

# PASSWORD



THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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# PASSWORD

Published quarterly by THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

CONREY BRYSON, *Editor*

Editorial Board: Dr. E. Haywood Antone, Leon Metz, Mrs. John J. Middagh,  
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## CONTENTS

THE MONTEZUMA TIMES . . . . .	51
<i>by Nancy Hamilton</i>	
PANCHO VILLA MADE ME AN AMERICAN CITIZEN . . . . .	58
<i>by Lettie Bazan</i>	
VERTICAL CLIFFS IN MEXICO . . . . .	62
<i>by Richard K. McMaster</i>	
HISTORICAL MEMORIES CONTEST . . . . .	65
A MYSTERIOUS LITTLE MONOPLANE <i>by Elma Norntan</i>	
HISTORICAL NOTES "Give a Dam Jones" Runs for City Alderman	69
SOUTHWEST ARCHIVES:	
TED PARSONS, ACE OF THE "STORKS" . . . . .	71
<i>by Dale Walker, Guest Editor</i>	
HERITAGE HOMES OF EL PASO . . . . .	74
THE J. F. WILLIAMS HOUSE <i>by Harriot Howze Jones</i>	
ACTIVITIES OF YOUR SOCIETY . . . . .	76
BOOK REVIEWS . . . . .	80
<i>El Paso City Planning Department: El Paso's Forgotten Past</i> <i>Jones: Forty Years Among the Indians</i>	
CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE . . . . .	82

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THE MONTEZUMA TIMES  
—“ALL THE NEWS TO BE OBTAINED”

by NANCY HAMILTON

Newspapers in early El Paso were hand-written. Some, such as *El Sabio Sembrador* of 1854, were painstakingly lettered and colorfully illustrated. Dr. Rex Strickland reproduced and annotated that gem of Frederic Percy's in his 1963 book of the same name. Another paper from the same period, however, has been often quoted but is not likely to be reproduced in book form, although the complete text is available. *The Montezuma Weekly Times*, written by Albert H. French, is thoroughly laced with items of raw humor which tend to eclipse its historic worth.

The late John J. Middagh, long-time Journalism Department chairman at the University of Texas at El Paso, came across the December 14, 1868, issue of the *Montezuma Times* while researching his history of the El Paso Times for his book, *Frontier Newspaper*. Two photocopies of that issue are in the University Archives, one in the Middagh Collection and the other in the collection of the late Joe K. Parrish, also a local historian.

Middagh's notes indicate that he probably came by his photocopy through a member of the pioneer Magoffin family, whom he interviewed. "Mrs. W. J. Glasgow says that as far as she knows the copy of the paper which her father (Joseph Magoffin) saved and which is now lost is the only one which 'circulated' in El Paso," he wrote. "Although it is marked Vol. 1 No. 2, and is dated December 14, 1868, she said she had no recollection of seeing Vol. 1 No. 1 or of ever having heard her father speak of it."

Middagh speculated that French not only hand-wrote the *Montezuma Times* but probably also did the illustrations.

"Since there were fewer than 500 people in the village in 1868," noted Middagh, "the circulation of the paper was not one of its larger problems. Because of the way it was written, in looking over the type of 'news' and other material it carried, there are indications that it circulated mainly in the saloons of the town. It was a pretty bawdy publication, understandable when you realize that the anglo population of El Paso then was made up largely of men, former Civil War soldiers from both sides, miners, traders, and merchants."

The little paper, according to Middagh, could properly have been called a newsletter, that being a 17th century precursor to the newspaper. "It often was handwritten and circulated in the coffee houses of England and the continent. The *Montezuma Times* would qualify as a newsletter perhaps, but its circulation probably was confined to saloons



## CAPTAIN FRENCH'S "NEWSPAPER"!

Artist's Copy of handwritten Montezuma Weekly Times. (From State National Bank's 1961 publication *Pioneers*.)

instead of coffee houses or homes. It was a pornographic sheet."

French was serving as County Judge when he produced the *Times*. Four years earlier he had been a Union Army captain. It was he who led the April 13, 1864, party which captured a Confederate group camped a mile below Presidio, Texas. French had fired the fatal shot at the Rebel leader, Captain Henry Skillman, called by some the "Kit Carson of the Big Bend." After the war French continued to answer to "Captain." He and District Attorney James A. Zabriskie both married daughters of Hugh Stephenson whose ranch and related town of Concordia were located in the vicinity of present Concordia Cemetery.

Besides the low humor lavishly sprinkled over each of the four pages of

his newsletter, French carried some tidbits of local interest. An essay describes the difficult state of affairs in the town, still suffering economically in the post-war years. Mexico also was enduring trying times. Only two years earlier Benito Juárez, after spending ten months in the city that later was to bear his name, routed Maximilian's troops. Paso del Norte had been the refuge for many El Pasoans who, as Confederate



*Albert H. French—Portrait in El Paso County Commissioners Court  
(M. G. McKinney Collection)*

sympathizers, fled there when the Federal troops took over in Texas. By 1868 neither side of the border could boast a stable economy.

Reflecting on those hardships, French wrote:

Great as our hopes may be, or lofty as our imagination may soar, we must admit that we are at present down to the bed rock in El Paso, that business is stagnated, money scarce, and everything dried up. In fact you notice the dried nature of everything, dried meat, fruit, pumpkins, peas, beans, chile, fish, old women, old men, acequias, and all we eat, talk about, hash up and chaw over is dry. Unless something turns up or we leave we all will dry up and blow away.

We are at a loss to know how to remedy affairs, what to do, or how to act. We are like the Millerites waiting for the end of time. It is astonishing to us how people live, even how we live. We don't do anything heavy in the paper business (*The Times*), and we don't see anyone else doing anything or engaged.

The only life we can see or real labor in our town is a fish on Main street working to drink up all the whisky imported to the place; people wear clean shirts, talk, laugh, and appear to be happy, and thus we live from day to day. Working to die, which we might do in another country where there was more money, more to eat, drink and wear — enjoy &c &c. We don't consider we are loafers, however, and if that Bible man should come along and tell us to go to the mountains you sluggards, we would tell him to go to hell.

His final irreverent remark was, of course, designed to draw clucks from his readers for his daring, as did the spicy rhymes he labeled "new songs" that had arrived on the wagon train of veteran trader Ynocente Ochoa. Song titles included "Piñon Sally" and "Put me in an Ice Box." One of the less objectionable songs went:

I met her in a hog pen  
 Behind her father's shed.  
 She gently spread her blanket down  
 And asked me into bed.

Being a judge, French doubtless drew his newsletter's motto from a common courtroom plea: "And I said unto him give me one more chance." These words were spelled out around a drawing of a ship's anchor at the top of Page One.

Front page news included an item about Judge French's return to El Paso after holding court at San Elizario, the county seat, where few cases had been on the docket. Another item was about Charles E. Ellis of San Elizario. "He has been inducing the citizens to pay up their taxes for convention purposes," wrote the editor. The operator of a flour mill at the valley town, Ellis later would be killed when he tried to talk a mob out of violent action during the Salt War of 1877.

French's brother-in-law, District Attorney Zabriskie, also made the front page. His friends, stated the editor, would be pleased to hear of his recovery from recent illness.

Another El Pasoan, whose sympathy for the Union cause had placed him among the prosperous after the war, was the subject of another front-page story: "Hon. W. W. Mills has not departed. 'Tis hard to part with those we love." This apparently was a reference to his service as delegate of El Paso District Republicans to the Reconstruction Convention held in Austin from June 1868 to February 1869, during which Mills married the daughter of the Conservative Republican leader, A. J. Hamilton. Out of personal conflicts which arose during this period, Mills and others engaged in disputes which led to bloodshed. Most notorious of these incidents was a shooting affray on December 7, 1870, involving State Senator Albert J. Fountain, Judge Gaylord J. Clarke and Benjamin F. Williams. After Williams wounded Clarke fatally, Albert French, then a state police officer, killed Williams.

The editor's personal prejudices are revealed in his many references to Jewish businessmen who were prominent in the economy of the area. One Page One item reads: "Charley Lesinsky arrived today from Cruces en route for Fort Davis where he is engaged in business. Charley is a clever fellow for a Jew." Charles and his brother Henry operated a business in Mesilla, near Las Cruces, N.M., 40 miles north of El Paso. (Henry in later years developed the Longfellow Copper Mining Co. which he sold in 1882 to the Arizona Copper Co. for \$1.2 million.)

Another Jewish merchant apparently had angered French over a deal to buy lumber. This warranted two mentions in the *Times*. The front page indicated Schutz had opened his new store, but "we have not passed a greenback over his counter yet, we are too much filled with disgust to receive any attention from his clerk. All this might wear off should he divide on the lumber." On the fourth page, apparently weary from the chores of penmanship and still smarting over the price of lumber, French spelled out vertically down the entire right-hand column: "Schultz (sic) gets 22 1/2 cents a foot for Lumber at Stockton—who told him our bid was 23 cents we think we know." Joe and Solomon Schutz operated a store on San Francisco street which became famous when it was the locale of an incident of the Salt War of 1877.

Toward the end of the first page, French noted that the paper's motto had been changed since the first issue. "We found," he explained, "that our subscribers up north were opposed to our policy. Not one of the number we have in the upper country does business with any other class of people but Jews and as they convinced us that if we had been unfortunate in business it was our fault, that we were too particular of society, and too honest in our principals, we have jobed\* and are now fallible.

\*Webster's 2d International defines "jobed" as an old English verb referring to scolding. Evidently from the Biblical Job. French had scolded himself, and had become fallible.

We are ready to buy or sell where there is a chance of hogging a dollar, and we shall try and convince our readers likewise."

On the next page, acknowledging his mistake in the previous issue in attributing to Gen. Grant the words "Peace be still," French wrote, "Those were the words of Our Savior to the troubled waters . . . Our Savior was a good man and were it not for the Jews he would now probably have been alive and doing well."

A lewd suggestion to the bridegroom follows French's notation of the marriage in Socorro on December 4, 1868, of Juan Gomes and Cruz Olivares. This is followed by an obituary for Drunken Timmy of San Elizario, who died of smallpox December 2. "He passed away silent and alone," wrote French, adding that Tommy Atkinson "gave him a decent burial and read service over his grave. Sheriff Miller attended him. This kind of charity is worth more than much we have seen displayed on our frontier."

The condition of stagecoach service and especially the arrival of mail were causes of concern in El Paso for many years. French devoted the largest part of Page 3 to such matters:

Our readers are probably not aware how our mails are run here on the Rio Grande. Those residing at a distance when we speak of our mails imagine that when the mail does come in, four prancing horses or mules attached to fine Concord coaches are rolled through our streets waking up the citizens to a realization of business and life. Would to God it were so. The Great Southern Mail Line, Santa Fe and El Paso, connecting with coaches from the north, south, east and west. This looks like a big card and would be if they put it in our paper.

"We are fallible."

The Great Southern Mail consists of three things called men that ply between Mesilla and El Paso, one entering this place every night after dark and leaving every morning before day. The horse is tied out at night on the acequia, and hunts his own grub, the rider camps near him, broils a piece of second class meat on a stick, makes his coffee in a cup, and goes to sleep. One of the stock of the Great Overland Mail Co. died last week above the town. We were passing by the spot a few days after and found the animal in the following situation. The company had skinned him to save the hide, and he had stiffened up, some boys had stood him up on his four feet and of course he remained in that position gazing at space. Our devil pinned the following lines on his side:

'Tis now three days since I've been dead,  
and many a day since I've been fed,  
and now you've robbed me of my hide,  
God damn your souls get on and ride.

French did not let his distaste for the mail service dissuade him from accepting an advertisement, which appears with a small illustration on the fourth page. It reads: "Great Southern Overland Mail—Cook and Shaw Proprietors, Santa Fe and El Paso." The editor jotted beneath the item, "We get paid for this also."

Under an advertisement of a \$100 reward for the return of a black man named Sam, dead or alive, the editor wrote: "For the information of the ignorant, we will state here that Andrew Jackson is dead and slavery is abolished."

The going price for the *Montezuma Times* was 75 cents a year. The editor's policy smacked of the frontier spirit:

Our utmost efforts will be to present our readers with all the news to be obtained, especially of a local nature. We will accept any article, no matter how abusive to any individual, and will be responsible for the same. We desire to give every man a chance, and being confined now to our office without any exercise, any opportunity for a row would rest our mind and be refreshing to the body. We desire to accommodate our subscribers in any manner, or our enemies, ever preferring a 24-foot ring. Let us have peace.

Middagh believed that French might have been the first editor "to leave his mark on El Paso proper." At any rate, his brand of journalism, what little has survived of it, reflected the atmosphere of a town where money was hard to come by and an editor would not avoid a fight. French continued to be a prominent citizen of El Paso until his death on January 11, 1877, after an illness of several weeks.

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- University of Texas at El Paso Archives:  
John J. Middagh Collection  
Joe K. Parrish Collection

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In its Summer 1958 issue, *PASSWORD* published a photograph of a gallows in the old El Paso City Jail, on which two men were hanged on January 26, 1900. The photograph is by Luis Perez O. The "criminal" attired in dark suit and cap and apparently awaiting execution is *PASSWORD*'s editor for its first 19 years, Dr. Eugene O. Porter.

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For ten days preceding the Mexican Revolution, beginning April 23, 1911, representatives of the Federal Government and the rebels held negotiations at what is still known as the Peace Grove, across the Rio Grande from the Smelter in the El Paso Upper Valley. After ten days, the negotiations failed. "Both sides prepared for all out war, and the first objective of the war was Juarez."

—Mardee Belding De Wetter, *PASSWORD*, III, 56, Summer 1958

## PANCHO VILLA MADE ME AN AMERICAN CITIZEN

by LETTIE BAZAN

American citizenship is what Pancho Villa means to me. My road to being an American, began six years before my mother was born—when Pancho Villa drove my grandparents out of Mexico and into El Paso, Texas.

My grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Salvador Soufleé, lived in Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico. They lived in a modest home and owned half of a small jewelry shop. My grandfather's true job, and connection with Villa, was as music professor and director of his own orchestra. He gave command performances at dances for Pancho Villa and his officers. These command performances were what threatened my grandfather—either his orchestra performed or he died. It was this pressure, along with Villa's similar actions to other townspeople, that forced my grandfather to leave Mexico and escape Villa's threat.

Salvador Soufleé was not a coward. He was simply a gentle and non-violent man. Salvador was born in Guadalajara, Mexico, on December 25, 1869. An example of his nature was that he even felt his name was wrong for himself. Salvador means savior but he called himself a killer—his mother died at his birth.<sup>1</sup>

Another example was his warm and kind personality with his children. My mother and aunt recall that, when they or their sisters were disobedient, the punishment was given by their father. He would take them into a room and shut the door. Then he would scold them sternly, put them over his knee, and tell them to scream in pain as he spanked them with a stocking. Thus, his house was disciplined, but with love not violence.<sup>2</sup>

My grandfather was a loving man up to his dying breath. In 1943 my grandmother died and two days later he followed her. My mother remembered the day well. Feeling the great loss of her equally loving mother, she clung to her father and slept next to him the night of her mother's funeral. When she awoke her grief was doubled as she felt her father—he was cold and stiff. But she also remembered that his face was serene and almost happy. The next day the obituary was titled "Husband Follows Wife to Death."<sup>3</sup>

While very young, about fifteen years old, he attended the military school in Guadalajara. Years later he moved to Chihuahua city, played in many orchestras, became director of his own, and could play every woodwind instrument. A souvenir program reveals proof that he directed his orchestra at a benefit in Chihuahua. The benefit was given by the dancing couple named "La Pilarica."<sup>4</sup>

My grandparents were born and lived under the strict government of Mexico. Seven years after Mr. Soufflé's birth, Porfirio Diaz became president of Mexico (1876-1911).<sup>5</sup> One author wrote that Mexico had been a backward country for many years. Finally when Diaz took control of Mexico, conditions did improve. However, the writer also wrote, "Mexico was 'sold' to the highest bidder." Thus the rich people of Mexico gained control of the country and the middle class lived very well. But these two classes—the rich and middle class—only made up about fifteen percent of the population. The other eighty-five percent still had to "slave" to barely keep above water. Finally Francisco Madero battled to drive Diaz out of Mexico and he accomplished his feat, but soon other tyrants began trying to take over Mexico again. According to Esteban A. Navarro, Pancho Villa rose to fight for the eighty-five percent with Madero.<sup>6</sup>

Then in 1911 Madero had control of the government and Pancho Villa retired to Chihuahua city and his wife, Luz Corral. He opened a butcher shop and did well. Some say that this is because he stole the other ranchers' best cattle. But the owners never questioned Villa about it out of fear of this powerful man. Villa's philosophy on ownership was revealed in a quote in which he said, "Poor cows. It didn't matter to them who they belonged to. Why should [it to] anyone else?"<sup>7</sup>

These were the turmoils my grandparents and their family lived under. My grandmother also revealed the tight atmosphere in Chihuahua. One southwest historian wrote, "In his (Villa's) heyday the cantinas flung wide their doors to Villa the Gay Caballero. His generosity was large and spontaneous. He drove his men hard but he rewarded them lavishly, for stolen money came easy and went the same way."<sup>8</sup> Mrs. Soufflé also reflected this idea, but she added that Villa also rewarded his men with women from the city. Out of fear of her first young daughter being "given" away by the General, she too wanted out of Mexico.<sup>9</sup>

My grandparent's feelings were not alone. Another author stated, "Periodic efforts were made to overthrow Diaz, but none were successful until the Madero revolution of 1910. The turmoil which followed caused a great movement of the Mexican people into this state (Texas)."<sup>10</sup>

My grandparents were part of that movement. On an unknown day in 1913, my grandmother told her neighbors that she and her three children were taking the one train to Juarez, Mexico. They were only going to shop for clothes, she said. My grandfather sold as much of his share of the jewelry as he could without arousing suspicion. My grandmother said that she tied small bundles of tiny valuable possessions under her skirts and her daughter's skirts. She put several skirts on her daughter—they were their own luggage. She carried another bundle deep within her—my unborn aunt. Then leaving their home and all their larger possessions, they walked to the train.



*Salvador Souflé, member of El Paso's McGinty Band, and later of the El Paso Symphony orchestra. (Aurora Bazan Collection)*

Pancho Villa was known to customarily inspect this train so that he could detain those he wanted to remain in Chihuahua. Villa would sometimes personally walk through each car and leave a soldier to guard each entrance as he proceeded to the next car. Finished with the inspection, Villa would jump off and wave the train on.

When my grandmother, her daughter, and two sons had boarded, my grandfather waited until Villa inspected and left the first car. Then he told the guard that he had to speak to Villa about the music for the next dance. The guard let him pass, but my grandfather stayed until Villa entered the next car. When Villa entered the last car, my grandfather passed into the second car and stayed again until Villa got off and waved the train on. Thus, my grandparents escaped on the train to Juarez.

My grandfather had made several trips from Chihuahua to Juarez and El Paso to buy jewelry for his shop in Chihuahua. On one of these business trips he secured a hiding place. When they reached Juarez on the train, they hid for a little over a month. Then they crossed the border into El Paso.<sup>11</sup>

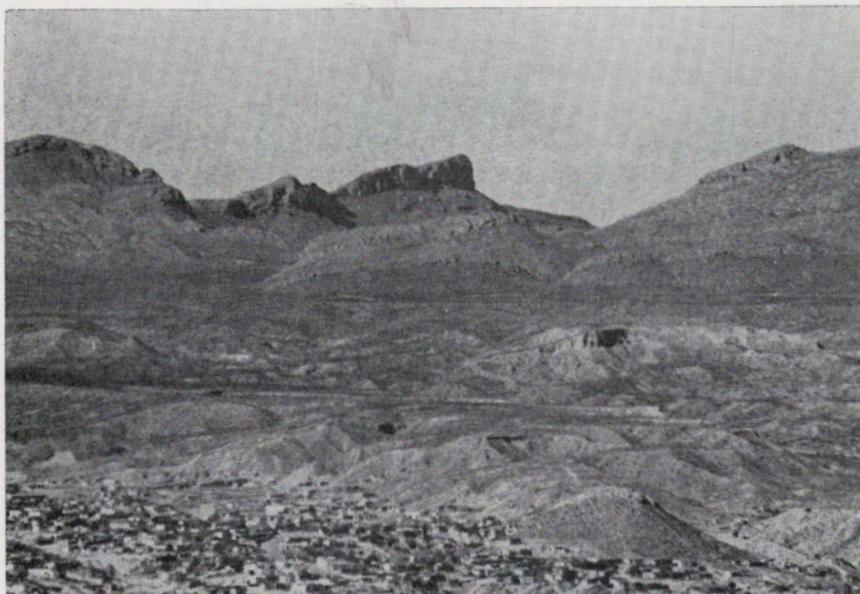
My grandfather scraped for a long time to keep his family alive. It was music that helped him most to prosper in the United States. As early as the 1890s, he had crossed the border to appear with the famed McGinty Band at the old Myar Opera House. His skills were remembered and he helped to pioneer the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, as well as appearing with various other orchestras and bands of the 20s and 30s.<sup>12</sup> He also started the first Boy Scout Club in El Paso.<sup>13</sup> Five years after their arrival in El Paso, my mother was born an American citizen. My mother, Aurora Soufleé, met and married my father, Zeferino Bazan, here in El Paso.<sup>14</sup> Years later, due to Pancho Villa, my five brothers, two sisters, and myself were born American citizens.

#### FOOTNOTES

1. Aurora Bazan, interviewed by Lettie Bazan (El Paso, Texas) March 3, 1977.
2. Lupita Chisum, interviewed by Lettie Bazan (El Paso, Texas) March 9, 1977.
3. "Husband Follows Wife to Death," *El Paso Herald-Post*, February 15, 1943, p. 10.
4. Fred Soufleé, interviewed by Lettie Bazan (El Paso, Texas) March 9, 1977.
5. Haldeen Braddy, *Mexico and the Old Southwest* (London: Kennikat Press, 1971), p. 12.
6. Esteban Navarro, *The Ills of Mexico by a Mexican*. (Chicago: Unknown, 1914), pp. 3, 4, 7.
7. Larry A. Harris, *Pancho Villa and the Columbus Raid*. (El Paso, Texas: McMath, 1949) pp. 43-44.
8. Braddy.
9. Bazan, Aurora.
10. University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures, *The Mexican Texans: Growing Importance of the Texas Borderlands, 1876-1920*. (San Antonio: Encino Press, 1971) p. 26.
11. Bazan, Aurora.
12. Virginia Turner, "Elegant Days," *El Paso Herald-Post*, May 6, 1977, p. B-1.
13. "Husband Follows Wife to Death," *El Paso Herald-Post*.
14. Bazan, Aurora.

## VERTICAL CLIFF IN MEXICO

by RICHARD K. McMASTER



*The Vertical Cliffs from Scenic Drive (Photo by M. G. McKinney)*

Viewing the "Pass of the North" from the east side of the city of El Paso, Texas, it is possible to see the two most northern peaks of the Sierra Madre mountains in Mexico. Between these two peaks rises what appears to be a sheer vertical cliff clearly defined. This cliff can provide an excellent aiming point for the sights of a field artillery gun.

As such, it was often used in training by batteries of the 82nd Field Artillery (Horse) at Fort Bliss, both in the gun-parks on post and on maneuvers in the local area. Commands such as "Battery Adjust, Aiming Point Vertical Cliff in Mexico, Deflection so-and-so" were often heard by the artillerymen.

In June of 1919, when Pancho Villa's rebels were engaged with Mexican Federal troops in the vicinity of the old race track in Juarez, considerable rifle fire was coming across the Rio Grande and resulting in casualties to American citizens.<sup>1</sup> After consultation with United States officials, the commander of the El Paso Military District, Brigadier General James B. Erwin, decided to send U.S. troops into Juarez to settle the affair.

On the night of June 15, the 24th Infantry (Negro) crossed the Santa Fe Street bridge and, supported by a battalion of the 82nd Field Artillery

from positions in the vicinity of the stock yards, advanced on the race track.<sup>2</sup> Artillery fire inflicted many casualties among the Villistas and considerable damage to the race track structures.



*Juarez Race Track, showing hole in grandstand dome  
(Rayma L. Andrews Collection)*

Meanwhile, the Second Cavalry Brigade, composed of the 5th Cavalry, 7th Cavalry and the 2nd Battalion of the 82nd F.A., crossed the river at San Lorenzo Ford, south of Juarez, and proceeded towards the race track until they came under rifle fire.<sup>3</sup> At that time it was decided to wait until daylight before going farther. Hampered by barbed wire and some uncharted irrigation canals, the brigade counter marched toward the ford and in the process one sergeant was wounded and several horses were disabled.

At dawn on June 16, the cavalry column discovered the mounted Villistas retreating to the southwest on higher ground.<sup>4</sup> The 5th and 7th Cavalry units then spread out over the plain in pursuit, and with the artillery battalion galloping on their heels. It was time to pursue with ammunition, and Captain Rudolph D. Delehanty's Battery 'D' performed "action front" at a gallop. Mounting a hillock to the left flank of the battery, Captain Delehanty selected the familiar Vertical Cliff in Mexico as an aiming point, measured the deflection with his fist, estimated the angle of sight and range, and though loath to do so, fired a battery salvo.<sup>5</sup>

It was an artilleryman's dream, the first salvo of shrapnel from the old three-inch guns burst right over the mounted Villistas. When the action ended there were more than forty casualties among the fleeing rebels.

On the afternoon of June 16, the U.S. troops recrossed the Rio Grande over a pontoon bridge assembled by the 8th Engineers (Mounted) and a caisson that had become imbedded in the river the previous night was retrieved.



82nd Field Artillery Batteries Returning to Fort Bliss, June 16, 1919, via what is now Reynolds Street, near Hastings Drive.

(Thomas D. Hanley Collection)

#### FOOTNOTES

1. El Paso Times, June 14, 1919.
2. El Paso Herald, June 15, 1919.
3. El Paso Times, June 16, 1919.
4. Army 'Record of Events', 82nd F.A. Battle of Juarez 1919.
5. Interview with Capt. (USA-Ret.) R.D. Delehanty, Sept. 14, 1965.
6. El Paso Herald, June 16, 1919.

## HISTORICAL MEMORIES CONTEST

The following essay by Elma Norman was the winner of second place in the 1977 Historical Memories Contest. The third place winner and one honorable mention essay will appear in the Fall issue. The contest, open to persons over 65 years of age, will be conducted by the Society again this year, with Dr. James M. Day and F. Keith Peyton as co-chairmen.

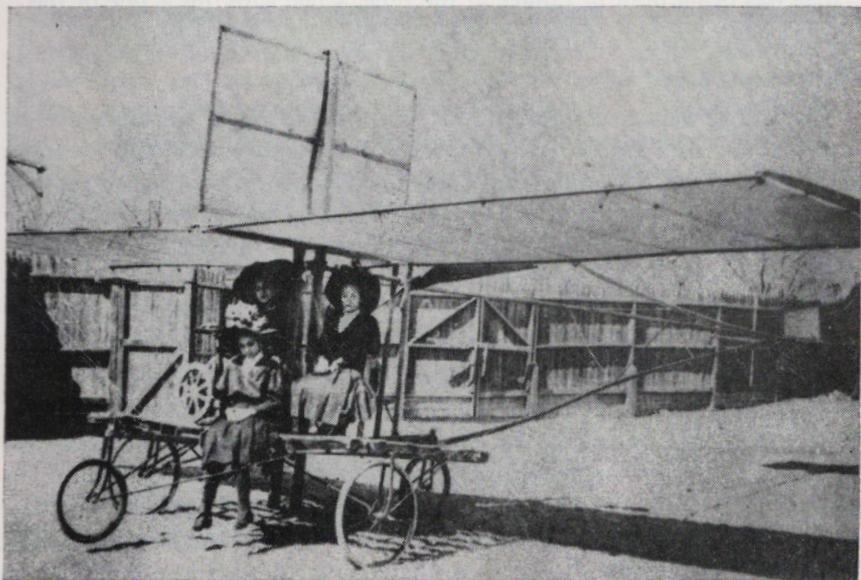
### *A MYSTERIOUS LITTLE MONOPLANE*

by ELMA NORMAN

What a thrill we three sisters experienced one day about the year 1910 or early 1911, when our father took us to Washington Park to see the monoplane that was on display.

I, Elma, was 15 years of age, and my two sisters, Elsie and Daisy, were 13 and 12. We were the daughters of Samuel C. and Concepcion McVey and lived at 4118 Rosa Street, a few blocks from Washington Park. Papa was the Chief Engineer of the El Paso Brewing Company.

We prepared for the excursion to the Park with an enthusiasm to match the exciting occasion. We wore our Sunday best dresses. It was cool weather, for I was wearing a full-length navy blue cape with gold braid around the collar that my mother, who was an expert seamstress, had lovingly fashioned for me. She also made my sisters' dresses of dark red pleated serge to match their flower-bedecked red felt hats. Long black stockings and high button shoes completed our outfits. I remember think-



*Elma, Elsie, and Daisy McVey and the little monoplane, about February 14, 1911.*

*(Elma Norman collection)*

ing that the only hat I knew of which would do full honor to the occasion was an extra-large elegant one belonging to a neighboring friend, and I inveigled her into lending it to me for the afternoon.

Papa must have been proud of his girls' appearance, as well as motivated by a desire to record the experience, for when a photographer came around taking pictures, he allowed us to pose for one. Daisy and I were helped onto seats on the plane itself, while Elsie sat on the frame at the front.

Papa stood to one side watching as the picture was made. I've always regretted that he was not with us in the picture.

The plane was of flimsy construction, almost like a kite with its guide-wires, delicate frame, and thin covering on its single wing. We girls were not inquisitive and did not ask questions; we simply marveled that such a structure could actually leave the ground of its own volition.

Many years later, in an attempt to remedy our lack of information about the tiny monoplane, I sent a photo of it to the *El Paso Times*. On February 16, 1956, I received the following reply from reporter Bill Montgomery:

In 1910, shortly after Charles K. Hamilton flew here in a biplane . . . a group of French aviators flew very short flights of very little height at Washington Park. As these were the only monoplanes . . . which came to El Paso that year, and as the plane in the photo is of the same type that was being built in France at the time, I feel sure this is one of the French group. This belief has been borne out in the 1910 editions of *The Times*, which I consulted, and also by a number of early-day air enthusiasts here.

The above report started me on a search through the microfilmed copies of the *El Paso Morning Times* of 1910 and early 1911 for more news of the French aviators and identification of the plane in my photo. Aviation was truly in its infancy in 1910, and I found a new vocabulary evolving as I read. "Bird men," "aeroplanes," "heavier-than-air machines," and "mechanicians" described the aviators, the planes they flew, and the men who kept them flying.

In the *Times* of January 17, 1910, the headline, WIZARDS OF AIR WILL FLY IN EL PASO, introduced a series of news stories which ran through February. The *Times* was negotiating with Monsieur Paulhan, "the most daring aviator in the world's history," to come to El Paso with his group to stage what would be the first aviation meet ever held in the state of Texas. Paulhan would bring 35 people, 6 heavier-than-air machines, Curtiss and Farman bi-planes, "and the tiny Bleriot monoplane, in which the inventor flew across the English channel and startled the world." This last statement especially intrigued me; was this the little plane in which we sat for our picture?

But, alas, the visit to El Paso of Monsieur Paulhan and his group was

not to materialize. After the dates of February 25, 26 and 27, 1910, had been decided upon for the meet, the *Times* "received subscriptions from El Paso merchants toward the \$4,000 fund" required. An Honor List of subscribers was published periodically. Interest in the meet rose daily, whipped up by glowing prose, as on January 29, 1910: "Imagine the daring Frenchman in his air craft, steering a course around the crags of old Mount Franklin, his wonderful performance viewed by thousands attracted here by the enterprise of El Paso, one of the first cities in the land to hold an aviation meeting." On February 13, it was announced that Juarez and El Paso mayors had declared a holiday in El Paso for February 25. A special train was to bring visitors from Chihuahua. Excursion rates were promised by the El Paso and Southwestern, G.H. and S.A., the Southern Pacific, Texas and Pacific, and Mexican Central railroads.

On February 6, 1910, came the first premonition of impending disaster. The Wright Brothers were suing Paulhan for infringement on their airplane designs.

The meet was declared off on February 10 but the next day came the glad tidings that LOUIS PAULHAN WILL FLY IN EL PASO. The final blow was delivered on February 18, 1910: PAULHAN ENJOINED FROM FLYING FOR THE MORNING TIMES. A writ of temporary injunction had been granted on February 17 by U.S. Circuit Judge Hand on application of the Wright Company of Dayton, Ohio, which managed and handled the inventions of the Wright Brothers. The *Times* again regretfully called the meet off with the statement, "Paulhan will not be able to fly unless he does it in a dirigible or balloon."

As mentioned by Reporter Montgomery in his letter of February 16, 1956, Charles K. Hamilton, the great American flyer, was brought to El Paso by the *Herald*. He flew in his Curtiss 8-cylinder biplane at Washington Park on February 22 and 23, 1910. The meet was termed a "howling failure," with Hamilton raising only 12 feet the first time and 18 feet the second time. He did redeem himself the following day by flying about 70 feet. The *Times* took the opportunity on February 23 to needle the *Herald* for its sponsorship of Hamilton, as opposed to the incomparable Paulhan, but at the same time voiced its suspicion that Paulhan had taken advantage of the injunction to cancel his flying show in El Paso so that he could accept some of the higher-priced offers he received elsewhere.

The failure of M. Paulhan to make good his commitment in El Paso in 1910 also dashed my hopes of identifying the monoplane in my photo as one belonging to his group, as indicated by Bill Montgomery. I found no other references in the *El Paso Morning Times* of 1910 to the presence of French aviators in this city. Charles K. Hamilton was definitely the

first aviator to fly in El Paso in 1910 and apparently the only one to do so.

However, almost exactly one year later, on February 9-13, 1911, the *Times* sponsored a highly successful international meet at Washington Park featuring French aviators. The group was composed of Roland G. Garros, Rene Simon, and Rene Berrier, who flew their 50-horsepower Bleriot monoplanes in the show. The affair had all the fanfare promised for the proposed meet in 1910. The planes were brought in a day ahead of time by a special train of the G.H. and S.A.

Again, I found no photos of planes similar to the one in my possession, nor other information which would help me identify it as belonging to these French aviators of 1911. I also have no recollection of attending a full-fledged aviation meet on the day we visited Washington Park.

My diligent search, therefore, has shed no light on who brought the little plane in our photo here and the exact date of its arrival. However, my memory of the exciting trip to Washington Park with Papa and my two sisters to see our first "heavier-than-air machine" remains a very vivid and happy one.

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Tobin Place, which adjoins Washington Park in El Paso, was opened in 1906. Corner lots sold for \$40 each and inside lots for \$10.00. Terms were \$1 down and \$1 per month, with no interest charge. A 10 percent discount was offered for cash.

—*El Paso Herald*, November 9, 1907,  
quoted in *PASSWORD*, XIII, 10, Summer 1968

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Theodore Roosevelt visited El Paso on Wednesday, March 15, 1911. The Chamber of Commerce honored the ex-president with a breakfast at the Toltec Club. The cost per person was five dollars. The menu consisted of the following:

Assorted Fruit	Potatoes Julienne
Strawberries with Cream	Broiled Lamb Chops, Roosevelt
Grapefruit Maraschino	French Peas, Potatoes Provencale
Clam Broth, Waldorf	Rolls, Coffee.
Fried Frog Legs, a la Floureste	

—*PASSWORD*, XIII, 10, Summer 1968

## HISTORICAL NOTES

### "GIVE A DAM" JONES RUNS FOR CITY ALDERMAN (An announcement in the *El Paso Daily Herald*, 1895)

To the voters of the City of El Paso and the ward-heelers of this municipality:

The undersigned offers himself as a living sacrifice upon the altar of the City as a candidate from the First Ward in the ensuing spring election for Alderman.

Lo, for these many years, I have heard a still, small voice calling to me, but I did not know what it meant until I went broke, physically and financially, the same as the City is today. Not until then did I know that the little voice was the voice of the people, calling to me, saying "Come up, Jonesy, come up higher, get your fingers in the pie."

Now, fellow citizens and ward-heelers, in formulating my platform of principles, it will be necessary for me to criticize the present City administration, and I do it in the same spirit that a father chasteneth his son, not that I like to, but for his own good. When I look at the present Council, I have to say to myself "So many free schools and so much ignorance!"

When they found that the City was broke, and the taxpayers would trust them no more, they appointed three of the best fixed men in the city to tell them what to do, and I was surprised at the report of said committee. I think they ought to have told them if they did not have enough confidence in themselves to run the city affairs, to resign and let the people elect someone that has. Had the present council any business sense about it, when they had to ask someone what to do, they would have asked someone that was broke, and could speak from experience—such a man as myself. What does a rich man know about being broke? All summer I flew and touched the ground only in the high places, but in the fall, when the wind blew from the north and asked me what I had done with my summer's wages, I took a tumble to myself and cut down my expenses. I came down from a first class restaurant to batching, and I can do my own work as cook, buy grub for myself and dog for three dollars a week, and the dog is getting fat. As for dress, I evolved from a duck to a man.

Now, fellow citizens and ward-heelers, if a good man like myself can live on three dollars a week, and if the present City administration actually wanted to cut down the City expenses, why don't they cut the Aldermen's salary to twelve dollars a month instead of twenty-five; as I have shown, a good man can live on that, and fatten a dog, if he did not want to put on style. As for the salary of the Mayor, what is the matter with him living on the honor of the office, especially when he has prop-

erty to rent to the City; and what is the matter with keeping the old tried and true friends, the Volunteer Fire Department, instead of taxing the City with a paid department to make jobs for ward-heelers and ballot box stuffers?

Fellow citizens, the Mayor and his Aldermen, on the bond question, stated if they were defeated that they would cut down the running expenses of the City, instead of trying to make it more so that the City would have to issue depreciated scrip that the money sharks can buy in at 50 percent, while the taxpayers will have to redeem it at par.

Fellow citizens, elect me Alderman and I will see that the Mayor and his colleagues carry out their promises. If elected Alderman, I will try and serve the people instead of rings and cliques, which have been the curse of the city. I believe in protection to all and special privileges to none. I will ever oppose any ordinance that would curtail the individual rights of any citizen.

#### My Platform

"The liberty of one man ceases only when it touches upon the rights of another,"

Yours respectfully,  
C. F. Jones  
Alias "Give a Dam"

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"The first airport in the vicinity of El Paso was not in El Paso, but at Fort Bliss, and it was not an airport, it was the cavalry and artillery drill ground. It was established as a flying field by the first Border Air Patrol, First Bombardment Group, on June 17, 1919, because of Pancho Villa's raid on Juarez, Mexico two days previously."

—Stacy Hinkle, *PASSWORD*, XXIII, 11, Summer 1968

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"Prior to 1917, persons condemned to death in Texas were hanged in the county in which they were tried . . . The earliest recorded hanging found in El Paso County was that of Joseph Brinster, who stretched the hemp on July 5, 1883, on a gallows erected behind the Court House, then located in Ysleta."

—Joe K. Parrish, "Hanged by the Neck Until Dead,"  
*PASSWORD*, III, 68, Summer 1958

## SOUTHWEST ARCHIVES

### "TED PARSONS: ACE OF THE 'STORKS'"

by DALE L. WALKER, *Guest Editor*

Edwin C. "Ted" Parsons, who died in May, 1968 at the age of 75, had a clear distinction among World War I combat aviators: He was the only American of the legendary Lafayette Escadrille who chose to remain in French uniform, flying for the French, after America entered the war in April, 1917.

Parsons, whose papers, correspondence, manuscripts, scrapbooks, photo albums, and books were donated to the University of Texas at El Paso Library by his widow last year, led a long, varied and eventful life. Born in Holyoke, Mass., and a graduate of Phillips Exeter Academy, he left home at a young age and learned to fly at Dominguez Field near Los Angeles in 1912. A year later, at the Hotel Sheldon in El Paso he met Raul Madero and over glasses of whiskey "enlisted" in the Revolution, given the rank of captain in Villa's Army of the North and \$200 in gold a month. His job was to teach Villa's officers to fly a Curtiss biplane. He spent 11 months in Mexico undertaking this thankless and impossible job and returned to the U. S. ostensibly to buy parts for the plane which had been wrecked in Zacatecas. He crossed the border on a streetcar into El Paso and kept going. "I'm perhaps the only warrior in history who went to war on a streetcar and made an inglorious exit the same way," he said 50 years afterward.

Parsons worked his way across the Atlantic in the fall of 1914, not many months after the war in Europe was declared and the lines already stabilized between the North Sea and Swiss border—what became known as "the Western Front." Parsons, an experienced flyer, waited his turn: serving first as a driver for the American Field Ambulance Service, and soon learning to fly such vintage machinery as Bleriot's and Caudrons and eventually the great French combat pursuit plane, the Nieuport.

He was attached to the Nieuport 124 squadron, "Lafayette Escadrille," in January, 1917, a squadron already famous for its make-up of American volunteers flying in French uniform. He flew regular patrols with the N.124 (later SPA.124 after the squadron was supplied with the Spad biplane) and scored a single "victory" while with the squadron—shooting down a German observation plane in August of that year.

In February, 1918, when the Lafayette squadron was being phased out and the American Air Service became active, Parsons decided to remain with the French and was transferred to SPA.3, "Cigognes" (Storks) squadron. He served with this squadron until the end of the



*Two Massachusetts Aces—Ted Parsons (right) of Holyoke and his friend Frank Baylies of New Bedford, with the "Storks" squadron mascot dog. Baylies was killed in action in 1918.*

*(Ted Parsons Collection, UT El Paso Library)*

war, scoring seven additional victories (and another dozen that were not officially attributed to him, being far behind enemy lines.)

Returning to the U. S. in 1920, Parsons worked as a special agent for the FBI in Los Angeles, worked in films in Hollywood as actor, technical advisor and screenwriter, and earned extra money during the Depression as a prolific contributor to pulp war magazines. (All of Parsons' pulp stories, radio scripts and other manuscripts are in the RADM Edwin C. Parsons Collection at the UTEP Library's Department of Special Collections and Archives.)

In 1939, Parsons took a commission in the U. S. Navy and served throughout World War Two on aircraft carriers and seaplane tenders in the South Pacific. He was awarded the Bronze Star and many other decorations for his participation in amphibious landings and similar hazardous operations against the Japanese.

He retired in the early 1950's as a Rear Admiral and until his death in 1968, lived quietly with his wife, Catherine McKay Parsons, in Osprey, Florida. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.

The RADM Edwin C. Parsons Collection at UTEP was donated by Mrs. "Kitty" Parsons in January, 1977. The materials were in "safe-keeping" in the possession of the writer of this article for the purpose of writing a biography of the Admiral. This 16,000-word work, "Ted Parsons' Great Adventure" will appear this spring in *Aviation Quarterly*, the hardbound aviation history book.

The Parsons Collection at UTEP includes many rare and valuable aviation books (including editions of Parsons' *The Great Adventure*, his account of the Lafayette Escadrille and its members), a large quantity of personal papers and documents, hundreds of rare photographs, and a complete file of Parsons' published and unpublished writings.

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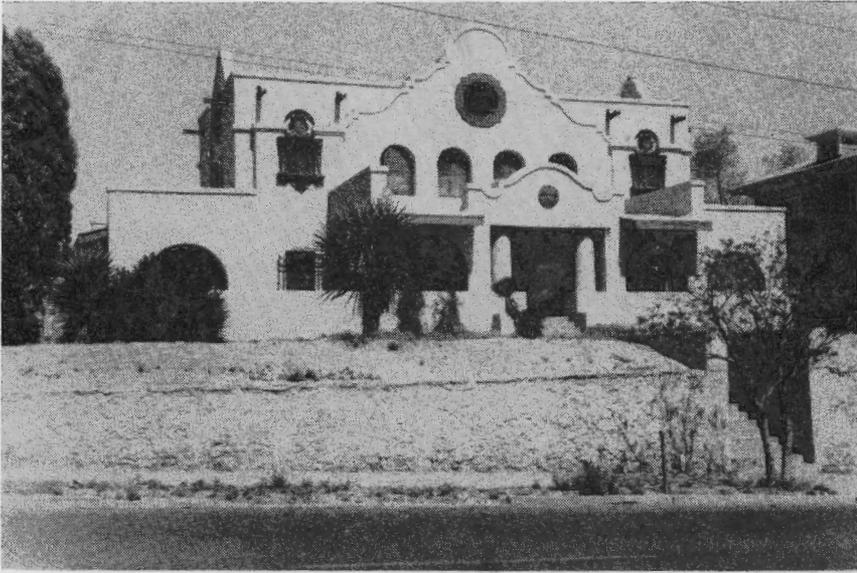
The name "El Paso," applied to the pass on the Rio Grande between El Paso, Texas and Juarez, Mexico, is one of the oldest geographical names in the United States. It appeared in print in Acalá, Spain, in 1610, in an account of the Juan de Oñate expedition of 1598, which claimed New Mexico for Spain:

"Led on by the certain knowledge that all things must sometime end, we journeyed on seeking the Pass (El Paso) through the mountains... like Magellan searching for the strait which would lead him through the pathless seas."  
—Gaspar Perez de Villagra, *Historia de Nuevo Mexico*.

# HERITAGE HOMES OF EL PASO

## THE J. F. WILLIAMS HOUSE

by HARRIOT HOWZE JONES



*(Photograph by Ralph A. Guilliams)*

The house at the North-east corner of West Rio Grande and Los Angeles Streets was numbered 323 West Rio Grande. In its heyday it was considered to be one of the most beautiful houses created by Trost and Trost. The house is distinctly Spanish in style: two stories, the exterior of cream color stucco, parapeted with Mexican tile roofing, there are arched colonades along the sides and back. There had been a large patio in back.

This handsome hacienda was built in 1905 for Mr. and Mrs. Joseph F. Williams. Mr. Williams, who was born in Kansas in 1871, came to El Paso as a very young man. He obtained employment in the City National Bank. Eventually he became president of the bank.

About 1897 "Joe" Williams was married to Miss Nancy Beall, of El Paso. She was one of Thomas J. Beall's daughters. "Captain" Beall was a distinguished lawyer, and was president of the State Bar Association. He served several terms as president of the El Paso School Board. Beall School is named for him. (See *PASSWORD*, Vol. XVII, Spring, 1972.)

The Williamses had one child, Nancy Beall Williams, who reigned as Queen of the El Paso Golden Jubilee Celebration in 1923. Nancy married

an army officer, Gilman C. Mudgett. They became the parents of a son and a daughter.

In November 1915 this house was the scene of a meeting between General Hugh L. Scott, then Chief of Staff of the United States Army, Mr. George Carruthers, representing the State Department, and Pancho Villa. It is not clear why this private house was selected as a meeting place, except that General Scott had been stationed in command at Fort Bliss in 1913 and was probably a personal friend of Mr. Williams and asked permission to hold the confrontation there. Villa was variously considered to be a Revolutionary General, a Bandit or an Outlaw. He would have been wary of attending a meeting at the army post or any city government facility. This conference was arranged to try to prevent trouble with Villa, who felt that the United States was aiding his enemy, Carranza. This is too complicated a subject to go into here. It suffices to say that the conference was a failure as on March 9, 1916 Villa raided Columbus, New Mexico, and the Punitive Expedition into Mexico, led by General John J. Pershing, ensued.

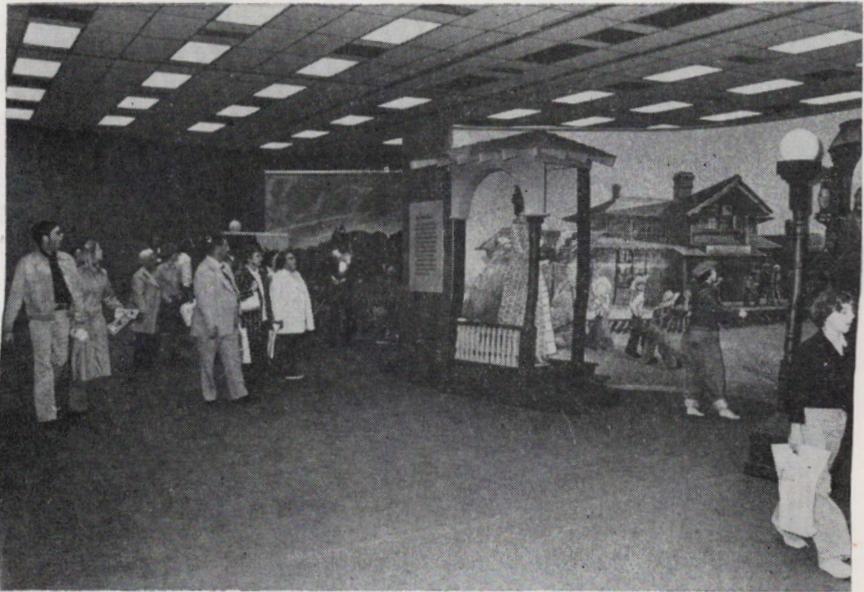
A niece of the Williamses, who was then about twelve years old, and her best friend, witnessed this historic meeting. The girls concealed themselves behind a sofa in the large drawing room. They deeply regretted what they had expected to be a lark. They were nervous, having seen some of Villa's "Dorados" prowling around the outside of the house; they could hear very little of what was being said in the room, which was boring; it all went on for a long time, and they grew stiff in their cramped positions, but were afraid to come out of hiding.

The City National Bank failed in 1927, and never re-opened. Mr. Williams lost everything in the crash, including his beautiful home. The Williamses moved to a farm in the upper valley where Mrs. Williams, ably assisted by their faithful Chinese servant, grew flowers and vegetables for sale. Mr. Williams went into the insurance business, but died a year or two later.

The City Directory listed Louise Stanton as owner of the house in 1928. For many years it has been an apartment house and the entrance is now on the side and the address is 1100 Los Angeles Street.

## ACTIVITIES OF YOUR SOCIETY

The new El Paso telephone directory lists the El Paso County Historical Society at its new headquarters, the Cavalry Museum, 12901 Gateway West. El Pasoans were given a dramatic preview of the Society's exhibits taking shape at the museum in the Rotary Trade Fair, March 10-12 at the El Paso Civic Center. The El Paso Room at the Civic Center was given over to a display of four dioramas, "The Coming of the Spaniards to the Pass," "The Coming of the Railroads," "The Era of the Gunmen," and "The Mexican Revolution."



*Pioneering Spaniards and a pioneering railroad-station confront visitors to the Rotary Trade Fair.* (M. G. McKinney photo)

The Society also maintained tables for book sales, information about the Society, and the enrolling of new members. Twenty one new members joined during the exhibits, and new memberships are still being received in the mail as a result. Book Sales Chairman Millard G. McKinney reports sales of 47 books covering various phases of the colorful history of the El Paso Southwest. Members who assisted at the various tables and exhibits were: Dr. and Mrs. E. Haywood Antone, Mr. and Mrs. L. F. Beard, William E. Becker, Mrs. Hans Brockmoller, Mr. and Mrs. Conrey Bryson, Captain (USN Ret) and Mrs. William A. Burgett, Mrs. Earl Burns, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dymza, Kenneth Edwards, Ruth Graham, Marilyn Gross, Ralph Guilliams, Mrs. Freeman Harris, Marjorie Krutilek, Mr. and Mrs. William I. Latham, Lloyd Leech (BG USA

Ret) and Mrs. Leech, Stephen Mellnik (BG USA Ret), Mr. and Mrs. Bud Newman, James M. Peak, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Rand, Mary Sarber, Mrs. C. W. Wakefield, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Walsh, Judge and Mrs. William E. Ward, and CDR (USN Ret) and Mrs. Millard G. McKinney. Says CDR McKinney: "Trusting that the Lord will forgive me if I overlooked anyone!"



*President Patrick Rand and Mrs. Rand take their turn at the book-sales table, Rotary Trade Fair. (M. G. McKinney photo)*

As the exhibits are returned to the Cavalry Museum, a program of interpretive displays, with appropriate artifacts from the Society's extensive collection supervised by Curator William I. Latham will be prepared and frequently enlarged. In co-operation with the Department of Museums, City of El Paso, the Society has authorized the expenditure of necessary funds to begin work on three additional dioramas: Missions of the El Paso Valley, Cattle Drives of the Southwest, and Pershing's Punitive Expedition. Dioramas may be changed and others added in a continuing program under the direction of Wanda Bell, Historical Curator of the Cavalry Museum.

### SPANISH GALLEONS

A major traveling exhibit will be presented at the Cavalry Museum June 15th to August 15th. "Treasures, People, Ships and Dreams," is an exhibit of information and treasures from old Spanish Galleons. The exhibit is being shown in major cities of the nation this year.

## NEW DIRECTORY

A new Directory of the El Paso County Historical Society will soon be mailed to all members. Dr. E. Haywood Antone is in charge of the project. The publication will include names and addresses of more than 900 members, including libraries, universities and other institutions, coast to coast, as well as individual memberships in some fifteen states and several foreign countries. The Directory also contains a list of Historical Society past presidents, persons admitted to the El Paso Hall of Honor and an up-to-date copy of the Society's Constitution and By-Laws.

## NEW DIRECTORS, COMMITTEE HEADS

The Board of Directors has extended a vote of thanks to three retiring directors: C. Ewing Waterhouse, Frank W. Gorman, Jr., and Mrs. Robert Given. New Directors appointed by President Patrick Rand and approved by the Board are Ralph Guilliams, F. Keith Peyton and Ruth Graham.

President Rand has announced Chairmen of the Society's 27 committees, operating under the direction of three Vice Presidents:

First Vice President Thomas D. Westfall:

Hall of Honor Selection Committee: William Becker

Historical Sites and Preservation: Edward J. Daley and

Dr. W. H. Timmons

By Laws: Judge W. E. Ward

Displays and Exhibits: William I. Latham

Acquisitions and Accessions: William I. Latham

El Conquistador News Letter: Bud Newman

Fund Raising Projects: Robert Dymysza

Finance and Budget: L. F. Beard

Nominations: Gen. Stephen Mellnik

Programs: Colbert Coldwell and Mrs. C. W. Wakefield

Second Vice President Gertrude Goodman:

Historical Museums: William P. Hughes

Mission 1981: Thomas D. Westfall

Education: Mrs. Charles H. Dodson, Jr.

House and Grounds Improvement: Rogelio Sanchez

Museum Expansion: William I. Latham

Essay Contest Committees:

Gorman Memorial, Mrs. William A. Burgett

Historical Memories, Dr. James M. Day and Keith Peyton

Historical Tours: Harvey Meston

Special Projects: Betty (Mrs. Andrew J.) Ligon

Third Vice President CDR Millard G. McKinney:

Book Sales Committee: Millard McKinney

Hall of Honor Banquet Committee: Mrs. Joseph F. Friedkin

Membership: William A. Burgett  
 Membership Directory: Dr. E. Haywood Antone  
 Publicity: Mrs. Earl Burns and Mrs. Leroy Mathis  
 Publications: Conrey Bryson  
 Hospitality: Mrs. Hans E. Brockmoller  
 Library: Ruth N. Graham

### QUARTERLY PROGRAMS

Mrs. C. W. Wakefield, co-chairman, has announced the May Quarterly Program will be held Sunday May 21, 3 P.M. at the El Paso Museum of Art. The program, presented by Win Korf of the New Mexico State University Art Department will be on the subject of art and architecture of the Southwest. The February program presented Gordon M. Frost in a program featuring material from his forthcoming book on El Paso's once celebrated bordello district, Utah Street.

### NEW MEMBERS

<i>James E. Agan</i>	<i>Tom Lucky</i>
Mrs. Irene Anderson	Dale A. McCleary
Douglas A. Bailey	Frederick S. McCleary
Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Biddle	(Antlers, Okla.)
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bothwell	John A. McGrane
Jeanette G. Brady	Mrs. M. A. McKee
Mr. and Mrs. Joe W. Brown, Jr.	Mr. and Mrs. Prince G. McKenzie
G. L. Christian (Houston, Tex.)	C. J. Oppenheim
Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Coldwell	Berta Parra
(Dallas, Tex.)	Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Peña
W. R. Crawford	Larry Porterfield
Marianne Davis	Mr. and Mrs. Don Powell
Arthur P. DeStefano	Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Rapisand
Col. Ken J. Edwards	B. E. Schwarzbach, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. John Fernandez	Mr. and Mrs. C. Van Shaw
Col. (USA Ret) and Mrs.	Samuel Smith
F. B. Gallagher	Mrs. Glenn H. Stinnett
Reca P. Gardner	Rose Mary Taylor
Mrs. Eula Gatlin	Cheryl Tyner
Ms. Golda Goosen	Mr. and Mrs. Ray Upham
Jan T. Graves	Col. (USAF Ret) and
Cecile Greenwood	Mrs. E. J. Walsh, Jr.
Ken Keltz	Eleanor M. Wareing
Mr. and Mrs. C. Thomas Kimball	Padriac White
S. Kowalewski	Mrs. Margaret T. Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Irwin S. Kurland	Mrs. H. R. Yeskovich
Marlys V. Larson	

## BOOK REVIEWS

### EL PASO'S FORGOTTEN PAST—HISTORIC PRESERVATION

by DEPT. OF PLANNING, RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT

CITY OF EL PASO, TX

\$1.00, 24 pages

This handsome booklet contains a wealth of information about our City's historic resources, including not only some that are being preserved but many others which should be afforded like recognition and care.

With an introduction by Jonathan R. Cunningham, Director of the City Planning Dept., the book is beautifully illustrated with 48 photos in black-and-white and 16 in color, including the internationally accepted "José Salazar Map of 1855". The narrative section presents an excellent resume of history of our Pass of the North, written by Dr. W. H. Timmons, and descriptions by other authors of twelve significant structures found during a recent two month survey of 734 sites in El Paso County.

Though it is easy to read and will alert us to recognition of our architectural heritage, the book is flawed by (a) some typographical errors, attributed to hurried proof-reading to meet printing deadline, and (b) on pages 8 and 9, some unfortunate historical errors regarding early "military posts" at El Paso, and Ft. Bliss at the Hart's Mill site, in particular.

The next issue of *PASSWORD* will contain an article on the *six* locations of what is now "Fort Bliss": Coons (Smith) Ranch, 1849-51; Magoffin Ranch, 1853-68; Stephenson Ranch, 1868-77; Franklin Village (El Paso) 1878-80; Hart's Mill area, 1880-94 and La Noria Mesa, 1893 to date. (Yes, for a short time, the Army garrisoned *two* Forts Bliss, in 1893-94.)

*El Paso, Texas*

—M. G. McKINNEY

### FROM THE EDITOR'S BOOKSHELF

#### FORTY YEARS AMONG THE INDIANS

by DANIEL W. JONES

(Los Angeles, Westernlore Press, 1960)

This is a limited edition reprint of a classic of the Southwest frontier, written before the turn of the century, and covering the period 1846-1886. Dan Jones, an adventurous Missouri farm boy, enlisted for the Mexican War in 1846. His first encounter with Indians was with a Comanche band in west Texas. Jones admits that he shared the popular feeling "the only good Indian is a dead Indian," but his sentiments were to change rapidly as he encountered one tribe after another in the Southwest.

He first visited El Paso on his way into Mexico in 1847, but when he refers to El Paso, he means the Mexican city south of the Rio Grande, now Ciudad Juárez. He spent three years in Mexico and became fluent in the Spanish language and adept at learning Indian tongues.

In 1850, he started a trip that changed the course of his life. Starting from Santa Fe, a party of traders and adventurers headed for California, by way of Salt Lake valley. As they approached the Mormon settlements in Utah, Jones suffered a serious accidental gunshot wound and was near death. Raised in Missouri, from which state the Mormons had been driven in 1839, he could think of no fate worse than that which his comrades were about to inflict upon him—to abandon him among the people of whom he had

heard so many tales of savage brutality. Instead, he found the Mormons of Utah the kindest people he had ever met. Among the many things he admired was the kindest feeling toward the Indians he had found anywhere on the frontier.

He was converted to Mormonism and shortly became a trusted lieutenant and advisor to the Mormon leader Brigham Young, whom he admired and served until Young's death in 1877. For nearly forty years he was active in maintaining and improving relations with the Indian tribes that surrounded the isolated Mormon communities of the west. Wielding a firm hand when needed, he wisely implemented Young's celebrated policy of friendship and guidance toward the Indians.

In 1876, 29 years after his first visit, Jones was back in El Paso, heading up the first Mormon mission into Mexico. His narrative leaves unanswered the circumstances under which the area now comprising downtown El Paso became known as "Franklin." He calls it Franklin in 1876, even though a Post Office named El Paso had existed since 1852, and the City of El Paso had come into being in 1873. He tells of a colorful meeting with the first and second Mayors of El Paso, Ben Dowell and M. A. Jones, though Jones is identified as Mayor and Dowell as City Marshall. Dan Jones tells how the early city fathers sentenced some gunmen to death—and ordered Marshall Dowell to execute them by gunfire in the city streets.

When the missionaries tried to preach in El Paso del Norte, Mexico, they were confronted by an irate priest, Father Antonio Borajo, the man who would play a prominent and controversial part in the Salt War of San Elizario the following year. Instead of arguing, Jones, an expert saddle maker, quietly set up a saddle shop and he and his fellow missionaries taught their customers as they worked. Among these missionaries were Helaman Pratt and Ammon M. Tenney, whose descendants still live in El Paso today.

The last chapter in the book is a report about El Paso and Mexico, written from El Paso in 1876, and published in the Salt Lake City *Deseret News*. The entire book is a valuable source of first person information about the land and the peoples of the Southwest more than a century ago.

*El Paso, Texas*

—CONREY BRYSON

## CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

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RICHARD K. McMASTER (Major USA Ret), is the author of *Musket, Sabre and Missile*, the history of Fort Bliss, *The Caparisoned Horse*, a novel of military life on the southwest frontier, and of numerous articles in *PASSWORD* dealing with military subjects. He is a past Director of the Society.

ELMA NORMAN was born in El Paso in 1895, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel C. McVey. Mr. McVey was chief engineer at the old El Paso Brewery. Elma attended Beall School. She has lived here all her life. Six of her seven children now live in El Paso.

DALE L. WALKER, Director of News and Information, U-T El Paso, is a distinguished biographer and is in his element in reviewing the collection of soldier-of-fortune Ted Parsons. Dale's works include *The Lost Revolutionary: A Biography of John Reed*, *Death Was the Black Horse: The Story of Rough Rider Bucky O'Neill*, a biography of American war correspondent J. A. McGahan, and several works on the subject of Jack London.

MILLARD G. McKINNEY (Cdr USN Ret), is third vice president of the El Paso County Historical Society and a member of the Editorial Board of *PASSWORD*. He is an avid collector of southwestern pictures and has assisted several El Paso authors to illustrate their works. He is co-author with C. L. Sonnichsen of *The State National, Since 1881*.

