

PASSWORD



THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL. XIX, No. 4

EL PASO, TEXAS

WINTER, 1974

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FAREWELL

With this issue of *PASSWORD* my editorship comes to an end. In 1955 I was appointed Chairman of the Editorial Committee of the Historical Society by its first president, the late Paul A. Heisig, Jr., to plan a quarterly. *PASSWORD* emerged from that planning. The first issue was published under my editorship in February, 1956.

Lack of space does not permit the naming of all who have helped me during these nineteen years. But I thank them sincerely. Their names may be found in the pages of *PASSWORD*.

I would be greatly remiss if I failed to thank the Society for permitting my editorship to continue for these many years. By so doing the Society has made my life more rewarding than it would have been otherwise.

Thomas Carlyle once wrote: "The true University of these days is a Collection of Books." It is my ambitious hope that the nineteen volumes of *PASSWORD* that I have edited will fall within that category in the field of Southwestern History.

—*Eugene O. Porter*

The least known of all western treasure hunt is the search for precious stones. It has been carried on for more than four centuries, ever since Coronado set off in search of the Seven Golden Cities of Cibola. Among the precious and semi-precious stones that have been found at one time or another mined in commercial quantities are: agates, turquoises, jaspers, opals, sapphires, rubies, garnets, onyxes, amethyst, and topazes. Idaho, sometimes called the Gem State, has long been noted for its opals and its "flawless blood-red rubies," while neighboring Montana is the nation's main source of gem sapphires.

—*The Book of the American West.*

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EUGENE O. PORTER, *Editor*

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PASSWORD

Published Quarterly by The El Paso County Historical Society

EUGENE O. PORTER, *Editor*

VOL. XIX, No. 4

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HALL OF HONOR BANQUET

The El Paso County Historical Society held its fourteenth annual Hall of Honor Banquet on Sunday evening, November 26, at the El Paso Country Club. Those honored were the late Joseph Magoffin and Mr. José Cisneros. Dr. C. Leland Sonnichsen, an honoree of 1971, paid tribute to Mr. Magoffin and Dr. J. Carl Hertzog, an honoree of 1969, paid tribute to Mr. José Cisneros. Sister Josephine Magoffin Lucker, a granddaughter of Honoree Magoffin, discussed "Reminiscences of the Magoffin Home." The invocation was given by the Reverend Monsignor Hugh G. Quinn.

In addition to the two men honored, four women received surprise awards for their dedicated service to the Society. Engraved plaques titled "Paseño Valerosa" were presented to Mrs. Charles A. Goetting, archives curator for fifteen years, Mrs. Paul A. Heisig, corresponding secretary for twenty years, Mrs. H. Crampton Jones, editor of the Society's book *El Paso—A Centennial Portrait*, and Mrs. Willard W. Schuessler, founder of the Society.

Mrs. Dan C. Hovious served as General Chairman of the affair. The committees and their members assisting Mrs. Hovious were as follows:

Decorations: Mmes. James R. Morgan, Albert R. Haag, L. A. Velarde, and G. Martin Merrill.

Publicity: Mmes. Charles F. Rennick and I. W. Gillett.

Reservations and Seating: Mmes. W. C. Schillinger, Edgar B. Dodds, Chris P. Fox, Jack C. Vowell, Jr., C. W. Wakefield, Edward J. Daley, Lloyd L. Leech and Miss Gertrude Goodman.

Invitations and Programs: Mrs. Frank Feuille, III and Cmdr. (USN-Ret.) M. G. McKinney.

Guest Book: Mmes. Philip H. Bethune, Wickliffe R. Curtis, Sr., Joseph F. Friedkin, H. Gordon Frost, Leland H. Hewitt, Mary L. Hollingsworth, Mac Murchison, and Phylis Bethune Myers.

Hospitality: Mmes. James A. Peak, Don S. Leslie, Leon C. Metz, Bert C. Wright, Paul A. Heisig, Conrey Bryson, Joseph Leach, Eugene O. Porter, W. W. Schuessler, and Miss Marlene Metz.

HALL OF HONOR ADDRESS

All Our Yesterdays
by CONREY BRYSON

Your Board of Directors of the El Paso County Historical Society has been both gratified and chagrined at the more than capacity attendance here tonight. We are sorry that the accommodations for some of you are not the best. We are gratified at the growing success of this annual Hall of Honor banquet. We are chagrined that there was no way to accommodate the scores of other people, from El Paso and from distant parts of the southwest, who would like to be here tonight, but had to be turned away. We would like to have them all here, and we are now setting our sights on larger accommodations for next year.

I would like to suggest several reasons for the great interest in this event. Some of them will be evident when you hear the tributes to our two outstanding honorees. We have received some excellent publicity, for which we are grateful to the printed and broadcast media. But, most of all, I like to believe that the Hall of Honor has earned for itself a place of honor in the recording and presentation of history.

The words "history" and "historical" have for some people a repelling influence. Henry Ford is reported to have said "History is bunk!" Significantly, perhaps, it is the only statement for which he is remembered in my edition of Bartlett's QUOTATIONS. Shakespeare has his Macbeth take an equally dim, but more eloquent, view of history:

Tomorrow and tomorrow and tomorrow
Creeps in this petty pace from day to day
To the last syllable of recorded time.
And all our yesterdays have lighted fools
The way to dusty death. Out, out, brief candle.

But Shakespeare could be even more eloquent in his plea that a given day, with its series of events, be remembered to "the ending of the world." He has his Henry the Fifth saying:

This day is called the feast of Crispian.
He that outlives this day and comes safe home
Will stand on tiptoe when this day is named
And rouse him at the name of Crispian.
He that shall live this day and see old age
Will yearly on the vigil feast his neighbor
And say "Tomorrow is Saint Crispian."
This story shall the good man teach his son
And Crispian Crispian shall not go by

From this day to the ending of the world
But we, in it, shall be remembered.

History, then, is what we make it, and what we make of it, and in large measure it is we who determine whether it is the story that "the good man shall teach his son," or whether it is "a tale told by an idiot, full of sound and fury and signifying nothing."

Among my treasures from the press of the great Carl Hertzog is a pamphlet by historian Carl Becker, entitled "Every Man His Own Historian." The present, Becker reminds us, is specious, an infinitesimal speck on the scale of time, moving from the future to the past. "The natural function of history," he says "enables us, each to the extent of his knowledge and imagination, to push back the narrow confines of the fleeting moment so that what we are doing may be judged in the light of what we have done and what we hope to do."

I believe the format of the El Paso Hall of Honor enables us to do this very thing. Each year, we reach back into the treasure house of "all our yesterdays" and spread before our view in the living and vanishing present, the life and works of one man or one woman. We place on the record, beside his accomplishments, the words, deeds and creations of one who still lives among us. We are invited to compare the giants of the past with those of the present⁴ as it, too moves on into the past—and it is inevitable that "what we are doing may be judged in the light of what we have done and what we hope to do."

As we make this judgment, we can ponder the words of the father of our country. Said George Washington, as he contemplated the amendments which future generations might make in the Constitution: "I do not think we are more inspired, have more wisdom, or possess more virtue, than those who will come after us."

The El Paso County Historical Society has taken great pains to see that the Hall of Honor is much more than a popularity contest, or even a "citizen of the year" selection. The words adopted thirteen years ago by a committee headed by our present Congressman, Richard C. White, have been placed into the Society's Constitution: "The El Paso Hall of Honor shall be composed of outstanding men and women of character, vision, courage, and creative spirit who have lived in what is presently El Paso County; and who have done the unusual which deserves to be written or recorded; or who have created that which deserves to be read, heard, or seen; and who have made El Paso County better for their having lived in it; and who have influenced, over a period of years, the course of history of El Paso County, or by their singular achievements have brought honor and recognition to the El Paso community, and who

have directed us toward worthy goals and merit, being remembered by all men as an exemplary guide to our future."

In fulfilling our constitutional mandate, your Society has endeavored to see that the tributes paid to these outstanding men and women of character, vision, and courage, are researched by competent scholars, and properly edited for publication in *PASSWORD*, one of the outstanding historical journals of the southwest, nationally honored, and available in libraries from coast to coast for use by students who would compare our present and our past and appraise our future.

These have all been published under the scholarly editorship of one man, Dr. Eugene O. Porter, who has edited *PASSWORD* since its beginning nearly nineteen years ago. It is fitting that his own name is numbered among those "who have directed us toward worthy goals and merit, being remembered as exemplary guides to our future."

Of the twelve living persons we have saluted during those years, six have joined the roll of those who belong to the storied past. I submit that the volumes of *PASSWORD* from 1961 through 1974, with their records of fourteen Hall of Honor programs, will stand as a majestic record of human achievement, in a land where frontiers must still be conquered, and worthy goals are often reached by the most courageous of efforts. Time will not permit even a cursory record of these achievements, but the names themselves ring down through the years and stand as guideposts into all our tomorrows:

1961—James Wiley Magoffin and Lawrence Milton Lawson.

1962—Richard Fenner Burges, Maud Durlin Sullivan and
Rev. B. M. G. Williams.

1963—Eugenia Schuster and Robert Ewing Thomason.

1964—Allen H. Hughey, Sr. and Mrs. W. D. Howe.

1965—Ernest Ulrich Krause and Lucinda de Leftwich Templin.

1966—Charles Robert Morehead and Maurice Schwartz.

1967—Robert E. McKee and Chris P. Fox.

1968—Zachariah T. White and Jack Caruthers Vowell.

1969—James Augustus Smith and Jean Carl Hertzog.

1970—Haymon Krupp and Eugene O. Porter.

1971—Hugh Spotswood White and Charles Leland Sonnichsen.

1972—Olga Bernstein Kohlberg and Joseph F. Friedkin.

1973—Juan Siquieros Hart and Judson F. Williams.

Two more names will tonight be added to this illustrious record of greatness. I know we all join in the anticipation that these two names will bring from yesterday and yesteryear new lustre into our world of tomorrow.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH MAGOFFIN

by C. L. SONNICHSEN

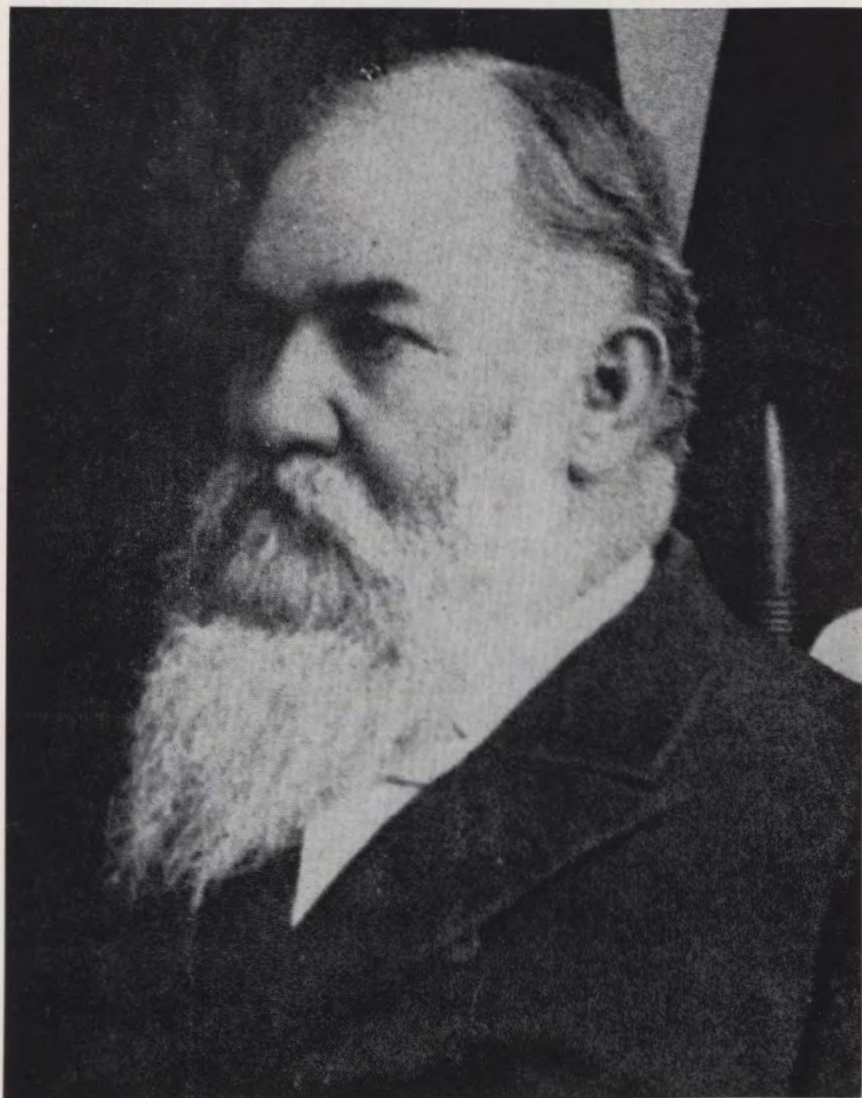
In the early history of our town no name appears more often than that of tonight's honoree, Joseph Magoffin. A resident of El Paso for sixty-seven years and one of its organizers, he was a perennial office holder in times of great stress and difficulty. He filled nearly a dozen positions of responsibility, all the way up from concerned citizen to mayor, with effectiveness and sometimes with distinction. He was at home in a frontier community, knew how to manage a frontier community, and carried his frontier philosophy with him into the era of automobiles and airplanes. J. Frank Dobie once spoke of a pioneer Texan as "a man suitable to his time and place." A tribute to Joseph Magoffin could be summed in these words.

From his birth in Chihuahua, Mexico, on January 7, 1847, his early life was a preparation for his career as a first citizen of El Paso. His father, James Wiley Magoffin, was a United States consular representative in the Mexican city, a Santa Fe trader, a Kentucky gentleman of wide acquaintance and great influence, completely at home in New Mexico, Texas, and Old Mexico. His mother was Maria Gertrudis do los Santos Valdez de Veramendi of San Antonio, Texas, and Monclova, Coahuila. Her father had been governor of Coahuila.

With this background, Joseph was as much at home in Mexico as in the United States, a member of the best society of both countries, as fluent in Spanish as he was in English. Without any study or forethought on his part, circumstances made him a citizen of two worlds and suitable to his time and place in both of them.

In 1844, as relations between the two countries began to deteriorate and President Santa Anna placed an embargo on trade between the two countries, James Magoffin decided that it would be best for him to leave Mexico. He took his family to Independence, the northern terminus of the trade route which he had been traversing with trains of canvas-topped wagons since the late 1820s. In the course of this journey, seven-year-old Joseph had his first look at the site of his future home. It was still an outpost of Paso del Norte across the river, the only structure visible being the two-room *chosa* built by Ponce de Leon on or near the spot where the Mills Building now stands.

James bought a farm outside Independence and settled his family there, but his wife survived only a year and it became necessary to provide for the education of the children. The girls entered a convent school in St. Louis. Joseph and his brother Samuel became students in a private institution at Lexington Kentucky.



*Joseph Magoffin from an 1886 photo.
(Courtesy Miss Octavia Glasgow.)*

By this time the war with Mexico had broken out and James Magoffin was deeply involved in the secret negotiations which preceded Kearney's bloodless takeover of New Mexico. In 1849, when the war was over, James brought a wagon train loaded with goods to the Rio Grande, and

when he found the tariffs unreasonably high, he established his little community of Magoffinsville, helped to build Fort Bliss next door, supplied the troops stationed there, and for the next twelve years was the first citizen of West Texas.

Meanwhile his son Joseph had left Kentucky in 1850 and entered Wyman's High School in St. Louis to finish his education. In 1856 he gave up the comforts of the city and came to Magoffinsville to help his father with the family business.

We know very little of his experiences and personality as a young man, but he must have developed some of the qualities of leadership which he later displayed, for when the Civil War brought General Sibley and his Confederates to Fort Bliss in 1861, Joseph became his quartermaster with the rank of Captain. The fact that James was made a commissioner to receive the surrender of Federal properties at Fort Bliss may have helped the young man to start his military career.

On Sibley's return after his disastrous foray into Mexico, the local Confederates, including James Magoffin and his son, retreated with him to San Antonio. From there Joseph went East as aide to General Sibley when he was summoned to Richmond to explain his defeat. Back in Texas when the probe ended, Joseph continued to serve as subsistence officer with the troops. In 1864 General Kirby-Smith promoted him to the rank of major and sent him to Victoria, Texas, to procure supplies. In that same year, Joseph married Octavia McGrael of Houston. Octavia Street was named for her.

The end of the war found him still in Victoria and deeply concerned about the family property in El Paso. His father, after many difficulties, finally succeeded in getting his disabilities as a Confederate removed but died in San Antonio before he could go back and claim his property. Joseph picked up where his father left off, however, and moved his family to West Texas.

The situation was most discouraging. Magoffinsville and Fort Bliss had been ruined by the flood waters of the Rio Grande shortly before, and the post had been moved. The Union men in charge were not sympathetic toward Major Joseph Magoffin, C. S. A. He took a job as bookkeeper for Joseph Schutz, pioneer merchant, in order to provide for himself and his family. At the same time he continued his efforts to clear his own name and his title to the family holdings, and in 1873 he succeeded, thereby becoming the largest landowner in the El Paso region.

With more time and money at his disposal, he was able to begin his career as a public servant. The offices which he held from 1873 until 1901 chart his progress as a leader of his community:

1872	Justice of the Peace
1873	Incorporator (with Samuel Schutz and Allen Blacker) of the town of El Paso. He conducted the first election and swore in the officials.
1874	County Commissioner
1876	County Judge
1877	Inspector of Customs
1878	Alderman
1881, 1883, 1897, 1899	Mayor
1884	Collector of Customs

He was an officer or participant in many civic enterprises—the El Paso Real Estate Trust and Immigration Company (in 1873); the El Paso Water Company; the El Paso Street Railway (he was president of one of the mule-car companies); the El Paso School Board; the State National Bank (he was a vice-president from its organization in 1881 until the end of the Morehead era in 1921—forty years in all).

During his first terms as mayor, he was instrumental in setting up many municipal services—fire protection, sewer, street improvement. In the course of his final term he worked with the mayor of Juarez and the United States Reclamation Service to straighten the river by cutting a new channel across the base of a horseshoe bend, thereby making it possible to build levees and protect the settlers on the bottom lands from disastrous floods. He was a leading witness in all the early negotiations over the Chamizal.

In 1904 he helped to organize the El Paso Pioneer Association and served as its president through 1907.

The old copper-domed city hall, which all but the youngest of us remember, was built during his last term as mayor.

His best years were the hardest ones. He was Collector of Customs during the period of the Salt War (1877) and risked his life trying to enforce the law against aliens who were taking the salt claimed by his friend Judge Charles H. Howard. Worse times followed as the railroad came closer to El Paso. During that period our town boomed as the end of track (usually known as hell on wheels) approached the outskirts, problems of congestion, of expansion and regulation, of law and order had to be met, and Joseph Magoffin as mayor had to meet them. It took a brave and steadfast man to do it but Magoffin was brave and steadfast.

Like most of his contemporaries, he believed that gambling and prostitution could not be prevented but should be controlled. Thomas Jefferson was of the same opinion. He believed, furthermore, that they ought to pay

their way. The accepted method of handling the situation, which he approved, was to license the gamblers and impose regular "fines" on the operators of bordellos, thus providing salaries for the policemen who kept "the district" in line. Mr. Morehead, the political boss of El Paso and Joe Magoffin's great and good friend, saw eye to eye with him in this matter and they kept the system in profitable operation during the years when a cleanup would have been unthinkable.

Then in the nineties a reform element became active in the town and began a long-drawn-out struggle to drive the girls and the gamblers out. Magoffin's last term as mayor was a tumultuous one as a result and he did not emerge unscarred. Mr. Morehead, who followed him in 1903, found the going even harder. It took many more years to eliminate vice as part of El Paso's way of life, however, justifying to some extent the idea of the conservatives that El Paso really did not want to be purified.

Joseph Magoffin's later troubles do not diminish the credit which is due him for serving as a devoted and effective public servant in difficult times and helping to bring his community through its infancy and into adolescence. The honor which we pay him here tonight is well deserved.

When he died at the home of his daughter in Washington, D.C., on September 27, 1923, he was the last survivor of the generation which came before the railroad. A writer for the *El Paso Post* commented:

In no land other than the southwest, probably, could the lifetime of one man, even so long . . . as Magoffin's have seen such a metamorphosis as stretched before his eyes . . . His story is the story of the . . . west. With its close the curtain is rung down upon an empire-building drama such as no man will see again.

In the death of Magoffin goes a final connecting link with El Paso's beginnings. Not one man or woman is alive today who shared the dead pioneer's view of the desert garden which he was to live to see blossom so fruitfully.

He was indeed a man suitable to his time and place. The time was the most exciting period of our history. The place was the region which we call home.

Records indicate that 300,000 emigrants traveled overland by wagons during the three-decade period between the opening of the Oregon and California trails in the 1840s and the completion of the first transcontinental railroad.

Early Mormon society was characterized by a hierarchical structure.

TRIBUTE TO JOSE CISNEROS

by J. CARL HERTZOG

THANK YOU, CONREY, and ladies and gentlemen I want to thank you too for this rare privilege, the chance to say a few words about my dear friend, José Cisneros, a gentle man, but a strong man who has contributed much to this community and brought us recognition and respect in the world of scholarship and craftsmanship.



José Cisneros B.
(Photo by Cmdr. M. G. McKinney (Ret).)

I shall not take up your time with vital statistics* and repeat what you have already learned from the newspapers. If you will permit me to disperse with formalities I would like to resort to reminiscing. That will make it easier on me and you, too.

While Conrey was presenting the award to the Magoffins, I remembered that the honorees are usually announced in a front page story in the *El Paso Times* a couple of weeks before the annual banquet. In 1969 when I was one of the honorees, there was the story about James A. Smith and one about me, and the article went on to say that the Society customarily selected two honorees—one living and one dead, but it never did say which one I was.

One happy day in 1938 a shy and bashful young man came into my little shop on West San Antonio Street. He had gone to the Federal Courthouse to see Tom Lea painting a mural there, and to get acquainted. Tom suggested that he come to see me. In printing we sometimes need some art work and it would be a good idea for us to make contact. About this same time he got acquainted with Maud D. Sullivan, the great builder of our El Paso Public Library. This was the beginning of a new world for José. I think we must have organized a mutual admiration society. The four of us (Tom Lea, Mrs. Sullivan, José and I) did many things together after this get-acquainted period. And we all learned from each other.

At this time José had not yet developed his beautiful calligraphy and it was part of my business to set in type plaques or Awards (like a diploma) and often they needed some illumination. Consequently, the first work that José did for me was mere decoration, not illustrations or pictures, just conventional designs worked in with the type. At that time José was employed as Assistant Window Trimmer at the White House department store which, of course, involved elements of design. [hold up book] This resolution in honor of Rabbi Martin Zielonka was hand-decorated by Cisneros in January, 1938.

*José Cisneros was born in Villa Ocampo, Durango, near the Chihuahua state border, April 18, 1910. In 1918 the family was uprooted by the Revolution and wandered on foot for a year to settle in Dorado. In 1925 the family moved to Juarez and José attended school three and a half years at Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso during which time he worked at menial jobs. He had to leave school in order to support his aging parents. In 1927 he began working in El Paso, legally. He moved his residence to El Paso in 1934 and in 1939 married Vicenta Madero. They raised a family of five daughters and a niece. He worked for the El Paso City Lines from 1943 until 1969, first as a mechanic's helper and later as foreman of the paint shop. During all these years he studied history and art, and practiced his drawing, self-taught. He gained his American citizenship in April 1948. The year before he achieved recognition as a competent illustrator. Since that time his illustrations have appeared in dozens of books and magazines, and his work has been exhibited in various museums.

In 1940 I published a little book on Square Dance Calls and needed some semi-illustrated diagrams to show the dancers which way to go. José made a number of these for the book. This might be the first time that Cisneros appeared in print in quantity, in the United States. Later in 1948 he made a new drawing for the cover, and we sold thousands. I know you can't see this, but it gives me confidence to hold it up as proof.

We didn't see much of each other for several years during which time I produced several books with Tom Lea as illustrator and author of some. In 1947 I had a contract to do a book about some sailors walking across Texas in 1568. When I talked to Tom about it, he said, "For this project, this period, you need some wire-edged drawings, sharp pen work." The next day I was mulling it over and looked out the window, and there was José Cisneros walking down the street—just the man I needed. I called to him. When he came over, I asked, "What are you doing now?" and he replied, "I work for the street car company painting busses and street cars." Then I asked, "Are you doing any drawing?"

"Oh yes, I am doing some drawing, learning."

"Well José, I'd like to see some of them."

The next day he brought a bundle of 20 or 25 pen drawings that he had done just for practice and his amusement. This time the drawings were of people, and horses, and ox carts—historical—the Spanish Southwest, conquistadores, padres, Indians, Missions. I was impressed and asked him to work on my project. This was sort of a second beginning of our collaboration as it had been six years since the square dance book. From this talk came a front cover drawing, a dramatic frontispiece, an illustrated initial, and a double-page map that told the whole story. José's maps are fantastic: beautiful antique lettering, miniature illustrations, and decorative borders.

While thinking about this 1947 book, I want to stop right here and acknowledge a great debt. What José has contributed to my book projects makes me look good. His drawings and decorations have added to my reputation as well as his. I couldn't have made it without him.

Since José was now fully employed by the bus company, I would go to his house at night to consult about drawings and illustrations. I remember the first time. He lived in an upstairs apartment across the street from St. Clements Church. I went up the stairs and José met me saying, "My studio is out this way [gesture to the right]—" "But, do you want to see my books first? They are this way [gesture to the left] here in the front room." He had a large bookcase, five foot shelves and five feet high. He had a beautiful deluxe volume about the viceroys of Mexico, in Spanish, and other books of history. Then a number of so-called Art books—those

large \$20 books on the famous artists like Michaelangelo, Botticelli, Velázquez, Goya and others—just the sort of books he should have. How did he know what to buy? He had had very little schooling and no companionship in the field of history or art. Perhaps this was the divine spark that has motivated him to learn, to study, to work, to concentrate. José would be the first to acknowledge that his great talent is God-given—and that puts a big responsibility on him to produce, to add to the beauty of this world, and to do it serenely and generously. Many of his drawings that I have handled for programs, bulletins, bookplates, and I am sure there are many more that I don't know about, were donated by José without any thought of getting paid. Many times when José knew the budget was short, I would ask "How much do I owe you?" He would answer, "Whatever you say." or "Oh, about \$15." when it was worth \$50. When it was for a good cause, José was most generous.

When I talked with Al Lowman, who handled the Cisneros Exhibition in San Antonio, who is here tonight, he observed, "José is the least complicated man I know." And yet, he has maintained a large family, worked an 8 to 5 shift in the shops, studied at night, and made hundreds of drawings over the weekends! Even with the complications of five daughters and their husbands and children, the care of aged and unfortunate relatives, the catastrophe of a terrible accident in a snow storm, José remains serene and productive—a remarkable man. But we cannot give all the credit to José because he has been blessed with a competent, efficient and loving wife, Vicenta, who is entitled to at least half the credit.

In November, 1948 we finished a book entitled *The Red River Valley: Then and Now*. about Northeast Texas. This was José's first entry into the Gringo World. He made 28 excellent drawings. It was his first experience as an illustrator, i.e., he interprets the author's ideas about people and events. Mr. Pat Mayse, the publisher of the *Paris News* and our book, was so pleased that he invited us to a celebration.

So, José and I took off for Paris—Paris, Texas, that is. And it was 700 miles. On the way we had a good time in Dallas. We went out to Bill Johnson's house (*Time-Life* Bureau) with Elizabeth Ann McMurray, the great book store operator, and two or three other kindred spirit. We sat on the floor in front of a log fire and had José open his bundle of drawings. Everybody asked him pertinent questions and appreciated his comments. It was a good audience and they drew him out. Bill gave José a portfolio with handles to replace the "bundle" and he still uses it.

The next morning he was singing in the shower bath. And I said, "José you sound happy this morning." and he replied, "You know something? I can speak English." Indeed he could but it was the first time he had an

opportunity to express himself. He knew the words from his own study and reading but had no companionship in the language.

When we got to Paris, Mr. Mayse told me he would expect us to say a few words at the Celebration Luncheon in honor of the author, A. W. Neville, on his 85th birthday, the oldest working newspaper man in the South. I was afraid to tell José. There was a big crowd of notables including Governor Allen Shivers, Ted Dealey of the Dallas News, other newspaper publishers from Houston to Atlanta. When I told José at 11:30 that he would have to speak, he became frightened and said, "Why didn't you tell me? I wouldn't have come." (700 miles!) But when his time came, he was quite coherent, just right. His talk was much better and more to the point than Governor Shivers' speech.

In December of 1948 a week-long program was planned to celebrate the 289th anniversary of the founding of the City of Juarez. Why they picked out the 289th I never could understand. The El Paso newspapers wanted to cooperate and Mayo Seamon asked me if I knew where there were some pictures they could use. Immediately I thought of that bundle of pen drawings José had shown me. Here was a chance for him to get some exposure as well as some pay for his work. We talked it over, selected seven pictures and composed a paragraph to go with each one.

When I presented these to Mayo Seamon I cautioned him to be sure and get the right text with the right picture but as sometimes happens in the rush of daily newspaper production the very first one was wrong. The text telling about the first travelers through the Pass of the North was to begin the series but the picture they used was of the carts going into Santa Fé. In defense, Mayo said "Oh well, there is an indication of a Pass in the picture. Only one person in a thousand will know the difference." To which José replied, "That's the one person I'm worried about." This was a blow to José. He is so meticulous and thorough in his research and is careful not to misrepresent anything.

There is an old Hindu proverb: When the pupil is *ready* the teacher will appear. I think José will agree that this happened to him several times. When he became interested in the trappings of the horseman, an unexpected event brought him in contact with Joseph Hefter of Mexico City, a recognized authority on Military Costumes. Mr. Hefter recognized José's dedication to learning and his craftsmanship. They became friends with voluminous correspondence. José was *ready*.

When Tom Lea illustrated Part I of a two-part article in *Western Horseman* magazine, he recommended José for Part II. The editor of that journal, Bob Denhart, is a well known author and authority on the *Horses of America*. Now José was *ready* again. He could put his variety of saddles, bridles and spurs on authenticated horses and dress the riders

in proper costume. The October 1974 issue of *Western Horseman* reprinted a Cisneros drawing which they first published in 1949.

The Cisneros dream was realized when he was awarded the 4th Dobie-Paisano Fellowship. This provides six-months in a quiet and picturesque atmosphere with all expenses paid, formerly the J. Frank Dobie Ranch, not far from Austin with extensive research facilities. This was total escape from the workday world and José capitalized on it by adding many drawings to his now famous *Riders of the Spanish Borderlands*. This series depicts horsemen from Cortez to the modern American cowboy—well over 100 drawings with an amazing variety of costumes and equipment. So many collectors are now seeking Cisneros originals that he has probably made 250 or more drawings on this subject, all with infinite detail.

While we are inclined to think of José only as a book illustrator because he has achieved fame in this field, he has many other talents. When taking inventory, I was amazed at the tremendous volume of work he has produced. His work has enhanced the appearance of programs, exhibition catalogs, newspaper articles, magazines, and special stationery. He has designed emblems such as the seal for the University of Texas at El Paso and the seal for the City of Juarez and the emblem of the Western History Association. His knowledge of Heraldry is extensive and he has applied this in designing bookplates as well as emblems and trade marks.

And there is another side which most of you have not heard about. Did you know that the elegant placques in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Las Cruces are wood carvings by José Cisneros? And there are 22 windows in Williams Hall in St. Clements Church designed by José. You see the pictures on either side in the hallway and from inside the rooms. In the same church is a record book, leather-bound in England, but with José's beautiful lettering on every page.

You will find José's work in other churches: A Remembrance Book in the Presbyterian church with hundreds of names all in José's superb calligraphy, added to year after year. He is also represented in Temple Mt. Sinai. And then we come to José's own church and we quote from their weekly bulletin wherein Father John Finnegan says:

"... We especially have reason to feel pride in his achievements since we are surrounded by his work at St. Joseph's Church. Mr. Cisneros designed the wood figures of the Stations of the Cross and the Crucifix which hangs above the Altar. He is a man endowed with great talents which he executes with the greatest humility. We congratulate Mr. Cisneros and rejoice with his family for having been recognized as a most worthwhile contributor to the Church, to culture and to the history of the Southwest."

Congratulations José
[un abrazo]

RESPONSE BY JOSÉ CISNERÓS

Mr. Pres., Right Rev. Mgr. Quinn, friends and fellow members:
It is with a profound sense of humility and appreciation
that I accept the great honor bestowed upon me.

The acceptance of an honor implies on the recipient his admission of merit and worthiness. Since I learned the unexpected news of being chosen as one of the honorees to the El Paso Hall of Honor, I have been disturbed between my conscience and my vanity. My conscience whispering in my ear such concepts as worthiness, integrity, honesty; while my vanity yelled of prestige, recognition, honor. My presence here betrays my conscience. More than any personal merits I can claim, it is the kindness and understanding of my friends that made it possible for me to be standing before you in this memorable occasion. Someone rightfully said that we are what people that love us want us to be.

To the El Paso County Historical Society, as well as to our many friends who deigned to be present with us and those that were unable to come I wish to show my gratefulness and appreciation.

A very special vote of thanks goes to Vicenta, my devoted wife who has endured all my follies and book orgies. A wife is not supposed to understand her husband but to love him, and she has done that exceedingly.

Our congratulations to the honorable and distinguished Magoffin family whose honors we are privileged to share and our heartiest thanks to El Paso for the wonderful best years of our lives.

May God bless you all!

THE BURIED TREASURE OF CHIEF VICTORIO

by LEON DENNY MOSES

I don't know when I first heard of Apache Chief Victorio, but I first heard of his buried treasure about 1930. Mrs. Myrtle Love, a teacher in the El Paso schools and wife of a well-known Border Patrolman, knew an old prospector who told her about Victorio's gold. She wrote the story for me. I retouched it here and there, and J. Frank Dobie included it in his *Tone the Bell Easy*, published by the Texas Folklore Society in 1932.

In Mrs. Love's story there is no mention of the value of the treasure, but the old prospector said he knew where it is buried. Unfortunately, he was old and was living in the El Paso County Poor House. We assume that he died there, leaving the gold buried in the ground. Since 1930, I have heard the treasure mentioned several times and it has lately been gaining in value. Today, it is usually said to be buried in New Mexico, at the White Sands Missile Range, about 60 to 70 miles north of El Paso. Of course, a lot of people would like to dig it up.



Cross [+] inside San Andres Mts. indicates site of the Victorio Peak cache.
(Map Courtesy El Paso Herald-Post.)

The old prospector said that he once knew an old-timer named Joe Peacock who had helped Big Foot Wallace guard stage line and station at Eagle Springs, Texas. One day Chief Victorio captured Joe and carried him down to northern Chihuahua in Mexico where he learned about Victorio's immense gold collection.

While Joe Peacock was a prisoner in Chihuahua, Victorio's daughter Juanita fell in love with him. She told him the gold was buried in a cave in the Eagle Mountains, between Eagle Springs and Hot Springs—a day's ride south of Sierra Blanca, Texas, and a half-day's ride west of Indian Hot Springs. Later on, while Victorio was absent conducting a raid, Juanita helped Joe escape. He returned to Eagle Springs and was with the Texas Rangers in 1880 when they killed Victorio and wiped out his band.

Soon after that, Joe took our old prospector as a partner and they started looking for the gold. They hunted off and on for about 20 years. After Joe died in 1905, the old prospector continued to search whenever he had enough money to keep going. When Mrs. Love last saw him, he needed just one more trip to find the gold. He knew it was about five miles west of Eagle Springs. Mrs. Love never heard but she was quite sure that he didn't get to make that trip.



VICTORIO PEAK

(On White Sands Missile Range, looking west and showing many diggings made by prospectors in years past.)

(Photo Courtesy Gabe Brillante.)

Of course, if Victorio's gold is buried at White Sands, Joe Peacock and the old prospector were hunting for it at least 150 miles too far south-southwest. Besides, they probably had no idea of the value of the cache. Neither did anybody else. Recent estimates set the value at 150 to 250 *billion* dollars. Also, gems, precious stones, and golden ornaments of untold value have been added to make the treasure richer.

In the 1974 epidemic of gold fever, Victorio's name is seldom mentioned. There is a quarrel raging between the Governor of New Mexico and the Secretary of the Army, between the lower officers of the State and the officers at White Sands, and between various private citizens and the soldiers of the base. Some people think the gold is not buried there but in southwestern Utah. Furthermore, they think it isn't Apache gold but Aztec gold—with a curse on it, of course, just like other buried treasures all over the world.

For many years I have been an armchair prospector. I have hunted Indian treasure in the Appalachian Mountains and in the Rockies and in certain regions between them. Much of this prospecting has been done in buried treasure stories published by J. Frank Dobie. Incidentally I contributed nine or ten such stories which Dobie published.

Well, a little inflation isn't too bad. But when the estimated value of our New Mexico (or Utah) cache zoomed approximately 67% in one month, I felt that the gold fever was getting out of control. I decided to do something about it, so I got out my old scratch pad and did a little sixth-grade figuring.

At 1974 prices, 250 *billion* dollars' worth of gold weigh about 1,666 *million* troy ounces. This would be 1,821 *million* avoirdupois ounces. This would be 114 *million* pounds. This would be 57,000 tons. And this would be 950 railroad carloads at 60 tons to a car.

At the time of Cortez in the early 1500's, the Aztecs numbered about 100,000. If a third of them were old enough, young enough, and healthy enough to carry gold, each would have had to carry a total of 3,420 pounds. In Victorio's time in the 1870's, his branch of the Apache Tribe numbered 6,000. If a third of them could carry gold, each one would have had to carry 57,000 pounds. The stories say further that the stuff was in sacks of skins. Where did Victorio get 3 *million* sacks? Alas, I fear that these gloomy figures may cause some of us to doubt that the buried treasure is worth 250 *billion* dollars!

Apparently, money didn't mean very much to old-fashioned Indians. However, the metal, especially gold, was used to make ornaments, etc. The Aztec goldsmiths would have been unhappy if their metals were buried in New Mexico or Utah, whichever the case may be — three

months round trip from home. We don't bury our metals in the mountains of Asia or in the deserts of Arabia, do we?

All the gold ever mined in the history of the world is estimated at about 3,000 *million* ounces. If Apache Chief Victorio buried 1,666 *million* ounces, the grand total would be 4,666 *million* ounces. This means that he owned more than a third of all the gold in the whole world. Could it be that our modern prospectors are saying "250 *billion* dollars" when they mean to say "250 *thousand*"?

In 1974, the world's unburied gold is worth about 450 *billion* dollars. If Apache Chief Victorio's 250 *billion* were found and added to it, the world's economic structure would collapse. The value of gold would drop to unheard-of lows. Those countries which now own most of the present supply would go bankrupt. Interest rates would be changed for better or worse. The stock market would fly off in every direction. With this sudden influx of cheaper gold, prices would soar with a sudden inflation such as no man has ever dreamed of in his wildest nightmares.

And thus, the curse on the buried treasure would come true.

General Nelson A. Miles, testifying before a committee of Congress, stated: "The Chiricahua Apaches are the lowest, most brutal and cruel of the Indian savages on this continent."

The Chiricahua Apaches made an alcoholic drink called "tizween" from barley.

Arizona has an area of 113,903 square miles.

New Mexico has an area of 121,666 square miles.

THE GENESIS OF NEW FORT BLISS

by GEORGE RUHLEN

Fort Bliss, the multi-million dollar installation which for the past eighty years has been an economic, social and community entity of El Paso, might never have existed but for the foresight of a few senior Army officers and the persistent, concerted efforts of a small group of energetic El Pasoans.

* * *

By 1880 many Army officers were recognizing the impact of America's rapidly expanding railway system on the problem of protection and defense of the frontier. The subjugation of marauding Indian bands concurrent with the means to rapidly concentrate and move large bodies of troops changed a century old concept of frontier defense. The perennial Indian campaigns were fast becoming but chapters in regimental histories, and law and order had properly become the domain of civil authorities. As General Sherman wrote: "For a hundred years we have been sweeping across the continent with a skirmish line, building a post here and another there to be abandoned the next year for another line, and so on. Now we are across and have railroads everywhere, so that the whole problem is changed." The small scattered forts were expensive to maintain, detrimental to troop training and efficiency, and becoming unnecessary.¹

In October, 1880, Sherman, well versed in the strategic use and value of railroads, telegraphed General Sheridan, commanding the Division of the Missouri, that in view of the scheduled meeting of the railroads the following January near Florida Pass, New Mexico Territory, he desired that a thorough examination be made of the country there, a site be selected nearby for a post and depot, and a report submitted to him. Sheridan relayed these instructions to General Pope, commanding the Department of the Missouri, which culminated in the submission of a report by Lieutenant T.N. Bailey, Corps of Engineers, District of New Mexico, of his examination and survey of the Deming-Rincon-El Paso area.² He reported in January 1881 that he had found the water in the Deming area good in quality but unpredictable as to availability in the quantity required for a large post. He suggested as alternatives either Rincon or El Paso, where he had just completed a survey of Fort Bliss—then under construction near Hart's Mill on the river.³ Concurrently Sheridan made a personal inspection of the sites and reported in a long letter to Sherman his analysis of missions for the new post, prerequisites for its location—water, grass, surveillance of Indians, reasonable contiguity to El Paso—soon to be a great gateway to Mexico—and ease of access to a

railroad. Eliminating each possible site because it failed to meet one or more of these requirements, he arrived at his final selection of Fort Selden—about 18 miles north of Las Cruces—as a superb location.⁴

A few weeks prior to the submission of Bailey's report, Sherman had sent his aide-de-camp, Colonel O.M. Poe, on an extended trip to the Gulf coast, Texas, and the western frontier posts to assess their value, comment on proper troop dispositions, and report on the routes and progress of construction of railroads in Texas and the southwest.⁵ Poe's report was detailed and exhaustive. His continuing emphasis on the importance of existing and planned railroad routes and their dates of completion may have influenced Sherman's evaluation a year later on the impact of the new rail network on military policy. Poe reached Fort Bliss on January 30, 1881, just missing Sheridan whom he had tried to contact, by five days. He found the post still under construction as the appropriation had been so meager that troop labor had to be employed for construction with resulting delays due to duty priorities. The site, acquired the year before, was adjacent to the only practical railroad crossing of the Rio Grande for 50 miles, and also to the terminals of several major railroad lines—in fact, the Santa Fe tracks had recently been laid right across the parade ground and the Southern Pacific ran about 200 yards east following the gradient north to the bridge over the Rio Grande.⁶ Concluding that the importance of the railroads on military questions was incalculable in view of their value in operations against the Indians or control of adjacent foreign countries, he felt that Bliss was the proper site for the contemplated large post in the southwest, rating it first in military importance. However, its 132 acres, split by the railroad tracks, offered accommodations for not more than 4 companies with no room left for any depot or warehouses, thus making it inadmissible and leaving Selden as a distant second choice. The danger from Indians, Poe stated, would be gone in a few years, and defense against Mexico should be to attack with a force strong enough to invade the major portion of that country at first onslaught, hence neither large nor many posts were needed on the Rio Grande, only observation detachments. The railroads would provide the mobility needed for adequate defense.⁷

Various commanders favored different sites for the proposed post. General Hatch suggested use of old Fort Thorn (about 5 miles north of present day Hatch, N.M.) although then occupied by about 300 squatters who would have had to be evicted, and also notorious for its high sick rate when formerly garrisoned. Others suggested old Fort Fillmore (near Las Cruces) or Cummings (Cooke's Springs) for cavalry companies; famed Indian fighter Colonel Mackenzie recommended expansion of existing hill posts (Bayard, Stanton, Wingate) to accommodate two to three times their

current garrisons at half the cost of a new post. General Schofield, commanding the Department of the Gulf, considered railroads made El Paso and its vicinity of primary importance militarily and hence believed measures should be taken to protect them by a main post at the foot of the Guadalupe Mountains and a large post in New Mexico, either at Thorn or Selden.⁸

On December 20, 1881 in a letter to Sheridan, General Pope commented that the completion of the railroad system in southern New Mexico through Arizona and the advancement of this system into Mexico made it essential to rearrange military dispositions along the frontier. He therefore recommended that a 12-company post and depot be built at some suitable point in the vicinity of the junction of the two great railroads in southern New Mexico and that an appropriation of \$200,000 be requested for its construction. Building plans would be submitted promptly but he thought the authority and appropriation were needed at once. He mentioned no specific locality for the post undoubtedly because of his knowledge of Sheridan's preference. The latter did not disappoint him, for his indorsement stated that old Fort Selden was the site selected and reiterated his previous reasons for considering it the only suitable site and particularly emphasized the desirability of concentrating a large number of troops not far from El Paso.⁹ Sherman's indorsement to the Secretary of War noted that such a post would be economical and important, and that although El Paso was the true strategic point, the locality for geographical reasons was unsuitable, and since Fort Selden was the next best he requested favorable consideration of the proposal by Congress. Sherman had long held a low opinion of New Mexico in general, a few years previously having publicly and officially stated it was not worth the cost of defense, but on this occasion he apparently felt it was better to secure an authorization and appropriation without delaying to argue the merits of several locations. It would be less difficult to secure a change in an appropriation which had already been made. The estimates promised by Pope followed shortly, totaling \$251,459, and were approved on February 5, 1882 by Sherman who commented that though the estimated cost might seem large it would be most economical in the end. He added, in his usual salty manner, that approval of this post would make possible the abandonment of numerous small "jackal" and adobe posts which were a disgrace to civilization for if a citizen of Washington were to stable his horse or cow in an "adobe" good enough for soldiers in New Mexico he would be promptly arrested for cruelty to animals.¹⁰ Secretary of War Robert Lincoln and President Arthur, in full agreement with Sherman, promptly sent messages to Congress requesting favorable action to provide the funds needed for a large post at Fort Selden. With support at

such hierarchical levels a reasonable assumption would be that new construction at Selden would soon start. Fortunately for El Paso it never did.¹¹

Apparently realizing that a reappraisal of the Army's troop dispositions and reevaluation of the missions of its many far flung garrisons would be timely, and possibly to resolve the conflicting views of experienced commanders whose opinions he respected, General Sherman decided to make a personal reconnaissance of the frontier and its posts. Sherman's letters to the Secretary of War during this trip in the winter and spring of 1882 reflect his detailed observations and conclusions as he traveled through the Gulf area, Texas, and the western plains. He now believed that selection of fort sites could not be made until railroad routes were determined and known, for the posts would depend on the railroads for mobility and in turn the railroads must depend on the military for their protection. The Army's duty was becoming that of guarding the nation's highways—the railroads.¹²

From El Paso on March 30, 1882, after reconnoitering several sites recommended for the large post, he wrote at length on the importance of that area strategically; the importance of the security of the railroads as being above that of the post, town or anything else; and after personally inspecting the area, his conviction that Bliss had sufficient area to expand to an infantry regimental post. Cavalry were not imperative for El Paso; they could be stationed inland so long as a railroad could move them where needed. He thought the danger from Indian raids was greatly ex-



Rear of Fort Bliss looking west, circa 1893. From left to right, south barracks (bldg. 13), mess hall (21) north barracks (111), pump house (128) water tank (now replaced with a new one). Note the changeless skyline of the Franklin Mountains and Sugarloaf.



Photo taken from the north end of officers' line—from left to right, oldest building on Fort Bliss, original subsistence warehouse (bldg. 2021), old guardhouse (241), NCO quarters (2000, 2001, 2002), QM stables (2011), circa 1893.

aggrerated by the citizens of Arizona and New Mexico but with prophetic insight stated his belief that the railroads would attract a class worse than the Apaches—road agents, regulators, and cowboys. Despite the opinions of his staff, Sheridan, and Pope, who all favored Selden, he now thought Bliss to be a far better site. He recommended it be placed in a finished condition to accommodate a regiment of infantry; Fort Cummings be gradually made comfortable for four companies of cavalry and all other New Mexico posts except Stanton, Santa Fe, and Wingate be abandoned. Consistent with this view he also recommended that the Secretary of War seek to have the wording of the Selden fund request modified to apply to "Selden or such other point as determined by the Secretary of War," for as currently phrased the money if appropriated could be spent only at Selden.¹³ Sheridan flatly disagreed with the proposal to enlarge Bliss on the grounds that the area was too small and made worse by the railroads cutting it up; that the Cummings site had an unhealthy record; construction at Deming would be too costly; and the best site in the valley was at Old Fort Selden which if rebuilt would require that only \$20,000 need be spent on Bliss, rather than Sherman's estimate of \$100,000.¹⁴

Sherman's long trip in the spring of 1882 resulted in a detailed, logical plan, included in the Secretary of War's report for that year, for a radical change in troop dispositions in the United States based on planning and funding for permanent posts instead of meeting specific temporary wants

by special appropriations, often in the interests of private parties. Breaking the continental area into four frontiers—Atlantic and Gulf, Mexico, Pacific, and Northern—and the interior, Sherman tabulated those posts to be held indefinitely and in some cases expanded, thus requiring permanent type construction; those to be held for the next ten years and hence requiring only temporary repairs; and those to be abandoned at once. Appropriations to carry out these plans were requested which as pertains to El Paso were now \$50,000 (rather than the earlier estimate of \$100,000) for barracks at Fort Bliss (at Hart's Mill) and elimination of the \$251,000 previously asked for Selden which was now considered unnecessary. Sherman's estimate of total funds required during 1883-1884 to carry out this evolutionary plan was \$1,651,859—a fair sum even for these days.

The Report also contained a hastily drawn up summary by the Quartermaster General of "special estimates" submitted piecemeal to the Congress during the previous session but on which appropriations had not as yet been made. Despite Sherman's preceding recommendation to delete the Selden request and to reduce the one for Bliss, both appeared in the summary as initially submitted, with the QMG's gratuitous notation that his original estimate to complete Bliss was \$40,290. A recapitulation of appropriations requested by the Quartermaster Department for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1884 repeated these figures.¹⁵ Then, on



Rear (east) view of south double barracks (bldg. 13), circa 1893. Captain George Ruhlen, QMC, Constructing Quartermaster for Fort Bliss. Photo taken about 1894. Courtesy Maj. Gen. Ruhlen.

January 25, 1883, the Secretary of War submitted to the Speaker of the House a revised and consolidated list of estimates for construction which included \$50,000 for Bliss and the original \$251,451 for Selden. Congress did appropriate \$10,000 for Bliss and \$75,000 for forts in Arizona but took no further action on the Bliss-Selden proposals—and there the matter rested for several years.¹⁶

There are doubtless many reasons for this inactivity but some seem a bit more discernible than others. The Apache outbreaks shifted not only attention from fort construction but also funds, and Bliss, although admittedly of some international importance, was relatively insignificant to the Indian problem.¹⁷ Then, in November, 1883, Sheridan, never a protagonist of Bliss, succeeded Sherman as General Commanding the Army; but probably the major cause of Congressional apathy lay within the Army itself. As of July 1, 1883 only about a third of the \$200,000 Congress had appropriated in April, 1880, for construction of posts on the Río Grande (later modified per War Department request to construction "in Texas") had been expended.¹⁸ Quartermaster General Meigs, shortly before his retirement, had admonished the Department that it was incumbent on the Army to carry out its moral obligation, for Congress expected some results. Not until the end of 1884 was this appropriation fully expended. The redundant, varying and sometimes contradictory funding estimates prepared by the War Department in 1882 and 1883 must have raised doubt in Congress as to whether the Army really knew what it wanted or how much it would cost. Certainly the requests to broaden an appropriation's provisions after enactment—such as one for construction of forts along the Río Grande to be expanded to include all of Texas, and another to change the quarter-million dollar appropriation for Fort Selden to "such location as determined by the Secretary of War"—could not have enthused a legislative body traditionally jealous of its prerogative to determine the recipients of its largess. However, if partisan politics favoring either Republican New Mexico or Democratic Texas entered the Bliss-Selden matter to a significant extent, it is not readily apparent. Interest in the new post was aroused during Cleveland's Democratic administration yet the appropriation and final approval of the new site occurred during Harrison's Republican regime. In general it appears that action or inaction were more directly related to the degree of interest shown by the local citizenry. Fort Selden still had its supporters though, such as Pope, Sheridan—its original sponsor—and the staunchest, Brigadier General B. H. Grierson, commanding the Department of New Mexico, who perennially reported the advantages of Selden as the site for a large post.



CAPTAIN GEORGE RUHLEN

Construction engineer of "New Fort Bliss" and the author's grandfather.



Line of officers' quarters, 1893. From left to right present building numbers 219, 220, 221, 222, 223, 224, 227, 229, 230, 231, 232, 233, 234, 235, old guard house 241, staff NCO quarters 2000, 2001, 2002, at extreme right QM stables 2011. The gaps on both sides of the center quarters (227) were probably designed to accommodate future field officers' quarters when funds became available. They did some 15 years later and building 228 (Pershing House) was built to the north of #227.

The year 1887 marked a turn in the fortunes of future Fort Bliss. Previously included within the Department of Arizona, boundary changes now gave Bliss to the Department of Texas, commanded since 1884 by Brigadier General D. S. Stanley, a distinguished combat leader well familiar with soldiering in Texas and with the problems of its garrisons.²⁹ During late summer or early fall of 1887, Stanley visited El Paso and inspected Fort Bliss. His severely critical views of the post's inadequacies were included in his annual report to the Secretary of War dated August 27, in which he called attention to the siting, dominance of hills on the Mexican side of the river, cramped space for buildings and drill grounds (about 35 acres), bisection of the parade ground and post by two railroads and poisonous fumes emanating from nearby smelters. He considered the 133 acre reservation had some value as city property but was utterly unfit for military purposes.³⁰ A few weeks later he sent Colonel Young, a member of his staff, to El Paso to reconnoiter suitable sites for a new post in the area. The newspapers followed Young's activities closely, reporting sites had been selected just below the city near the fair grounds, to the east of the Concordia estate; and reported other 200 acre tracts as possibilities.³¹

This interest by the military stimulated a corresponding interest among real estate owners and developers, prominent merchants, and influential citizens—often the same group—who were not slow to appreciate the

economic benefits to be derived from a large military post at El Paso. Accordingly the El Paso Development Board under the leadership of its president, Samuel W. Russell, resolved to prepare and transmit to the Texas delegation in Congress an informational brochure on El Paso in an effort to secure an enlargement and concomitant relocation of Fort Bliss from Hart's Mill, thereby demonstrating local civic support for Stanley's military recommendation. Titled "El Paso as a Military Post," this pamphlet containing "statistical information regarding the resources of El Paso and presenting the necessity for the enlargement of Fort Bliss," was completed by early December. With charts, maps, and tabulated data it emphasized El Paso's equidistant location from New Orleans, St. Louis, San Francisco, and Mexico City; a terminus from which five major railroads radiated in all directions thus assuring ready availability of locomotives and rolling stock for troop movements; an extensive export-import business; healthful climate; favorable freight rates; largest of the border towns; rapid growth; abundance of native building materials, and so on. All of which made it obvious that of all points in the southwest, El Paso was *the* proper place for an enlarged and permanent post.²²

On December 10, 1887 the Development Board sent a letter to Senator J. H. Reagan, with copies to Senator Coke and Congressman S. W. T. Lanham (who represented the El Paso area and was also a member of the Committee for Military Affairs) enclosing copies of the pamphlet. The Board pointed out that the military wanted to enlarge Fort Bliss but since this could not be done in its present location, a new 12 company post should be constructed below the town, and that both Generals Terry and Stanley hoped Congress would take action to appropriate the necessary funds during the current session. Accordingly, members of the Board had been asked to prepare and place relative data—the enclosed pamphlet—in the hands of the Texas delegation to assist them in obtaining necessary legislation. The letter was signed by Mayor Lightbody, Judge Falvey, Collector Magoffin, Judges B. H. Davis, W. B. Brock, J. F. Crosby, D. F. Edwards, Buckler, Blacker, and C. R. Morehead, E. B. Bronson, H. S. Kaufman, W. S. Hills, S. W. Russell and fifty other leading citizens.²³ Judging from contemporary newspaper accounts, Russell's pamphlet aroused little interest in the average El Pasoan who was apparently more concerned with local elections, tariffs on ore imports, plans for an international dam, and baseball scores. At the same time, the more powerful and wealthy members of the Development Board were deeply involved during 1888 and 1889, either as company officers or interested investors, in the financial fortunes of the embryo Kansas City, El Paso and Mexican Railroad (né El Paso and Northeastern RR) and its struggle to lay track from El Paso to White Oaks.²⁴

But the promotional potential of "El Paso as a Military Post" did not go unnoticed in nearby New Mexico. *The El Paso Times* December 10th issue severely censured General Grierson for stepping outside the boundaries of his command (which he had) in recommending the abandonment of Forts Bliss and Hancock, and insinuated he was pandering to the politicians of Santa Fe—at that time a Republican stronghold frequently opposed to Democratic El Paso. Six weeks later New Mexico's Territorial Delegate, Antonito Joseph, introduced Joint Resolution 89 before Congress which called for the abolishment of "the smaller military posts in New Mexico" and the creation at Fort Selden of one large military post. To enable the Secretary of War to carry out the provisions of this Act, \$100,000 was to be appropriated.²⁵ The resolution suffered a quick demise, for the War Department did not favor Johnson's idea, but Selden's supporters did not easily give up. In Grierson's next annual report to the Secretary, August, 1888, he again called attention to the extreme desirability of the Selden reservation as a site for a regimental sized post. His immediate superior, General Miles, made no comment, but General Howard, commanding the Division of The Pacific, felt his views were "entitled to consideration." Subsequently, as Commander of the Department of Arizona, Grierson reiterated his litany of Selden's advantages of water, location, grass, building materials, railroads, and now even a good view, and urged its retention—but to no avail.²⁶

Came 1890, and the true year of decision for El Paso and Fort Bliss! A languishing community interest was revived by the news that at long last the Texas delegation in Washington were taking positive action to secure the post for El Paso. For the next four years the "new post" would be a frequent topic for local papers. On January 4th, Congressman Lanham informed *The El Paso Times* that he had talked with General Schofield, commander-in-chief of the Army since Sheridan's death in August 1888, regarding the movement of Fort Bliss to a more convenient site and was in progress of preparing a bill which he would introduce after the holiday recess concurrently with a companion bill to be presented by one of the Texas Senators. Two weeks later Lanham presented his bill providing for the sale of Fort Bliss and its buildings and authorizing the Secretary of War to purchase a tract of not less than 300 acres nor more than 640 at a cost not to exceed \$20 per acre within 10 miles of the limits of El Paso on which a 12 company post—to be called Fort Bliss—would be built. Not over \$150,000 was to be appropriated for this project. A month later news was received that Lanham's bill and the companion bill introduced by Senator Reagan had been passed by the House and Senate respectively. Promptly signed by the President it became an Act of Congress on March 1, 1890.²⁷

And so the new post was a reality at last and the next order of business was to have a site selected and then sell the land to the government at the best possible price—or so it seemed until it was discovered that the original bill had been modified. The \$150,000 was authorized only for construction; the garrison of the post was not specified; the size of the tract had been increased to not less than 1000 acres and it was to be acquired without cost to the government! The changes were attributed to General Schofield who allegedly based his actions on certain information in his possession. The El Paso newspapers reported that diligent inquiry had disclosed that “no formal offer was ever made here for such a site,” and that General Schofield’s information was unknown to anyone in El Paso but must have been satisfactory to Mr. Lanham else he would not have agreed to such amendments to his bill.²⁸

A month later, Major Anson Mills—long associated with El Paso—during an interview after his return from a trip to Washington in connection with the proposed international dam, explained that Schofield had amended the bill to assure ample initial space for the new reservation and thus avoid the necessity to acquire more land a few years later at considerable effort and expense as had recently occurred at San Antonio. He also stated that the next to last paragraph of the brochure, “El Paso as a Military Post,” on pages 13 and 14, read that whenever the government relocated the present post the land required would be donated. Thus Lanham had merely used the brochure’s wording verbatim. Although this explanation apparently satisfied El Pasoans at the time, it is not clear to what Mills referred. A xerox copy of the brochure mentioned (in the writer’s possession), contains no such statement, nor 13 pages, nor are they numbered. The summary narrative of the construction of Fort Bliss, recorded by the Constructing Quartermaster in the Record of Expenditures Upon Public Buildings at Fort Bliss, states the new fort “had its origination in a movement on the part of some citizens of El Paso who took concerted action during the fall and winter of 1889 to induce the government to increase the old post or build a new one. The movement resulted in an offer to procure and donate to the United States a tract of land not less than 100 acres. . . . These conditions were embodied in an Act of Congress approved on March 1, 1890. . . .” This infers an offer prior to passage of the Act.²⁹

The reasons for such obfuscation offer interesting speculation, for discovery of the true facts should not have been unduly difficult. Report No. 28, House of Representatives, February 6, 1890 to accompany Bill HR 3923 (the one authorizing the new post), a printed, public document, states that the amendments to Lanham’s original bill as to size of the reservation and its acquisition without cost were recommended because

of suggestions by the Secretary of War and Major General Schofield, *and in view of the fact* that the necessary amount of land could be obtained by donation. The Secretary and Schofield both stated 1000 acres were the minimum required for a regimental post to include an adequate rifle range. Schofield suggested that the bill not specify the size of the garrison but rather should it be determined by the initial appropriation and then enlarged as additional funds became available. The report borrowed freely and at length from data in Russell's "El Paso as a Military Post" and in its penultimate paragraph declared "Substantial citizens of El Paso authorize the statement that whenever the Government shall determine to enlarge the post and remove it to a more favorable location, land will be donated to the Government for that purpose in such quantity and at such point as the Government shall decide."³⁰ Corroborating that such an offer was indeed made is a statement by Judge Crosby a day before the Mills interview, that the land had been promised.³¹ Proof that such an offer was made is contained in a letter from Judge Joseph Magoffin, dated June 5, 1890, to the Secretary of War in which Magoffin, discussing construction of the new post, refers to the "proposition of our citizens of January 15th last through their Committee to 'donate land for the purpose in such quantity and at such point as the Government shall decide'."³² The phrasing in the quoted passage in this letter is the same as that used in the report accompanying Lanham's bill, hence apparently a bona fide offer to donate land for the new post had been made in January, 1890, but for reasons best known to local political leaders had not been publicized and allegedly was even unknown to the El Paso press. It must have been most welcome to those War Department officials inured to the difficulties of acquiring military reservations in Texas due to the exorbitant prices placed upon them.

Both Crosby and Mills pointed out that there were several acceptable sites for the new post—a few miles down the valley at \$2.50 an acre—east of Concordia where the White Oaks railroad reached the top of the mesa—on the mesa near the mountains, including part of the McKelligon claim. Crosby earnestly urged the citizens to get busy and have everything ready by the time commissioners arrived to locate the site, for since the bill did not provide for its purchase, if El Paso was to have a post the sooner the land was located and secured the better. Regardless of the site picked, Mills emphasized that cooperation of all in obtaining the site was essential lest any selfish actions by one or two disgruntled or disappointed persons delay or lose the benefits all would derive from the new post. The press felt that the donation proviso should not destroy all hope of getting the fort. It was estimated that the site would cost about

\$4000, therefore prompt organized civic action was essential to preclude any excuses for delay by Washington bureaucrats.³³

But the prompt organized action urged by Crosby was not forthcoming and at a mass meeting on May 7, 1890 he told El Pasoans they were at fault for not pressing for action from Washington. The appropriation had been made, and although he did not know why the site selection for the new post was being delayed, he again urged that options be obtained on probable sites before any committee reached El Paso. Two days later the El Paso Progressive Association was formed, one of whose worthy civic oriented objectives was to secure a site for the new post. W. S. Hills was elected president, G. E. Hubbard, S. J. Freudenthal and M. Ullman as 1st, 2d, and 3rd vice-presidents, respectively, R. F. Johnson, treasurer, and S. W. Russell as secretary—a rather familiar roster of interested citizens.³⁴ However on June 3rd, under a modicum of pressure and censure by Judge Crosby, Hills resigned as president to be succeeded the following day by Judge Magoffin.

Magoffin wasted no time. The next day he sent letters to the Secretary of War, Congressman Lanham and Senator Coke, requesting that duly authorized persons be sent as soon as practicable to select a site for the new post and the land required in order that the committee of the Progressive Association could comply with their proposition to convey title and so enable the government to begin construction as soon as possible. Local papers predicted that as soon as the Secretary returned to Washington a committee would be sent to select the site for the new 16 company post, and opined that expenditures by such a garrison would give new impetus to business in El Paso—and for a town of about 12,000, indeed it would!³⁵

On June 25th, General Stanley, his Medical Director—Lt. Col. J. C. Bailey, MC, and the Department Quartermaster—Lt. Col. George H. Weeks, QMC, were designated by the War Department to proceed to El Paso and select a site for the new Fort Bliss.³⁶ But even as they were preparing to depart San Antonio, old trooper Grierson wrote Fort Selden's epitaph. Said he on July 1st in his final report as Commander of the Department of Arizona, that "through the influence of persons interested in the establishment of a military post at El Paso," Fort Selden, which had previously been abandoned and subsequently reoccupied by direction of the Lieutenant General of the Army with a view to the establishment of a large military post there, had been transferred to the Secretary of the Interior on March 6th.³⁷

Stanley and his officers arrived at El Paso in mid-July, spent five days with the Citizens' Military Reservation Committee of the Progressive Association in examining and evaluating available sites, then returned to

San Antonio on July 23rd. The report of the Citizens' Committee to the citizens of El Paso as published in the newspapers, stated that the board of officers had "unanimously recommended 1000 acres lying on the brow of the mesa below the point of Mt. Franklin near where the White Oaks railroad track reaches the top of the mesa." They had firmly stated that this was not only a fit and proper location near the city but the only one they would recommend. The Committee had then sought to ascertain whether or not the land could be acquired at a reasonable price. After discussion among the committee members and between the committee and the owners of the land it was agreed to offer owners C. R. Morehead and B. H. Davis, *et al*, \$20 an acre for their 176 acres; B. D. Russell \$5 an acre for his 640 acres; and R. L. Meyer and W. J. Glenn \$6.25 an acre for 184 acres—in all \$8700 for the 1000 acres.

The Progressive Association apologized for the price offered Morehead and Davis but pointed out that the portion of their tract selected so cut into the remainder of their property that its value was greatly impaired for subsequent use. Since the owners had reluctantly accepted the Association's offer as a public spirited gesture, it now behooved the Committee to raise by local subscription the sum needed to purchase this location for a 14 company post which General Stanley estimated would cost the government about \$1,000,000 to build. The Committee in turn estimated that much of the \$50,000 monthly payroll of such a post would benefit local businessmen and announced that they had pledged themselves to raising the requisite sum. Signing this report to the people were the full Citizens' Committee: Edgar B. Bronson, Joseph Magoffin, W. S. McCutcheon, B. H. Davis, W. S. Hills, and S. W. Russell, secretary.³⁸

On July 29, 1890 Stanley submitted his preliminary report of the Board's selection of a site on the mesa east of the city, commenting on its fine view, ample space for buildings and firing ranges, fine soil, and with ample water from wells to be bored. It was a logical selection for it lay on high ground, not too close to the city's temptations, would require a minimum of grading and leveling, and was contiguous to recently laid railroad tracks running through the northern portion of the tract—an aspect which must have awakened dormant hopes among the defunct railroad's promoters, of whom several were also staunch supporters of the new post.

Stanley made a significant comment: "... seven thoroughly successful wells on three sides of the survey demonstrate that an inexhaustible body of excellent free stone water underlies this mesa." Thus an answer to a common question: "How come they picked this place in the middle of a barren desert without any sign of a water supply?" The Board had good assurance that a water supply was indeed readily available. However in compliance with the Board's proviso, the Citizens' Committee agreed to

drill a well in the center of the tract to prove an adequate water supply existed beneath the tract. S. W. Russell immediately started boring operations and within two months a test supervised by Lieutenant S. W. Miller, Regimental Quartermaster, 5th Infantry, gave satisfactory results as to quality, rate of flow and quantity of water found in a sand stratum at a depth of about 200 feet.³⁹

During this period the Committee had been diligently at work raising money—including a significant amount from the owners of the land themselves—to purchase the 1000 acres needed for the new reservation. \$9235 was raised from 100 subscribers whose donations ranged from those of Eddy, Austin, Bronson and Newman—\$1000; Morehead, Davis, Beall and Davis—\$1000; B. D. Russell—\$640; \$250 to \$20 donations by many firms and citizens, to some 40 donations of \$25 or less. In August and September title to the 1000 acres was conveyed to the United States by land owners B. D. Russell, W. J. Glenn, Richard L. Mayer, and Charles R. Morehead, B. H. Davis, T. J. Beall and Charles Davis.⁴⁰ On September 29th General Stanley forwarded the deeds, results of the water test, a plot of the site and his suggested arrangement of buildings thereon with his final report to the War Department for approval. The report was approved by General Schofield. Presumably the Citizens' Committee could now view with satisfaction and pride the completion of an arduous yet important task. A site for the fort had been selected, an agreeable price negotiated, the money raised by subscription, and title turned over to the government—but its tribulations were not yet over.

In September, Quartermaster General R. N. Batchelder designated Captain George Ruhlen, QMC, recently assigned to duty in his office, as officer in charge of construction of new Fort Bliss.⁴¹ On October 26, 1890 Ruhlen arrived in El Paso to make a general examination and report on the site selected, including the availability of building materials, particularly local brick, about whose quality there was some doubt. This was not the only matter on which there was some doubt.

On October 18th, prior to Ruhlen's departure from Washington, General Batchelder in his 3rd indorsement to General Stanley's September 29th report on the Bliss site, had been adamant that all the land from the western edge of the tract to the eastern boundary of the White Oaks Railroad right-of-way be added to the 1000 acres selected. His reasons were twofold: first, the topography indicated that the southwestern portion of the tract would probably be used for the line of officers' quarters; if so, this would bring them close to the reservation boundary and a public highway thus "exposing them to the dangers of undesirable surroundings beyond the control of the military authorities; second, the only portion of ground, other than the extension recommended, suitable for a railroad

station and siding was a mile and a half from the center of the tract. (At this time the White Oaks railroad was in receivership and not operating. Track ended about ten miles from El Paso near some water wells at a proposed townsite called "Lanoria"—a name suggested by Mrs. Magoffin from the Spanish *La Noria*—"the well." Hence many subsequent descriptions of the Bliss site referred to it as being on "the Lanoria Mesa."⁴²)

Bouncing down through military channels, the task of persuading the Citizens' Committee to secure this land, without cost to the government, of course, eventually fell to Captain Ruhlen, who on the same day he received this letter—October 31st—had just submitted a separate detailed report to the Quartermaster General summarizing his conclusions as to the additional land believed necessary. After describing the tract in detail Ruhlen reported that acquisition of the parcel of land, shown as triangle dER in the sketch on page ..., was essential for the construction of a rail siding and warehouses within the reservation and also for placing within military control the best trace for a wagon road to the mesa top. Although agreeing with the QMG as to the desirability of excluding undesirable neighbors, he felt it was doubtful if this could be done regardless of where the boundaries were placed; but as the southern portion of the tract between the mesa rim and the railroad was very cut up it would be most difficult for anyone to settle there. He pointed out that although the 180 acre tract (Morehead and Davis) was large enough to contain all the buildings planned for the post, the view from these buildings to the south and southeast—which under current boundary limits was quite limited—would be greatly enhanced if the southern and eastern boundaries were extended a few hundred yards. (The area east of the Morehead and Davis tract bounded by A-Monument-c-D-M on sketch map on page ...). He then discussed the degree of difficulty in acquiring the tracts mentioned: the triangle dER—no difficulty; The trapezoid CDEd—serious difficulty; Land to the south and east of the initial tract—insuperable opposition.⁴³

Upon receipt of Stanley's September 29th letter reporting selection of the post's site, with 6 indorsements, Ruhlen at once showed it to S. W. Russell so that the latter would be fully aware of the implications of the QMG's demand for additional land. Russell assured Ruhlen that action would be taken promptly and that no difficulty should arise in securing the area of triangle dER (sketch, page ...) owned by Mayer and Glenn, but the Committee anticipated serious difficulty "on account of a peculiar condition of affairs of a personal nature complicated with animosities arising from and intensified by local politics" in securing possession of any of the other land desired.⁴⁴

To assure that General Stanley and Colonel Weeks fully understood

the nuances of El Paso politics in their relation to land acquisition problems of the Bliss site, on the same day that Captain Ruhlen wrote his indorsement (7th) to the Stanley letter, he also wrote a personal letter to Weeks. In it he explained that the small triangular piece of land (dER) was owned by Mayer and Glenn, also owners of the 180 acres of the initial tract, who had arranged with the Citizens' Committee that no money would be paid to them until the entire site was accepted by the United States. Since this now could not be done until this additional land was secured from them, they would be glad to cooperate in order to expedite payment due them. Ruhlen was told by local citizens (probably Russell) that G. R. Morehead, owner of an undivided half interest in the southern land parcel (CDEd) and also of the land to the south and east, was the political boss of El Paso—a man of strong prejudices and vindictive toward his opponents. Several of the Citizens' Committee were political opponents of Morehead's party and as it was expected that Morehead's candidates would lose in the election the following week, it was believed that his ire would be so aroused by the opposition he encountered that he would forego no opportunity to defeat any enterprise in which his political opponents were engaged. From what Ruhlen had been told he felt that if the government were adamant in requiring the southern portion of the land between the mesa rim and the White Oaks Railroad, as well as any additional tracts to the south and east, then Fort Bliss would never be built, for he believed that no condition or compensation would induce Morehead to part with his share of it. The Committee believed that their only hope was to withhold from Morehead the knowledge of the power he held to upset all that had been done on the Fort Bliss site.⁴⁵ It seems rather naive to presume that a man portrayed as the political boss of El Paso would not be fully cognizant of any matters that concerned property which he owned or of any political influence at his command. As it eventually turned out, either through successful persuasion or personal decision, the Committee's apprehensions were not realized, for several months later Morehead and Davis, *et al*, did agree to sell the additional land desired and thus helped to make possible the "new post" at El Paso.

While these letters and indorsements were flowing down the gutters of military red tape, Captain Ruhlen returned to Washington and submitted his report of his examination of the site of the new post. Some of his observations are rather interesting. He noted the planting in recent years of a large number of fruit trees on the mesa just north and east of the post's site; good, fine grass covering the area immediately north and east of the site, although the site itself was covered with thick clumps of mesquite; and weather records from 1878 through 1889 showed that from

November to February temperatures of 5 to 10 degrees above zero were frequent. He also reported on the availability of construction materials—good limestone locally, red sandstone from Pecos, lumber, hardware, and machinery from both eastern and Pacific coast sources, but was not impressed with the quality of local brick nor the labor force. The report does not mention any additional land needed nor its attendant problems. However, he continued to keep Secretary Russell of the Citizens' Committee informed of the status of this sensitive matter. On November 18th he wrote to Russell enclosing a map showing the additional land desired. The latter's reply was at once shown to the Quartermaster General who flatly stated that if the additional land was secured the United States would be satisfied. Russell was so informed by telegram with a follow up letter on December 1st.⁴⁶

Receipt of this letter confirming the adamant stand of the QMG caused the Citizens' Committee to at once direct Bronson, then in New York, to see the QMG at once, which he did but to no avail. Russell at once went to San Antonio to see General Stanley, and the old soldier's ire was aroused at this inference of inability on his part to select a proper site for a fort. Although rather contentious in some of his rebuttals to the QMG's position and conceding that the additional land for a siding and depot were needed, he wrote bitterly on the injustice of subjecting the people of a small city, by no means rich, to great additional expense—even if the land could be obtained—merely to add a picturesque driving ground to an already ample reservation whose proposed line of officers' quarters was longer than the front of any post in the Army. His rhetoric failed to impress Secretary of War Redfield Proctor who, on December 18th in his 9th indorsement to Ruhlen's 31 October letter flatly stated that all the ground was believed essential for proper construction and should be acquired before any further action was taken on construction of the post. The 13th indorsement referred the matter to the Citizens' Committee for action to obtain the land.⁴⁷

This came close to being the last straw for the Committee. On December 27th Russell wrote a strong factual exposition of the situation in which the Committee found themselves to Congressman Lanham. He pointed out that they had complied with the law; acquiesced in the site selection; raised the money to purchase the land; proved the water supply by sinking their own well; and turned title of the land, paid for by local citizens, over to the Federal government. Since all concerned stated the site was adequate except for a small tract of 30 acres for a rail road siding which could be easily obtained, the committee questioned the right of General Batchelder to arbitrarily demand that another 260 acres be donated, with the alternative being the abandonment of the project. The

Citizens' Committee were no doubt in an unenviable position having collected money, paid it out, conveyed the land, assured one and all that the post would soon be built, and then be suddenly faced with this ultimatum for more land or else. The Committee pointed out that this would mean another round of negotiations with landowners, another appeal to the citizens to support another subscription drive to raise more thousands of dollars. Hinting of the possibility of sinister influences seeking to put the post in New Mexico, Lanham's help was urgently sought.⁴⁸ Two days later the Editor of *The El Paso Herald* also wrote to Lanham and asked him to call upon the QMG's office and ascertain the status of the proposed post as under protracted delay and profound silence; the people were growing restless.⁴⁹

And well they might be, for since the close of the subscription drive in August practically nothing had been published about the new post. Despite Russell's frequent contacts with military officials, apparently none of the correspondence and actions described above were public knowledge, maybe because of fear of Morehead's possible countermoves, previously mentioned. At long last the Citizens' Committee decided that it was time to report to the public on the new post's status. In an open letter which appeared in the newspapers of January 1, 1891 Russell gave a chronological account of events for the past six months, the actions taken by the Committee in response to them, and disclosed the War Department's demand for additional acreage. The papers urged all citizens not to stop halfway since they had done so well so far on the new post project; all should pull together and raise the funds needed to purchase the additional land.⁵⁰ Permission was quickly obtained to publish Captain's Ruhlen's October 31st report in full with the indorsements of Generals Stanley and Schofield and Secretary of War Proctor which the Committee felt would assist in clarifying the immediate issue as well as in raising funds.⁵¹ These were published in the January 4th and 6th issues of the local papers.

Action was underway now. On January 5th the Secretary of War wrote to Congressman Lanham, who subsequently discussed the land problem with him, resulting in a letter on January 20th which Lanham forwarded for publication in the El Paso papers accompanied by a letter of his own. Both were placating in tone, pointing out that the additional land was desired only to build the finest post in the southwest in every aspect and urging in effect that El Pasoans not be penny wise and pound foolish. Lanham strongly urged all citizens to accept the demand and pointed out the wisdom of cooperation with the War Department who had been of invaluable assistance in securing legislation for the post.⁵²

The subsequent subscription drive did not meet with the success of the first one. The Committee, now augmented by E. A. Stuart, H. A. True and Max Weber, found it necessary to publish an open letter to the public on February 10th, pleading for support and donations. The Galveston, Houston & San Antonio Railroad's \$1000 represented about half the donations to date and requests had been placed on other railroads but so far had not been answered. Under the heading, "A Last Call," the article repeated excerpts from Lanham's letter and urged all to chip in lest the post be irrevocably lost.⁵³ Eventually the drive succeeded and \$6825 was raised from about 40 subscribers ranging from \$1000 from the GH&SA Railroad and an equal amount from the Southern Pacific to \$500 from the Campbell Real Estate Company, \$400 from Morehead, Davis, Beall & Davis; \$400 from J. H. Sampson; \$200 from some half dozen banks, firms and a dozen influential citizens and lesser amounts by remaining subscribers.⁵⁴ Deeds for land owned by W. J. Glenn and R. L. Mayer were filed in February and March and those of C. R. Morehead, B. H. Davis, T. J. Beall, and Charles Davis in May 1891⁵⁵—thus adding about 266 acres to the original 1000 acre reservation. And so Fort Bliss and its residents—past, present, and future—are indebted to Quartermaster General Batchelder and Secretary of War Proctor for part of the site of the Officers' Club and Armstrong Polo Field, and to Captain Ruhlen and Secretary Proctor for the mesa edge—and view—from Pershing Gate to Howze Gate and eastward for about half a mile.

* * *

It is questionable whether the delay in acquiring this additional land affected the start of construction to any significant degree because from December 21, 1890 to February 10, 1891 Captain Ruhlen was in the field participating in the Pine Ridge Campaign against Sioux Indians in the Dakotas. On March 3, 1891 Special Orders 48, Headquarters of the Army directed him to report to El Paso and begin preliminary work on the construction of "new" Fort Bliss, as he so designated it to distinguish it from the fort situated on the Río Grande. He arrived on March 12th with his family and those of Messrs. E. H. Offley, Chief Clerk, and F. A. Gartner, architect and civil engineer.⁵⁶ Offices in the Sheldon Building were promptly secured and preliminary surveys, building siting, ground clearing, and testing of native limestone—planned for use in all foundations and basement walls—were soon underway. Deeds were recorded and drafting started on plans of barracks and quarters. Most welcome was the news that a deficiency appropriation Act of Congress, March 3, 1891 (published in General Orders 35, The Adjutant General's Office, March 31, 1891) provided that the total cost of Bliss would not exceed

\$300,000, thus authorizing the allocation of another \$150,000 to that already made available.

Advertising proposals for the development of a temporary water supply for use during construction were published in July resulting in contracts being awarded to C. R. Logan, J. Caldwell and S. W. Russell of El Paso totaling \$2234; tools and supplies were purchased in St. Louis. By the end of August the trestle and tank for this supply were completed and plans for a double set of barracks (for two companies—200 men) and ten sets for quarters had been accepted and approved by the Quartermaster General. By October the temporary water supply system was finished and specifications for the approved buildings printed in anticipation of imminent advertising of bids for construction, pending receipt of acceptance and approval of the remaining buildings.⁵⁷ However, these were not soon forthcoming and despite increasing impatience, irritation and demands for expeditious action by many El Pasoans and Congressman Lanham, they were not received until late March of 1892.⁵⁸ It would seem that the Quartermaster Department of those days moved with about the same deliberation as the Corps of Engineers today.

Instructions to proceed being at last received on April 23d, advertisements were issued inviting proposals for the construction of: a permanent water supply system, a sewerage system, 6 sets of lieutenants' quarters, 4 sets of captains' quarters, 3 double sets of non-commissioned staff officers' quarters, a stable, subsistence store-house, guard house, hospital, combined administration building-library-mess hall, and one double barracks. This was hardly the large 12 company regimental size post at the Pass of the North so strongly advocated by General Sherman and confidently expected by El Paso. No doubt partially responsible for this reduction was a nadir in public interest and appropriations for the military, so historically characteristic of Americans, after a generation of peace and a decade of quiet on the frontier.

This was not to be a post built by troop labor of adobe, stone and logs, lacking even the normal facilities of the time, but one of modern buildings as imposing and as well built as any in the country. Under this concept contracts for construction were awarded in June, 1892 to several firms—some local, some with home offices hundreds of miles away. The more common building materials—yellow brick and limestone (quarried on the reservation) and much of the unskilled labor were obtained locally, but a good portion of the more specialized equipment was shipped in from hundreds and in some cases a thousand miles away.

George H. Evans of Topeka, Kansas received the contract for erection of most of the buildings: ten officers' sets (originally numbered 2, 3, 5, 6,

7, 8, 9, 10, 11, and 12), double NCO staff sets (27 and 29, 31 and 33, 35 and 37), guardhouse, stable, storehouse, administration-mess hall, and hospital. Most of these were to be constructed of "El Paso light yellow brick with native limestone basement and foundation walls and Pecos Texas red sandstone ashlar trimmings, water table and door and window sills and caps."⁵⁹ One captain's set of quarters (12) and the hospital were built of Dallas red pressed brick, the stable of blue native limestone with Pecos red sandstone trim, and the NCO sets of El Paso pink brick. Plumbing was done by G. W. Davis of El Paso under contract to Caples and Hammer also of El Paso. The contract for south barracks, also to be built of El Paso yellow brick was awarded to F. L. Stevenson of Dallas; the sewerage system to Charles Shumm of San Antonio and the water supply system to several firms for different phases—E. S. Newman of El Paso for boring two wells, King Bridge Company of Cleveland for the trestle and tank, George H. Evans of Topeka for boiler and pumphouse, and Davis and Symons of El Paso for pumping machinery, pipes, mains, valves and hydrants. The boilers for the steam pumps were shipped from the Atlas Iron Works in Indianapolis and pipes and fittings purchased in St. Louis. Jail work for the guardhouse was done by the Wisconsin Bridge and Iron Company of Milwaukee; mess hall boilers were supplied by W. G. Schuwirth of San Antonio, steam cookers by R. G. Nixon of the same town and the ovens were built under Captain Ruhlen's supervision by local labor. July saw work started on nearly all of these projects; August—the water system; and September—south barracks and the sewerage system.⁶⁰

Meanwhile the remaining balance of \$150,000 authorized for the project had been made available concurrently with authorization for construction of 2 additional sets of captains' quarters, 2 lieutenants' quarters, and another double barracks (north barracks), which assured a garrison of at least a battalion of troops, possibly with a regimental headquarters. James McFerran of Troy, New York, received the contract for the officers' quarters, with Davis of El Paso doing the plumbing and Duncan McLaws of Hutchinson, Kansas that for the additional barracks. All of these buildings were to be constructed of Dallas red pressed brick, with foundation and trim the same as the other buildings.⁶¹ Work on all of these began in September and soon the mesa began to resemble a busy small town in itself, for the contractors had erected living quarters, dining halls, stables, offices and shops for their own use during construction since travel facilities to and from El Paso were, to say the least, time consuming and inconvenient.⁶²

However inconvenient the new post's accessibility, it was of continuing interest to El Pasoans who were kept informed of construction progress

by the local newspapers. Relations between Captain Ruhlen's office and the papers, as well as with the townspeople, were very cordial and cooperative. Judging from accounts in these papers, reporters must have visited the post frequently. Newspapers also tell of a moonlight picnic with dancing at the new fort in late January hosted by Major Henton, commanding old Fort Bliss, and Mr. Evans, one of the contractors.⁶³

Construction was proceeding on schedule; in some cases ahead of it, although digging basements in the rock hard caliche was quite difficult, often requiring blasting.⁶⁴ and must have caused some unforeseen delays. The sewerage system was completed in October, 1892, a month after starting. The first building completed was the subsistence warehouse in January 1893 (present building 2021) and hence is the oldest on the post. It became Captain Ruhlen's on-site office for the remainder of the construction period. By March the water system was nearing completion and most of the external work on the buildings finished. To show off the new post an open house was held in early March, 1893 by Captain Ruhlen and some of the contractors to which about 200 El Pasoans were invited. The guests, brought to the new post on the White Oaks railroad tracks, strolled through the buildings, climbed the water tower, and enjoyed sandwiches, speeches, beer and lemonade—not necessarily in that order.⁶⁵

The south double barracks (now building 13) was completed in June, 1893, followed by the north double barracks (now building 111) in July, but early occupancy was precluded because outhouses for these barracks were not finished until September. In August the grading and clearing which had been going on for the past year, was finished and the guardhouse (now building 241) and the three NCO staff double sets of quarters. (These were buildings 2000, 2001, and 2002 which were torn down in February, 1966.) All other quarters, administration, mess hall (building 21) and Quartermaster stable were completed in September, 1893. Contractor Evans abandoned work on the hospital (building 1) in October and that building was completed by Captain Ruhlen in February 1894 under provisions of the contract.⁶⁶

The appearance of the buildings, their design and quality of workmanship and interior beauty were highly praised by visitors and particularly by the local press, although judging from contemporary photographs the external appearance of the post on a barren, sandy mesa was anything but impressive. All that was lacking now was a garrison. It had long been assumed that upon completion of the new post and subsequent sale of the old one that the latter's garrison—two companies of the 23d Infantry—would move to the new fort. Such was not to be, however, for in September word was received that Regimental Headquarters, Band and Com-

panies, A, C, D, and H of the 18th Infantry, Colonel H. M. Lazelle commanding, would move by rail from Fort Clark, Texas to new Fort Bliss. The main body of these troops (8 officers and 202 men) arrived on October 27 and became Bliss' first garrison.⁶⁷ Although Lazelle, who had served at the Magoffinsville site of an earlier Fort Bliss from 1856 to 1858 and again from 1860 to 1861, was the regimental commander, he and the next senior officer were absent on leave, hence Captain W. H. McLaughlin, 18th Infantry, senior officer on duty, became the present fort's first commander. Lazelle returned to duty and to the post in November, 1893.⁶⁸

At this time Captain Ruhlen divided old Fort Bliss into conventional sized lots prior to offering them for sale at public auction, which was done the following year. Related to this disposition was the donation, about a year later, of the old post's cemetery—no longer occupied—to the City of El Paso. An Act of Congress on March 3, 1893 authorized the President to grant to municipalities for public use abandoned military reservations, or portions thereof, not in excess of 20 acres. The cemetery was bounded on the northwest by present day Missouri Avenue, on the southwest by Santa Fe Street, on the southeast by Franklin Avenue, and on the northeast by Oregon Street. President Cleveland signed the land grant and hence its name today—Cleveland Square.⁶⁹

Captain Ruhlen remained to complete the work on the hospital and a powder magazine and then on March 2, 1894 made final entries in the initial volume of "Record of Expenditures on Public Buildings at Fort Bliss"; on the 28th he added a concise narrative of its construction. Pursuant to orders from Washington he departed a month later with his right and left bowers, Offley and Gartner, for Detroit to take charge of construction of new barracks at Fort Wayne. He was destined to return to El Paso in May, 1895 and remain a year, in charge of repairs to some of the buildings at Bliss damaged by a cyclone in April, 1895 and also to erect some \$17,000 worth of shops, storehouses, and improvements to the sewer system needed for the post.⁷⁰

Every penny appropriated and spent, categorized as either material or labor, was meticulously recorded in the Book of Expenditures—even to the \$2.30 bill for paint for survey stakes. By today's standards some of the costs may seem at bargain basement level but others are quite comparable. Common laborers received \$1.00 a day, carpenters \$4.00, foreman bricklayers \$6.00, surveyors and rodmen \$150 and \$60 a month, respectively. Teams of horses cost \$3.00 a day; common brick \$8.00 per 1000 and firebrick \$38.00 per 1000 as compared to \$68.00 and \$300.00 respectively today.⁷¹ Contractors were paid in monthly increments, presum-

ably after continuing inspection had assured quality specifications and rates of progress had been met.⁷³

Despite assumptions to the contrary, construction of frontier posts, because of many factors—difficulty of access, lack of essential materials and equipment, shortage of skilled labor—were not inexpensive projects quickly thrown up by troop labor. Plans to improve Fort Quitman in 1870 by building 4 company size barracks, 13 sets of quarters, 3 stables, a storehouse and a hospital envisaged at outlay of \$249,500.⁷³ A few years later, the contractor's estimate for building the small two company post at Hart's Mill was \$160,000; the \$40,000 appropriated resulted in the use of troop labor, adobe brick construction, cannibalization of lumber, window and door frames from old Fort Selden, and several years of intermittent work before completion.⁷⁴ In 1884 the contractor who built Fort Hancock was paid \$47,000 for one barracks, 4 sets of quarters, and a few small buildings, all of adobe brick and wood frame, which he did not satisfactorily complete.⁷⁵

According to the Record of Expenditures, the costs of Bliss' buildings were as follows:

3 NCO double sets of quarters	each \$ 3690
6 Lts sets " " (Evans)	" 7070
2 Lts sets " " (McFerran)	" 6902
4 Capts sets " " (Evans)	" 8070
2 Capts sets " " (McFerran)	" 7951
Guardhouse	7500
Quartermaster stable	5215
Subsistence storehouse	10712
Hospital	14403
North double barracks	23777
South double barracks	23904

most expensive—due to its boilers, steam cooking equipment, and ovens—the combined administration-library-mess hall: \$40,293. Curiously, the outhouses for the barracks cost almost as much as the officers' quarters: \$5040 and \$5450. Drilling the two wells (236 and 306 feet deep) which provided the permanent water supply was tabbed at \$4.93 per foot, and the price for the system itself was \$30,117, which did not include \$2234 spent for the initial temporary system.

The final entry in this interesting ledger book recapitulates Fort Bliss' initial construction costs:

Preliminary expenses, rent, surveys, salaries, printing	\$ 7,831.52
Buildings (including plumbing, cooking equipment)	251,917.55

Water supply (temporary and permanent)	32,350.68
Sewerage system	5,844.84
Roads, grading, clearing	1,918.85
Total expenditures	\$299,863.44
Balance available from \$300,000 limitation	\$ 136.56

This was obviously before cost overruns were commonplace or the term even known.

To build the 200 man double barracks in 1892 cost about \$24,000; a 225 man barracks was erected at Fort Bliss in 1953 for \$330,000.⁷⁶ A comparable barracks under present day housing standards and cost per man limitations would run between \$3200 and \$4000 per man capacity, or on average for a 200 man barracks of about \$720,000—30 times the 1892 price tag.⁷⁷

The buildings Captain Ruhlen constructed at "new" Fort Bliss over eighty years ago have been in constant daily use ever since, although the mess hall, barracks, and hospital have for many years been used as offices, post exchange, and headquarters for various commands. In fact their durability and structural soundness were perennial major factors in determining that they should not be razed.⁷⁸ It would seem quite appropriate that one or two of these old quarters should be remodeled and refurbished as a living museum to accurately depict Army life at the turn of the century, as has been done at other posts—Forts Huachuca and Riley among others. Such has been proposed by a recent commander of Bliss—Lt. Gen. R. L. Shoemaker—who with a commendable sense of history and tradition was responsible for the nomination of two of the original officers' sets for listing as National Historical Monuments—an action certainly deserving the support of the El Paso community.⁷⁹

It is difficult to arrive at an accurate figure for the ratio of the purchasing power of an 1892 dollar to that of its present substitute, but in the opinion of several competent engineers, construction costs today—considering some of the many factors involved such as transportation, materials, labor, standards of comfort and engineering—are about 20 to 25 times those of the nineties and steadily rising. Thus a conservative estimate of the cost of the initial construction of Fort Bliss would be equivalent to a \$6,000,000 to \$7,500,000 project today.

In 1892 such a project was planned and executed—without apparent assistance or hindrance by higher authority—under the sole supervision and responsibility of one Quartermaster Corps captain, and made possible by the persistent efforts of a few determined El Pasoans of an earlier day.

REFERENCES

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689. Letters Received by the Office of the Adjutant General, Main Series 1881-1889) [Hereafter referred to as Roll 91]; Ltr. Hqs. of the Army to Secy. of War Oct. 16, 1882, *Annual Report of the Secretary of War for the Year 1882* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1882) [Hereafter referred to as ARSW]; I, 10; Ltr. Col. O. M. Poe to Gen. Sherman, Mar. 17, 1881 (Roll 5, Record Group 94 NAMP M-689, etc.) [Hereafter referred to as Roll 5].
2. Roll 5.
 3. Ltr. 1st Lt. Thomas N. Bailey, Office Chief of Engineers, Hq. District of New Mexico, Santa Fe, Jan. 24, 1881 to Actg. Asst. Adj. Gen. District of N.M. (Roll 5). Bailey's Fort Bliss map is included in Poe's report, see fn below.
 4. Ltr. Sheridan, Hqs. Div. of Mo., Chicago, Feb. 1881 to The Adj. Gen. (Roll 5).
 5. Par. 1, Special Orders 261, Hqs. of the Army, Dec. 9, 1880 (Roll 5).
 6. Ltr. Col. Poe to Gen. Sherman, (Roll 5); Donald Bridgman Sanger, *The Story of Old Fort Bliss* (El Paso: Hughes Buie Co., circa 1933), 16; Map by Lt. T. N. Bailey, Jan. 1881.
 7. Poe, *loc. cit.*
 8. Indorsements to Poe's report by Pope, Sheridan, Gen. Schofield, Apr. 1, 1881; Col. Ranald Mackenzie, Hqs. Dept. of N. M., Jan. 7, 1882 (Roll 5).
 9. Sheridan to Sherman transmitting Pope's Ltr. Jan. 3, 1882; Ltr. Sherman to Secy. of War, Jan. 7, 1882 (Roll 5). Fort Selden had been abandoned in 1877 and at this time was in very poor condition.
 10. Testimony of Sherman, Jan. 6, 1874, *Report 503, 44 Cong., 1st Session*, reference New Mexico's fitness for statehood; Ltr. Sherman to Secy. of War, Feb. 6, 1882 (Roll 5).
 11. Memo Secy. of War to President, Mar. 2, 1882; Message President to Congress, Mar. 3, 1882 (*Ex. Doc. 92, 47th Cong., 1st Session*) (Roll 5).
 12. Ltr. Sherman to Secy. of War, Fort Clark, Texas, Mar. 18, 1882 (Roll 91).
 13. Ltr. Sherman to Secy. of War, El Paso, Texas, Mar. 30, 1882 (Roll 91). On May 11, 1882 Secy. Lincoln requested the Chairman of the Senate Military Affairs Committee to modify the wording of the appropriation request as recommended by Sherman. (Roll 91).
 14. Sheridan comment on Sherman letter above, Apr. 17, 1882 (Roll 91).
 15. ARSW, 1882, I, 10-14. 50 years later 31 of the 58 posts Sherman recommended be permanently retained were active; 6 of the 76 to be abandoned were still active—3 of them in Texas: Brown, Ringgold, and Clark. Selden was lightly garrisoned for a few years in 1882-1886 during the Apache troubles, abandoned and turned over to the Dept. of the Interior in April, 1890.
 16. *Ex. Doc. 61, House of Representatives, 47 Cong., 3d Session*, Construction of Buildings at Certain Military Posts, June 26, 1883.
 17. ARSW, 1883, Mackenzie to Hqs. Dept. of Mo., 144; Pope to Hqs. Div. of Mo., 132.
 18. ARSW, 1884, 30.
 19. ARSW, 1887, 6; George W. Cullum, *Biographical Register of the Officers and Graduates of the U.S. Military Academy*, (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Co., 1891) II, 478. David S. Stanley, an 1852 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy, was an outstanding Civil War commander rising from Captain to Major General of Volunteers; a division and corps commander; wounded three times; brevetted for gallantry and service four times; and awarded the Medal of Honor. Stanley first served in Texas in 1854, again in 1865, and except for a year and a half, continuously from 1879 until his retirement in 1892.
 20. ARSW, 1887, 136.
 21. *El Paso Times*, Nov. 1, 3, 1887.
 22. *Times*, Dec. 10, 1887; Pamphlet: "El Paso as a Military Post," (El Paso: no publisher data, n.d.).
 23. *Times*, Dec. 11, 1887.
 24. William T. Rabe, "On to White Oaks: The Story of El Paso and Northeastern Railroad." *PASSWORD*, XVI, No. 1 (Spring 1971), 12, 13, 16. Magoffin, B.H. Davis, Morehead, Brosby, Charles Davis and S.J. Freudenthal were influential protagonists of the railroad as well as of the new post.
 25. *House Resolution 89, 50th Cong., 1st Session*, Jan. 23, 1888.
 26. ARSW, 1888, Vol. I, 136; ARSW, 1889, Vol. I, 190-191.
 27. *Times*, Jan. 4, 18, Feb. 18, 1890; General Orders No. 25, Hqs. of the Army, Mar. 11, 1890.

28. *Times*, Feb. 20, 22, 1890.
29. *Times*, Mar. 21, 1890; Record of Expenditures Upon Public Buildings at Fort Bliss, Vol. I. This is a large ledger type book in which were recorded all expenditures of materials and labor for each building on an Army post in compliance with Army General Orders No. 113, Sept. 19, 1882. The initial book for Fort Bliss, in writer's possession, also contains entries of appropriations made, by whom authorized, expenditures common to the entire post, to whom paid, and dates of payments. [Hereafter referred to as Expenditures.]
30. *Report 28, HR, 51st Session*, Feb. 6, 1890 to accompany HR 3923.
31. *El Paso Daily Herald*, Mar. 20, 1890.
32. Ltr. Joseph Magoffin to Secy. of War through Congressman S.W.T. Lanham, June 5, 1890, AGO File 7/13569, 1890, Record Group 94, Records of the Adj. Gen'l's Office, Reservation File, Fort Bliss, Navy and Old Army Branch, Military Archives Division, National Archives.
33. *Herald*, Mar. 20, 1890; *Times*, Feb. 22, Mar. 21, 1890.
34. *Times*, May 7, 9, 1890.
35. *Times*, June 3, 5, 6, 17, 1890; in 32 above.
36. Ltr. Hqs. of the Army, AGO, June 25, 1890 to Cmdg. Genl., Dept. of Texas, in Reservation File, Lands Office, Office of the Judge Advocate General, Dept. of the Army, Washington, D.C. [Hereafter referred to as JAG file]; Quartermaster General's Office, *Outline Description of Military Posts and Reservations*, (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1904), 62 [Hereafter referred to as QMG Outline Description].
37. *ARSW, 1890*, 168.
38. *Herald*, July 23, 1890; *Times*, July 24, 1890. In 1890 Fort Bliss at Hart's Mill had accommodations for 7 officers and 131 men, *ARSW, 1890*, 844. The Citizens' Military Reservation Committee was initially appointed by the City Council and subsequently confirmed by the Progressive Association. It was frequently referred to as the Citizens' Committee. As can be seen its composition was almost identical to other committees concerned with the new post.
39. Quoted in Hqs. of the Army Memoranda for the Major General Commanding, Oct. 10, 1890, Relative to the new site of Fort Bliss, Texas, in JAG File.
40. *Herald*, July 23, 1890; Arthur Van Voorhis Crego, *City on the Mesa—The New Fort Bliss 1890-1898* (Fort Bliss: ?, 1969) Appendices I and II; QMG Outline Description, 62-63; Judge Advocate General's Office, *United States Military Reservations, National Cemeteries, and National Parks: Title Jurisdiction*, ed., (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1916), 389. [Hereafter referred to as JAG Reservations]. Figures as to the initial acquisition costs vary. The *Herald*, July 23, 1890 states this tract was offered for \$8,250; the *Times*, \$8,700; the Memo to MG Cmdg. the Army (in 39) shows \$4,485 as the cost; Crego, App. I lists a total of \$9,235 collected in the first subscription. Deeds are entered in El Paso County patent records as follows: B.D. Russell, Aug. 13, 1890, 640 acres, Book 25, p 129; W.J. Glenn, et. al., Sept. 19, 1890, 180.5 acres, Book 19, p 285; C.R. Morehead, et. al., Sept. 19, 1890, 179.5 acres, Book 19, p 286. (From JAG Reservations, 389.)
41. Narrative, Expenditures; Cullum, Vol. III (Houghton-Mifflin Co.), 190-191; Cullum, Vol. IV (Cambridge: Riverside Press, 1901), 219. Captain Ruhlen, an 1872 USMA graduate had previously been in charge of construction of New Cheyenne Agency, Dakota Territory, Fort Custer, Montana Territory, Fort Meade, Dakota Territory, and had served for several years as Regimental Quartermaster, 17th Infantry, although at the time he was an infantry officer. He was appointed Captain in the Quartermaster Corps in 1890. At this time construction of fortifications, emplacements, etc., was the responsibility of the Corps of Engineers; construction of barracks, quarters, stables, warehouses, etc. that of the Quartermaster Department and was carried out by Constructing Quartermasters, such as Captain Ruhlen.
42. Rabe, "On to White Oaks," *op. cit.*, 18; Report of Capt. Ruhlen to QMG, Washington, D.C., Nov. 18, 1890 on his examination of the site of the new post to be built near El Paso, Texas, QMG Office No. 758, Nov. 20, 1890, in JAG File.
43. Ltr. Capt. Ruhlen, El Paso, Oct. 31, 1890, to QMG, US Army as published in *Times*, Jan. 4, 1891.
44. Ltr. Hq. Dept. of Texas, Sept. 29, 1890 to Adj. Gen. of the Army, 3d and 7th Indorsements thereto, in JAG File. An insight into some of the animosities can be gleaned from Owen White, *Out of the Desert*, (El Paso: McMath Co., 1923).

45. Ltr. Capt. Ruhlen to Col. George H. Weeks, El Paso, Texas, Nov. 2, 1890, in JAG File.
46. Report Ruhlen to QMG, Nov. 18, 1890, in JAG File; Ltr. QMG Office, Ruhlen to Russell, Dec. 1, 1890, in JAG File.
47. *Times*, Jan. 1, 4, 6, 1891.
48. Ltr. Russell to Lanham, Dec. 27, 1890, JAG File.
49. Ltr. *Herald News* to Lanham, Dec. 29, 1890, in JAG File.
50. *Times*, Jan. 1, 1891.
51. Telegram Chief QM Dept. of Texas, Jan. 2, 1891 to QMG, in JAG File.
52. *Times*, Jan. 27, 1891.
53. *Times*, Feb. 10, 1891.
54. Crego, App I. This amount plus that obtained in the first drive total \$16,060 which exceeds the total cost of \$12,766.29 as recorded in the Fort Bliss Land Acquisition Records.
55. *JAG Reservations*, 389. Deeds are recorded in El Paso County records as follows: W.J. Glenn (quit claim) Feb. 24, 1891, 30.2 acres, Book 19, p 354; R.L. Mayer, Mar. 10, 1891, 30.2 acres, Book 19, p 355; B.H. Davis, et. al., May 9, 1891, 236 acres, Book 19, p 356.
56. The Ruhlens initially resided at Hotel Vendome, then at 312 Texas Ave. and eventually occupied quarters at the new post when they were completed, thus being the first occupants of Fort Bliss. Statement of Col. George Ruhlen, Jr., Coast Artillery Corps, to writer circa 1935.
57. Expenditures, passim.
58. *Times*, Jan. 16, 27, 1892.
59. Expenditures, passim.
60. *Ibid.*
61. *Ibid.*
62. Within two years local merchants would complain of loss in garrison trade after the troops moved from Hart's Mill to the mesa. Statement of Col. George Ruhlen, QMC-Ret to writer, circa 1932. Act of Congress Aug. 9, 1894 provided that upon the sale of the old post, not to exceed \$4,000 would be expended on construction of a military road from Fort Bliss to El Paso. Most of the old fort was sold in 1895—QMG *Outline Description*, 63.
63. *Herald*, Jan. 30, 31, 1893. Ruhlen's staff mingled well with the community too; Chief Clerk Ofley for example was prominent in the activities of the McGinty Club.
64. Statement of Col. Ruhlen, QMC-Ret, to-writer, circa 1932.
65. *Herald*, Mar. 3, 6, 1893; *Times*, Mar. 3, 1893.
66. Expenditures, passim; General Site Map, Fort Bliss, Office of Director of Facilities Engineering, Mar. 1969, revised Mar. 31, 1971. By comparing photos of the officers line in Crego, 30 and 45, the partial listing of quarters in Crego, 42, with the 1971 Bliss Map and with the entries in Expenditures pertaining to building numbers and type quarters, conversions of the original quarters numbers to present day ones are: 15 = 235, 13 = 234, 11 = 233, 9 = 232, 7 = 231, 5 = 230, 3 = 229, 2 = 227, 6 = 224, 8 = 223, 10 = 222, 12 = 221, 14 = 220, 16 = 219.
67. *Herald and Times*, Oct. 27, 1893.
68. M.H. Thomlinson, *The Garrison of Fort Bliss* (El Paso: Hertzog and Resler, 1945) 29 and 30; Narrative, Expenditures; Cullum (Riverside) Vol. IV, 100.
69. General Orders No. 11, Hqs. of the Army, Washington, D.C., Apr. 12, 1894; QMG *Outline Description*, 62.
70. Cullum (Riverside) Vol. IV, 219; Capt. Ruhlen's autobiography, circa 1896, in writer's possession.
71. As quoted to writer by several San Antonio brickyards, spring 1974.
72. Expenditures, passim.
73. George Ruhlen, "Quitman, 'The Worst Post at Which I Ever Served,'" *PASSWORD*, XI, No. 3 (Fall 1966), 117.
74. Thomlinson, 23; Sanger, 16; Poe, ltr. to Sherman, (see fn 6).
75. George Ruhlen, "Fort Hancock—Last of the Frontier Posts," *PASSWORD*, IV, No. 1, (Jan. 1959), 19, 25.
76. Ltr. Maj. Gen. Cassidy to writer, circa Feb. 1970.
77. Ltr. Lt. Gen. R.L. Shoemaker to writer, May 1, 1972.
78. Statement Maj. Gen. Cassidy to writer, circa Mar. 1970.
79. Shoemaker, *loc. cit.*

HERITAGE HOMES OF EL PASO

The W. H. Austin House

by HARRIOT HOWZE JONES

In its prime the house at 910 San Antonio Street must have been very handsome. It is in poor repair now. The property is owned by the Mexican Government and served as a consulate from 1925 to about 1963. The Mexican Consulate is at present located in The American Bank of Commerce Building on North Stanton Street, the former Southern Pacific Railroad Building. As the costs for renovating and repairing are so high it is contemplated razing the old Austin house and erecting a new one. But these plans have been under consideration for eleven years without results.

The two-storied house was built in 1904 for William H. Austin. It is rather Victorian in appearance, of plaster and stucco on a wood frame. It has a steeply pitched roof of slate with wide overhang supported by wooden corbels. Three-tiered chimneys of light-colored brick project through the roof. The windows are very tall, narrow, and slightly curved at the top. There are two-level bay windows, topped by cupolas, on the east and west sides towards the back. An open terrace with balustrade extends across the front and along the east side of the house. There are fairly extensive grounds on the west side and in back. In the garden on the west, near the house, there is a stone pedestal holding a bust of Father Miguel Hidalgo, one of Mexico's heroes.

Inside the house one is impressed by the extremely high ceilings. There is a large entrance hall. At the south end of this hall where stairs lead to the second floor, the ceiling is actually a skylight in the roof. Behind the stairs there had been the kitchen and pantries. There are two large rooms on either side of the entrance hall, probably used as front and back parlors, library and dining rooms. Upstairs were four large and two small bedrooms and two baths. There is a small screened porch in the back off what was once the kitchen.

William H. Austin came from Fort Worth to El Paso in 1881 to become cashier of the newly organized State National Bank. In 1886 he organized a rival bank, the El Paso National, in a building directly across the street from the State National, on San Antonio Street. In 1893 Austin was elected mayor of El Paso but became ill and resigned within a few months of taking office. He was active in many successful business enterprises, several being in real estate. Austin Terrace, a fashionable section of the city, was developed by him.

The house at 910 East San Antonio Street was occupied by the Austin family from 1904 to the time of Mr. Austin's death in 1918 at the age of

61. In his will (his property was estimated at \$150,000) Austin left \$100 to each of his three daughters: Lillian (Mrs. Thomas Hasam); Lucy (Mrs. James L. Marr); and Maude (Mrs. Hugh Crouse). The bulk of the estate went to his wife Maude who is listed as owner of the house until 1920. The owner from then until 1924 was Florentio Ornelas. In 1924 the house served as the Texas National Guard Armory. The Republic of Mexico purchased the property in 1925 and used it as a consulate for nearly forty years. It is occupied today by a caretaker. Whether it will in time be renovated or torn down remains to be seen.



THE AUSTIN HOUSE

A recent photo by Cmdr. M. G. McKinney (Ret.)

In 1879 a former British army officer, Major G. Gordon Bruce, at the time living in Las Cucharas, New Mexico, proposed to the United States Army that ostriches be substituted for horses in the cavalry service on the plains.

Historians traditionally have viewed the removal of the Indian tribes of the eastern United States to the lands west of the Mississippi as one of the more sordid chapters of American history.

SOUTHWEST ARCHIVES

To "Reconstruct" the Past: The Sanborn Map of El Paso (March, 1902)

by LILLIAN COLLINGWOOD

Insurance maps, sometimes called "fire maps," are essential to insurance agents. By means of color coding and intricate marks and notions, such maps illustrate the precise degree of fire hazard that obtains throughout a given town or city. Naturally these maps have to be continually reissued or updated. And what happens to the outdated ones, I wondered. My question was answered during a recent visit to the El Paso Public Library, where, in the Southwest Collection, I found a number of (now outdated) "fire maps" which were made and revised over a period of many years by the Sanborn Company for El Paso insurance agents. I further discovered that these maps are valuable archival documents.

Because it would be impossible to discuss all of the Sanborn maps available to us, we will examine only one collection, the group of maps that were published in March, 1902, "For the Exclusive Use of J. W. Magoffin, Agent." This particular collection, which is printed on an excellent parchment-type paper and loosely bound in a sort of portfolio about two feet by fifteen inches in size, is similar in format to all the others which were to follow: the first double page shows a map of the entire city, and each subsequent double page shows a larger-scale map of small sections of the city.

As we turn to the first double page of this particular issue, then, we are presented with a map of the El Paso of 1902. First of all, we observe some printed matter. "Population—25,000" is the opener. We also read that the water supply derives from "32 driven wells," that there are various kinds of pumping engines available, that throughout the city there are "15 miles of cast iron water pipe," and that the Fire Department consists of "One chief, two assistants and eight paid men" as well as "120 men—volunteer, . . . 9 horses—drop harness, . . . and one second class Silsby steam fire engine." And finally: "Principal Streets Macadamized."

Pictured at the bottom of this first double page, in a sweeping curve of light blue, is "Rio Grande del Norte," spanned by two narrow bridges—one of them carrying the tracks of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe; and the other extending south from Santa Fe Street. Our eyes move north over several "blocks" of emptiness, and we gaze at our city: a crazy quilt of colors (each color representing the type of building material used in the construction of the various buildings). Small and compact, the entire city comprises not more than some two hundred square blocks—all lying in an area bounded roughly by Seventh Street on the south, Durango on

the west, a sparsely inhabited Nevada Street on the north, and a totally blank (though clearly labeled) Cotton Avenue on the east.

What we see is superficially familiar: a map of what is today central El Paso with its kaleidoscopic effect—two well-styled, “regular” city plans moving in diverse directions from San Antonio Street. (Or did they move *toward* San Antonio Street and sort of collide?) Some of the street names are unfamiliar, of course: Boulevard (called Idaho in its eastern extension) where Yandell is now; Utah Street angling off as a southern extension of Mesa. But these details do not make this map significant as an archival document.

What does make the map significant is the fascinating information it provides about the buildings and homes in turn-of-the-century El Paso. What a lot of adobe buildings there are, grouped for some reason or other in isolated “patches” of our crazy quilt. Surrounding the “Little Plaza,” which lies just southwest of San Jacinto Plaza, all the buildings are adobe, we note. As we “walk” slightly south and east, we encounter another concentration of adobe buildings between First and Fourth Streets. And look at all those frame buildings in the area bordered by Mesa on the west, East Main on the south, Wyoming on the north, and Florence on the east. But notice how popular brick is becoming. And stone, too. All the buildings in the “new” Satterthwaite addition (which covers the area immediately west of Mesa and sort of north of Missouri) are either of brick or stone. And east of Florence, brick is the predominant building material, we see.

Overall, this map of 1902 El Paso evokes an image of a very “interesting” town—two towns really, happily fusing into one at San Antonio Street and now in a state of dynamic transition: blending “old” adobe structures with fast-built frame buildings (to meet a pressing need, no doubt) and also with the substantiality of the “new” vision—brick and stone for a modern Southwest city.

Now that we have our general bearings to the El Paso of 1902, we turn avidly to the many detailed maps. Our “tour” through the pages takes us first to North El Paso Street, where “St. Joseph’s Academy (School for Girls)” catches our eye. Facing west on North El Paso between Boulevard and Wyoming, St. Joseph’s Academy is a two-storey brick building with a frame one-storey porch at the front. On its north and south walls, we observe four windows on each storey; at the back, two windows and a centered door on the ground floor, and three windows on the upper floor. Immediately at the back is a separate one-storey kitchen, also of brick, connected by some sort of frame structure to the main building. And in the very rear of the lot we find a frame, one-storey

building which accommodates the laundry on one end and hay storage on the other.

We look at the nearby buildings, all of them private residences. We observe the (no doubt) elegant "split-level" home on the southwest corner of North El Paso and Boulevard—noting its two fireplaces and its many outside entrances. We linger over each detail of each home, spell-bound at our "reconstruction" of this delightful neighborhood which (we know in our late-twentieth-century identity) will too soon be demolished by the relentless forces of Time and Progress and Freeway.

Turning the pages of Sanborn's "El Paso (1902)," we "stroll" through the San Jacinto Plaza, passing the band stand (frame) located in a central position on the northern edge. (We can almost hear McGinty's Band playing.) As we emerge from the Plaza and continue south along "Macadamized" Mesa, we pass on our right a rambling adobe building (probably at one time a home, but now partitioned into shops) and, on our left, in the middle of the block, St. Clement's Church, a rather squat frame building (fifteen feet high from street level to the eaves) with a lowish belfry slightly left of center. Attached is a good-sized Rectory, also built of frame, except for its kitchen, which is of brick. Moving around the corner onto Texas, we see a Methodist Church (brick and taller than St. Clement's: eighteen feet high to the eaves and displaying a small brick tower). Another couple of blocks, one south and one east, brings us to Myrtle, where we view the still larger Presbyterian Church with its forty-five foot spire. Across North Campbell and still on Myrtle stands the imposing Catholic Church. Constructed of brick, it is long and narrow with six handsome tall windows on each of its two long walls. Our eyes move up its twenty-seven feet to the eaves and, from there, to its majestic spire, rising seventy-seven feet above street level. Directly to the south is our City Hall, spacious and constructed of brick and boasting a large dome. Nearby is Central High School, also a brick building with a frame porch topped by a small belfry.

Having "toured" a residential neighborhood and the cultural area, we turn west to investigate the business section. We find the greatest concentration of stores on South El Paso between Overland and East Second. Actually, it's not a very impressive-looking section—merely a conglomeration of one-storey and two-storey buildings, predominantly frame, though a few are of brick and adobe. The shops are small and narrow, jammed together and separated from one another by thin walls. But a dizzy variety of buying opportunities compensates for the cramped and ugly quarters. We find everything from candy shops to Chinese hand laundries to grocery stores to (even!) an undertaking establishment. One shop sells sewing machines; another advertises "carriage painting"; another

deals in saddlery; another offers china; and down a bit we find a barber and a cobbler. The largest, least cramped stores deal in hay and feed and harnesses. And there are "lodgings" galore.

We wish we had time to "drive" (by buggy, of course) to the other sections of the city—out Texas toward Cotton Avenue, where brick and stone buildings are "under construction," or out Montana, where so many grand homes have been built lately. But we'll have to postpone our "reconstruction" of 1902 El Paso until another day. Or leave this delightful experience to researchers and novelists and movie-makers who will find in this Sanborn Map authentic data for their own "reconstructions" of "El Paso (1902)."

Records in the National Archives describe more than seventy garrisons, camps, and forts formerly located in Arizona.

—*History of Fort Huachua*

Brig. General Stand Watie, a full-blooded Cherokee, commanded an Indian brigade in the Confederate Army.

A red sash was worn by non-commissioned staff and first sergeants of the Texas Army as an insignia of rank.

The uniforms of the Army of the Republic of Texas, prescribed in May, 1839, were taken almost entirely from the uniform regulations of the United States Army.

The infantry soldier of the Army of the Texas Republic was armed with a flintlock musket, a bayonet, and a cartridge box.

The Pueblo Indians in their seventy towns in New Mexico outnumbered the Spaniards about 10 to 1.

There are those amateur historians who claim that jalapeños, in idiomatic translation, means "to holler 'Oh!' in extensive pain."

BOOK REVIEWS

[Editor's Note: All Texas Western Press books reviewed in *PASSWORD* are available for purchase at the Historical Society's shop located in the downtown Plaza Theatre, or they may be ordered by writing the El Paso County Historical Society, P. O. Box 28, El Paso, Texas 79940.]

FIFTY-TWO YEARS A NEWSMAN

by WILLIAM J. HOOTEN

(El Paso: Texas Western Press, University of Texas at El Paso, \$10.)

If there is a prototype in real life of an Horatio Alger hero, the author of this fascinating narrative would surely qualify. Forced to leave school in the ninth grade because of a death in his family, he was able to rise to the height of an editorship of a metropolitan newspaper.

William J. Hooten, affectionately known as "Bill," was born in Chocowinity, North Carolina in 1900. At the age of seventeen he came west to Albuquerque where two of his brothers had come with tuberculosis. His older brother, Leland, died the night he arrived. Bill and his younger brother, Archie, obtained jobs as telegraphers for Western Union but were no sooner embarked upon their careers when they were dismissed because of labor trouble. The two then pooled their resources and came to El Paso where they found employment as dispatchers on the old Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railroad. Later Bill joined the Associated Press which maintained offices in El Paso in order better to cover the Mexican Revolution.

In 1927 the Associated Press replaced its telegraphers with automatic teletypes and Bill was out of a job. However, because of the training he had received with the A.P. he was able to obtain work as a reporter on the *El Paso Herald*. Two years later he was named city editor. Archie, meanwhile, returned to Albuquerque, thus passing from the local scene.

In 1931 when Scripps-Howard purchased the *Herald* and combined it with the *Post* to form the *El Paso Herald-Post*, Bill was given his choice of going either with that newspaper as assistant city editor or with the *Times* as city editor. Fortunately for him and for El Paso he chose the latter. The relationship lasted thirty-nine years, until March 31, 1970 when he retired. He served as editor for thirty of those years.

During those thirty years Mr. Hooten met almost every person of national and international importance—such personages as Eisenhower, Earl Warren, Justice Douglas, Harry Truman, Lyndon Johnson, David Ben-Gurion, King Hussein, King Paul, Nasser and Pope Pius, to name only a few. At the same time he kept his fingers on the pulse of the nation as well as on the pulse of the state and of the city. Thus he was able to keep his thousands of readers well informed. For this reason if for none other, the *Times* came to have the largest circulation of any daily in the Southwest.

Mr. Hooten has led an interesting life which his excellent book permits us to share. For this we are deeply indebted and we thank him.

The book is beautifully designed by Dr. Evan Haywood Antone, director of the Texas Western Press. The numerous photographs, excellent typography, and the complete index facilitate reading and understanding. It will undoubtedly become a collector's item and certainly a researcher's joy.

University of Texas at El Paso

—EUGENE O. PORTER

DR. LAWRENCE A. NIXON AND THE WHITE PRIMARY

by CONREY BRYSON

(El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1974, \$3.00)

Perhaps bravery, the manifestation of courage, is supernaturally inspired; perhaps it springs from desperation; perhaps it is one more of the handsome children of self confidence. In any event—the quality is not frequently found. Lawrence A. Nixon, Doctor of Medicine, is listed in the brief rolls of the brave.

El Paso's own Conrey Bryson, teacher, journalist, public servant, gentleman of letters, has done more than document Dr. Nixon's place on the rolls. He has made comprehensible, reasonable, the steps leading to *Nixon v. Herndon* (273 U.S. 536-1927), *Nixon v. Condon* (286 U.S. 73-1932) and the subsequent "White Primaries" cases. While the Nixon cases did not, of themselves, bury the Texas Democratic Party primary as a lily-white activity, they did set the bell a tolling.

Remember? Remember how recently Black people were disenfranchised in the South, even in Texas? The poll tax, of itself, barred poor whites as it did Blacks. The "grandfather clause" was struck down by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1915 (*Guinn v. U.S.* 238 U.S. 347) as violative of the 15th Amendment. In the one-party, Democratic South the white primary was the answer to a Ku Kluxer's prayer. If you couldn't vote in the Democratic primary you didn't have an effective vote, for the victor in that primary would, of course, win the general election. Party rules in Texas, as Mr. Bryson makes lucid for the layman, restricted primary participation to white people. The time to challenge the party rule had come, even before 1927; what was needed was the challenger.

Ask lawyers about the search for civil liberties-rights litigants. Hah! You will learn what any involved civil libertarian knows. Ya takes 'em where ya finds 'em. Challenging the death penalty? You want a Sunday school teacher, convicted through utter perversion of justice. You settle for a bloody killer.

Wonder of wonders, when the Texas white primary was to be assailed the ideal litigant came forth, right here in El Paso. He was a gem: an intelligent, educated, industrious, articulate, respected Negro, sympathized with by many responsible whites of the community.

Conrey Bryson's superior selection of incidents reminds us that El Paso in 1927 was, as it is today, the most enlightened community in the state, by no means libertarian but still, in the Texas context of course, rational, civilized. Even so, it was also an isolated and provincial community, with a Ku Klux Klan organization, with racially segregated public facilities and with a tragic history of lawlessness and violence. Nixon was brave—and human.

His lawyer, Fred C. Knollenberg, an Illinoisan with a Michigan LL.B (lustrous in those days too) is also made vivid. Indeed, while the biographical treatment of Dr. Nixon, from birth to his death in 1966, offers testimony to the scholarship and fluency of the author, the ninety six page book is worth careful attention in other respects. Photographs of Mr. Knollenberg and of Dr. and Mrs. Nixon extend the imagery evoked by writing. Portraits of Justice Holmes and Cardozo (when will our highest judicial tribunal again be graced with such intellect and eloquence?) are presented, with quotations from their pertinent opinions. What are likely the best concise histories of the decline of Black voting power in the post-Reconstruction South and of the

Ku Klux Klan in El Paso appear in this pregnant little work.

More than this: most professional students of constitutional law, most active and informed civil libertarians, simply don't know as much about the fact situations in *Nixon v. Herndon* and *Nixon v. Condon* cases as is offered by Mr. Bryson, and surely don't begin to know as much about the human beings involved. Both the interested lay person and the specialist should take this opportunity to meet a brave man.

University of Texas at El Paso

—MELVIN POTTER STRAUS

AMERICAN INDIAN FOOD AND LORE

by CAROLYN NIETHAMMER

(New York: Collier Books, no price data)

Cookbooks always delight the heart of those dedicated to the "arte culinaire." But a cookbook so totally unique as Carolyn Niethammer's will delight the heart of all who enjoy southwestern Indian lore, tradition and custom.

This delightful volume is dedicated "to those ancient Indian women who searched the arid land for food and labored over its preparation—and to those who remember."

In her meaningful Foreword, Ann Woodin poses the question that inevitably comes to the mind of anyone contemplating this book; namely, "How did all those Indians who once roamed the stony expanses of the North American Desert ever find enough to eat?"

Carolyn Niethammer answers this question by pointing out first that they must be completely aware of and attentive to their surroundings to accumulate knowledge of the plants and animals and, secondly, the knowledge must be precise and accurate and applicable to changing conditions. There was no room for error. These people had to know where each type of edible plant grew and when the fruit ripened. A week's error might mean going without food or a supply of seeds until the plant once again matured.

The Southwestern Indians' relationship to their food and their method of gathering it was intricately involved with their relationships to one another. Many families converging on an area to gather fruit and seeds needed some organization to regulate the actions of the group. Thus, positions of authority emerged and were delegated to certain individuals.

The book is divided into six sections, as follows: Cactus and Cactuslike Plants; Nuts and Seeds; Grapes, Berries and Cherries; Foods of Marsh and Meadow; Greens; and Agriculture. Each section is sub-divided into chapters which describe particular plants, fruits or seeds and which contain the fascinating recipes using such native plants. Each chapter is headed by a Jenean Thomson line drawing of the food stuff in question; a description of its properties is given and the manner in which the Indians used it is also detailed. Medicinal properties, if any, are also described.

Of the 150 authentic recipes contained in the book, those for preserves and jams, bread, fritters and muffins are particularly appealing. A typical meal prepared from the recipes might include such gourmet items as elderberry wine with Apache corn snacks, cream of wild onion soup, wild fowl, squash, Zuñi succotash, wild dock or dandelion greens, Zuñi relish, Adobe oven bread with ground cherry preserves and agave chiffon pie or squawberry pudding.

Carolyn Niethammer is a professional journalist, food writer and cook and has published widely in Southwestern magazines. Her fascinating cook book will be widely read.

El Paso, Texas

—MARY ELLEN B. PORTER

THE CONFEDERATE LETTERS OF BENJAMIN H. FREEMAN

Compiled and Edited by STUART T. WRIGHT

(New York: Exposition Press, \$5.00)

Benjamin H. Freeman, a native of Franklin County, North Carolina, enlisted on March 2, 1862 at the age of nineteen in the "Franklin Guides to Freedom," Company K of the Forty-fourth North Carolina Infantry. His service began at Camp Mangum, near Raleigh. His first letter, written from Mangum to his mother, was dated May 4, 1862. His last letter, written from Petersburg, Virginia to his family—"My Dear Father & Mother Sisters"—was dated March 28, 1865.

Freeman was not educated, enjoying only the "rudiments of reading and writing." His chief weakness was grammar but his spelling was not far behind. For example, he not infrequently wrote "ware" and "where" for were; "prisners" and "desprit" for prisoners and desperate; "Coat House" for "Court House" and "draws" for drawers. Yet, as Mr. Wright points out, Freeman's "letters display that remarkable evolution of style that was common to so many soldiers."

The letters are interesting, containing observations of historical value and not mere chitchat. To this reviewer, however, Mr. Wright's explanatory notes form the frosting for the book. Here is found material that many Civil War buffs do not know or, at least, this buff did not know. For instance, Mr. Wright tells his readers in footnote 2 that "After the first half-year of the war, there was no uniform dress for the Confederate army. Most soldiers wore shirts of homespun and mismatched pants of wool. Underclothing was never scarce, although according to the letters of many soldiers, it was 'scarcely changed'."

In another footnote Mr. Wright explains that the Confederate soldiers came largely from the rural areas and were, therefore, tougher than the city-bred boys. However, they lacked immunization from the diseases commonly found in the cities. "Consequently, the first epidemics to sweep the camps were measles and mumps, and not infrequently, hundreds of dead soldiers lay in the wake of these epidemics."

Confederate Letters is a good book and should be in the library of everyone interested in the Civil War. Its one weakness is the lack of an index.

University of Texas at El Paso

—EUGENE O. PORTER

The Jesuits, Franciscans, Dominicans and, to a lesser degree, the Carmelites and Augustians were the most important orders in America. They have been called the "shock troops of the Conquest."

In Spanish local government in America *alcaldias* compared with counties or townships. They were subdivisions of *gobiernos* and were presided over by *alcaldes mayores*.

HISTORICAL NOTES

Letters to Germany

(*Fourth in a Series of Four*)

[Editor's Note: this is another of the unpublished letters written by Ernst Kohlberg to his family in Germany. The bulk of his correspondence was published in book form by the Texas Western Press of UTEP under the title: *Letters of Ernst Kohlberg 1875-1877*. The letters are the property of Mrs. Leonard A. (Eleanor) Goodman, Jr., a granddaughter of Mr. Kohlberg. The editor wishes to take this opportunity to thank Mrs. Goodman for permitting **PASSWORD** to publish this series.]

New York, May 27, 1902.

Dear Boys,

I received your letters of May 7th and thank you much for your good wishes. I have been here about ten days and I have to wonder every time I come here at the enormous and continuous growth of New York. The subway rapid transit tunnel is a wonderful work about ten miles long and it is being constructed without interfering with the traffic above. It is in my judgement incomparably greater enterprise than the construction of the St. Gotthard Tunnel.

The Texas Oil, dear Walter is a fuel oil; that is a lighting oil can be refined from it. The trouble is that the smaller companies in two of which I am interested cannot do much as they are lacking in transportation facilities and besides the Standard Oil Co., which controls more or less all of the railroads entering Beaumont has managed to tie up pretty near the whole oil field. In order to realize anything both the companies I am interested in are about to, or have by this time entered into a contract with the Standard Oil Co., to sell them monthly 25,000 barrels of oil each at a price of three cents per barrel the first year, six cents per barrel the second year and ten cents per barrel the third year. This would give us a fair return providing the wells continue to flow without pumping. I am interested to the amount of \$1700.00. This is one speculation that promised big at the start, but now I would not be surprised if it would end with a partial or entire loss.

The County-election for sheriff will not be before November. M. has withdrawn having made some kind of agreement with the present incumbent. The office pays 6-7000 dollars per year. J. M. has been Agent for the San Antonio Brewery for several years and being a boy of rather weak character has lost, on account of coming in contact with the class of people this business naturally brings, a great deal of his standing in the community.

I came here over the Rock Island as this is fastest and I consider it the best route from El Paso to the East.

Do not give up your studying of American History as I want you to be conversant with the country. I want you to be Americans first and fore-



ERNST KOHLBERG—1881

This picture is from the Ernst Kohlberg manuscript and was copied by Cmdr. M. G. McKinney (Ret.)

most as this is the country of your birth and the country where you will make your home.

From mama I receive letters almost daily and I have also received letters from Elsie and Leo. Mama has a great deal of influence in educational matters and stands as high or maybe higher than any other woman in El Paso. You may well be proud of your mother; she is a brilliant woman. Elsie is a very good sensible girl, Leo is an amiable little fellow thats about all, a good deal of a baby. I want to relate you an incident that happened to me and I request that you never forget it. I was introduced to the President of the German American Bank here with the object of borrowing a large amount of money. When he heard my name was Kohlberg he asked me whether I was a relative of Jacob Kohlberg. I told him that he was a cousin of my father, Jacob Kohlberg was an honest man; I never knew a Kohlberg who failed in his obligations and you are welcome to all the money you require. I have kept up this reputation and expect the same of you.

This morning I went to the Steamer Pennsylvania where I saw M. & A. Krakauer and their wives off on a trip to Europe.

I would have liked to have gone along to see you, but my time did not allow it now.

You do not need to worry that I borrow money. I want this money to build on Oregon and Main Streets. I have sufficient means to carry on the business. The last few years have been good to me in a financial way.

I enclose some stamps.

Hoping that this dear Boys reaches you in good health I am your loving father.

Ernst.

The Río Grande is not only an unfriendly river, it is also a dangerous one. Its quicksands have swallowed horses, wagons, cattle, sheep, and men.

The state of Wyoming was named after Wyoming Valley, Pa., and means "alternating mountains and valleys."

Dr. Andrew Ellicott Douglass is the father of dendrochronology, the science of estimating time by tree rings.

Primeria Alta included northern Sonora and southern Arizona.

The Pueblo Indians have been called the "Dancing Builders," two arts at which they excelled.

CONTRIBUTORS to this ISSUE

CONREY BRYSON is completing his third term as president of our Society, having served previously in that capacity in 1963 and 1964. He has had a number of articles published in *PASSWORD*, including "The El Paso Tin Mine," "El Paso and the Poll Tax," and "What Time is it in El Paso?" He also delivered the Hall of Honor addresses nominating Lawrence M. Lawson (1961) and the Reverend B. M. G. Williams (1962).

C. LELAND SONNICHSEN, Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Texas at El Paso, is the author of several books including the Southwest Classic, *Pass of the North*. He was elected to the Hall of Honor in 1971. He and his wife Carol reside in Tucson, Arizona where he is Chief of Publications and Editor of the *Journal of Arizona History* for the Arizona Historical Society.

J. CARL HERTZOG is retired as director of the TWC Press of the University of Texas at El Paso and is at present employed parttime in the UTEP library. He was elected to the Hall of Honor in 1969.

LEON DENNY MOSES was born in Kentucky. After finishing high school in his home state he attended Columbia University, receiving both the A.B. and M.A. degrees in English. He taught at the University of Texas at Austin for three years, 1924 to 1927, before coming to the College of Mines, now UTEP. He continued to teach English at Mines until his retirement in 1964. He is married to the former Lola Tigner and they reside at 918 McKelligon.

MAJOR GENERAL GEORGE RUHLEN, U.S.A. (Retired) is well known for his writings on the military history of the Southwest of which several articles have been published in *PASSWORD*. These include, among others, "Brazito—The Only Battle in the Southwest Between American and Foreign troops," "Quitman's Owners: A Sidelight in Frontier Reality," "Fort Hancock — Last of the Frontier Forts," "Fort Thorn — An Historical Vignette." Incidentally, the Captain George Ruhlen who was the construction engineer of Fort Bliss was General Ruhlen's grandfather.

MELVIN POTTER STRAUS is Professor of Political Science at the University of Texas at El Paso. He received his doctorate at the University of Illinois. He and his wife Elaine reside at 1133 Baltimore Drive.

MARY ELLEN B. PORTER, a graduate of Ohio State University, is the wife of Dr. Eugene O. Porter.

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THIS ISSUE WAS BEING PRINTED. HIS WIDOW,
MARY ELLEN B. PORTER HIS ABLE ASSISTANT
DURING ALL THE YEARS OF THIS PUBLICATION'S
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