure the Government, and that whenever an opportunity offers they will assassinate any citizen who by his faithfulness to the Government has rendered himself obnoxious to them.

I do not think it will require a large force to keep down Secession in that District; all that is needed is that a few of the most guilty and dangerous should be arrested and made to feel the power of the Government.

Simon Hart⁷⁴ left his flouring Mills in good condition; and his miller who is a Secessionist and a tool of Harts, has applied to Col Eyres⁷⁵ for protection, as he feared the Mexicans (indignant Union Men) would destroy the property.

Should not these Mills as well as those of Samuel J. Jones and Thomas Brell be taken possession of by the Military Authorities, and for the present be used to supply our troops with flour?

I am General Very Respectfully
Your Obdt. Servt.

W.W.Mills

Collector Paso Del Norte

Brigr. Genl. E.R.S. Canby
Commanding Dept. N. M.

Fort Craig N. M.⁷⁶

August 8th 1862

My dear Brother

I arrived here yesterday and leave tomorrow for La Mesilla. As yet there are only two companies of troops there and as they are from California and are strangers to the people some of the leading secessionists there have deceived the officers and by taking the oath of allegiance have been allowed to remain in the country. Among them are Col Jones,⁷⁷ Mr Bull Judge Hoppin⁷⁸ and others. Many others of the worst secessionists have taken refuge in El Paso Mexico so that you may see that I will be in danger of being assassinated as long as they are allowed to remain there. Genl Canby⁷⁹ would not hurt one of these poor unfortunate creatures for the world. I inclose you a copy of a letter addressed to him. thank God Genl Carlton with the remainder of the California troops is at the Membres River and will be at Mesilla in five days and from what I hear of him he is not so much milk & water as Canby.

Genl Canby deserves to be *disgraced forever* for allowing the texans to escape from this Territory with their plunder, this is all I have patience to write about that matter now.

I have more friends in the territory than ever and if I can only manage to make some money *quick* I will be all right.

If Judge Watts⁸⁰ had not cut the territory north & south instead of east & west in his bill for organizing the territory of Arizona I would have gone to Congress in spite of hell.

I have drawn no pay yet for services as Lieutenant nor do I intend to for I have written Watts that I *must* draw my salary as Collector from the date of my first appointment in July of last year and that if we could get it in no other way we must have it by a bill of relief. I think he will get it, if Congress does not adjourn and he come home before he receives my letter. how I have got along so far without money is a wonder to myself.

I wrote you from Kansas City and from Santa Fe requesting you to send 100 or 150\$ immediately to Father to refund money borrowed for me and hope you have done so, if you did not receive my letters please send the money on receipt of this.

Direct to Santa Fe

"Care Elsberg & Amberg"⁸¹

our letter will be a long time on the way but we must write often.

Asever your brother

W.W.Mills

El Paso Texas

September 24/62

Col Saml J. Jones

Sir

I am informed by Col Rigg and Col Lally that you stated in their presence in La Mesilla that you threatened to horse whip me and that I de'er not resent it.

I have to say to you that besides being a Traitor to the Government that you swore to support, *you are a Liar and the truth is not in you.* & c
(signed)

Wm. W. Mills

La Mesilla N. M.

September 27, 1862

Sir

Your note of the 24th just was this day recd through the Head Quarters of the army at this place.

In reply I have to say that whatever Col Rigg or Col Lally may have stated to you in regard to our conversation *is true* and you well know it to be so.

And as I remarked to you that were I to obey the dictates of my feelings I would chastise you and by so doing would make you a Martyr and that my action in the [illegible] misjudged but at the present time and under the circumstances I for prudential motives decline any further action. You

are well aware of the critical nature of my position and also that *not I* alone have to suffer the consequences of my conduct and you cowardly take advantage of these circumstances to force me into a position to the Authorities here to place any question that may arise between you and me in such a light that you can always legally justify your own conduct and condemn mine, you hold a public position and I enjoy a very equirescal one.

You can claim the countenance and succor of all the military on this frontier who are at least your *political* friends, whilst I must be more circumspect in every particular and am liable every day to imprisonment because I do not choose to be a hypocrite as to my political opinions.

You are aware that this is the only and sole reason which prevents my fulfilling my promise to publicly chastiseing you, and I assure you that I shall surely do so when we are placed in such circumstances that I can do so without becoming immediately an inmate of the Guard House.

Your base instinct has taught you that you can build much capital upon my present position but I take this opportunity to make you directly understand that whenever you will place me upon equality as to the consequences that may happen I will render you satisfaction as full in any manner and form that you can possibly desire.

I shall notice no further communications from you coming through the Head Quarters of the army here.

(signed) Saml J. Jones

Wm W. Mills Esq
El Paso
Texas

Those acquainted with the history of affairs in this portion of country for the last two years will pardon my a work in making this correspondence public.

As there is no man in this valley who has dared more or endured more in defence of the old flag than myself, so is there no one who has done more to trail it in the dust, or rejoiced more over its deep disgrace than Saml J. Jones. Yet I sought no personal difficulty with him, nor with any one. I came of Quaker stock and I flattered myself after his confederates, who had dessolated this country, had been driven from it; that I could return to my home in peace; but when I sa wthis spicimen of modern chivalry bullying a whole community into silence as to his former acts, I wished it known that in whatever manner he or his kind may assail the Union or its friends they may always find a foe.

Respectfully
W.W.Mills

El Paso Texas
Sept. 15th 62

Dear Father

I am well and well Satisfied. I have heard nothing from home since I left but suppose it is the fault of the mails.

I have repaired Ansons house at a cost of \$40 and furnished it at a cost of \$130 so that I am now well fixed to live. it is the most pleasant place to live in the place and Genl Carlton says El Paso Texas is the pretyest town in all the far west.

I am takeing it quietly after a years excitement and allready feel that my health is better and my head clearer than it was. My office is better than that of Governor of the State of Indiana because it pays nearly as much and there is little to do. I am glad that those men who were friends to Anson & I from the first took the side of the Union and are now here to rejoice with me while those who were our enemies seceded to a man and are now rather objects of pity than hatred.

Cuniff⁸² & St Vrain⁸³ had to take refuge in Mexico but they are now both here and all right. Hart went to texas, he cried when he left the mill where he had made the fortune he lost by secession. Dowell is over the river in daily fear of being taken by us or killed by the Mexicans, his head is *perfectly gray* and he whines and even *cries* saying that he is a ruined man & c. John Gillett⁸⁴ is there too in the same fix. Several others have also remained in the country. *I have seen Genl Jones and Dist. Attorney Morton⁸⁵ beg of Union men for something to eat.* The weather is fine and the fruit is *magnafig*. There are many fine fellows among the California officers and we are very friendly with the mexican authorities some of whome are very clever Gentlemen. I have appointed Anson's old friend Ward mounted Inspector, the place I intended for Allen, it would be allmist impossible for Allen to get out here now, after a while he may come.

Respects to Halton and send this to Anson

Asever
WmW.Mills
El Paso Texas
Oct. 4th 1862

Dear Father

I inclose a copy of a corespondence between myself and "Sherif Jones" which please read to Some of our friends and send to Anson. You know the character he has borne as a fighting man in Kansas and elsewhere. he is the only man I ever "went after" that I thought would fight and every body here expected we would have it, but the conciousness of a bad cause made him weaken as you see.

I may tell you in confidence that it is *Masonry* which has so far saved him from arrest, but it shall not save him in the end for I am after him and will *smoke him out*.

I never received the Books of his office till yesterday, he did not want to turn them over for they contain *strong presumptive evidence of fraud* which I will yet bring to light. he claims to be a Union man and evry body is afraid to accuse him.

I am full of buisness at present but am well fixed in my house and office and am liveing like a fighting-cock.

I would not change my position for that of Colonel in the army.

We have no late news from the States but hope for the best. I have heared nothing from any of you since I left.

Asever

W.W.Mills

Regards to Hutton
and all friends

La Mesilla N. M.

October 25th 62

My dear Father

I came here and returned to El Paso and came here again since I wrote you.

I am after Jones and do not intend to rest till he is arrested. I sent you the corespondence I had with him. but he had the advantage of me, he had made the acquaintance of evry officer in the California Brigade before I arrived here from the States and being one of the smartest men I ever met he had made friends of evry one of them. my friends were nearly all gone and the officers were nearly all Strangers to me, but as soon as I striped him of his character as a fighting man the sentiment began to change. I came here that they might see me and know me and judge between me and Col Jones. When I arrived evry body looked for a street fight. We met in the presence of a dozen officers but seeing that he could take no advantage he sneaked off to his house and hardly showed himself while I stayed myself while I stayed. I handed round the corespondence and several of the officers announced their determination to cut Jones on the strength of it and now they have nearly all done so. Mien time Major Watt (Pay master and son of the Judge) arrived and immediately announced that he "would place himself in my tracks and die right there." he is a chip of the old block and has great influence wherever he goes. he went to El Paso with me and stayed three days in my house I gave him and my friends a Fandango⁸⁶ which cost me \$30. I returned with him to this place yesterday and we started in to have Jones

arrested or to have a row. We had this to contend with, Col West (the Commander) we knew to be a secret friend of Jones but we were not scared at trifles, so we called on the Colonel and asked a private interview. We had some sharp talk but we were too much for him and he finally promised to arrest Jones upon certain evidence which we will have surely by tomorrow. I am prouder of this triumph than of anything I have yet accomplished. it will please Judge Watts greatly for he knows Jones to be one of the worst men in the world beside he acted as second to Atero in his duell with Watts. I have evidence that Jones has embezled public money.

I have received only one letter from you and one from Hutton since I left. nothing from Washington yet.

Please hand this to John and then send it to Anson. I intend to return to El Paso in about a week and then I hope to remain in pease.

Asever

W.W.Mills

Why dount Caroline and all of you write to me?

Direct to Santa Fe as before.

El Paso Texas

Nov. 12th 1862

Dear Brother

Please find out Capt. W.J.L. Nicodemus of the 12th M.S. Infantry and pay him the sum of *one hundred dollars* which I borrowed of him last summer. You will find a Gentleman and Soldier. he knew you at West Point.

Musick is liveing near Chihuahua I have a letter from him and will send him the \$77.00 which we owe him.

I am doing all right and am doing well but hear nothing from you or from home.

Asever

W.W.Mills

El Paso Texas

Nov. 21st 1862

My dear Brother

I hear nothing from you and not much from the States so that I do not know where to address you.

I am well and doing well. I gained the contest with Saml J. Jones in spit of Col West, district commander, who opposed Jones arrest to the very last. but he is in the Guardhouse at Mesilla by order of Genl Cudleton.

I wrot you some time ago asking you to pay one hundred dollars to Captain W.J.L. Nicodemus of the 12th M.S. Infantry. *I hope you will*

do this as soon as possible and I hope you will write to him and renew your acquaintance with him for he is a Gentleman and Soldier and true friend.

Our house at the Canntilla washed away in the flood of last summer.

There are no troops at Quitman and that property is worth nothing at present.

I paid S N Vrain three hundred dollars and will pay Musick and Buckhannon soon.

We have letter from San Antonio to the 1st of October. an expedition of six thousand men under Genl Baylor is to visit us early in the Spring. OBannon⁸⁷ writes to Diffendoffer that he will be up soon. I am liveing in your house. Cannot rent mine for any thing.

Mr Cuniffe wishes to be remembered to you.

Asever your Brother

W.W.Mills

El Paso Texas

Dec. 12, 1862

My dear Brother

I have not heard a word from you since I left the States and ~~do not~~ know where to address you. I have sent several letter through the Adjut. Gel. It is feast time here by evry thing is very quiet. We will have the texans with us again unless an expedition from the States should prevent their comeing. Capt. Skillman⁸⁸ came as a spy to El Paso a few days ago and remained three days. he reported that Genl Baylor was ready to leave San Antonio with from four to six thousand men. Crosby⁸⁹ was Adjutant Genl and Merritt⁹⁰ Chief Quarter Master. We get the same news by letters from Mataroras.

My friend(?) Col Jones is yet in durance vile and there can by no doubt of his conviction.

Our news from the States is nearly a month old. Your friend Ward is my Clerk but he is a great drunkard.

I like by office, have plenty of friends and some enemies and if I have good luck will do well. Many of our old friends inquire about you here. I do not feel like writing tonight.

Asever

W.W.Mills

El Paso Texas

Dec. 26th 1862

My dear Father

I have rece" d only one letter from you and none from Anson.

I am well and doing well. The commanding officer and I live together in Anson's house, the other officers live in my house. We live like fighting Cocks, but it costs us pretty heavy.

Yesterday five Union refugees arrived from Texas. They are the *last* of a party of 65 Union men who left Texas in July last. They were pursued by 150 Texans, fought them two hours, lost 20 killed on the field, killed 60 Texans. only nine escaped and seven of the nine were wounded, four of whom died. This is the way men fight when they get in earnest.

The Captain of this party who is a very intelligent man says that a majority of the people of Texas are and always have been in favor of the Union and only ask of the Government arms and some thing to volley around and they will take care of themselves. it is a shame that some thing has not been done for Texas.

My *friends* Dowell & Gillett with 10 others left El Paso Mexico for Texas a few days ago and our tender footed officers did not try to take them; I cried & cursed & prayed but it did no good.

I hope Anson will be on the staff of the General who goes to Texas. his old friend Dr Jim Throckmorton is a Union man.

Asever

W.W.Mills

El Paso Texas

Dec. 29, 1862

My dear Brother

I have received two letters from you lately ,one from Kentucky and one from Tennessee.

Before I read your letters I suggested the very thing you mention, to get on the staff of the General going to Texas. Some time ago I think I could have got you a place with Genl Carleton but his staff is now full. Gen West and I had a quarel and I have no influence with him nor would you like him.

I do not think the troops will go to Texas from here. Yours best chance is through the Indian Nation.

By the latest accounts the Union sentiment is stronger in Texas than even we supposed; Jim Throckmorton of Collin⁹¹ and Taylor⁹² of Fannin are Union men. Father will send you my last letter telling of the arrival here of some Union refuges from Texas and of the escape of Dowell & Gillett to Texas.

The feasts and Christmas passed off gaily, we are to have a Grand Baile in El Paso on tomorrow (New Years) eve. I have drank your health fifty times with our friends both American and Mexican.

Ward is determined to be worthless. I am sorry for it but I will have to discharge him. I will give his place to Kemp, you remember Kemp, he distinguished himself in the late campaign.

I received a letter a few days ago from a friend at Santa Fe informing me that my enemies with Genl West to assist them were trying to get me removed. I do not think they can do me any harm but nothing is sure in these times. I will watch them and give them the best I have. Jones is yet a prisoner at Mesilla and his friend Gen West *dare not* release him. this is my victory.

I have appointed one John B. Mills⁹³ Deputy at Tucson. Evry officer in the California Column except Gen West is my friend and if Arizona is admitted I expect to go to Congress or to—a warmer climate.

Asever

W.W.Mills

PS

I have received no rent for our houses yet but from this forward if I have no bad luck I will get \$50 a month for the two houses and use one myself. This is pretty good, perhaps too good to last.

I defeated John Gillett and the whole secesh out fit at Stephensons; "Adalida" is for the Union.

Write to Watts occasionally. he is comeing here as soon as Congress adjourns. I sent him a keg of Pass Wine to Washington by stage.

Los Cruces N. M.

January 9th 1863

My dear Brother

I came here from El Paso a week ago, have finished my business and return with Gen Carleton tomorrow.

We have no late news from the Texans. Gen Carleton and I are good friends but Gen West who commands this District when Carleton is not here is down on me and I on him, so far I have had the better of him but he is sharp and energetic and revengeful as hell but be assured I will watch him. I have more friends here than I ever had and have yet to fail in anything I undertake. those who do not love me respect and fear me.

I am not contending with the Military in general, only with West the rest of the officers are my friends and many of them very warm friends.

Jones is at last released from the Guard house but I do not care, he is an object of pity. he will have to stand his trial and I have evidence to convict him.

I am very sorry that Watts will not be a candidate for re election to Congress but he will yet be my friend.

You may be assured that I am a pretty tall youth in this neck of woods.

In my next I will submit to you a plan to make some money and to bring Allen to this country.

by March I hope to have about two thousand dollars at my command and want to turn it over and make it four thousand.

I will see tomorrow what Genl Carleton thinks about your coming to this country.

Fours in haste
W.W.Mills

I hear nothing from home.

El Paso Texas
Jan. 27, 1863

My dear Brother

Your last letter was the one written from Gallatin acknowledging the receipt of the Jones Correspondence. You may rest assured that the difficulty with him was not of my seeking but was forced upon me by him. You have lived long enough in this country to know that these are times when a man must either fight or "fold up his tents like the arabs and quietly" git up and git.

the affair has given me some trouble, Jones has been released from confinement and is now under bonds. As soon as we get a court here I can convict him of stealing the public money and I intend to do it. Mean time he threatens to take my life and Gen Carlton thinks he will attempt it but I have met him several times and he makes so move. I will take the best possible care of myself but it is hard to guard against assassination. I will not now consent to fight a duel with him for I know him to be a thief.

Watts has stood by me and will be here to assist at his trial. Our friend Capt Anderson⁹⁴ is here to choose a place to build a strong Fort, he stays at my house and had it not been for the high water of last year I think I could have induced him to locate it at the Cannella, as it is I will do the best I can. Anderson is a friend of mine and one of the best officers and *best men* in the army.

We have no news, Don Vincente has been appointed Assessor for New Mexico. Mr Cuniffe is going to Guymas, he often speaks of you. The Diffendoffers are going to the States.

El Paso is the same beautiful place that it always was but it is dull. I have sent Ward to Tucson and Kemp is with me now, I have written you before about his fidelity to the Government in the trying times.

I see you had a fight at Gallatin and hope you were in it and that you came out of it unharmed.

Asever
W.W.Mills

EXPLANATORY NOTES

58. Fort Union, the main base for the Union Army in New Mexico Territory, was a few miles north of Las Vegas.
59. The battle of Pigeon's (Pidgon's) Ranch, better known as Glorieta, was brought about by the Confederate's attempt to capture the Union supply base at Fort Union.
60. See *PASSWORD* (Spring, 1972), 21, fn23.
61. *Idem.*, 21, fn16.
62. Benjamin Shacklett Dowell, a Kentuckian by birth, was an ardent secessionist and when the Union forces occupied El Paso in 1862, he fled to El Paso del Norte (Juárez).—Strickland, 179. For further information see *PASSWORD* (Spring 1972), 21, fn3.
63. John Smith Gillett, a Missourian by birth, came to El Paso in 1847. An ardent secessionist, his property was confiscated after the war. Reduced to abject poverty, he drank heavily.—Strickland, 181.
64. James A. Lucas, a secessionist, was evidently a resident of Mesilla, New Mexico. At least he owned property there. It was confiscated after the war.—J. M. Broaddus, *The Legal Heritage of El Paso* (Texas Western Press, 1863), 80.
65. Colonel Samuel J. Jones was collector of customs at Las Cruces, appointed by President Buchanan. *Mills Forty Years*, 83, states that he was "the notorious 'Sheriff Jones' during the border troubles in Kansas in 1856, when the attempt was made to make Kansas a slave state, and was then called a 'border ruffian.'"
66. William J. Morton, a native of Georgia, came to El Paso in 1860. The same year he was elected attorney for the 11th District Court. He died in 1863.
67. General James H. Carleton commanded the California Column, also called California Volunteers. He quartered his men at Hart's Mill, Franklin, and in San Elizario. Fort Bliss stood vacant until the autumn of 1865.—Strickland, 194.
68. Vincent St. Vrain was a Unionist. See *PASSWORD* (Spring, 1972), 20, fn8.
69. This was either Joseph or Samuel Schutz. They were brothers.
70. Dr. Joseph Nangle. See *PASSWORD* (Spring, 1972), 21 fn9.
71. This was Charles Music, not Musick, of the well-known Music family of St. Louis. He is listed in the 1860 census of El Paso as a merchant.—Strickland, 186.
72. Abraham Lyon, an Englishman. He served in 1862 as a special agent for the Yuma Indians. In 1866 he was deputy collector of customs at Tubac. He was killed by Henry Gossett, a cowboy, on April 1, 1871.—Strickland, 82.
73. This was very likely Charles A. Hoppin. He was elected chief justice of El Paso County in 1850, at the time of its creation.—Broaddus, *The Legal Heritage of El Paso*, 34.
Later, he served as secretary of the "Convention of the People of Arizona," held at Mesilla on March 16, 1861.—Strickland, 39n.
74. See *PASSWORD* (Spring, 1972), 20, fn5.
75. Colonel E. E. Eyre of the California Column commanded the forces that occupied Fort Bliss.
76. See *PASSWORD* (Spring, 1972), 21, fn14.
77. See above, fn65.
78. See above, fn73.
79. See *PASSWORD* (Spring, 1972), 21, fn23.
80. See *Ibid.*, 21, fn13.
81. Jacob Amberg was one of the organizers of the Pinos Altos Mining Company.—*Forty Years*, 81n.
82. Henry Joseph Cuniffe (sometimes Cuniffe and also Carniff) was born in Ireland and died in Las Cruces in 1896. He was a business partner of Vincent St. Vrain.—Strickland, 177.
83. See *PASSWORD* (Spring, 1972), 20, fn8.
84. See above, fn62.
85. See above, fn66.
86. *Fandango* is a lively Spanish dance.
87. A. B. O'Bannon, a South Carolinian, was serving as United States deputy collector of customs at El Paso in 1860. A Confederate, he left El Paso during the war and nothing further was heard of him.—Strickland, 186.
88. Henry Skillman was one of the best known characters in El Paso in the 1850's. Mills has him born in Kentucky but he was actually born in New Jersey. He

- acted as a post rider on the Santa Fe Trail before the Mexican War.—*Forty Years*, 85n.
89. See *PASSWORD* (Spring, 1972), 20, fn6.
 90. Charles Merritt was born in Virginia in 1824. Little is known of him except that he was the manager of Hart's Mill and that he served as quartermaster of the New Mexico expedition under General Baylor in 1862.—Strickland, 184.
 91. This was very likely Thomas (Tom) Collins, a resident of San Elizario. Information concerning him is confusing.—Strickland, 175.
 92. Walter Taylor was a prospector who falsely claimed that he was one of the discoverers of gold at Pinos Altos in 1860.—*Forty Years*, 3n.
 93. John B. Mills, Jr., no relative of W. W. Mills, was killed by Apaches on December 29, 1863.—*Forty Years*, 81n.
 94. This was very likely Lt. Anderson (later Captain) who served as Canby's adjutant.—*Forty Years*, 44.

Writing to his father on September 20, 1915, 2nd Lt. George S. Patton, Jr., described Fort Bliss as "not a bad place but quite new looking. Most of the buildings have been erected within the year. And the U. S. certainly got stung on them too. They are poorly made. The stables are of wood and are regular fire traps.

—BLUMENSON, *Patton Papers*

Anson Mills served in the famed Negro Tenth Calvary as a major.

February 2 is *La Candelaria* in Mexico and Candlemas in English-speaking countries.

Capsicum, a genus of tropical herbs and shrubs of the nightshade family, is native to America. It was first discovered by Columbus.

The word Apache is said to have come from Apachu, the Zuñi word for enemy. Apparently the Apaches had no other name for their whole tribal group.

Anthony, New Mexico-Texas, twenty miles north of downtown El Paso, is in two states. Originally named La Tuna, meaning "prickley pear," the town changed its name to Anthony. The Federal Correctional Institution, southeast of the village, retained the name of La Tuna.

El Paso's Franklin Mountains were once called the White Mountains.

More than one thousand different name "brands" of automobiles were manufactured in the United States between 1892 and 1930. Who remembers the Briscoe, Brush, Yale, Santos, Long Distance, Bates, Henry, Page, Huffman, Allen, Dort, Kissell, Elmore?

HISTORY-WRITING CONTEST

For the past eleven years the Historical Society has sponsored a history-writing contest for seventh grade students of the public and parochial schools of El Paso County. The prizes are \$75 for first place, \$50 for second, and \$25 for third. In addition, each of the three winners receives a certificate of achievement and the paper winning first place is published in *PASSWORD*. The 1972 winners received their awards at the general meeting of the Society held on May 18 at the Radford School for Girls.

The names of the winners together with the names of their parents, their home addresses and other pertinent information follows:

Catherine Eveler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pete V. Eveler, 8026 San Jose Rd., El Paso, won first prize with her article, "Mount Cristo Rey." Catherine attends Our Lady of the Valley School where her teacher is Sister M. Cordula.

Incidentally, Catherine is the third of the Eveler children to place in the contest. A brother, Peter, won first place in 1967 for his paper, "The Southwest Ostrich Farm of Old El Paso," and a sister, Laura Ann, won third place in 1970 for her article, "Dr. William Clarence Klutz, Pioneer Doctor." This past year, 1971, William Tullius, a cousin, won first place for his article, "Evolution of a building."

Second place in the contest went to Lynn Scherotter, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Scherotter of 535 Stone Bluff, El Paso for her "Engine No. 1." Lynn attends Radford School for Girls where her teacher is Mrs. Steward Forbes.

Third place was won by David Sotelo, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fernando G. Sotelo of 3504 Hixson, El Paso, for his article, "San Elizario." David attends Mesita School where his teacher is Mrs. Carl Hemperly.

The winning paper follows:

MOUNT CRISTO REY

by CATHERINE EVELER

At the westernmost tip of Texas just beyond the city of El Paso, there lies a small cone-shaped mountain called Mount Cristo Rey, which means Mountain of Christ the King. The base of this mountain has the distinction of lying in three different states and two countries—Texas and New Mexico in the United States of America and Chihuahua in Old Mexico. At the very top of the mountain stands a magnificent forty two foot statue of Jesus Christ with his arms outstretched as if blessing all the peoples of these neighboring countries.

This beautiful monument was the realization of a dream of the people of Smelertown, a small mining and farming community at the foot of the mountain. Under the guidance of Father Lourdes F. Costa, pastor of the little Catholic Church of San Jose del Rio Grande, the poor people, Spanish speaking, began in the early 1930's to plan a simple monument at the top of the mountain. These were the days of the Great Depression and times were very hard. Many of the men were out of work and desperately poor, but

being deeply religious, they and their families turned to prayer as an answer to their problems. The original plans were simple: to define a rough path up the mountain, setting up the fourteen stations of the cross commemorating the Passion of Jesus Christ along the way, and completing the project with a wooden cross at the top. Even this was a difficult undertaking because the people had only hand tools and faith and determination to work with. By 1934, there was a rude wooden cross standing on the peak. As these first plans developed, interest in the project grew, and soon Rev. A. J. Schuler, S.J., Bishop of the Diocese of El Paso, gave his support. With contributions coming in, the wooden cross was replaced with one of metal. Then plans were made to build a large stone statue.

About 1937, the famous Spanish sculptor, Urbici Soler, who had had a hand in the building of the Christ of the Andes, was hired to build the beautiful statue that stands atop the mountain today. Mr. A. J. Slogeris was the engineer on the job and Mr. Cleofas Calleros was coordinator. My uncle, Dr. W. J. Reynolds, Jr., who was in premed training at UTEP (then called Texas College of Mines) and working part time for Dr. Strain of UTEP, who was then curator at the College Museum, was assigned as interpreter and general flunky to Mr. Soler. There were about eighty men from the Smelertown area who worked as laborers, and often their wives and children helped because each wanted to take part in this wonderful work.

Mr. Soler sketch-carved the statue from Texas sandstone in Austin, and then it was brought to El Paso in four-square-foot blocks. In the meantime Mr. Slogeris engineered a winding, seven-foot roadway to the top and located a small fifteen-ton Caterpillar tractor with trailer to haul the blocks to the top. Five burros were also used to carry materials. A concrete and steel post was sunk twenty six feet into the mountain for a foundation for the monument. A mason was hired to set the stones in place and then a wooden scaffold was built so that Mr. Soler could reach his work. He used an air chisel to complete the sculpture.

A little known fact in this story is that each day, except Sundays, Mrs. Cleofas Calleros, her sister and her young daughter cooked the midday meal for all the men who worked on the project. Some of the food was obtained by Mr. Calleros from government relief agencies and the rest was donated by local business men. Each day in their small kitchen on La Luz Street, the Calleros ladies made about two hundred sandwiches and seven gallons of coffee. Some days they also served beans or Mexican rice or caldillo (a Mexican stew) or whatever food had been donated. Mr. Calleros would load his truck and take the food to the foot of the mountain where it was loaded onto the burros and taken to wherever on the mountain the men were working.

The statue was completed in October, 1939, and was dedicated with a pilgrimage on the Feast of Christ the King. Thousands of persons, both local people and tourists, Catholics and non Catholics, make this pilgrimage every year—some privately and some in large groups. It is a very worthwhile excursion to see this famous statue, and the view in all directions from the top of the mountain is fantastic. You get a birds-eye view of the cities of El Paso and Juarez spread out in one direction, the beautiful desert in another and the lovely, fertile fields of the Valley with the Rio Grande River winding through in still another. There is still an annual pilgrimage to the



Left to right: LTC. B. C. Wright, contest chairman, Catherine Eveler, first; Lynn Scherotter, second; and David Sotelo, third.
 (Photo courtesy of THE EL PASO TIMES.)

mountaintop on the fourth Sunday of October, the Feast of Christ the King. The statue stands as a symbol of lasting peace and friendship between the United States of America and the United States of Mexico.

SOURCE MATERIAL

Dr. W. J. Reynolds, Jr.—3038 Federal St.

Mr. A. J. Slogeris—4712 Emory Way

Mr. and Mrs. Cleofas Calleros—3605 La Luz St.

Mount Cristo Rey file at El Paso Public Library—Southwestern Section.

PASSWORD SALUTES TOM LEA

by HELEN HICKS

[Editor's Note: With this issue of *PASSWORD*, a new feature has been added—"Password Salutes." It will consist of a biographical sketch of one of El Paso's leading artists, a photograph of the artist, and a reproduction of one of his paintings or drawings. Helen Hicks, El Paso's noted poet, will research and write the article. She has carte blanche in her selection of subjects.]

A lusty wail on July 11th, 1907, announced the arrival of Tom Lea Jr. and increased the small population of El Paso, Texas, by one. In the shadow of Mount Franklin the boy and the town survived the hazards of growth and flourished. The town, to become a teeming city—the boy, an internationally known man. A man who through words and pictures gave the world an intimate knowledge of the history of his desert home . . . looked out and saw Conquistadores and wild horses from times long past . . . as a World War II Artist Correspondent for *Life Magazine* lived the brutal hardships of war, then wrote *Peleliu Landing* and illustrated with stark realism what he had seen. Truth, not glamor, flows from the bristles of Tom Lea's brushes.

John O. West, best put it when he named his pamphlet, *Tom Lea: Artist in Two Mediums*.¹ Recognizing the many awards and honors Tom Lea has had bestowed on him in both mediums, one would be hard put to say which talent is greater. For this man the pen and the brush are synonymous. Illustrator, muralist, painter, poet, novelist, historian, to excell in all fields takes a versatility that is difficult to imagine. Tom Lea has that versatility.



Tom Lea Beside One of His Paintings (1971)
(Photo courtesy of the EL PASO HERALD POST)

He has won state and national competitions. His work will be found in art museums, government buildings, railroad stations, libraries and numerous private collections. He has had two honorary doctorates conferred on him, Doctor of Literature, by Baylor University at Waco, and Doctor of Humane Letters, by Southern Methodist University at Dallas. Two of his books have been made into movies, *The Brave Bulls* and *The Wonderful Country*. *The Brave Bulls* is now in its twenty-sixth printing and has been translated into eight languages.

A comprehensive bibliography, *Tom Lea's Writings and Illustrations*, was compiled by Glennis Hinshaw and Lisabeth Lovelace of the El Paso Public Library.² A catalogue, *87 Paintings and Drawings by Tom Lea*, was prepared for publication by the El Paso Museum of Art.

The city is still growing and the man is still working, always in the shadow of their beloved Mount Franklin. At sixteen Tom Lea wrote this poem:

I am the wind on top of the mountain.
Through ages I have whispered to the sympathetic grass,
And whistled little tunes to the stiff-faced rocks
Who never seem to hear.

The wind still whispers and whistles on top of the mountain for Tom Lea and his city pays him homage.

REFERENCES

1. *Tom Lea: Artist in Two Mediums* by John O. West Southwest Writers Series No. 5. Steck-Vaughn Co.
2. *Tom Lea's Writings and Illustrations* by Glennis Hinshaw and Lisabeth Lovelace. El Paso Public Library.



The Deathless White Pacing Mustang
(Published here through the courtesy of its owner, Mrs. Tom Lea.)

HERITAGE HOMES

The O'Connor House

by MABEL O'CONNOR LIPSCOMB, *Guest Editor*

It is unusual for a man who is not a professional in those fields, to act as his own architect, contractor and builder, with a handsome home as the end product. But that was the case with John P. O'Connor who designed and built his home at 1307 North Oregon Street in 1912. Mr. O'Connor was a designer and contractor by profession but not of homes. He designed and built railroads. With Frank Powers of El Paso he built railroads in Arizona and in Mexico.

The O'Connor house is built on a terrace which gives a feeling of dignity and majesty. It is of yellow brick construction on a base of quarried stone. Four white columns with Corinthian capitals support the portico. A balcony at second story level extends the width of the house. There are dentils on the architrave frieze just under the wide over-hang of the roof. Triple dormer windows protrude from the roof, with a carved frieze under the over-hanging roofs of the dormers. The front door has a fan-light over it and panels of leaded colored glass line its sides.

The First floor has a reception hall with a parlor on one side and a library and dining room on the other. The entire floor may be turned into one huge room by opening sliding doors. This made an excellent place to hold dances and, indeed, the house was the scene of many gay parties. On the second floor are four bedrooms and a large family room.

John P. O'Connor was born in Paris Kentucky. After being graduated from Transylvania College he came to El Paso in 1882, a passenger on one



The O'Connor House
Photo taken about 1914.

of the first trains traveling west through El Paso. He intended to continue his trip to San Francisco but found El Paso so interesting and challenging that he remained here. In 1889 he returned to Kentucky to marry Miss Margaret Galvan and they lived in El Paso for the rest of their lives. The O'Connors had three children: Margaret (Mrs. Harlan Hodges) and John, both deceased, and Mabel (Mrs. Robert U. Lipscomb) who resides in El Paso. There are no grandchildren.

Canutilla, five miles north of El Paso city limits, means "small channel."

Mole is a dark brown chili-chocolate-peanut sauce used by Mexicans on turkey, chicken and, in fact, on all kinds of meats.

Pinole is made of pulverized corn, flavored with sugar and cinnamon. A little water is added and the mixture stirred with the fingers until it forms a soft ball which is then eaten.

The Texas public school system was established in 1854.

Early English and French explorers in America called the wilderness the "dessert."

St. Louis was laid out in 1764 by Pierre Laclede.

The Arizona Territorial Rangers were disbanded in 1912, the year of statehood.

The Canadian Indians told the early French explorers of a mythical kingdom of Saguenay that rivaled the Seven Golden Cities of Cibola for which the Spaniards searched in New Mexico. "It was rich in gold, silver and precious stones and the people were almost white; it contained extraordinary creatures such as pygmies and unipeds."

Lincoln, thirty-two miles northeast of Ruidoso, New Mexico, was originally a colonial Spanish village, La Placita del Rio Bonito. The name was changed in 1869 when Lincoln County was created and the village became the county seat.

SOUTHWEST ARCHIVES

The Southwestern Genealogical Library

The study of genealogy is, of course, no new thing. From Chinese ancestor worship to the account given in the fifth chapter of Genesis of the descent of Noah from Adam, man has nearly always been interested in his past. There are those who despise the notion of "pedigree," maintaining that it is merely a meaningless search for prestige: a vicarious sort of vainglory in another's accomplishments. Certainly it is more than that. It is an individual's personal link with forebears, providing a continuity with the past that allows him an identity as an heir of a tradition—perhaps a great tradition. And it is tradition and custom that cause tribes and whole nations to arise and by which they are bound together.

Investigating one's family tree, however, can be one of the most difficult forms of historical research. Specialized knowledge, perspicacity and patience are necessary in order to follow the genealogical trail with any hope of success. Indeed, the word "success" itself often has no meaning in this type of study, unless one has defined a goal in the beginning, such as joining the Daughters of the American Revolution. Usually, it is research for the sake of research, much as one would venture down an unknown path in the forest just to see where it might lead.

As with most research, the "trail" in genealogical study is by means of the printed word. Census rolls, church records, muster rolls, passenger lists, and court records are only a few of the many documents by which one can find a trace of his ancestors. Many of these documents can be found stored on microfilm at the Southwestern Genealogical Library in El Paso.

This is an unusual institution—at least, for this part of the country. It began as the private collection of Barney Taylor in 1962. Taylor was a retired army man and librarian who had made a specialty of genealogical research. It irked him to see that while many public libraries had some books on the subject and occasionally even a few microfilmed reels of census records, rarely did these libraries have a department dedicated to that field, or even a trained genealogist to assist researchers. Nevertheless, more and more people were delving into the subject while their requests were being largely ignored. Taylor, almost singlehandedly, set about to remedy the situation in this area by starting a library supervised and controlled by genealogists rather than by librarians.

But starting a library of this sort involves many problems. At least ninety-five percent of the library's holding are on microfilm, which is extremely fragile and expensive. Taylor invented a protective coating for the film which gives it such durability that it lasts ten times longer than non-treated film.

Another problem was obtaining a charter as a non-profit public institution. Taylor organized a board of directors and, in 1966, after several trips to Austin for this purpose, finally got the charter. At first, the library was located on Montana Street and later moved to 3651 Douglas where it shared facilities with the El Paso Branch Genealogical Library, which is operated

by the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter-Day Saints. This was a temporary makeshift arrangement. Even though Mr. Taylor was a Mormon himself, he envisioned his library as strictly a public enterprise having no religious affiliation.

Today the Southwestern Genealogical Library is located at 5301 Hanawalt, El Paso, Texas, 79903. It is a self-supporting loan library with over 6500 reels of microfilm, ten reading machines, and almost all of the books and journals available on the subject of genealogy.

Film may be read on the premises for fifty cents a reel and, for those residing outside of El Paso, for a \$5.00 deposit and \$1.00 plus postage for each reel borrowed. It has an interlibrary loan exchange program with some thirty other libraries. The astounding fact is the amount of patronage it enjoys: about 600 reels are mailed each month during the summer season to people as far distant as Alaska and Hawaii. In the winter months, this circulation increases to 1200 reels a month. Furthermore, the library publishes a twenty-page newsletter monthly, *The Southwestern Genealogist*, to subscribers who pay only \$3.00 annually. Mrs. Alice I. Taylor is the editor and, as director of the library, she is the only paid employee.

Besides the board of directors and Mrs. Taylor, other staff members are Mr. H. L. Wilson, assistant director, and Mrs. J. S. (Flora) Hendricks, librarian. Eight other part-time volunteers help to keep the library operating. The library is open to the public on Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m.

At present, the library is quartered in a very small house. This, apart from a lack of salaries for their workers, seems to be their main problem at this time. They could more easily accommodate their numerous patrons in an edifice built specifically for them, or in a large two-story house. It is heartily recommended that some wealthy person assist them. Since it is a State chartered non-profit organization, a donation might well be a deductible item with the Internal Revenue Service.

Moses Austin promoted Herculaneum, a new town thirty-two miles south of St. Louis, before he came to Texas.

New England was first named Norumbega by Samuel de Champlain in 1612. It was given its present name in 1616 by Captain John Smith of Jamestown fame.

In the early years the American cowboy wore the enormous *sombrero* of the Mexican *vaquero*. Later he adopted the famous hat designed by John Batterson Stetson. Its high crown and wide brim were perfect for the West, providing protection in all kinds of weather. It could even be used as a drinking pail for himself and his horse.

BOOK REVIEWS

SAVAGE SCENE: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF JAMES KIRKER, FRONTIER KING

by WILLIAM COCHRAN MCGAW

(New York: Hastings House, \$8.95)

Shadowy figures are constantly crisscrossing the pages of history, unwittingly spreading confusion and doubt among the uniformed. Such a figure was James Kirker (sometimes incorrectly spelled Kurker) or, in Spanish, Santiago Querque. He is remembered chiefly as a hired killer of Apaches. Some believe, however, that he helped himself to the scalps of Indians and Mexicans alike.

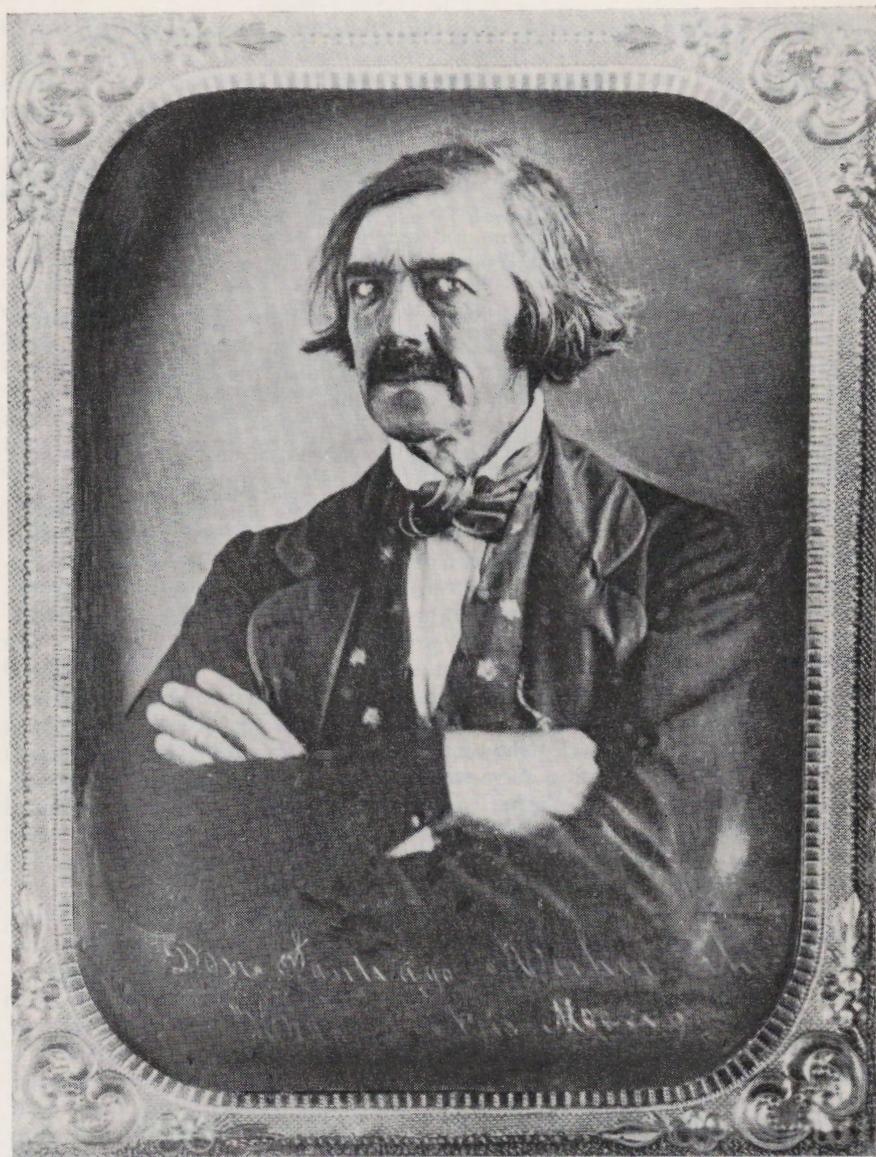
Now, for the first time, the shadows are dispersed and Jim Kirker becomes a person of flesh and blood. The author has gathered together all the pieces of Kirker's life and put them into a pattern against the background of his environment and his time. To quote the author: "I tell what he did, and how. Perhaps the reader can figure out the why."

James Kirker was born in 1793 in Belfast where many of his kin still live. He migrated to the United States in 1810 to escape military service in the British army against Napoleon, as did a multitude of his fellow countrymen. He worked for a grocer in New York City and, upon the grocer's death married his widow. But Kirker had a restless disposition. He soon deserted wife and home and headed for St. Louis and the West, never to return.

In a way, Kirker's life was a personification of several phases of American history. He served, for instance, on a privateer in the War of 1812; he was a Mountain Man; a trader on the Santa Fe Trail; a guard of the Santa Rita Copper trail that led south to Corralitas in Old Mexico; an Indian fighter; a scout for Doniphan; and a scout for a wagon train on its way to the California gold fields. He made frequent visits to El Paso del Norte (Juárez) where, about 1831, he contracted what was very likely a bigamous marriage with Rita García. The couple had several children one of whom was Petra who married Sam Bean, brother of "Law West of the Pecos" Roy Bean. With all of these activities, however Kirker is best remembered as an Indian fighter, "one of the greatest on the American continent."

The Apaches were a constant menace to the people of northern Mexico against whom they committed rapine, murder, and rape. The Mexican army proved helpless and consequently, in 1837, the people of Chihuahua organized the *Sociedad de Guerra Contra Los Barbaros* (Society for War Against Hostile Indians) and hired Kirker to raise a private army to conduct the war. He collected Delaware and Shawnee Indians "with a few French, English and perhaps an Hawaiian or two, plus a giant Negro named Andy." The men were paid one dollar a day and Kirker himself received the pay of a colonel in the Mexican army. As a sort of bonus, the men were to keep all the live stock recaptured from the Indians. It was failure to honor this clause that brought an end to Kirker's first army.

With the disbandment, the Apaches became unusually active and the Chihuahua State government approached Kirker with a whole new offer. He was to receive \$100 for the scalp of each Apache warrior, \$50 for the scalp of a squaw, and \$25 for that of a child. Kirker and his Shawnees were back in business. Altogether, Kirker made five expeditions against the Apaches (he did not scalp Mexicans) but when the state ran short of funds,



James Kirker (1793-1853)

(Photo courtesy Hastings House, Publishers, Inc.)

the army was disbanded and never reorganized.

The author concludes that Kirker's "personality still remains a contradiction. He was well educated for his time and place, intelligent and described by a contemporary as 'gentlemanly in his deportment and manner . . .' Yet he killed for money."

Mr. McGaw, a resident of El Paso and the former publisher and editor of *The Southwesterner*, has written an excellent book. His research is exhaustive, his style matchless for its simplicity and his sense of humor incomparable. To cite one example of his humor, Mr. McGaw tells of an Indian chief who tried to trick Kirker into ambush by implying that scores of maidens were awaiting the bidding of Kirker and his men. The chief called himself "*Cargas Muchachas*" which loosely translates into "An Abundance of Girls" but, in the words of the author, "A Bunch of Broads." The book is further enhanced by innumerable photographs, some published for the first time, and by an original drawing by El Paso's José Cisneros. *Savage Scene* will undoubtedly take its place among the classics in the field of Southwestern History.

University of Texas at El Paso

—EUGENE O. PORTER

THE BIG THICKET: A CHALLENGE FOR CONSERVATION.

by A. Y. GUNTER

(Austin, Texas: Jenkins Pub. Co.

Riverside, Conn., Chatham Press, Inc. \$12.50)

"The Big Thicket"—the very words evoke a magic. The Big Thicket itself is magic—a magic which the conservationists and ecologists seek to preserve. And that is what this story is about.

Long, long ago, a lush, tropical wilderness was spread across nearly 100 miles of what is now southeast Texas. Indians called it the "Big Wood" and it was a no-man's land which separated the tribes to its north and its south. Few paths crossed its deep forests and Indians who hunted there journeyed in canoes.

When the Spanish settled the southwest, they avoided the Big Wood and their records state that the big forest was impenetrable by land. It was said that only Indians went there. The first anglo-saxons, drawn to Texas in the 1820's by offers of Spanish land grants, found their way blocked from Louisiana into Texas by jungles and swamps along the streams. Frustrated, they turned back. They called this forbidding country the "Big Thicket" and the name stuck. Settlers avoided the Big Thicket and the "tide of an empire flowed around it, leaving it intact."

The Big Thicket's reputation as a wilderness sanctuary gave rise to legends as strange as the thicket itself. Escaped slaves fled to its forests and outlaws hid there to waylay travelers; as civilization threatened, the Indians moved there and later, during the Civil War, draft dodgers and conscientious objectors hid out in the Thicket.

Despite the unique quality of the Big Thicket, little intensive effort has been made toward systematic study or inventory. The last thorough inventory, "Biological Study of the East Texas Big Thicket Area," was completed 34 years ago. Since then, ecological changes have occurred which have removed some types of flora and fauna and new ones have developed. Moreover, in an area as large and diverse as the Thicket such changes are difficult to trace. Insect and fish life in the region are almost totally unsearched and the same is true of its molds, mosses, lichens, algae and fungi.

The Big Thicket is the "biological crossroads of North America." It contains both temperate and sub-tropical flora and fauna, as well as species

from the arid and treeless desert areas. It is of great interest that one ecosystem can support such a diversity of living things and in such abundance. Many species of orchids grow in profusion, as well as fern, tumbleweed and cacti. Roadrunner and alligator are at home there.

Animal life in the Thicket is as diverse as the plant life. Ocelot, bear, panther, deer and wolf, as well as smaller animals such as racoon, squirrel, mink, skunk and muskrat abound. Birds and reptiles in great numbers are found in the woods and streams.

And what has happened to this Garden of Eden? Oil companies, timbering operations and real estate developers have devastated and laid bare thousands of acres of virgin forest, polluted streams with salt and threatened the entire ecological balance of the Thicket. Big business has committed rape on the wilderness with the result that today but 350,000 acres remain.

Ecologists and conservationists have pressed diligently for legislation that will make possible a Big Thicket National Park. These urgent appeals have been stalled by the lobbyists, and sponsors of the bills are in disagreement on such matters as the size and shape of the proposed park. Meanwhile, there seems to be no way to "stop the plunder."

Dr. A. Y. (Pete) Gunter is Chairman of the Department of Philosophy at North Texas State University and is President of the Big Thicket Association. He makes a magnificent plea—in his magnificent book—for saving the Big Thicket. The narrative is fascinating and the profusion of photographs by Ray Hamric give credence to almost unbelievable beauty. The book design by Larry Smitherman is outstanding, with binding in the two-tone green and brown colors of the Thicket. Truly a stunning book. Read it—and then fight for the preservation of the Big Thicket.

El Paso, Texas

—MARY ELLEN B. PORTER

ELROY BODE'S SKETCHBOOK II: PORTRAITS IN NOSTALGIA

by ELROY BODE

(U. T. at El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1972, \$5.00)

Some day, maybe fifty or seventy-five years from now, someone will pick up a copy of *Sketchbook II*, and from reading Elroy Bode's sensitive, perceptive prose know more about the real Texas of the 1930's to 60's than will have been recorded in all the history books combined. Without its people Texas remains a large and impressive piece of real estate, but under Bode's keen and searching eye the people and the land come alive—the people abraded by a sometimes harsh land, knotted and leathered by drouths, changing times and hard work. With a marked finesse with words (he's a writer; make no mistake about that), Bode plunks the reader down on a bar stool in Juarez next to a crying drunk; beside him one observes a small group of Baptists on the concrete porch of a small town in West Texas; with him we share the pangs of growing through childhood and youth.

"Every broken-down gate, every rusting piece of tin half-buried in the sudan patch, every spider web and chicken dropping—they are part of me, of us, and I have no reason to believe that they would be any different if we suddenly started ordering the circumstances of our lives straight from

heaven." So it is that wherever Bode goes you accompany him. He wears his heart on his sleeve, achieving through his caring for the people he writes about a degree of communication and reader rapport which is rare in an era when so many writers seem to be mumbling to themselves in a haze of ambiguities.

The book deals in more than just the in-depth observation of a people, a place and time. The author opens an inner door to self with rare candor in "Texas Journal," "Home" and "Portraits in Nostalgia: A Diary." However charming one finds the pastiches, Bode is at his best in the longer passages, some of which are among the pieces which have been published previously in *Southwest Review*, *The Texas Observer*, *Redbook* and *New Mexico Quarterly*. Notable among these is the story, "Billings Feed and Hardware," wherein a way of life is gently receding into the past, and Fred Billings sits quietly wiping rust from a can of nails with a kerosene rag, rather than answer the phone which might bring some business into the gathering twilight of his disappearing world. It is this aspect of Bode's writing that makes one wish he would put it all together in a regional novel—a novel one feels sure would have a universality beyond the confines of the Southwest.

The book is yet another in a long line of tasteful designs by Carl Hertzog. Drawings by Frank O'Leary embellish the text. O'Leary is at his best in dealing with mood rather than the specifics of Bode's work. Pages 23, 30 and 156 are reminiscent of the work of Angus MacDonald who illustrated Henry Beston's "Northern Farm: A Chronicle of Maine." His drawings are less successful when he interprets the text literally rather than to complement it. Bode's writing is so expressive that it benefits most from muted decoration.

We have Damon Runyon's New York, Ben Hecht's Chicago, and now Elroy Bode's Texas. The last of these is the most real of the three.

Asst. Editor, The Conservationist

—ALVIN S. FICK

DON CALICHE'S GARDENING BOOK: ESPECIALLY FOR THE SOUTHWEST.

by J. WARNER BLAKE

(El Paso, Texas: Guynes Printing Co.)

Southwest gardeners will be delighted with this compilation of the well-known Don Caliche gardening column, "Did you Know" by J. Warner Blake. Mr. Blake (Don Caliche), who is a native of Oregon with a degree in Forestry from Oregon State University, first started his popular column in 1966, as a member of the El Paso Men's Garden Club. The column consists of questions and answers and appears weekly in the El Paso "Times."

The book, compiled by Mary Margaret Davis, was offered as a Ways and Means Project of the El Paso Young Women's Christian Association and Mr. Blake generously released his six years of newspaper columns for this worthwhile project.

Mrs. Davis has done an excellent job in arranging the columns and putting the book together. The questions with their answers have been divided into the typical garden book headings, such as "Lawns and Landscap-

ing," "Fertilizer," "Trees," "Shrubs," "Roses," Etc. It would be difficult to find a gardening problem whose solution could not be found in this delightful little book. There is also a gardening calendar with gardening suggestions for each month of the year.

A charming foreword states that this little book is for all those who "eagerly await and clip Don Caliche's Sunday column . . . for the serious horticulturist who has occasional problems . . . for the newcomer who wonders why things don't 'do' here like they 'did' back home . . . for the gardner with the brown thumb . . . and for people who like to read about making things grow . . . especially it is for those who send their problems to Don Caliche . . ."

The book is also as pretty as it is useful. Binding is a bright, summer sunshine yellow, decorated front and back with groups of summer blossoms painted by El Paso's artist, Dorothy Geyer. The purchaser will be doing himself a favor, as well as contributing to the El Paso YWCA, whose programs over the years have been so meaningful and inspirational to the young women and girls in this area.

El Paso, Texas

—MARY ELLEN B. PORTER

Texas A. & M. was the first state supported institution of higher learning to be founded in the state. The legislation establishing the land grant college was enacted in 1871 but it was not until 1876 that A. & M. began to function as a college.

Lt. Colonel José Manuel Carrasco is officially credited with the discovery of the Santa Rita copper mines in 1799, although their existence was known for years before that by the Mimbrenos Apaches.

The first public use of natural gas in Texas was in 1902 in Corsicana.

Between the Civil War and the American entry into World War I the largest mobilization of the United States Army occurred in 1916 in the Southwest along the Mexican border.

Between 1868 and 1872 more than one million head of cattle were driven northward to the railhead at Abilene, Kansas.

Winkler County, Texas was named in honor of Judge C. M. Winkler, a native of North Carolina and a member of Hood's Texas Brigade during the Civil War.

HISTORICAL NOTES

The photograph printed below together with the accompanying information was furnished by Mr. I. B. Goodman, 905 Baltimore, El Paso, 79902. (Incidentally, Mr. Goodman has contributed three articles to *PASSWORD*.) It is a picture of the 1909 third grade class at Sunset school, Miss Lucile Smith, teacher.



Members of the class, l. to r., are: top row: 1....., 2. Mary Lewis, 3. Lucille Mayer, 4. Francies Earle, 5. Frances Parker, 6....., 7. Margaret Schuster, 8., 9., 10. Janie Stolaroff; second row from top: 1. Goring, 2. Alfred "Babe" Jones, 3. Mc Cormick, 4., 5., 6., 7., 8., 9., 10. Dorothy Ormsbee, 11. Charles Wood; third row from top: 1. Jack Thompson, 2., 3., 4. Ernest Aronstein, 5. Paul Krupp, 6., 7. Isedore (I. B.) Goodman, 8. Hicks Tooley, 9.; bottom row: 1., 2. Sollie Stolaroff, 3. Herman Silberberg, 4. Dick Hatton, 5. Ervin Schwartz, 6., 7. Albert Webb, 8., 9. Jim Lewis.

Mr. Goodman would like to thank the following for assisting him in identifying some of the pupils: Mrs. Frances Earle Brown, Miss Bernice Brick, and Miss Janie Stolaroff. Miss Stolarff not only furnished some of the identifications but also supplied the photograph. By the way, she lives in Lugano, Switzerland.

The Historical Society as well as Mr. Goodman would like to complete the list of names of the thirty-nine students in the picture. If anyone has any information, please contact Mr. Goodman at his above-noted address.

THE PUBLIC DISPLAY

by B. C. WRIGHT

When the El Paso County Historical Society sets out to make a splash there is nothing small about the effort. Under the direction of Mrs. Carl C. Rosenbaum, society treasurer, a score of organizations participated in a public display at the Bassett Center Mall July 12 to 14, 1972 in support of the society's membership drive and its project to make local citizenry more aware of local history.

More than thirty-six new members have joined the society as a result of the three-day campaign; additional applications are still being received.

Among the attractions were displays by the El Paso Fire Department, Hotel Dieu which is celebrating its eightieth anniversary, the State National Bank, the El Paso Health Department, the International Boundary and Water Commission, the El Paso Public Library, the El Paso Public Schools, the Civil Defense Administration, the National Trust, the Green-Field Galleries, the U.T. El Paso Archives, and the El Paso Stamp Club.

Books by local authors or about local history or both were put on public view. The Tigua Indians performed native dances and displayed handicraft. The Ann Carroll Quilters showed how quilts are made. The National Park Service, in conjunction with the U.S. Army, had a display of the Cavalry of the Rio Grande—troopers dressed in the uniforms of yesteryear, with weapons of former times. Band concerts by the 62d U.S. Army Band added to the festivities.

Harriot Howze Jones, Survey Chairman of the El Paso County Historical Society and Editor, *Heritage Homes*, *PASSWORD*, published a short story in the July, 1972 issue of *Army Magazine*. The story, "Mrs. Flynn's Dinner Party," is an amusing account of social life in the old Army days at Fort Bliss. It is a true episode recounted by Mrs. Jones's grandmother when she lived at the old Fort Bliss, by Hart's Mill.

John H. Jenkins, President of the Jenkins Publishing Company and Director of the Pemberton Press, Box 2085, Austin, Texas, 78767, should be highly commended for his contribution to Texas historiography. He is publishing reprints of out-of-print and scarce books on the history of the Lone Star State. Already ten books in the series have been published, as follows:

The Adventures and Recollections of General Walter P. Lane, by Walter P. Lane, \$7.50.

The Campaigns of Walker's Texas Division, by J. P. Blessington, \$9.50.

The Day of San Jacinto, by Frank X. Tolbert, \$7.50.

The 1840 Census of the Republic of Texas, \$15.00.

Green Flag Over Texas, by Davis B. Edward, \$7.50.

History of Texas, by David B. Edward, \$9.50.

History of Texas, From 1685 - 1892, by John Henry Brown, (two volumes), \$25.00.

Life of Judge Edwin Waller, by P. E. Peareson, \$5.95.

Memoirs of John H. Regan, by John H. Regan, \$9.50.

Reminiscences of the Texas Republic, by Ashbel Smith, \$7.50.

CONTRIBUTORS to this ISSUE

JOSÉ CISNEROS, born in Mexico, came to El Paso in 1934, and became a United States citizen in 1948. For further personal data see *PASSWORD*, xvi, No. 3 (Fall, 1971), 124.

Mr. William McGaw in his *Life and Times of James Kirker* (see below for a review of the book) wrote that "José Cisneros [is] just about the only artist who draws it like it really was in the Spanish colonial days of the Southwest, . . ."

CHRIS P. FOX needs no introduction. He is "Mr. El Paso." This is his third article to be published in *PASSWORD*. His first article, "An Historic Center at the Pass of the North: An Appeal," will be found in volume xv, No. 2 (Summer, 1970), 39-41; and his second, "Tribute to Haymon Krupp," in xv, No. 4 (Winter, 1970), 120-124.

Mr. Fox was elected to the Society's Hall of Honor in 1967.

STACY C. HINKLE, one of the original founders of the Aero Club and member of its Board of Directors and Chairman of the Airport and Airways Committee that designed the first El Paso Municipal Airport, is a member of the Board of Directors of the El Paso County Historical Society. For additional personal data see *PASSWORD*, xiii, No. 2 (Summer, 1968), 35.

MABEL O'CONNOR LIPSCOMB was educated at[†] Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana and at the University of Texas at Austin. She was married in 1917 to Sterling Blackshear of Athens, Georgia. Mr. Blackshear died in the influenza epidemic in 1918, in Washington, D. C. In 1942 she married Robert U. Lipscomb who was superintendent of the Southern Pacific Railroad in El Paso. Mr. Lipscomb died in 1960. Mrs. Lipscomb is a member of the Zeta Tau Alpha, Comadres, and the Christ Child Society.

HELEN HICKS was born in Dubois, Pennsylvania, but moved at the age of three to Akron, Ohio, where she lived for twenty-eight years. She also lived in Clarksburg, West Virginia, and in Pittsburg before coming to El Paso in 1953.

Mrs. Hicks is recognized as one of the outstanding poets of the country. She has won local, state, national and international awards and is listed in *International Who's Who In Poetry*. She is the author of two books of poems—*Lemon Odes* (1969) and *Rice From My Bowl* (1970)—and of numerous other poems which have been published in magazines and newspapers. She is also well known for her poetry readings to woman's clubs and other organizations. She is a member of a number of clubs, including the Haiku Society of America, Press Women, National Society of Arts and Letters, El Paso Writer's League, El Paso Woman's Club, El Paso County Historical Society, and the El Paso Council of Arts and Humanities.

Mrs. Hicks is married to Lt. Colonel Kenneth C. Hicks, USA (Ret.) They reside at 10100 Honolulu Drive, El Paso.

ALVIN FICK is assistant editor of *The Conservationist*, a bi-monthly magazine of New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation. He has mixed a newspaper background with freelance writing for thirty years, and his love for the printed word spills over into the operation of a private press. With Dale Walker of the University of Texas at El Paso he has published George Sterling's *A Wine of Wizardy* as well as a book of his own country essays, *Across the Fields*. Mr. Fick's lifelong interest in the West has resulted in omnivorous reading on the subject, and finds him working on a novel "with its roots in the Rockies and that great land beyond."

Mr. Fick makes his home at R.D. 5, Ballston, Rd., Amsterdam, New York 12010.

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