

# PASSWORD



THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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VOL. XXI, No. 1

EL PASO, TEXAS

SPRING, 1976



THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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# P A S S W O R D

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## IN MEMORIAM

BEN R. HOWELL

MARGUERITE DARBYSHIRE STEVENS

ALLEN SAYLES

(Your editor attempts to keep informed of the deaths of Society members.  
Your assistance is requested.)

*Published quarterly by THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY*  
CONREY BRYSON, *Editor*

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## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by WILLIAM I. LATHAM

The past year, 1975, has been a good year for El Paso County Historical Society.

Let me recount, briefly, some of the highlights of the year:

I. Programs—Our four quarterly programs, under Chairman Chris P. Fox, to my way of thinking, were outstanding. The first, in February, was a history of William Beaumont Army Medical Center, presented in sound and slide by Brig. Gen. Robert Hardaway. It was well received by an enthusiastic audience. The Plaza Theater was the site.

Our second meeting, held in the Cavalry Museum of El Paso, featured Dr. Wilbert H. Timmons, University of Texas at El Paso history professor, who spoke to us about the role of El Paso in the Southwest during formation of the republic in 1776.

At our third meeting, a picnic held in McKelligon Canyon, Rex Gerald, director of U. T. El Paso Centennial Museum, discussed the Southwest from pre-historic times to modern days.

In October, our fourth meeting was held in the Plaza Theater. Maj. Gen. C. J. LeVan, commanding general of Ft. Bliss, presented a history of Ft. Bliss. It was an outstanding program, and an enthusiastic audience was on hand.

II. The society suffered a great loss in the passing of Dr. Eugene O. Porter, who had been editor of *Password*, our quarterly magazine, since it was first published. Dr. Porter had resigned as editor of the magazine and was succeeded by Conrey Bryson, prior to his death. In his memory, the Dr. Eugene O. Porter Memorial Fund has been established, with a \$100 award to be presented annually for the best article published in *Password*.

I think we have an outstanding historical journal in *Password* and, under the leadership of Conrey Bryson, it has continued to retain its high standard of excellence.

III. A new feature has been introduced this year—the Southwestern Memories Essay Contest for senior citizens. This contest had overwhelming response, under the chairmanship of Tom Westfall. Many of the articles submitted will be published in *Password*.

The Frank Gorman contest, under the direction of Col. (ret.) Bert Wright, was an outstanding success. This is an essay contest for seventh-grade students.

IV. Our Hall of Honor banquet, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Philip H. Bethune, was a tremendous success this year. Our living honoree was Tom Lea, noted painter and author, and our deceased honoree was James P. Hague, *El Paso Pioneer*. A record attendance was on hand at El Paso Country Club for this November event.

V. Fred Bailey, curator, has continued to add to the inventory of El Paso historical items. Cmdr. (ret.) Millard McKinney, chairman of the book sales committee, pushed his project, which has become one of the outstanding features of the membership of our society. James Peak, chairman of the membership committee, presented an excellent display of Currier and Ives paintings, in the Chamizal Memorial Theater in December. Leon Metz, chairman of historical preservation committee, with his committee, has been actively working with residents of Socorro and El Paso Catholic Diocese for restoration work on the Socorro mission. Mrs. Minerva Sanchez, of Clint, a new board member, is planning art exhibits in Los Portales, San Elizario.



A luncheon was held by the society for Spanish Consul General Erik Martel and his wife from Houston, who were in El Paso to visit the valley missions with view to securing financial aid from his government for restoration of one of the missions. This would be a Bicentennial project.

VI. Members of the society, on July 4, took an active role in the opening of the Tigua Arts and Crafts Center, and the big Ysleta celebration and parade.

VII. Our membership campaign during October, November and December has brought us a total of 800 active members, including 83 life members. Membership secretary Mrs. Gordon Frost directed this effort



and it is the first time in several years we are in a position to know, at the beginning of the calendar year, our membership and financial situation.

There are many other activities but I think these were the main ones. My thanks to all the officers and directors and committee chairmen for their services during the year.

As we enter 1976, a great opportunity has been presented the society. We have been offered the chance to become the supportive agency for the Cavalry Museum of El Paso. This would give us a museum in which to work; and headquarters for our society; a place to have our displays; a place for our quarterly and special meetings; it would put many of our membership on active committees; and would give us a prominent place in the Department of Museums, now being structured by the city of El Paso.

This has been discussed in detail by our officers and directors and will be presented to the membership at the February meeting. Later, it will go, by mail, to all members of the society for their vote.

As president, I say "thank you" to all who served with me in 1975. I look forward to 1976 for bigger and better things in El Paso County Historical Society. We may not be able to put each person to work, but I am doing my best to involve more people in society activities.

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The majority of the early settlers to Texas came from the region west of the Alleghenies and south of the Ohio River. The great migration of Germans into Texas was the result of the failure of liberal middle-class revolutions in Germany in the 1840's. Many German towns grew up in the heart of the Texas hill country bringing rural prosperity to the state.

—Wendell Garrett, *Antiques in Texas*, September, 1975

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Stephen Austin brought the first few American settlers to Mexican Texas in December, 1821. In 1823 they established the little colony of San Felipe on the banks of the Brazos River. They made every effort to be loyal Mexican citizens. But differences in religion, language, and customs between the American colonists and their Mexican rulers resulted in friction. This, in turn, led to Santa Ana's victory in 1836 at a small mission fort known as the Alamo in San Antonio.

—Wendell Garrett, *Antiques in Texas*, September, 1975

## BICENTENNIAL EL PASO

*Edited by W. H. TIMMONS*

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In each issue of this bicentennial year, PASSWORD will publish documents relating to the El Paso southwest at the time of the American Revolution, as edited by Dr. Timmons.)

This description of the El Paso area was written about the time the Bostonians under the leadership of Samuel Adams were planning strategy in protest of the Tea Act of 1773, which set in motion a chain of events that led to the outbreak of the American Revolution. Our El Paso reporter remains nameless, but he knew the area well since he indicates he had been a resident for seven years. He probably was a Spanish official; certainly, he was a man of culture and learning, particularly skilled in mathematics and science.

This document was published in Adolph F. A. Bandalier, *Historical Documents relating to New Mexico, Nueva Vizcaya, and the Approaches thereto, to 1773*, translated by Charles W. Hackett (Vol. III, pp. 506-509). The original is in the Archivo General de la Nación, Mexico City, Sección de Historia, Vol. XXV, and is listed in Herbert E. Bolton, *Guide to the Materials for the History of the United States in the Principal Archives of Mexico*, p. 25.

Description of the most notable characteristics of the settlement of El Paso del Río del Norte, as given by one of its citizens, after seven years' residence there. September 1, 1773.

This settlement is situated on the south bank of the Río del Norte, in latitude  $32\frac{1}{2}$  degrees and some minutes more or less,<sup>1</sup> as observed by the sextant and visual forestaff, in which the observer noted ten minutes difference; observation is possible with the quadrant, or *obtante*, from a hill called Las Minas, lying to the north of the said settlement on the other side of the river, as it permits a visible horizon from west to east.<sup>2</sup>

This settlement includes five Indian missions. The first is called Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe y Señor San José del Paso (the capital), whose Indians belong to the Manso, Piro, and Pima nations. The Mansos were its first inhabitants, but they are totally extinguished, and on their lands our citizens are living with their farms and homesteads, some by purchase, and some by gift from their chiefs. In these places Indians and Spaniards live commingled, the former having their farms and a branch irrigating ditch, while the latter have the main ditch, containing two floodgates from which the Indians' water comes. The upkeep of the dam is obligatory upon all. It is made of wattles, as the terrain of that river does not permit any other kind of fabrication, to say nothing of the trouble caused by its excessive floods and freshets, for it not seldom happened that after a dam had been built of stones, fagots, and stakes, it was necessary to tear



it down in order to prevent inundation of the town. This causes constant labor for the inhabitants, as does also the cleaning of the ditch, which caves in frequently, because of the weakness of the fine sandy soil.

The lands are extremely fertile, not altogether because of the quality of the soil, which is thin, but because of the benefit furnished by the water in bringing with it a thick mud which serves as manure for the land, leaving on top of the irrigated earth a glutinous scum which resembles lard.

The products yielded by this land are: Excellent wheat, free of all darnel, and with a remarkably large grain; good maize, when they know how to work the soil, which supports it only by making the furrows deep, for, on account of its lightness, if the corn is not well rooted the strong winds (to which this country is subject) uproot it and lay it flat on the ground. The land also produces beans of two sorts, black and spotted, of the size of *Indias*; white and black broad beans; fair-sized chick peas, though not very large; anise, and all kinds of vegetables and garden-stuff of very good quality, especially large, white sweet onions. There are many vineyards of excellent wild grape stock, but the vine is slender, and for this reason it is necessary for its preservation to cover it. The grape, which has a good taste, is black, and there are some vines of muscatel.

There are many fruit trees, which yield largely if they are not attacked by frost at a critical time. The principal ones, of which there is an abundance, with large trees and fruit, are bergamot pears and apricots; of a more moderate size, though not less abundant in fruit, are the apples and peaches. All yield so bountifully in a good year that no one takes care of or guards them; the most industrious dry the fruit in the sun to preserve it, and not seldom it serves as food for the poor. Most of this land lies in the valley of the river, facing a broad inlet formed by its banks, and only the church and the royal buildings are situated on the height at the margin of the said river bed.

Further down the river is the mission of San Lorenzo el Real, recently established, and composed of Zuma Indians, who, apostates and heathen, made peace, and the site mentioned was given to them with such conveniences as are permitted by the country. They have a ditch apart from the bed of the river with which they water their lands and those of some white citizens who live at the mission in order to prevent dissensions. This land has the advantages spoken of above, but is not so productive because there has not been time to clear and plant it, as all of it requires.

Then comes, in the same direction, the mission of Zenecú, which is as rich in grain and fruit as the aforesaid capital of El Paso. There are a number of white citizens living there, as has been said of the mission of San Lorenzo.

In the same direction follows the mission of La Isleta, abundant in

everything, with its separate irrigation-ditch and a large number of laborious, civilized, and industrious Indians. There are also some white people, besides a good many soldiers, who are not at all industrious and are inclined to marauding, which they call foraging, and from which they are not restrained by the reproofs of their commanders nor by the disastrous results which they have experienced from the enemy's mischievous deserts of their rancherias, for the purpose of falling upon the soldiers while they were engaged in the aforesaid foraging.

Then follows, in the same direction, the mission of Socorro, which has a small number of Indians, on account of being made up of natives from other countries. They are the ones who were bought from the Indians of New Mexico, and by them from the Comanches, who are at war with the Apaches. Although these aliens are in reality Apaches, there never has been observed in them any special inclination towards their nation, which is supposed to be because they left their country at a tender age and became strangers to its language. They have remained quiet, marrying women of their own kind, and afterwards among themselves. With them there are quite a number of white people who work good land, much of which was accidentally given to them by the river when it changed its course to the opposite bank. They guard against the danger that the river may return to its old course by making deep ditches through which it may flow in such an event.

The distance between this last settlement and the mission of El Paso must be ten leagues.<sup>3</sup> The extent of the settlement of El Paso is about one league, at the widest half a league more. The number of its inhabitants reached 9,363 adult persons and a little over 500 children, including all classes of people, Indians and whites.<sup>4</sup> In the last group are included a few Spaniards that are there and about eight or nine Europeans, married and settled there, excepting some who are in the habit of coming to buy wine and brandy in exchange for goods or their equivalent, following a clever and peculiar scheme of using four kinds of money, although there is only one that has a fixed value. The plan is as follows: The peso is, and is generally understood to be, valued on the basis of silver, according to its sound, the specie used being *reales* or silver. The value of a peso according to the agreement is six *reales* in silver. Pesos at the old prices are worth four *reales*, and pesos of the country are equivalent to two *reales* in silver. On this basis they make their trades, and by bringing together they manage to carry them out.

There are few cattle and sheep in the country, but the river abounds in fish, known as rock fish, although some call it bream. Other delicious fishes are the *corazón* and the *enguila*, all of more than medium size. The *quilas* are found more often in the ponds formed by the overflow of the river than in its channel.



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The tithes of the said settlement have run in the seven years spoken of close to 1,600 pesos annually in rent, with the express condition that it is to be paid in advance in the month of March, and under security; but to-day the dispute is raging, and of the rest, which has not been released, I say, "Who will collect it, either for rent or for administration?"<sup>5</sup>

All the things described above are to-day greatly deteriorated in the chief features necessary for their conservation, because of various misfortunes that have overtaken them since the date given at the head of this writing.<sup>6</sup>

#### REFERENCES:

1. This is an error; it should be  $31\frac{1}{2}$  degrees.
2. An obvious reference to Mount Franklin.
3. A league is about 2.4 miles.
4. The figure is too high; most likely, it should be about 5,000.
5. A possible reference to the conflict in ecclesiastical administration between the Franciscans and the bishop of Durango.
6. This may be a reference to Apache depredations.

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In 1859, the Rev. Mr. J. H. Harper was assigned by the Methodist conference in Goliad, Texas to establish a church in El Paso. There are no records now to show the assignment was ever carried out, and it was 22 years later, 1881, when Trinity became the first Methodist church established in El Paso.

—Adams, *Methodism Comes to the Pass*, 4-12

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In 1879, two years before the first railroad reached El Paso, Alexander Robey Shepherd, the last Governor General of Washington, D.C., traveled into the barrancas southwest of Chihuahua to become manager of a silver mine at Batopilas, where silver had been discovered by the Spaniards in 1632.

—Shepherd, *The Silver Magnet*, 17



# DOCTOR WILLIAM MARTIN YANDELL

by JANET Y. BROCKMOLLER

To modern El Pasoans, the name Yandell is principally known as the name of one of the longest streets in the city, stretching from the west side viaduct to the Tejas addition near the refineries to the east. They also wonder how the name should be pronounced. Dr. Yandell pronounced it with accent on the first syllable, to rhyme with candle. Three quarters of a century ago, it was one of the best known names in El Paso, and widely known throughout the rest of Texas and the southwest.

A Southerner, a Kentucky gentleman, scholarly, Dr. William Martin Yandell was born in 1842 near Murfreesboro, Roberson County, Tennessee.<sup>1</sup> He was the youngest of a long line of famous Kentuckians. His great grandfather, William, who married Martha Wilson, his brother's sister-in-law, was a Revolutionary War veteran.<sup>2</sup> They were the parents of seven sons, one of whom was Dr. Wilson Yandell, whose son Dr. Lunsford Pitts Yandell, was the father of Dr. Yandell of El Paso.<sup>3</sup>

The Yandells were unique in that all male members of the family attended medical school in Louisville. Dr. Lunsford Yandell moved his family to the beautiful, pre-Civil War city soon after the birth of his youngest child. He became a prominent physician and professor at Louisville Medical College where he was a contemporary of Dr. Samuel D. Gross, one of Kentucky's most famous surgeons and teachers. Being a dedicated individual, Dr. Yandell also served as a Presbyterian clergyman.<sup>4</sup> His children, in addition to William Martin, were Lunsford, Jr., David Wendell, and Sarah N. who died early in life.<sup>5</sup> Lunsford and David distinguished themselves in the medical profession; David, considered Kentucky's greatest surgeon, became internationally famous after having attended medical school in both Edinburgh and London as well as in the United States.<sup>6</sup>

At eighteen years of age, and feeling strongly that it was the duty of a southern gentleman to defend the south, William Martin enlisted in the Confederate Army. He was discharged when it was discovered that he was an acute sufferer from asthma. Again he reenlisted and once again was discharged. On the third try, the determined enlistee was assigned to duty with the hospital service.<sup>7</sup> He was a member of the famous Orphan Brigade of Kentucky.<sup>8</sup> The shocking conditions under which the men existed made a deep impression upon the young man who made up his mind at this time to spend the rest of his life educating the public in the values of cleanliness and disease prevention. When the war ended, William retired with the rank of Colonel, a title by which he was often identified until he settled in El Paso for the remainder of his life.<sup>9</sup>

Unfortunately, the records of the Kentucky Medical Association were destroyed by a flood in 1937.<sup>10</sup> However, newspaper clippings from the early 1870's not only refer to William Martin Yandell as Colonel, but as

Doctor, also.<sup>11</sup> It is therefore presumed that he returned to Louisville immediately after discharge from the army and reentered medical school where he graduated with honors.<sup>12</sup>

Asthmatic attacks continued to plague the young doctor and instead of opening an office for the practice of medicine, he pursued climatic conditions which would react favorably upon his respiratory problems. He moved to Mexico, first, where he lived for eighteen months. He enjoyed the gentle life of the people south of the border and established warm personal friendships. Always interested in others, he learned to speak and write eloquent Spanish and developed a wide understanding of the Mexican people and their problems. His distinguished appearance, sincere southern charm and gracious manners singled him out in any group. He was an extraordinarily articulate and interesting conversationalist and superb after-dinner speaker.<sup>13</sup> It was not long before the most prominent

people and politicians of Mexico became his close friends. He had become an "unofficial goodwill ambassador" and the *Galveston News* wrote, "...in case of an emergency his influence would be invaluable."<sup>14</sup>

In 1870, Dr. Yandell returned to the United States and chose to reside in Seguin, Texas. He was a man of many talents, and while waiting to discover whether or not the climate would be beneficial, he became proprietor and editor of the *Guadalupe Times*. Highly intelligent and well-informed, his reputation as a superior journalist began to spread throughout the state. He worked hard to impress upon the public the need for honest government and reliable reporting. He was noted for calm judgment and practical wisdom. His newspaper was accurate and honest.



Dr. William Martin Yandell,  
(Courtesy Mrs. J. Burges Perrenot)

One editor wrote that he had "... established himself with honor, and was in every way a gentleman." He had friends everywhere. He was a popular and persuasive speaker. A possessor of extensive information, he was a prolific writer in both English and Spanish and an avid contributor to local, state and national publications. His subjects included articles of



historical and literary value as well as health and sanitation. He became one of the best-known, and admired persons in Texas. He was a member of the National Editorial Association and it was not long before he was instrumental in organizing the Texas Press Association for which he served as first president. He was a true Democrat, worked hard for the party, and used the press to influence high ethical standards and public support of worthy causes. He attended every press and every political convention in Texas. The *Dallas News* wrote that he had "few rivals" as an after-dinner and convention speaker; was an "ideal" toastmaster, and had "few" equals as a story-teller.<sup>15</sup>

Governmental policies as they pertained to Texas politics were favorite subjects about which Dr. Yandell submitted copy for publication. While he was president of the Texas Press Association, he commenced an energetic campaign against the free grass practices of cattlemen. Though he, himself, was a large cattle owner, he believed the public and school lands of Texas should be protected and that "... cattlemen should not be treated as a favored class."<sup>16</sup>

In 1884, the *San Angelo Standard* proposed Dr. Yandell as a nominee for representative from the eightieth representative district of Texas. He received much support from the state press and friends but soon withdrew his name from the race. Though he had supported many friends in their bid for public office, he apparently did not aspire to office himself.<sup>17</sup>

In Seguin, close friendships developed between Dr. Yandell and two prominent families of the area, the Burgeses and the Rusts. Mr. and Mrs. Rust were the parents of two daughters, Bettie and Nannie. Bettie married first and became Mrs. William H. Burges. Three sons were born to this young couple. On her death-bed after the birth of a fourth child, who did not survive, Bettie asked Nannie to care for and be good to her three little boys, William H., Richard F., and A.R. Burges. William Burges, Sr. was at that time a Senator and unable to be with his boys all of the time, but he shared part of their life whenever he could.<sup>18</sup>

Seven years after Dr. Yandell moved to Texas he asked Nannie Rust, a tiny wisp of a lady, to be his wife. She reminded him that she had three little boys and the popular young editor said he would take the boys, too. For awhile the family lived on a farm. Nannie gave birth to a daughter who died early in life and was buried in the Riverside Cemetery in Seguin. Nannie never quite recovered emotionally nor physically from the birth and loss of her baby. Sometime later Dr. Yandell was quoted as referring to his wife as an invalid. A quiet, soft-spoken intellectual, one of her greatest pleasures was reading her husband's papers and other publications.<sup>19</sup>

The third of Nannie's adopted sons was Richard Fenner Burges who married Ethel Sheldon. The young couple had a daughter, Jane, who in



later years married Preston Perrenot, and is known in El Paso today as Mrs. J. Burges Perrenot. William H. Burges, Jr., Richard's elder brother, was a member of the first class to attend the University of Texas School of Law.<sup>20</sup>

In 1878 Dr. and Mrs. Yandell moved to San Angelo, Texas where he became editor of the *San Angelo Enterprise*. By far the most popular editor in the state, both in and out of the newspaper profession, his friends aspired to have the incoming President of the United States, Grover Cleveland, name him collector of customs at El Paso. A vigorous campaign ensued but Cleveland had other debts to pay, much to the disappointment of the citizens and Democrats of Texas.<sup>21</sup>

Still restlessly seeking a more compatible climate, Dr. Yandell determined to move one more time. He was desirous of establishing a permanent home in a dry climate and settling down to the practice of medicine, his original profession and primary interest. El Paso possessed the type of climate he was seeking and its location at the crossroads of two countries naturally attracted heterogeneous clusters of humanity continually arriving, departing, and mingling. The town was ripe for the spread of communicable diseases and litter. A doctor specializing in sanitary medicine and public health would certainly find plenty to do. The year was 1887.<sup>22</sup>

In September of that year, Gross Medical College opened its doors for the first time. The school was located in Denver, Colorado and, while it was not established by Dr. Samuel D. Gross, famous surgeon and professor of Louisville, Kentucky, it was named in his honor. A three-year medical school at first, specializing in laboratory techniques, the college has evolved today into the University of Colorado Medical Center. It was at this school in 1887 that Dr. Yandell enrolled for a post-graduate course in Sanitary Medicine and Public Health. He received a diploma in 1888<sup>23</sup> and returned to El Paso to open an office for the practice of medicine. Almost immediately he was appointed county physician and health officer by the city council, a position he held in addition to his private practice for the remainder of his life. In 1893 Governor Hogg appointed him state quarantine officer and he served in this same capacity under Governors Culberson and Sayer.<sup>24</sup>

Dr. Yandell made himself known to nearly every citizen of the city. Even travelers became aware of this new health officer and his new ideas about cleanliness. He was relentless in his efforts to enforce the health laws of the city. A door-to-door campaign was initiated with follow-up visits. People were warned by Mayor R.C. Lightbody and Dr. Yandell to clean up their premises in order to prevent disease, an idea too new for most people to accept. It became illegal to sweep trash into the streets. Often the doctor was attacked by enraged offenders who felt it was no

one's business what they did. But, backed by the city council and the city marshal, Dr. Yandell carried out his duties. He was a familiar figure as he made his inspection tours of the town on horseback. Mr. A.G. Foster said the city was kept cleaner than ever before. The *Monday Graphic* said Dr. Yandell was the best health officer El Paso ever had.<sup>25</sup>

The town's drinking water also came under the health officer's scrutiny. A report was made to the city council concerning the presence of a high percentage of impurities. The *El Paso Times* stated, "City Attorney Coldwell urges people not to pay water bills until the Water Company fulfills its contract" to purify the water.<sup>26</sup>

As a former newspaper man, Dr. Yandell used the local, state and often national press to inform the public of health issues of importance. More than anyone else, he deserves credit for bringing many thousands of new people to El Paso. In 1888 the city council requested a report from the county physician concerning the effect of local winter climatic conditions on the city as a winter health resort. After the careful gathering of data, some of which he had recorded the year he lived in Denver, Dr. Yandell addressed his findings to the Honorable Allen Blacker, chairman of the health committee. He explained, "El Paso has, in common with southern New Mexico and southern Arizona, the best winter climate in the United States for consumptives, asthmatics and persons suffering from other chronic pulmonary diseases." He further wrote, "Northern New Mexico and Colorado are unsurpassed in late spring, in summer and early fall. To invalids in search of dry, warm air in daytime, cool or cold bracing nights with rare excessive cold, moderate winds, cloudless skies, and considerable but not excessive altitude, absence of malaria, and in fact, speaking from personal observation, an almost perfect climate, I confidently recommend El Paso from the middle of September to the middle of May."<sup>27</sup>

*A Winter Health Resort*, Dr. Yandell's ten-page booklet describing his research was published in 1888 by the Times Publishing Company of El Paso and circulated internationally as well as throughout the United States.<sup>28</sup>

On another occasion, Dr. Yandell wrote to the Times explaining the principles on which the sewer system was constructed and gave a reason for every requirement of the city ordinance. He noted that the city conformed to all the rules of sanitation.<sup>29</sup>

Yet, long hours, superstition and ignorance, and frustrating experiences plagued the efforts of Dr. Yandell to ward off disease and epidemics. Threatened by the law and the city marshal, gradually and reluctantly, homes were connected to the sewer system. But, not soon enough to prevent the diphtheria, smallpox, and cholera epidemics which spread like local dust clouds over a wide area. Dr. Yandell asked the mayor and city



council to help enforce a quarantine of all people exposed to the diseases. Parents were forbidden to send children to school or to church or to permit them to leave home if they showed symptoms of a dreaded disease. Outsiders were not permitted to enter. Members of the family were ordered to segregate themselves from the ill. Violators were prosecuted and a fine of one hundred dollars assessed the guilty.<sup>30</sup>

In 1892 Dr. Yandell was invited to present a paper, *Contagious Diseases on the Rio Grande Border*, at the twentieth annual meeting of the International Medical Conference on Contagious Diseases held in Mexico City from November 29 through December 2nd. According to the census of 1890, the report stated, there were more than 10,000 people living in El Paso, and Juarez had a population estimated at 6,000 to 10,000, no census having been taken. Citizens of each country crossed easily back and forth, either by walking, wading, or using the two combined street-car and wagon bridges. Official health records of the two cities, covering the years 1889 through 1891, were presented. The death rate from diphtheria, scarlet fever and croup was six and one half times greater in Juarez than in El Paso. Doctors on both sides of the Rio Grande were said to have continually informed the public to take the necessary precautions for disease prevention, but a majority of the people still did not take a doctor's advice seriously. The doctors concluded that more education was needed before the people would be willing to make the "sacrifices required" to prevent contagion. These included white-washing walls, burning of furniture, clothing and bedding. Failure to report a case of contagious disease resulted in a fine of one hundred dollars and thirty days in jail. In case of death, private funerals, only, were permitted.<sup>31</sup>

Like the coming of summer after winter, diphtheria, wrote Dr. Yandell, was perennial in Mexican villages on the border. In Socorro, Texas, for example, where the total population was eight hundred people of Mexican descent, there were twenty-three deaths in one month in the spring of 1891. Small-pox killed sixteen more within two months in the same spring. Thus, the death rate in Socorro was 39 per 800 people in three months. El Paso, with over ten thousand population had twenty-three deaths from the same diseases in three years, and of these, nine were Mexicans. Dr. Yandell further stated that the Mexicans displayed an utter disregard of all precautions to prevent the spread of contagious diseases unless their fear of the law was used to great advantage. "Laws for the protection of the public health are, except in our Mexican communities, more strictly enforced in our country than in Mexico, because the masses in our country fear contagious diseases, while the masses in Mexico do not." The El Paso Health Department, continued the report, was having some success in educating the villagers around El Paso. The American Public Health Association published Dr. Yandell's paper in booklet form

in 1892.<sup>33</sup>

In an effort to reach as many people as possible, Dr. Yandell composed a seven-page pamphlet in Spanish: *Enfermedades Contagiosas En Las Márgenes Del Río Grande*, (Contagious Diseases on the Banks of the Rio Grande). This booklet, also, was published by the American Public Health Association in 1892.<sup>33</sup>

*The Texas Medical Journal* regularly published observations and data recorded by Dr. Yandell. In 1893, one year after the state quarantine officer's Mexico City report, El Paso and the lower valley suffered a six-month long diphtheria epidemic. The doctor's statistics and notes were followed with much interest and widely circulated.<sup>34</sup>

Early-day El Pasoans were not in the habit of thinking about cleanliness and illness on a city-wide basis and were often complacent about, or perhaps just accepted without question, unhealthy conditions in public places. As county physician, Dr. Yandell sought out every possible health hazard and took immediate steps to eliminate them. One such hazard was the abundance of stray animals which roamed the streets and constituted a possible spread of rabies as well as danger of attack. On another occasion, a letter was sent to the president of the Board of Trustees of the El Paso Public Schools. He was informed that investigation had revealed conditions at the Rink school were deplorable and the school would be closed if immediate steps were not taken to conform to the city health laws; that children deserved the best possible environment for healthy development.<sup>35</sup>

Dr. Yandell was vigilant in keeping a check on the quality and purity of milk sold to El Pasoans. Complaints were filed against offenders. Untold numbers of people were spared the dreaded illnesses which often occurred from adulterated milk.<sup>36</sup>

El Paso's conscientious county physician and state quarantine officer eventually conversed with nearly every person in town. His fame as a health officer spread throughout Texas. The number of deaths had dropped to an all-time low. The idea of quarantine and healthful conditions to ensure disease control commenced to be accepted by the majority of people. A Dallas paper noted, "Whatever he says goes, and every man who has been to El Paso comes away with a distinct recollection of two things only. The first is that he has been there, and the second is that he has met Dr. Yandell."<sup>37</sup>

The long hours and hard work involved in building a healthful city did not dim Dr. Yandell's interest in journalism, the Democratic Party, or honesty in government. In 1888 he took an active part in organizing the Democratic Campaign Club to support Grover Cleveland in his bid for President of the United States and for Allen Thurman as Vice President. He was most often chairman at local and state conventions and



always a much sought-after speaker.<sup>38</sup>

In 1892 Dr. Yandell and the Honorable J. M. Dean shared credit with the city of El Paso for starting a state-wide movement to introduce the Australian system of government and the secret ballot to Texans. A *San Antonio Express* story covering the state Democratic convention noted, "... there was none that was so lonely in his grandeur or so grand in his loneliness as the Honorable W. M. Yandell of El Paso. The fight that he made in behalf of the railways, and, most particularly, his fight in behalf of the Australian System and the purity of the ballot, have endeared him to all who wish to see the interests of Texas conserved." The article closed by saying that if Dr. Yandell should ever choose to run for office he could count on not only the *Express* but all Democrats who favor decentralization and oppose the one-man power.<sup>39</sup>

In 1893 concerned citizens quietly organized to rid El Paso of its gambling halls, brothels and the large transient or lawless sector of the population which frequented these places. Permanent residents resented the fact that El Paso was internationally recognized as a gambling capital. Mr. William Burges was the new city attorney at this time and, joined by his brother Richard and Dr. Yandell, the three men and their followers commenced a vigorous campaign for reform.<sup>40</sup>

Many El Pasoans gathered on numerous occasions for mass meetings at which William Burges and Dr. Yandell spoke. On at least one occasion, Dr. Yandell and the McGinty Band headed a parade of reform sympathizers as it wound its way through town to the Plaza. The group worked hard for political support, which they sometimes gained and often lost, to their great disappointment.<sup>41</sup>

The opposition group labeled William Burges a "radical."<sup>42</sup> So unrelenting were the efforts of the Citizens Reform League that it aroused the violent anger of the gamblers and their cohorts. Life suddenly seemed precarious and the excitement and fear of impending battle penetrated the hearts of many citizens. Daily, reformers like the Burgeses and Dr. Yandell made trips to the outskirts of town for target practice.<sup>43</sup>

Steps toward reform progressed slowly. The years passed. When permanent reform was at last achieved, Richard Burges was the city attorney. Dr. Yandell had been dead for several years but it would have pleased him to know the city attorney's office was ably presided over by one of his favorite nephews at such an auspicious time in the city's history.<sup>44</sup>

In April of 1895 Dr. Yandell was chairman of a meeting called to consider the Independent Party Movement in El Paso. Candidates were united for the purpose of securing more and cheaper water and the need for a municipal water works. A large number of voters assembled in convention and issued statements saying they endorsed the Movement be-



cause the time had come when honest, efficient and worthy men should be elected to various city offices regardless of party affiliations; that the \$200,000 to be received from the sale of water bonds should be used in the construction of a complete system of water works adequate to supply the present and future needs of the city; that all workers on the water system should have lived in El Paso for six months prior to construction; that every legal voter in the city had a right to vote as he pleased; that the large purchasable vote about to be used in the city elections was "subversive to good government and greatly endangers the prosperity of our city;" and lastly, the voters urged the press of El Paso "... to place before the people of our city the necessity of promulgating and carrying into effect the foregoing declaration of principles and respectfully request every voter to give the same due and unbiased consideration."<sup>45</sup>

In 1893 Dr. Yandell had outgrown his original office space and in July moved to the second floor of the Sheldon Block.<sup>46</sup> Soon after this date he wrote his nineteen-year old nephew, Richard Fenner Burges in Seguin, and invited him to move to El Paso and live with Nannie and himself. He said his wife was homesick for her adopted son and would be happy to be near him again. William H. Burges, the eldest of the three boys, had previously settled in the city, having moved here in 1889 at the suggestion of his uncle. Both men suffered from the same respiratory problem and Dr. Yandell, having found great relief in the dry climate, suggested that his nephew would do likewise. Young Richard joined his brother, one of El Paso's most prominent lawyers, after reading the law for a period of time. The middle member of the three brothers, Mr. Alfred Rust Burges, an attorney also, did not move to El Paso until 1912. All three brothers became charter members of the El Paso Bar Association.<sup>47</sup>

Dr. Yandell purchased property at the corner of Idaho and Kansas Streets where he built three homes. He and Nannie lived in the corner one, which the *El Paso Herald* referred to as a "fine \$3,000.00 residence."<sup>48</sup> After the death of Dr. and Mrs. Yandell, the three homes were willed to the Burges brothers. Mr. Richard Burges had the old Yandell home enlarged, but it no longer exists today; it was demolished in recent years to make room for the exit road from the freeway to Kansas Street.<sup>49</sup> Even the name of Idaho Street was changed; Mr. A. P. Coles, realtor, renamed it Boulevard. In July of 1920, the city council honored the man who had done more to advertise El Paso than anyone else by adding the name of Yandell to Boulevard.<sup>50</sup>

By 1898, Dr. Yandell's health became visibly poor. Recuperation was slow after an illness in 1897, which the *El Paso Times* and the *Dallas News* referred to as a "long and dangerous attack of fever."<sup>51</sup> In May he became depressed over the death of his brother David, famous surgeon of Kentucky.<sup>52</sup> By 1899 El Paso's county physician was unable to accept in-

vitations to act as chairman, toastmaster or speaker for favorite organizations throughout Texas.<sup>53</sup> The state of his health was periodically reported by the press.<sup>54</sup> He was cheered briefly by an illustrated story in *Harper's Bazaar* describing the work and ability of his niece, Miss Enid Yandell, famous American sculptress.<sup>55</sup>

Unexpectedly in the evening of March 23, 1900, Dr. William Martin Yandell died during a severe attack of asthma. William Burges accompanied his uncle's body to Seguin where the funeral service was held in the Rust home. Interment was in the Riverside Cemetery next to the grave of his daughter. Mrs. Yandell, William's wife of twenty-two years, survived her husband by nine years.<sup>56</sup>

El Paso had lost one of her greatest public servants. Through his specialized work he had helped bring El Paso from the periphery of an untamed, isolated west to the status of civilized city. Without pure water, pure food and a clean, healthful city controlled by a wise county physician, supported by a strong city administration and bold laws, no city can grow to greatness. Without favorable and regular national and international publicity no city can attract thousands of new citizens and visitors. Dr. Yandell made all these things possible during the thirteen years he dedicated to the betterment of El Paso, Texas.

## NOTES

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20. *Ibid.*  
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23. Aguirre, *loc. cit.*

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44. Sonnichsen, *loc. cit.* Pp. 353, 357.  
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47. Conversation with Mrs. J. Burgess Perrenot, August, 1974.
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## THE DREAM—ELEPHANT BUTTE DAM

by CHRIS P. FOX

The Pharaohs found it to be true as they farmed the flood plains of Egypt's Nile. In our era of the Conquistadores in the Rio Grande Valley, the hard working Padres found it true also, and in later years around the turn of the 20th century, it was generally admitted that farming with flood waters was either a feast or famine . . . usually bordering on the famine. So it was that following the Civil War that there was much talk going on along the Rio Grande in the communities that really had a chance to bloom in the desert if a dam could be built to provide a steady supply of water.

Those favorable to a dam were in a majority, but when it came to a location, that was a wild horse with a white collar . . . easy to see, but hard to catch. But as most things that are worthwhile, they are at times of a volatile nature, so it was that the dam issue found the resting place on the doorstep of the El Paso Chamber of Commerce . . . and shortly thereafter "the Foundling" was taken in.

Then as now, there were those who connived with public issues to seek personal benefits and then, as now, it was not too difficult to smoke them out because their trails were easy to follow. And there were those who had special interests, most of them perfectly legitimate, and those who were a little more altruistic and broader in their views, who felt that a solution of a constant irrigation water supply was high on the agenda of the public.

Shortly after our Civil War, the British and Dutch engineers and land promoters were prowling this Western arid country seeking various locations with water, lumber and mineral rights. In the late 1880s, the British-Dutch Maxwell Land Grant Co. with American headquarters in Raton, N. M., interested itself in the waters of the Rio Grande.<sup>1</sup> This spurred the thinking and actions of others who had had the matter in the back of their minds but had never really gone to work on it . . . perhaps whipping the Indians had a priority.

It was generally conceded that man was going to have to tame the raging and cantankerous Rio Grande del Norte, if an orderly process of irrigated land development was to be possible.

About the turn of the 20th century, the Assouan Dam of Egypt was beginning to slide off the drawing board and into the arenas of action . . . it was talked about in awe wherever men of the soil gathered. So it was to be the case later when that "thing" called the Elephant Butte Dam came into being. It was to be a mighty device to control raging floods, store them and, through release of water, re-claim lands for the desert.<sup>2</sup>

The Chamber of Commerce began to make itself felt in this great issue, with all factions looking upon it as the to-be-trusted arbiter. Everybody

today hangs on the walls of the El Paso County Water Improvement Association.

The water impounded behind the dam was to be discharged into the bed of the river when the irrigations time started and carried to the various diversion dams. There would be 180,000 acres of land under the Elephant Butte Irrigation Project with 110,000 of that amount lying in the New Mexico area, with 45,000 in the Texas (El Paso and Hudspeth County) area and 25,000 in Old Mexico (the Juarez valley). At the same time of the overall settlement, there was included in a simple treaty between Mexico and the U. S. a settlement of claims on account of prior rights to the water of the Rio Grande by Mexico. The agreement was the United States would deliver to the border each year for the 25,000 acres, 60,000 acre-feet of water; an acre-foot is one acre of ground covered one foot deep with water . . . quite a lot of water! (43,560 cubic feet or about 325,200 gallons).

Many things were to follow when the dam was completed. The canals and laterals to distribute the water, the levying of taxes to pay the government back for the estimated \$15,000,000 it would have expended, etc. Settling the dam down at Elephant Butte was really the big chore and spelled out good days for the Southwest. During negotiations, the Chamber was keeping the various factions from flying off on a tangent and delaying the getting of a dam for endless years.

The Chamber came into being as such in 1899 and the new City Hall under Mayor Joseph Magoffin was built the same year. The first president of the Chamber was Sam Freudenthal, and it was his administration that felt the first impact of the coming Elephant Butte storm.

Following was C. W. Browne who also weathered a few "dam" storms, but the full fury hit about 1903 when E. M. Bray, who ran the famous Smelter Store, became president. Toward the end of his term, proponents and opponents alike settled on J. A. "Jimmy" Smith as the next president. Uncle Jimmy was widely known and a good, hard-nosed Republican . . . that was the time when being a Republican wasn't much easier than it is today, but "Uncle Jimmy" was close to all the factions in the Elephant Butte Irrigation Battle and had their respect. He played a big part in getting the water rights signed, which in turn gave the green light to the construction of the dam.

The interest in this construction was great, and despite the difficulty of transportation, El Pasoans were to go by from time to time to see "how their dam was doing." So as it moved along, on May 9 the El Paso Chamber and the Mesilla Valley Chamber ran a joint excursion to Elephant Butte Dam 120 miles north of El Paso, on the Santa Fe via El Paso to Engle and to the dam. The train left the El Paso Union Station at 7 and picked up passengers along the route. About 250 made the tiring



trip, watching more than 400 men engage in the excavation on the great dam, as everything went according to plan . . . to soon fulfill a dream.

The construction of the dam-distribution system was not "peanuts" . . . it was a big job calling for much planning, manpower, brainpower and a 20-mile rail line from the Santa Fe main line at Engle to the dam site. The physical construction of the dam started in 1908 and was finished with the release of water in 1915.<sup>3</sup>

The basic cost of the dam only was \$5,240,000. It was 263 feet high, 1,585 feet long, with its foundation 100 feet below the bed of the river with a base 215 feet thick. The crest of the dam was 18 feet wide, ample for two-way traffic. The maximum depth of the reservoir at the dam was 163 feet, and the average depth of the entire lake was 66 feet with a surface area of 40,000 acres.



*ELEPHANT BUTTE AT THE START OF CONSTRUCTION.*

*(Frank G. Mangan Collection)*

The only time the dam ever overflowed was in the spring of 1941 after a heavy runoff in its drainage basin of about 37,000 square miles in Southern Colorado and Northern New Mexico. The capacity of the dam when built was 2,600,000 acre-feet.

It was named Elephant Butte because of the mountain when looking at it from the south strongly resembled an elephant lying down. The lake in back of the dam was named for B. M. Hall, chief engineer of the U. S. Reclamation Bureau, which built the dam.

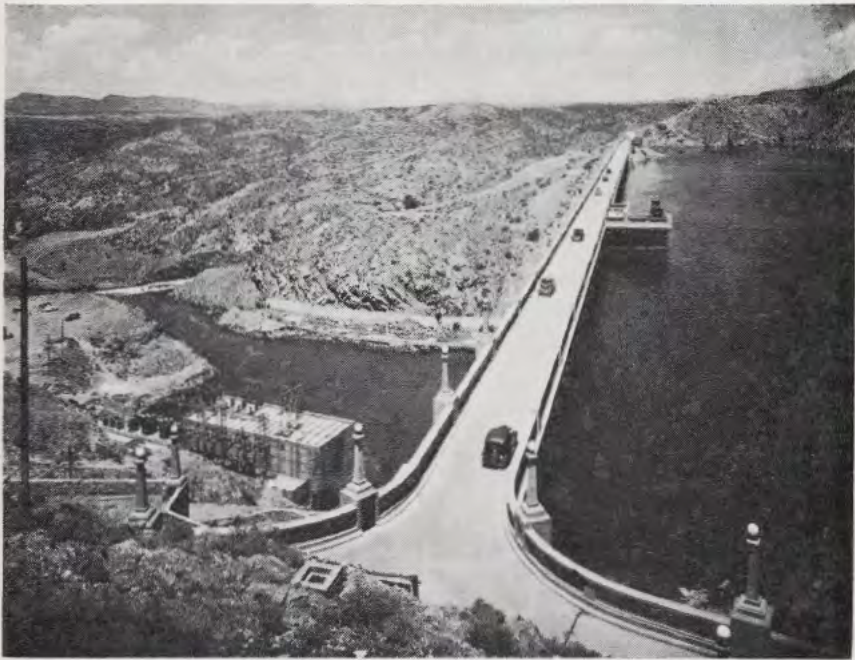
Before the first water passed through the farm headings, the area from



Hatch, N. M., to Fort Hancock, Tex. had many new farm-implement and general stores ready to do business. The single-shot gasoline engine was finding a place, but the horses and mules were still tugging the scrapers, plows and wagons.

Their solid tired two and four cylinder trucks, still in their infancy, were as yet only for city folks, though the automobile was quickly coming into the picture as was testified to by G. "Alley" Martin, business manager of the El Paso Herald. He stated that the road between Elephant Butte Dam and El Paso was "excellent" and that he had set a record . . . wheeling his Chalmers "6" from the dam to El Paso in six hours and 10 minutes for the 120 miles . . . wow!<sup>4</sup>

The coming of the dam changed the way of life for all who lived in the Rincon, Mesilla and El Paso Valleys. The bosques and cottonwoods fell under the ax and plows, the long since dry canals of the Padres had been leveled and the light of the fire-red dawns shone upon it as a land that has come into full bloom . . . and life moved happily on to other days of challenge and advancement.



ELEPHANT BUTTE DAM, July, 1941 (The only time the lake was filled).  
(Chris P. Fox Collection)

From the time of its organization in 1899, up to and including the time when Elephant Butte Dam actually started under construction, the Chamber of Commerce was located at 107 San Francisco Street. During

most of that time, Mr. Ernest E. Russell was secretary and later on he was followed by C. A. Kinne . . . the Chamber moved into its new building, as previously stated, in the summertime of 1909 . . . just in time to get ready for the big hustle and bustle of the famous Taft-Diaz meeting. It is reported that Mr. Taft heard plenty about the Elephant Butte Dam and so did President Diaz . . . the latter basically being interested as to whether or not Mexico was going to get its share of water . . . he was assured that such would be the case . . . much water was served during the Taft-Diaz meeting . . . very little of it being drunk.

#### NOTES

1. The Author's grandfather, Martin P. Pels, a native of Holland and formerly with the British East Indies Company in Batavia, was sent to this country to become manager of the British-Dutch Maxwell Land Grant Company.
2. An indication of the nation wide interest in the dam is found in *National Geographic Magazine* for July, 1920: "The largest irrigation reservoir anywhere is the great Elephant Butte dam, which stores more water than the world famous Assuan dam on the Nile. This big dam, built in the Rio Grande above El Paso, holds water enough, we are told "to fill a standpipe 11 feet in diameter reaching from El Paso to the moon, or to cover Massachusetts to a depth of six inches!"
3. Files of the Rio Grande Project, U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, show March 1, 1915 as the date of the first water release.
4. For the return trip, a faster record was set by W. J. Rand on June 15, 1913, making the trip in five hours and fifty three minutes. See *PASSWORD*, XX, 115, Fall 1975.

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"The cow is a four legged animal with horns, hide, teats and a tail. She produces beef and milk and calves, and is surrounded by cowboys and mortgages."—Joe M. Evans, *The Cow*, 7.



## HISTORICAL MEMORIES CONTEST

In its first Historical Memories Contest (see *PASSWORD*, XX p. 162), the El Paso County Historical Society awarded three cash prizes and six honorable-mention prizes to receive memberships in the Society. Winners of the first three prizes were published in the Winter 1975 issue. Two Honorable Mention winners, by Alma North Ferguson, 407 Rim Road, and Bernice Brick, 4515 Hueco Street, follow.

### BEFORE THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

by ALMA NORTH FERGUSON

#### PART I

##### NO MALPRACTICE

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The following article was narrated by Mrs. Ferguson, age 95, and composed by her son, John A. Ferguson.

Seventeen and going to work—that is the story in 1897 of Alma North in El Paso. Her high school years at Central School were completed and now she felt real good about getting her first job as bookkeeper at the Singer Sewing Machine office on South El Paso Street in the center of town. She walked to work every day and walked home for lunch just as she had done while going to school.

Alma lived with her mother and father and two younger sisters and brother in the family home at 917 North Oregon Street. This was just north of Montana Avenue and was the northernmost home in El Paso when built in 1895. The North property was on the west side of Oregon Street and extended as vacant land south from their home to Missouri Street. On the east side of the street was a row of lovely new homes from Missouri Street south to the railroad tracks on Main Street.

North Oregon Street was where Alma walked on her way back to work from her noontime lunch at home. This day she had a bad sore throat and as she approached the doctor's home-office on the corner of Missouri and Oregon Streets (La Villita, 1975), she decided she had better go in and see him. He was one of El Paso's most prominent and respected physicians.

"Oh doctor," she said, "my throat hurts me so."

The doctor said, "I've never seen such a bad sore throat. Those tonsils are the biggest I've ever seen. Wait a minute. Let me measure them."

So Alma opened wide her mouth for the doctor to measure her tonsils.

"Oh that hurt!" she sputtered.

"Now you go on to work this afternoon and spit in this rag if you have to."

Poor Alma was gagging. She heard the doctor say to come back and he would take out the other one. It did not take her long to realize the doctor

had cut out one tonsil. But she gathered her strength and tried her best to walk spritely on to work. She was coming to the railroad tracks and as she was crossing them her foot tripped and she stumbled. Then she heard a voice.

"Think you're smart, don't you!"

Then the voice continued, "Ha, ha, ha, ha!"

By this time Alma recognized this to be the parrot at the Chinese fruit stand on the northwest corner of the tracks and North Oregon Street (Western Union, 1975). She went on to work and in due course of time recovered from her tonsilectomy. This is attested by the fact that in 1975 at the age of 95, she lives in good health in her home of 68 years at 1312 E. Rio Grande Avenue, with one tonsil and no parrot.

## PART II

### ICE CREAM SOCIAL IN THE PLAZA

In October 1897, Alma North, joined the First Presbyterian Church and immediately became very active in their youth group — Christian Endeavor. This was not a large group, perhaps a dozen or more, and for lack of numbers, the members joined youth groups of the other churches in town. These were conveniently located as stone churches on Myrtle Avenue.

In the summer of 1898, Alma had an idea for her church friends of all faiths. Why not have an ice cream social on the grass at the San Jacinto Plaza, or "Plaza," as it has been called through the years. Money could be made because the town came out on Saturday night. Chester Montague, a member of St. Clement's Episcopal Church, worked at the soda fountain in Kelly and Pollard Drug Store. He obtained a donation from his employers for all equipment and refreshments for the social.

The night arrived and the church group was on the lawn in the Plaza and the McGinty Band was playing in the grandstand. Music filled the air. The crowd moved slowly and steadily on the periphery of the Plaza. Gentlemen promenaded slowly together in one direction, ladies in the other. Now and then there was a stop to rest on the benches on the inner rim of the Plaza, and people lingered around the group of young people selling delicious ice cream. It was a delightful way to raise money for all the churches of El Paso—in the summer of 1898.

## PART III

### PICNICS

In the 1890's, there were three favorite places for young El Pasoans to go for picnics on Sunday afternoons—down to the Indian Village (Ysleta), up the Juarez valley, and Ft. Bliss.

On the way down to the Indian Village, the road went along the high wooden fence enclosing the railroad roundhouse and yards. Alma was at



the reins of a horse and buggy that day and suddenly as they came to the fence, a steam engine started up on the other side scaring the horse. Her friends got a ride they would never forget.

After the horse passed the fence, the rest of the ride down to the village was perfectly delightful. It went through the lush valley and passed a farm house now and then. Fruit was for sale—pears, grapes, melons, peaches, apricots—just everything. This was the favorite outing for almost everybody in town. Then the highlight was a picnic in the orchard around the church. Of course, today it is the Ysleta church and the Tigua Indian Reservation.

Another picnic ground was the group of trees on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande above Juarez. This is the Peace Grove of Trees and can be seen in 1975 as the trees across the river from the Hacienda Café. Of course to get there, the picknickers generally crossed the Rio Grande at Juarez and followed the river up the valley to the trees. One day, in 1898, Alma and her church friends did this. Just as they were starting the picnic along came a buckboard wagon filled with young fellows who took a shortcut and forded the river directly from El Paso to the grove. It was a very simple journey to drive across the bedrock of the Rio Grande when the water was low. This was the historic crossing of the wagon trains—El Paso crossing at the Pass of the North—the geologic shallow bedrock of the Rio Grande.

Of course the ride to Ft. Bliss took all day, but everybody liked to go because of the military attraction for the young people of El Paso. Sundays, again, were the favorite days.

#### PART IV

#### BICYCLE RIDE TO VINTON

In 1899, the George W. North family had moved up the valley to Vinton. The continuous floods of 1897 and 1898 laid in ruins the brick plant of Alma's father in South El Paso. He discovered clay beds at Vinton and started a brick plant there. The family lived in an adobe home, spacious enough to accommodate their weekend guests from El Paso. Their property included a lake right by the house and fishing was good. The water attracted ducks in season, and of course there were plenty of rabbits.

The North home became a hunting lodge for their friends. It was easy to come up from El Paso on the train. There always seemed to be a caboose on a freight or a passenger train available on Saturday afternoons or very early Sunday morning. Hunting or fishing began sometime on Sunday morning and this was followed by the eventful Sunday dinner of fish fry, rabbit pie, or roast duck. Sunday afternoons were spent watching the railroad tracks in order to stop a train back to El Paso.

But Gerald Windsor was different. He did not depend on the trains. He rode his bike all the way up from El Paso on the wagon road (Camino Real). Arriving on Saturday afternoon, he was the first one out for game in the morning. This young man was the true sportsman. He brought his guns, his fishing gear, his bicycle from England because he was an Englishman with the King's family name. Everything that Gerald did was done expertly, and he shared his knowledge with his western friends. They loved the English way of things, and when he left the hunting lodge on Sunday afternoon, he pedaled off in great style on his handsome English bicycle.

## PART V

### NEW YEAR'S EVE AT THE COURTHOUSE

The Plaza may have been the center of the social life in the summertime in El Paso, but in the wintertime, it was the dances at the Courthouse. The grand ballroom was splendid, and the stately and beautiful building was in the same location as the 1975 building. It was the old County Courthouse (before Liberty Hall) that was the setting for much of the nostalgic elegance of the Gay Nineties.

There was an air of excitement as the old year of 1899 was coming to an end. Alma North had been invited to the New Year's Eve Ball at the Courthouse. Her mother had made her a special dress—a stunning ballroom gown. The gentleman friend from Santa Fe had invited her to the affair, and had arrived by train. He hired a hack (horsedrawn buggy) and they came to the Courthouse. When they entered the ballroom, Alma began introducing him to her gentlemen friends of El Paso. As this ball was a program dance, she made it clearly known that she wanted to dance with as many friends as possible. Everybody was there to celebrate together the coming of the New Year because they all wanted to dance the New Year in. It was the turn of the century!

## THE LODGE BURNS DOWN IN CLOUDCROFT

by BERNICE BRICK

In the summer of 1909 my sisters rented the Kohlberg cabin in Cloudcroft. This was a small log cabin with a slanting roof just next to the much larger Kohlberg cottage which was used only by the Kohlberg family. I was eleven at the time and my sisters were a bit older. Lucile Smith, who later became Lucile Shaver, went to Cloudcroft with us.

We had looked forward to this outing for some time. Not only were we going to Cloudcroft for a month, which, in itself, was always delightful, but also we were very eager to see the new Lodge. It had been built on the same location as the old one, right in the middle of town.





*CLOUDCROFT LODGE BEFORE THE FIRE OF JUNE 13, 1909.  
(M. G. McKinney Collection)*

No one was disappointed; we thought the new Lodge was gorgeous. The building was of bark-covered logs with a wide porch across the entire front and down the sides. Inside was a great lobby with a beautiful fire-place. The dining room was just off the lobby and it was lovely, too.

The formal opening of the Lodge on June twelfth was marked by a dinner and a dance. The summer visitors turned out in great form. The dinner waiters wore white coats, and an orchestra played lilting tunes as we dined. I can't remember what we ate except for dessert. It was grape sherbet. After dinner, the tables were taken away and the dining room became the ballroom for the grown folks. We children stayed out on the porch and had a wonderful time, too.

As I recall, the party lasted until midnight, when the orchestra played "Home, Sweet Home." In those days one really went home because there wasn't any place to go. We went through the usual laughing and the telling and re-telling of things which had happened throughout the evening. Of course, I had to have my hair rolled up, no matter how I objected. My sister Madge said I was a "plain child" and needed curls, so I always slept on curlers.

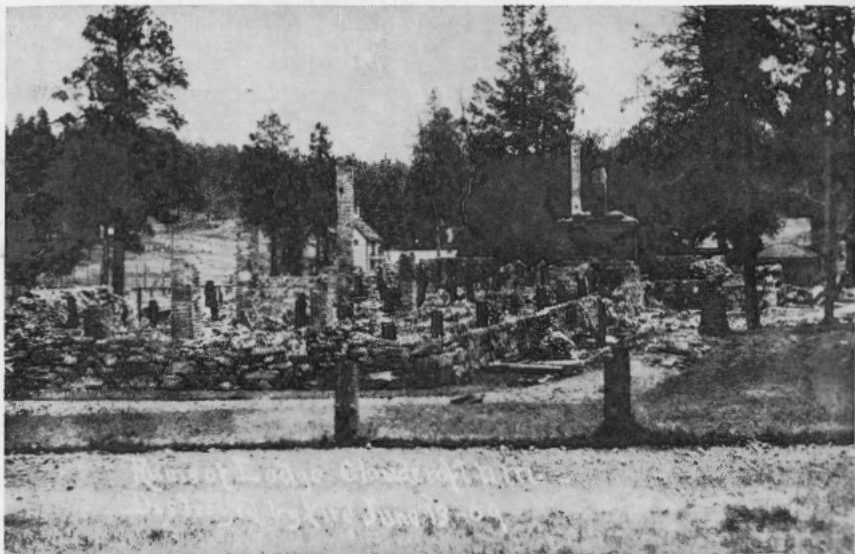
About two or two-thirty in the morning we were awakened by shots. There was no warning bell or fire siren or anything of that sort in Cloudercroft. I might add there was very little in the way of fire protection, either. I wonder how many of you, who are as hoary as I am, can remember the little shelter just down from the Pavilion that housed a little pump and a

hose. There was no front on the shelter, but it was quite safe. No one even thought of bothering the equipment. That was the only aid we had to fight fires that I remember. Maybe there was something more substantial over in the village, but I can't recall it.

To get back to our untimely awakening: we jumped out of bed and went to the windows to see what was happening. The whole sky was lit up. The Lodge—our beautiful new Lodge—was a mass of flames. We all grabbed coats, bathrobes, blankets or anything we could find and went out to watch. We were in the second row of cottages just up from the Lodge and really had front seats. I remember the heat from the flames. Nearby trees caught fire and added to the heat.

There was terror everywhere, and with good reason. In those days, there were no telephone connections with El Paso or Alamogordo—just the telegraph connection at the depot. There was no automobile road, just a wagon trail which was used by the people of the village to go up and down the mountain. All transporting was done by the train. Every day the train arrived about five in the afternoon. It stopped at the depot, side-tracked the excursion cars, and went out to the logging mill. There just was no way for people to get down the mountain until morning. Even if there had been transportation, the fire was between the cottages and the village.

A few men who had come up for the opening or to visit their families for the weekend went to help in putting out the fire. Most of the summer



*RUINS OF THE LODGE AFTER THE FIRE.*

*(M. G. McKinney Collection)*



homes were occupied by families who had come up for the summer, and most of them had children.

The outcome was really miraculous. The Lodge simply burned down to the last slab of bark. The deer park didn't burn; the cottages in the same block with the Lodge didn't burn; the houses across the street didn't burn, though they suffered heat damage. No one was hurt, either by the fire or by collapsing walls or falling timbers. In spite of "opening night," there were few guests because it was the beginning of the season. The Lodge and just the Lodge, period, was consumed because there was no wind.

As the fire began to die down, the sky took on the flaming colors and day began to break. What relief! Then it was that we all began to look around and to seek comfort by laughing at the funny things we had picked out to save. Mrs. Winchester Cooley, who was in the Mathias house across the side street from us, together with a house full of children, found that she was clutching the baby's bonnet and some fingernail scissors. I hurried back into the house, not because I was in night clothes and a blanket, but because of my unsightly *kid curlers*.

- Josephine Clardy Fox Papers, correspondence, business records, photographs, news clippings, theater programs, etc. relating to life and activities of Mrs. Clardy Fox and family. 1880-1970.
- Carl Hertzog Six filing cabinets of correspondence (1924-1974), sketches, layouts, proofs, newspaper and magazine clippings relating to the 361 books and pamphlets produced by Carl Hertzog and placed in the Library. Included also is correspondence relating to other books contributed under the categories "Books About Books and Book People" and "Texas and the Southwest." Separate index available.
- C. W. White Memoirs of Zack White's brother. Cover early years in Virginia, the Civil War years as businessman in Austin and Waco, Texas. 1844-1935.

Some very interesting-looking collections have been named after an organization (such as a church, school, or business). Examples of such entries, duly found in their appropriate alphabetical spots, are the following:

- Critchett & Ferguson, Assayers Correspondence, records, invoices, pertaining to assay work performed by Critchett & Ferguson, Assayers, El Paso, for mines in Mexico and the Southwest. 1911-1918.
- Hotel Dieu Mss. on History of Hotel Dieu, 1891-1971.
- Trost & Trost, Architects Photographs and Letters (1911-1927).
- Wells Fargo Company Reports of mail and express routes in U.S. and Mexico; stamps and franks used. 1861-1904.
- Ysleta Church Baptismal Records Baptismal records from the Church of San Antonio de la Ysleta. 1792-1803.

Other "collections" have been named for special events—the range of such events being evidenced by these sample entries:

- Annual Music Festival Program Program of Chicago Symphony Orchestra with El Paso Choral Society, Orpheum Theater, El Paso, April 22, 1908.
- Kennedy Assassination Correspondence, documents, evidence, photographs, investigative reports, police reports.
- Ponce de Leon Grant Certified copy of patent from the State of Texas to Juan Maria Ponce de Leon—1887.

Some of the "collections" are valuable for the light they may shed on particular issues—and are thus designated:

- Chicano Affairs Copies of correspondence from Reyes Tijerina and César Chávez. Posters and publicity materials.
- Women's Rights Pamphlets, leaflets, newsclippings on women's suffrage. 1894-1912.

*1975 List of Archival Accessions* is indeed impressive, not only because of its handsome mounting and scrupulous order, but also because it clarifies a very impressive archival holding. To paraphrase the motto of the National Archives, the *List* is prologue—to exciting discoveries, sound scholarship, significant disclosures which "indicate the direction in which we are moving." To shift Dr. Sall's meaning a bit now, this delighted reader of the *List* can only conclude that The Library Archives of The University of Texas at El Paso are moving in a viable direction.



## SOUTHWEST ARCHIVES

"The direction in which . . .": 1975 LIST OF ARCHIVAL ACCESSIONS

by LILLIAN COLLINGWOOD

Recently published by the Library of The University of Texas at El Paso is a handsome and valuable work. Entitled *1975 List of Archival Acquisitions* and prepared by R.P. Daguerre, Assistant Head of the Department of Special Collections and Archives, with the help of Student Assistant Irma Guillen, and edited by Acting Head S.H. Bud Newman, the work seems, perhaps, unimposing: it is a 33-page bibliography. On the face of it, what can be less exciting than an alphabetized list? But this one is exciting—so much so that it deserves description and review in this journal.

First off, there's the cover—a scrumptious shade of blue featuring "a reproduction of a Mural Painting," Carl Hertzog tells us on the irfside cover, "done by Tom Lea in 1938 on the wall of the Knox Hotel Coffee Shop," which Mural was destroyed when "the Knox was demolished to make way for the new Civic Center." Mr. Hertzog goes on to explain that "The plate for this printing was made from an old menu cover which turned up in the Archives; probably the only copy in existence." So: the cover alone makes this publication a collector's item.

And the Foreword by Dr. Larry D. Sall, West Texas Regional Archivist, adds another dimension to the work's overall effectiveness: "The present is a thin and fragile tissue carrying us through time and leaving behind a wake of records. These documents tell us where we have been and how we arrived at this moment . . . . If that were all they did, their preservation would be important, but, in the motto of the National Archives, the past is prologue. Thus, the records of the past indicate the direction in which we are moving. That . . . guidance is vital to any civilized society."

Next, Mr. Newman's Introduction implements the meaningfulness of the *List* in various ways: it provides a rapid history of "The Library Archives of The University of Texas at El Paso"; it credits the many people who have made the "more than 300 collections" so conveniently available—people like Baxter Polk, Leon Metz, John B. Ahouse, Fred W. Hanes, Kenneth W. Hedman; it comments on "the goodwill of numerous donors"; it describes the storage facilities and the manner in which the materials can be obtained for study.

And now the *pièce de resistance*: the *List* itself. Naturally it is in alphabetical order—according to the names of the "collections," the sizes of which, as Mr. Newman says in his Introduction, "range . . . from a single sheet of paper to enormous holdings," the Southern Pacific Company Collection containing "more than a million items stored in some 500 archival boxes." Each "collection" is catalogued according to the quality which most readily identifies or distinguishes it: a person, for example, or a place, an event, an issue, an organization. Beside each entry is a short and clear description of what is contained in the "collection."

Consider the following entries which designate "collections" catalogued under a person's name:

Cleofas Galleros

Booklet of congratulatory letters to the editor for his *Historia del Templo de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe*, commemorating the 3rd centennial of the Juarez Cathedral. 1959-63.

# HERITAGE HOMES OF EL PASO

by HARRIOT HOWZE JONES

## THE SCHUSTER MANSION

One of the most imposing and beautiful homes in El Paso is situated at 939 Rim Road, the home of Dr. and Mrs. Frank P. Schuster. The house was built in 1939-40 by M.H. Welch, General Building Contractor, plans and specifications revised by Mabel Clair Vanderburg Welch, F.A.R.A.



As has been stated in a previous article about the Harvey Hacienda (PASSWORD Vol. XX, No. 3, Fall, 1975) Mabel Welch is a remarkable woman, who as architect and builder changed the face of El Paso by designing and erecting over 800 homes and business buildings in the colorful Spanish and Mediterranean styles. Before her time 85% of these buildings were of dark red or brown brick. The Schuster house, however, though colorful, is of neither Spanish nor Mediterranean style, but is 12th century English-Norman. Dr. and Mrs. Schuster took a trip to Europe in 1927 and collected ideas for their dream-house from various sources, such as ancient manor houses and Norman keeps. These ideas Mabel Welch was able to modify and incorporate into her designs. The Schusters also brought back several pieces of furniture of the proper period to be stored until the house was ready to receive them.

The house is of kiln-fired brick, in a light tan or cream color. The composition, slate color roof is steeply pitched, with dentils in the three crowning courses of the brick walls. Carved terra-cotta lintels are used above the drawing room and dining room windows. Three inch slabs of terra-cotta, cut in different lengths, surround the nine foot high doorway. Intricately wrought



bronze is used to cover the massive door, and amber and blue glass alternate in the fan-light. Above the front entrance, the rose window is surrounded by an ornamental band of terra-cotta. The circular projected arena, a very prominent feature, has a spiral roof. This area forms the library on the ground floor and a bedroom on the second floor. Three dormer windows enhance the east side elevation, and also on that side there is another, smaller, projected area with a spiral roof, which holds the breakfast room.

Friends, who are privileged to visit the Schuster home, enter into a reception hall facing the elaborate stairway leading to the second floor. The stairway treads are of marble, once used in the old Federal building. The balustrade has carved panels of Texas red oak.

One enters the library by going up two steps between fluted pillars, with Corinthian capitals. The room is hexagonal, though the outside wall is rounded. The floor is of marble, from the old Federal Building which stood where the S.H. Kress Building is now. The marble was broken into very small pieces. Starting in the center of the room the pieces grew larger as they were laid up to the walls. There were about 400 pieces, and were so cleverly cut and laid that they fit as snugly as a glove.

The dining room walls are of walnut, finished with an eight inch moulding, and several of the panels are embellished with carving. The ceiling is decorated with a 30 inch rosette of plaster of Paris, from which is suspended a 150 pound crystal chandelier.

The drawing room is on a lower level to the left of the entrance hall. This room measures twenty by forty feet. The ceiling, ten feet high, has an eight inch crown moulding and a 36 inch plaster of Paris rosette, from which hangs a 200 pound crystal chandelier. The marble mantel is richly embellished, and double doors lead to a terrace and large walled garden.

Toward the back of the house is the morning room. Above the chair-rail the walls are papered with panels of French floral design, done in water color. Behind this is the large T.V. room. This room had been the children's play room and game room.

Upstairs there are five family bedrooms and three baths, also the doctor's den. Servants quarters are in the rear.

Dr. Schuster is a native El Pasoan, and Mrs. Schuster came originally from Paris, Tennessee. Two children were reared in the house: Frank Philip Jr., now a doctor, and Jarratt, now the wife of Daniel Harden.

## BOOK REVIEWS

### DESERT RIVER CROSSING

by W. L. RUSHO AND C. GREGORY CRAMPTON

(Salt Lake City: Peregrine Smith, Inc., \$5.95)

Since 1928, many a traveler has stood at the Navajo Bridge over Marble Canyon on the Colorado, looked down 457 feet to the turbulent stream, and contemplated that, were it not for the bridge, he would drive a thousand miles to reach the other side of the canyon, 500 feet away. Before 1928, Lee's Ferry, near the present Navajo Bridge, performed a similar function. This important paperback, from a little known publisher, quotes on its cover the words of Frank Waters in *The Colorado*, "Geographically, our 42nd and Broadway lies exactly in the center of the Colorado River Basin. Like Times Square, it has its popular name — Lee's Ferry. For nearly four centuries, everybody has eventually showed up here at the confluence of the Colorado and the Paria."

Indeed, the authors of *Desert River Crossing* convey the idea that the crossroads of history meet, again and again, at Lee's Ferry. The cast of characters is challenging, including the man for whom the ferry was named, John D. Lee, the Mormon zealot. Under accusation for his part in the infamous Mountain Meadows Massacre of 1857, Lee came to the junction of the Paria and the Colorado to a lonely spot of exile. Here he built the first ferry across the middle Colorado, a ferry which continued to bear his name long after he was executed, sitting on his coffin at Mountain Meadows. The Mormon Church continued to operate and improve the ferry, and it became the crossing for hundreds of Mormon families expanding the Mormon corridor southward from Utah. It was used by Daniel W. Jones and his party, the first Mormon missionaries to Mexico, who visited El Paso in 1876. This reviewer's father, at age six, crossed the ferry with his family enroute to help colonize the Mormon town of St. David, near Tombstone.

The crossing that became Lee's Ferry was a landmark in the 1776 travels of Father Escalante, who had led an exploring party from Santa Fe to the vicinity of Great Salt Lake, and on his return, crossed the Colorado at "The Crossing of the Fathers." In 1869, Major John Wesley Powell and his party came to the crossing in their boats, launched at Green River, Wyoming. A year later, Powell was back, in the company of Brigham Young, President of the Mormon Church, Jacob Hamblin, and John D. Lee. On this visit, Lee picked the crossing as his place of exile and planned his ferry.

President Theodore Roosevelt visited Lee's Ferry in 1912 and wrote of the "cliffs channeled into myriad forms . . . they looked like the ruined castles and temples of the monstrous devil-deities of some vanished race." The future Senator, Barry Goldwater came down the Colorado to Lee's Ferry on a boat trip in 1940 and stopped at the ferry site. In his introduction to this book, the Senator writes: "Lee's Ferry was the crossroads, and also the center of the river man's world. It was the gateway into the promised land of refuge for many pioneer Mormons who found new hope for their families in Arizona Territory . . . the 'honeymoon trail' for ordinations and marriages in the L. D. S. Temple in St. George, Utah."

Zane Grey visited the ferry in 1907, and made it an important site in two of his western novels. As dramatic as any of Grey's fiction was the pursuit of bandits across the Ferry and into Utah by Sheriff Bucky O'Neil, subject of the recent biography, *Death Was the Black Horse*, by Dale Walker.



## ANTIQUES IN TEXAS

Reprinted from the Magazine "Antiques," September, 1975

(New York: 551 Fifth Avenue, \$3.50). (A limited number of these reprints available at the El Paso Museum of Art).

The September, 1975 issue of "Antiques" is devoted entirely to antiques in Texas and the issue has been so-named. This beautiful magazine will enchant the lover of antiques and especially those familiar with the old homes and furnishings of Texas.

Wendell Garrett, in his beautifully indited Foreword tells of the "untamed legendary land of Texas" and explains the great migration of Germans into the area. The population soared when Texas entered the Union in 1845 and great houses of "architectural distinction" soon replaced the crude frontier shelters in the treeless world of the Great Plains.

The first section of the publication, entitled "Westering America," concerns paintings from the Amon Carter Museum collection, Fort Worth, written by Peter H. Hassrick, Curator of Collections. Paintings, beautifully presented both in color and black and white, are shown by such famous artists as Frederic Remington, Charles M. Russell, Jasper Cropsey, Charles Wimar, Alfred Miller, etc. Particularly striking is the overleaf, "Sunrise, Yosemite Valley," by Albert Bierstadt.

The chapter entitled "Historic Preservations" concerns the King William section of San Antonio. An introductory note by the editors tells of the rapid growth of San Antonio as the leading cattle center, after the annexation of Texas. The architectural excellence of King William Street reflected the thrust of economic growth that distinguished San Antonio into the late 19th century. However, later, the area began to deteriorate rapidly and a dedicated group of individuals began a noble effort at preservation. The pictures that follow show the results of this effort. Depicted are such elegant homes as the Stevens homestead, the Gustav Groos home, the antebellum residence of Louis Oge and the homes of such other distinguished San Antonians as C. Hummel, Ike West, Carl Harmisch, Ed Tewes and Alex Sartor. Designed by various leading architects of the day, the houses bear little similarity. Perhaps the most palatial of the King William Street mansions is the Italian villa begun by hardware merchant Russell Norton in 1876 and enlarged by successive owners. The house is set amid beautifully maintained lawns which extend to the San Antonio River on the north. Many of its Victorian features have been restored including the eight fireplaces and the stained glass windows.

"Living With Antiques" pictures a distinguished Houston collection of furniture and silver from the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. The colored photographs of the rooms containing this priceless collection are magnificent. Also shown, accessorizing the furnishings, are bird engravings by Furber and Audubon and porcelain birds by Edward Boehm.

Of particular interest to residents of the El Paso area is the section devoted to the Magoffin homestead, a landmark since its erection. The original structure, built by James Wiley Magoffin in 1849, was confiscated during the Civil War, because Magoffin sided with the Confederates, and later was washed away when the Rio Grande flooded. The present house, a faithful replica, was built by Joseph Magoffin, James' son, in 1875. The house is a one-story, U-shaped edifice surrounding a central patio. It is built of adobe and the walls are from three to four feet thick. Ceilings and floors are constructed of pine matchboard and the 14-foot ceilings are supported by pine

vigas or rafters. No nails have been used in the construction. At each end of the central hall, or zaguan, are double doors with stained glass side lights. Chandeliers are of wrought iron. The furniture in the house dates from the 1870's and 1880's, most of it transported by wagon from St. Louis or overland from the Texas coast. The suite in the master bedroom consists of a canopied bed, 13 feet tall and is part of a set that includes a mirrored wardrobe and marble topped chest with full length pier glass. It is said to have come from New Orleans. The home has recently been purchased by the City of El Paso and the State Department of Parks and Wildlife to become an historic landmark.

Other sections of this outstanding publication are devoted to Galveston (History in Towns); a Houston collection of American antiques; the George Sealy house in Galveston (The Open Gates); the McGregor-Grimm house at Winedale; and the Hatfield Plantation in Washington County (Living with Antiques). Colored pictures of these homes and their furnishings delight the eye.

"Antiques in Texas" is truly a notable publication, not only for the beautiful illustrations, but for the informative and historical outlines which introduce each section and describe each subject.

*El Paso, Texas*

—MARY ELLEN B. PORTER

## ACTIVITIES OF YOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

### 1976 Calendar of Events

February 26—First Quarterly Meeting.

May 27—Second Quarterly Meeting.

July 4—Bicentennial Celebration.

August 26—Third Quarterly Meeting.

October 28—Fourth Quarterly Meeting.

November 21—Hall of Honor Banquet, El Paso Country Club.

Board Meetings—First Tuesday of each month.

## EUGENE O. PORTER MEMORIAL AWARD

The Editorial Board of the El Paso County Historical Society announces the first Eugene O. Porter Memorial Award, for the author of the best article in each volume of *PASSWORD*, to Dr. Rex E. Gerald, for his article "An Introduction to Missions of the El Paso del Norte Area," in the Summer, 1975 issue. Other articles receiving favorable consideration from the judges included "Bishop Salpointe's Visitation" by Francis J. Fox, S.J.; "The Kidnapping of Little Phil," by Art Leibson; the Southwest Archives series by Lillian Collingwood; "My Love Affair With the Mesilla Times" by Rex W. Strickland; and "Across Northern Mexico With Wizlizenus," edited by Eugene O. Porter. Dr. Gerald will receive \$100, contributed by members to the Eugene O. Porter Memorial Fund. Further contributions are encouraged. An award of \$100 will again be made for the best article published in 1976. In its twentieth year, *PASSWORD* published the work of twenty authors, ten of them new to its pages.



## NEW MEMBERS — 1976

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Mr. and Mrs. John K. Baird                 | Mr. and Mrs. Paul L. Knoles              |
| Mr. and Mrs. John B. Colquitt              | Mr. and Mrs. Roy G. Lawrence             |
| C. M. Bolling                              | Jennie Lawson                            |
| Miss Esther Brown                          | Mr. and Mrs. Tom Lea                     |
| George N. Brunner                          | Edward A. Leonard                        |
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**EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 28, El Paso, Texas 79940

## CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

WILLIAM I. LATHAM, veteran newsmen, Editor of *The El Paso Times*, has been elected to a second term as President of the El Paso County Historical Society.

W. H. TIMMONS, Professor of History at the University of Texas at El Paso, is a veteran writer on Latin-American History. His books include the biography *Morelos of Mexico; Tadeo Ortiz, Mexican Colonizer and Reformer*; and the editing of the work *John F. Finerty Reports Porfirian Mexico*. He is a newly elected Director of our Society.

JANET BROCKMOLLER, wife of El Paso District Judge Hans Brockmoller, is a Director of the Society. She holds an MA in Biology and Counseling from the University of Texas at El Paso, and is a science and social studies teacher at Magoffin School. An ardent student of southwestern bird life, she has written several articles for the Audubon Society.

CHRIS P. FOX, a charter member of the Historical Society, has held the posts of Treasurer, Director, and Chairman of the Program Committee. He has served as both Manager and President of the El Paso Chamber of Commerce, and is a Vice President in charge of Public Relations for the State National Bank. He was the living honoree of the Society at the Hall of Honor Banquet in 1967.

JOSEPH M. RAY is President Emeritus and Professor Emeritus of Political Science of the University of Texas at El Paso. He is the author of *On Becoming a University*, and edited and annotated the autobiography of Federal Judge R. E. Thomason.

MARY ELLEN B. PORTER, a graduate of Ohio State University, was an able assistant to her husband, Dr. Eugene O. Porter, editor of the first nineteen years of *Password*. She is now a Director of the Society and a member of the Editorial Board. She has written and translated several articles for *Password* and reviewed a number of books.