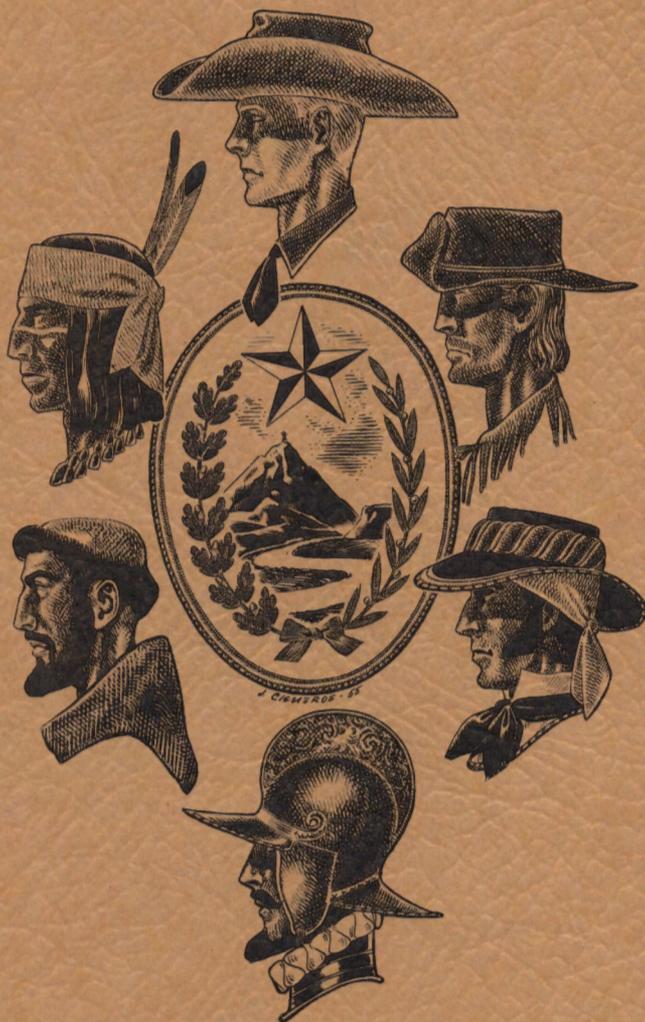


# PASSWORD



THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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VOL. XXIV, No. 1

EL PASO, TEXAS

SPRING, 1979

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# PASSWORD

Published quarterly by THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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CONREY BRYSON, *Editor*

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## THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by THOMAS D. WESTFALL



Being President of the El Paso County Historical Society in 1979 is not only a great honor but is also a very special privilege this year, for 1979 marks the 25th anniversary of the Society. In 1953 Mrs. Willard Schuessler was head of the Women's Department of the Chamber of Commerce. For many years there had been a desire to form an historical society in El Paso and the Women's Department decided that the formation of an historical society would be their project for 1953-1954. Closely assisted by Dolly Lanier and Gretchen Rabb, Mrs. Schuessler presented the initial plan for the new society in Sep-

tember 1953 at their regular Chamber of Commerce meeting. The first official meeting of the newly formed Historical Society was on April 26, 1954. Of the 273 charter members 123 attended the first meeting. It was deemed a great success and Mrs. Schuessler became the first President of the Society. Membership had been solicited from the civic associations such as the Rotary club and from other culturally oriented groups.

The second meeting was held on July 26, 1954. By this second meeting the membership had already swelled to 370 members. By the end of 1954 membership had reached 540.

The first *PASSWORD* was published in February, 1956 and Dr. Joseph Leach was responsible for the suggested name of the new publication. In 1957 the American Association for State and Local History conferred their Award of Merit on the Society for its rigorous and forceful programs that included a quarterly meeting, restoration, and the placing of plaques in El Paso and for its quarterly publication, *PASSWORD*. At one time the El Paso County Historical Society was the largest historical society in the state of Texas.

On this our silver anniversary I feel that we must celebrate and recognize some of the outstanding members that have made the Society what it is today. A special committee will be appointed to coordinate our anniversary activities. Let us start our second twenty-five years with the same enthusiasm as those original charter members to insure that this second quarter of a century will be as equally productive and satisfying as the first.

## EL PASO HALL OF HONOR

The late Robert Randolph Jones and Dr. Edward W. Rheinheimer, 88 year old El Paso physician, were inaugurated into the El Paso Hall of Honor at the Annual Hall of Honor Banquet, held at the El Paso Country Club Sunday November 19, 1978. It was the eighteenth Hall of Honor ceremony. Thirty-five El Paso men and women, living and dead, have been inaugurated into the Hall of Honor for meritorious service which marked them as "outstanding men and women of character, vision, courage and creative spirit who have lived in El Paso County." The tributes to the new members follow in this issue.

In addition to honoring the two new members with commemorative certificates, President Patrick Rand presented a special plaque to the State National Bank for its outstanding community service in placing throughout El Paso a series of plaques to mark the sites where history was made at the Pass of the North.

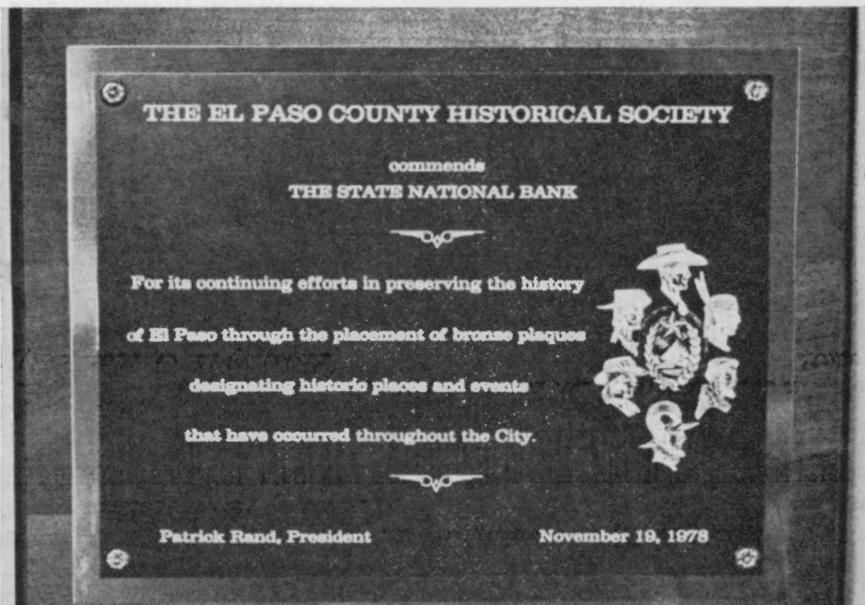


Photo by M. G. McKinney

Dr. Thomas T. Jones, of Durham, North Carolina, accepted the certificate in behalf of his father. Dr. Jones recalled his boyhood in El Paso, and many intimate details of the life of his educator father, told with warm humor and rich affection. In his acceptance, Dr. Rheinheimer said "It is with great humility that I stand in the shadows of those who have previously received this honor." He expressed the hope that he may yet "contribute something more to the community and the Historical Society."

The many details of the large banquet were under the supervision of General Chairmen Mrs. Joseph F. Friedkin and Mrs. Freeman Harris, with the assistance of six committees headed by Mrs. Ellis Mayfield, Mrs. George Hervey, Mrs. Phillip Bethune, Mrs. David H. Rainey, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas D. Westfall, and Colonel and Mrs. E. J. Walsh.



*Dr. E. W. Rheinheimer receives standing ovation at Hall of Honor Banquet. Left to right are: Mrs. Patrick Rand, President Rand, Dr. Rheinheimer, William I. Latham, and Dr. Rheinheimer's daughter, Mrs. Robert L. Schumaker.*  
(Photo by M. G. McKinney)

## HALL OF HONOR ADDRESS

by PATRICK RAND

Tonight we are gathered together to continue the ceremony, inaugurated in 1961 and repeated each year since then to honor, as stated in our Constitution, "Outstanding Men and Women of character, vision, courage and creative spirit who have lived in what is presently El Paso County; and who have consistently done the unusual which deserves to be written or recorded; or who have created that which deserves to be read, heard or seen and who have made El Paso County better for their having lived in it; and who have influenced, over a period of years, the course of history of El Paso County, or by their singular achievements have brought honor and recognition to the El Paso Community, and who have directed us toward worthy goals and merit, being remembered by all men as an exemplary guide to our future."

Our two honorees for 1978, one an educator and the other a physician, in every way comply with the criteria as stated. They will receive the Society's tribute tonight and will join their 35 predecessors in our Hall of Honor. It is through this tribute that we express our gratitude to both past and present leaders who have so greatly helped shape the destiny of El Paso.

My thanks go to the Hall of Honor Selections Committee for their dedication and efforts in making two such outstanding selections as we have this year.

## TRIBUTE TO ROBERT RANDOLPH JONES

by FRANCIS C. BROADDUS, JR.



*Robert Randolph Jones (Courtesy El Paso High School)*

He always reflected the heritage of his native State of Virginia . . . he was truly a gentleman and a scholar . . . he became a teacher . . . he became a leader and an inspiration to countless young men and young women in the El Paso community . . . although he may not have been large of stature, he left giant footprints in the desert sands of El Paso County.

To anyone who had any brush with education in El Paso from 1914 to 1943 the name R.R. JONES immediately conjures up a vision of a smallish man with a shock of white hair and two twinkling—but penetrating—dark eyes beneath . . . he exuded energy . . . he bubbled with enthusiasm . . . he inspired admiration and respect . . . he looked and acted exactly like a high school principal should look and act . . . he knew the name of every student in his school . . . and by the sheer force of his personality he achieved the love and respect of each one of those pupils that he so amazingly called by name.

When he announced to the entire student body at El Paso High School that they were there to study and learn, then they studied and learned. When he informed the student body at a Pep Rally that this was the

year to "Beat Austin," then that's what the Tigers did. Like the television commercial about the stock brokerage firm, when Mr. Jones spoke—everybody listened. They listened because he had something to say—whether it was a mundane school matter of "i before e, except after c" or whether it regarded the proper social conduct of a civilized human being who just happened to be a 12-year-old high school freshman. Everybody listened—and more—everybody heard—and more than that, everybody believed, because it was Mr. Jones.

Since this honor was announced, I have talked to literally hundreds of his former students to seek their recollections of Mr. Jones and to note their reactions to this recognition. To begin with, I should not have referred to former students, but rather to "his admirers." In every instance—male or female—young or old—the mention of his name brought a look of pleasant memories to each one's face and immediate response that the honor was extremely well deserved and long overdue. None could recall any anecdotes or any "silly things that happened." They all simply expressed their profound admiration, their total respect, and the fondness with which they remembered their high school days, their high school education, and their high school principal.

Mr. Jones told everyone that their purpose in being in school was to be educated, and in those days—because he said so—that's what everyone did. They became educated. There were no riots—there were no muggings of teachers—there were no disruptions of the educational process through teacher's strikes or student misbehavior. Mr. Jones created an equanimity—through his own charm and personality—that pervaded the entire school and every student in it with the result that—in those days—the students at El Paso High School went to school to be educated. And because of Mr. Jones they appreciated the fact that they were educated. Later in life all those of whom I have spoken appreciated the fact even more that they were educated at his school. Those same people have attempted to impart to their own children the same feelings and attitudes toward education that he taught them so many years ago.

Mr. Jones was a man of many talents and many interests. His hobbies were as varied as gardening and Civil War history. He was awarded both A.B. and M.A. degrees from Hampden-Sydney College of Virginia in 1891 and 1892. In College he excelled in Latin and Greek, and after coming to El Paso he added a smattering of Italian, French, and German to his linguistic abilities, not to mention his knowledge of Spanish in the local community. While Principal at El Paso High School, he was wont to slip unnoticed into a classroom—more to observe the progress of the individual students than to supervise the techniques and abilities of the teachers. Many were the Latin classes where Mr. Jones would inobtrusively take over a class from the teacher at the exact point in the lesson

being discussed, carry it forward as though he had prepared the exact lesson the night before while making some brilliant point of fact or point of logic, and then just as inobtrusively turn the class back over to the teacher and slip away without one second's loss of the train of thought on the part of the students or in the learning process of the class—but with his point having been brilliantly made and the minds of the fortunate students in the class having been illuminated by his insight and his intellect. In those few moments everyone was rewarded. Each student and even the teacher received a personal spark from that vibrant personality of Mr. Jones, and some words of wisdom had been imparted that helped to favorably mold the characters and intellects of the listener; and on the other hand Mr. Jones himself had received the satisfaction of knowing that he had imparted another bit of knowledge to the minds and intellects of a group of young people.

Although the Latin classes were the greatest beneficiaries of this personal touch, Mr. Jones performed his little miracles for almost all of the classes conducted at El Paso High at one time or another. His vocation was teaching and education, but his avocation was simply young people. Young impressionable minds brought forth his greatest efforts; and young people were the ones who benefitted most from his talents. No activity at El Paso High School was too big or too small for his interest or his presence; and from the highest of scholastic and academic activities to the least of athletic endeavors he was invariably present to support, to guide, to instill confidence, to help achieve success, and to help mold the characters of those students thus engaged into informed and responsible citizens of our community. Yet Mr. Jones did not merely instill in young people a knowledge that they lived in El Paso or the State of Texas, or even this great nation—his achievement was in being able to instill in every student the conviction that everyone had the duty to go beyond merely "learning to live"; that they had a greater duty—to live as active and responsible citizens in their community and thus carry forward into our future the heritage of education and good citizenship that had been bestowed upon us by our forebears.

Mr. Jones did not create this effect with a mere handful of selected teacher's pets. Instead he was successful in doing so with thousands of young minds in El Paso County, Texas. I think I can safely say that 100% of those students who were fortunate enough to attend El Paso High School while he was Principal received this personal benefit from Mr. Jones, but the ripple effect of this dominant personality reached young people everywhere in the El Paso community. The love and respect which students at El Paso High School shared for Mr. Jones was so strong that students at other high schools were equally impacted when one of his students extolled his virtues to a student of a neighborhood

school. His own circle of concern was all encompassing, and as a result teachers, parents, and students city wide were touched by the ever-widening circle of his influence.

Following graduation from College, he became a teacher, a principal, and a superintendent of schools at Petersburg, Virginia. In 1914 he joined the El Paso Public School System, having become one of us when his wife's health demanded a more salubrious climate. It truly can be said that Virginia's loss was El Paso's gain. The Joneses affiliated with Westminster Presbyterian Church where Mr. Jones served as an Elder. The movement to form the Manhattan Presbyterian Church received the benefit of his intense energy and his outstanding administrative abilities, and he was one of the four charter Elders of Manhattan Presbyterian Church. From 1921 until 1932 he served as Clerk of the Session of that Church where his remarkable memory and his habit of taking notes on the cuffs of his white shirt or on tiny scraps of paper resulted in reports of the meetings of the Session being beautifully handwritten and maintained in accurate detail. In the absence of the Pastor, he often conducted worship services, but his strongest interest at the Church was in his service to the Church School. He generally taught a class of young boys, and under his leadership as superintendent of the Church School it expanded and became a powerful source in the life of the young people of that Church.

Robert Randolph Jones was born in San Marino in Dinwiddie County, Virginia on May 3, 1873. I have previously mentioned his studies and degrees from Hampden Sydney College of that State. In addition to rising to the position of Superintendent of Schools in Petersburg, Virginia, he also served as Superintendent of Schools in Newport News, Virginia. After moving to El Paso he taught at El Paso High School for one year and in 1915 was named Assistant Principal of that School, being the Assistant to Mr. A. H. Hughey who later became Superintendent of Schools of El Paso, and who himself was installed in our Hall of Honor several years ago. For 17 years from 1917 to 1934 he served as Assistant Superintendent of the El Paso School System, but in 1934 he became the Principal at El Paso High School, which was then the largest and most prominently located high school in the City. It was there where his charm, his delightful sense of humor, his dignity and presence, his keen intellect, and his burning desire to help and improve the greatest number of young people possible were all melded into the form of that wonderful man with the mop of white hair and the bright twinkling eyes that we affectionately called "Railroad" Jones. Certainly no one ever called him that to his face, but I express it most aptly when I use the term "affectionately" because the only way a student of his could take his initials of double r and then call him anything but "Mr."

Jones was with the love and affection—with the appreciation—that every single student at El Paso High School had for his Principal—that remarkable man, “Railroad” Jones.

Mr. Jones had married Sallie Orgain Blackwell in Virginia, and it was her health that helped bring the couple to El Paso. It was her health again approximately 30 years later that resulted in his retirement from the El Paso Public School System on May 31, 1943 and his subsequent removal to San Bernardino, California, where after having served for several years as a counselor in a Boy's School, Mr. Jones departed this earth on April 2, 1951. The Joneses had 3 sons, Randolph, John, and Thomas; and Dr. Thomas T. Jones, a distinguished physician, who now resides in a history-steeped home in Durham, North Carolina, survives at this time. Mr. Jones is also survived by a nephew, Dr. Frank F. Jones, who is Pastor Emeritus of the First Presbyterian Church of El Paso, but who unfortunately was unable to return from studies in Scotland to be present on this occasion.

From the time in 1916, when Mr. Jones personally used the screwdriver to affix the study hall desks in place when they were late in arriving for the new El Paso High School building, to the occasion shortly after his departure for California—that the El Paso School Board formally named the stadium at El Paso High School the “R.R. Jones Stadium”—and as an aside on that occasion Dr. E. J. Cummins, President of the School Board, on November 5, 1943, at the traditional game against Bowie High School, made the dedicatory address while the band and pep squad formed the words “Mr. Jones” on the playing field—Robert Randolph Jones had left his mark on El Paso County. His 30 years of living in El Paso County had more than fulfilled the requirements of a man of “outstanding character, vision, courage, and creative spirit” so as to qualify him for this nomination and to cause him to become ensconced in the El Paso County Historical Society Hall of Honor. As I said in the beginning, although smallish of stature, this man left giant footprints in the desert sands of El Paso County and a lifelong impression on the minds of every young person with whom he came in contact; and neither his footprints nor the impressions that he made will be soon forgotten. Like the old Village Lamplighter who has disappeared into the dark, but who has left the record of where he had passed by the lights in the lamps that he lit on his way, so too Mr. Jones, although he has now gone on beyond our sight, left many a lamp lit behind him. His legacy to this community will live in the minds and hearts of those privileged to have known him for many years and even generations to come. It is, therefore, my humble privilege and distinct honor to enshrine forever in the Hall of Honor of the El Paso County Historical Society the name of Robert Randolph Jones.

TRIBUTE TO  
DR. EDWARD WILLIAM RHEINHEIMER  
by WILLIAM I. LATHAM



*Dr. Edward William Rheinheimer (Courtesy Robert L. Schumaker)*

Ladies and gentlemen:

My friend, Chris P. Fox, a charter member of El Paso County Historical Society, was honored in 1967 as the living recipient at the annual Hall of Honor dinner. Chris, as all of you well know, proudly wears the nickname "Mr. El Paso." Tonight it is my privilege to introduce the living recipient for the 1978 Hall of Honor and, to start with, I want to label him "Mr. Living History of El Paso."

I am speaking of Dr. Edward William Rheinheimer.

Dr. Rheinheimer was born in El Paso on June 16, 1890; attended Central School (where the telephone company building now stands); also Alamo and Old Mesa; recalls midwinter celebrations of the early 1900s; remembers vividly the Rio Grande flood of 1897; with Dr. Harry Varner he operated a "baby san" for Southside El Paso babies in 1922, using abandoned buildings of the old tin mine in the Franklins; served as a medical officer in World War I; served as a medical examining officer for the Selective Service System for over 25 years; served over 50 years as a division surgeon for the Southern Pacific Railroad, starting with the GH&SA in 1917 and today, at 88, is still practicing medicine on a limited scale and attending weekly meetings of El Paso Kiwanis Club, which he once headed as president, and of which he has been a member over 50 years.

Do you wonder that I call him "Mr. Living History of El Paso?"

It all started back in 1881, the year the railroads came to El Paso, the State National Bank was founded, and two newspapers—*The El Paso Times* and *El Paso Herald*—were started. That, my friends, was 97 years ago. Dr. Rheinheimer's father, also named William, was bridge and buildings foreman for the Santa Fe Railroad and constructed every station from Albuquerque south as the line built toward El Paso. He didn't stay in El Paso long after the line reached here but was back within months—with his wife, Elizabeth, from Syracuse, N.Y. And Hal Daugherty, and Chris Fox, too—you may be interested to know that since 1881 there has been a Rheinheimer banking with your State National Bank.

Perhaps I should give you more details. Dr. Rheinheimer was born at 405 South Florence Street, one of five children. He was the oldest and had two brothers—Nelson and Oscar—and two sisters—Frieda and Helen. Three are dead and only two—Dr. Rheinheimer and his baby sister, Mrs. Robert Barrett of Vermont, survive. At this time he lives with his daughter, Mrs. Robert L. Schumaker (Mary) and her family, at 3124 Aurora.

He speaks of the big flood in 1897:

"A big flood was expected and if the headgates at Hart's Mill couldn't contain it they arranged to blow the fire whistle at the electric company

plant. About 2 p.m. on May 8 the whistle sounded. Judge Harper and his family and my Dad and a bunch of us built a dam at Florence, Second and Third Streets to protect that half block. The water reached there at 11 p.m. and the dam didn't hold. We woke up with water swirling around us and went to a hotel to spend the night. Many houses in South El Paso and Juarez—of adobe—were washed away. Our house—built of brick—stood. It was in water 10 days and there was 12 inches of mud in the basement when it was over."

He speaks of going to Juarez to see bullfights when a mere youngster: "A man named Sam took my sister and me to the fights. We were more interested in Mexican candy—a twisted molasses sweet, long and dry—than in the bullfights. Sam finally shot someone and was sent to prison. That ended our candy-bullfight days."

About a mid-winter carnival, around 1900 or 1901, which was set up at Campbell and Texas Streets, in a vacant lot:

"There was a big canvas fence around the carnival and some of us, who didn't have any money to pay, sneaked under the canvas fence. We just looked around. Then a big snowstorm came and it halted everything. The carnival was covered with snow and that was the end of it!"

After graduating from El Paso High School in 1909 he enrolled as a pre-med student at Syracuse University in Syracuse, N.Y. Upon graduation he entered the Medical School of Syracuse University where he received his Doctor of Medicine degree in 1916. He interned at University Good Shepherd Hospital in that city, a hospital operated by the university. In college he belonged to Alpha Kappa Kappa, the medical fraternity, and Kappa Sigma, social fraternity.

In 1917 he married the former Emily Hess, who died in 1955. That year—1917—Dr. Rheinheimer returned to El Paso and started his private practice. In 1918-1919 he served in the U. S. Army Medical Corps with his wartime duties limited to towns at Waco, Texas; Hattiesburg, Miss.; New Orleans, La., and Charleston, South Carolina. His brother, Oscar, who had attended El Paso Military Institute, did volunteer and went overseas and, on his return, took his mining degree at Texas College of Mines, newly located on the west side of El Paso.

That year, on his return from Army service, Dr. Rheinheimer started his practice again. And he is still at it.

"I haven't taken any new patients in 13 years," he will admit. "But I have a few patients I'm serving as much as I can. I am gradually phasing out. There are some elderly patients living on social security and I can't desert them."

Also, in 1917, he became a division surgeon for the GH & SA Railroad. Actually his work was not in surgery, he was an examining physician.

He quit that position in 1969.

One of those who came to see him in those days, way back then, was a young man who wanted a job as a telegrapher with the railroad. Dr. Rheinheimer doesn't remember it but the young man—W. J. Hooten—tells about it in his book "Fifty-Two Years a Newsman." Mr. Hooten retired as editor of The El Paso Times in 1970.

In those early days before air-conditioning, the infant deathrate in South El Paso was high. So Dr. Rheinheimer and Dr. Harry Varner worked in a "baby san" in an abandoned office building at the old tin mine, located on the eastern slopes of the Franklins about where Dick Knapp has been building roads lately. It had only four walls but someone roofed it and that summer of 1922 some 30-36 babies from South El Paso were taken there and cared for until the weather became too cold.

"An organization called The Forum financed and solicited materials," Dr. Rheinheimer recalls. "There was no paved road then. You took a dirt road to Newman, turned west and headed for the hills. It almost cost a set of tires to get up to the mine in the rugged Franklin foothills."

Dr. Rheinheimer attended Sunday School and church at Parson Tays downtown Episcopal church. It was located on Mesa, in the block where Feders Jewelers now stands.

"My folks were Lutheran but there was no Lutheran church here. So we went to Parson Tays church—St. Clements. My wife also was Lutheran but I have been a member of St. Clements for many years."

Dr. Rheinheimer has served El Paso in many ways. From the earliest days of the Selective Service System until it was ended in 1970, he was an examining physician for the draft. On the walls of his office today, hang certificates signed by Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, longtime draft chief; Presidents Eisenhower, Truman, Johnson and Kennedy—all thanking him for his selfless devotion to our nation.

He is a charter member of this historical society, is a life member of the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army ("My father liked the Salvation Army," he says); was a float judge for the Sun Carnival Association for over 15 years and a director when he was president of El Paso Kiwanis Club, was medical consultant to the Federal Reserve Bank and Standard Oil Co. until retirement from both this year (1978) in El Paso, a past president of El Paso City-County Health Unit, a past president of El Paso County Medical Society and holds memberships in both the Texas and American Medical associations. He is also a former president of the Western Association of Railway Surgeons.

As a youngster Dr. Rheinheimer collected stamps, putting them in an album he had made from a book. On his return to El Paso, after medical school and World War I, his sister, in New York, sent him this book which he still owns. He has collected stamps for many years. He is a life

member and past president of El Paso Philatelic Society, formerly El Paso Stamp Club, and a member of the American Philatelic Society, the Texas Philatelic Society and the New Mexico Philatelic Society. In fact, he once won an award from the New Mexico group for an article which he authored for that state's stamp journal.

His son-in-law, Robert Schumaker, is director of admissions at the University of Texas at El Paso and he and his wife, Mary, are the proud parents of three children—Marianne, Betsy and Robby.

And Dr. Rheinheimer has a pet project. It is the Staley Scholarship Endowment, at U. T. El Paso, a fund limited to helping pre-medical students.

Some 15 years ago, while taking a routine physical examination, I found out I had suffered a heart attack. When I told Bill Hooten about it he called Dr. Rheinheimer and asked him to see me. I was his patient for several years—until he started getting rid of his “younger patients.” But I came to know him—we had many chats in his office—and I came to respect and admire him for the great man he is.

A friend, who nominated him for this honor, wrote:

“Because of Dr. Edward W. Rheinheimer's kindness, his wisdom, his genuine interest in people and his many unselfish services he has made El Paso a better place in which to live. He is deeply loved and respected by all those whose lives he has touched. He is an outstanding man of character, vision and courage.”

I wish I had written those words. I can only say “Amen” to all of them.

So tonight I give you “MR. LIVING HISTORY OF EL PASO—EDWARD W. RHEINHEIMER—your friend and mine—the living recipient for the Hall of Honor in 1978.”

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“The most turbulent and dramatic stage of the modern Mexican Revolution that began in 1910 ended in the year 1920. The date is fixed by the surrender of Pancho Villa, the foremost *guerrillero* of that revolution. As this newly discovered document states, Villa did not consider the transaction a surrender. He looked upon it as making peace with a new Mexican government acceptable to him as patriot of the peons. The regime then in power must have respected Villa's capability to continue serious resistance, as Adolfo de La Huerta accepted all the rebel leader's stipulations, some of them quite demanding.”

—Haldeen Braddy, “Pancho Villa's Capitulation: An Inside Look,”  
PASSWORD, 14:9, SPRING, 1969.

## EL PASO: MINING HUB FOR NORTHERN MEXICO, 1880-1920

by JAMES M. DAY

"There was the Rio Grande and across it you could see the famous Sierra Madre with its buried treasure." Thus wrote Mayne Reid from the spot of present El Paso. His book, *House of the Desert*, appeared in 1880 at a time when the present Ciudad Juárez was named El Paso del Norte. In July, 1880, the legislative body of the State of Chihuahua changed the name of El Paso del Norte to Ciudad Juárez and Franklin had become El Paso. Mayne Reid wrote from "El Paso del Norte," which was the pass through the mountains from east to west<sup>1</sup>. Doubtless, he was on the American side of the border as he envisioned the riches of the mountains in Chihuahua, Mexico. Reid was in a great deal of error when he thought he was able to see the Sierra Madres, a mountain chain over one hundred miles to the south and west of where he stood, but his idea was correct.

Thoughts of mineral treasures had brought the first explorers to the land of Chihuahua. Francisco de Ibarra was a conquistador who visited there in 1563. He was directed to find mines, gold ones if he could, but he did not know how to look or what to look for, so he went back talking of grass and cattle and crops. Later, prior to the time he died in 1575, Ibarra had established the first *mina* and *hacienda* in Chihuahua at Santa Barbara, and, as a result, agriculture and mining have remained inseparable there.<sup>2</sup> Strangely enough, as Reid painted the scene in 1880, the mineral resources of northern Mexico were known, but they had barely been tapped. The imaginative writer stood on the threshold of the development. He stood and looked, but did not pass.

That was left for others, men of a different stamp, and it took a unique series of events in Mexican political history to make it possible. The key to these events was Don Porfirio Díaz, who became President of the Republic of Mexico in December, 1876. By the constitution he was restricted to one four-year term as president. He abided by the law and released the reins of government to Manuel Gonzales in 1880. While Díaz waited, expecting to return to office in 1884, Gonzales led a dismal failure of a government through four years of chaos. And in this confusion there was passed a "New Mining Code of 1884," a document which invited foreign capital to interest itself in Mexican mining. True to form, Díaz was returned to office in 1884 and from that time until his resignation and abdication in May, 1911, Don Porfirio Díaz ruled all Mexico as completely as any dictator.

In the course of his administration, a few favored Mexicans became wealthy, but the rank and file, the masses, remained paupers. Not until 1910 did he allow an election and even then Francisco I. Madero was soundly defeated at the polls. But Madero did not quit. In good Mexican tradition, he organized a revolution of his own and drove Díaz, old and senile, from the country. Madero was killed in 1913, but the revolution continued, and stability did not return to Mexico until 1920 when Alvaro Obregón became president of the country.<sup>3</sup>

These events were of significance for the mining industry of Mexico. Under Díaz, the industrial and financial structure of the nation rested on mining and metallurgy. The years 1885-1910 were truly the "golden age" for Mexican mineralogy, though substantial threads of silver, zinc, lead, and copper were woven into the crown. This expansion used foreign money, most of which came from the United States, a nation flexing its financial muscle as it recovered and regrouped from its own civil war. In 1868 there were only thirteen American-owned mining companies in all of Mexico, a figure that bounded to 840 by 1907. American investments in Mexican mining properties in 1890 aggregated \$125,000,000; by 1907 the figure leaped to \$800,000,000. Gold production alone is another indication of the growth. In 1880 Mexico produced less than one per cent (.85) of the world's gold; by 1910 it peaked at almost five per cent (4.98), or 5,240,975 fine ounces. And the extent of American influence can be seen in the fact that the Yankees owned three-fourths of the dividend-paying mines of Mexico by 1910.<sup>4</sup>

Alexander von Humboldt once wrote that "the western half of Chihuahua will prove the richest of precious mineral deposits on the face of the globe."<sup>5</sup> That statement would be tough to prove, technically, but the thrust of the idea has validity. As the Americans moved into Chihuahua on an operational basis, they laid claim to some of the purest air and richest minerals to be found anywhere. The optimism of Reid's treasures of the Sierra Madres was contagious. By 1911 over one hundred mineral districts had been legally established in the state and those districts had 570 producing mines.<sup>6</sup> Gold and silver bullion production alone (excluding ore shipped to smelters for treatment) exceeded \$800,000 per month, one-third of which was exported to the United States and England. In 1905 Chihuahua's mines produced 566,377 metric tons of ore valued at \$14,765,573. By 1911, When George Griggs produced his third edition of *Mines of Chihuahua*, 325 companies were listed as doing business in mining in the state. It is little wonder that Chihuahua ranked first among the states of Mexico in mining production. By the end of the golden age, Chihuahua alone produced one third of the world's silver.<sup>7</sup>

One result of this mineral output was the transformation of Chihuahua City, the state capitol. With foreign capital came foreign people. The

peaceful sleepy town nestled at the foot of mountains named *Cerro del Coronel* and *Cerro de Santa Rosa* and *Cerro de Jesus María* was changed into a virtual beehive. Germans had a colony as did orientals, especially the Chinese. Largest among the foreigners were the Americans. Accessibility was the key, ingress guaranteed by the railroad built between Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua in 1882. This road, the Mexican Central, was destined to become the greatest in the country. It was financed and built by Boston investors who hoped for a large trade from El Paso and Ciudad Juárez to the south, and importance can be attached to the fact that El Paso had ready access to Chihuahua as the golden age of mineralogy opened.<sup>8</sup>

In Chihuahua City the foreigners literally built their own establishments and institutions. There was the elaborate two hundred member Foreign Club, four private banks operated by Americans, and two English language newspapers, *The Enterprise* and *The Chihuahua Mail*. George King, an Englishman, was architect for the theater, *El Teatro de los Héroes*, built in 1880.<sup>9</sup> As the immigration tide and mineral wealth increased, inevitably the smelters followed. The American Smelting and Refining Company began its plant there in 1906. It was built from scrap machinery from El Paso and Monterrey and was designed to be an eight hundred ton smelter with two lead stacks and one copper stack. Not until 1910 was it almost mechanically untroubled, and not until the 1920's was it to become the largest lead smelter in the world. When it did, the ASARCO smelter at El Paso was converted to process copper ore, and by then the climax of American influx into Chihuahua had passed.<sup>10</sup>

In all of this development, El Paso, Texas, was strategically located at the spot where American ore moved east and Mexican ore north. Geography made it a mining town as it served as a supply shipping center for all of Chihuahua and for New Mexico and Arizona. Mining men with mining ways centered at El Paso. In 1876 its population was fifty souls. By 1881 that figure was 1,500; 1900, 15,906; 1910, 39,279; 1920, 89,298. Ciudad Juárez grew substantially also. From a figure of 6,000 in 1882, it expanded to 19,457 by 1927.<sup>11</sup>

Promotion of mining activities in El Paso was in capable hands so far as newspaper men were concerned. An *El Paso Times* editorial of December 18, 1884, took note of the fact that new miners were coming to town every day to get camp provisions and have their ores assayed. "We cannot encourage this class of men too much," the editorial stated, "for they will eventually make El Paso a mining centre." Tight money had kept capitalists from grasping the opportunity which El Paso offered for reduction works, but that would change soon, the writer thought.

The change had come by the time Ivan C. Michels arrived four years



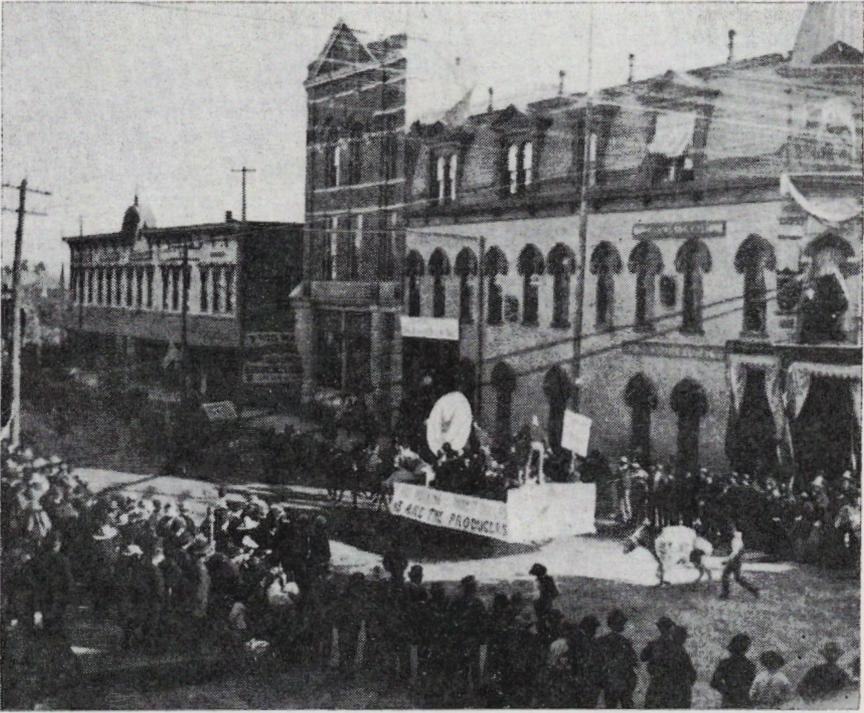
*Charles Longuemare, Editor El Paso Bullion. Died October 16, 1904, buried Concordia Cemetery. (Courtesy Helen Ratermann)*

later. Michels, official statistician for the United States Senate Committee on Mines and Mining, had intended to stay in El Paso for one day, but he was so "amazed at the magnitude" of the "gold and silver interests" that he decided to stay a week. His concern centered on a government assay office that had been promoted by Senator William M. Stewart of Nevada. Stewart was proposing an appropriation of one million dollars to set up an assay office in El Paso, but as Michels expressed it "I had no idea the demand for it was so great." He continued, "all that is necessary to secure an appropriation for a large government assay office here is to simply let the government know the extent of your immense silver ore interests." He was convinced "that El Paso is destined to be one of the largest silver and gold markets in the country."<sup>12</sup>

But the outstanding advocate for El Paso mineral industries was Charles H. Longuemare, who moved from Socorro, New Mexico, in June, 1888. Since 1883 Longuemare had published a newspaper, *The Bullion*, in Socorro, but he saw that the action for his periodical was in El Paso. So he came to be included in the assay. *The Bullion* was an agitating newspaper, one which called for mining conventions for its home city and for the establishment of a college to train miners. Longuemare's writing eventually contributed to the success of both goals.<sup>13</sup>

Longuemare was an indefatigable promoter. As 1888 came to a close, he surveyed the local mining scene in a long article which traced the history of mining and smelting in the Southwest. West Texas, New Mexico and Arizona developments were covered in some detail as were Chihuahua and Sonora. From northern Mexico in 1887, \$13,800,000 worth of ore had passed into the United States at El Paso for treatment. He took note of the smelters at El Paso and at Socorro, New Mexico, but stated that El Paso became a mining center "by the natural order of things." Mining and smelting, he stated, had contributed more to progress at the Pass than "all other interests combined." The smelter had a weekly payroll of \$12,500, but that was a "mere shadow" when compared with the growth to come.<sup>14</sup> Charles Longuemare was no piker when making a pronouncement! He was pushing hard cranking out copy when an old problem caught up with him. He was a somnambulist, a sleep-walker, and he strolled out of a second-story window one night in 1892. For the remainder of his life, Longuemare was a semi-invalid. *The Bullion* ceased operation on March 28, 1893, and Longuemare died in 1904.<sup>15</sup>

El Paso did become a gathering place for miners. In 1892 it hosted a Great Silver Convention which brought together from all over the Southwest those interested in minerals. The great and near-great came and talked of politics and of the technical aspects of mining and mineralogy. Considering El Paso's reputation as a "sin city," there also was some socializing.



*Silver convention parade, October, 1891, turns from El Paso Street east on San Antonio Street; State National Bank at left, on Oregon Street, First National Bank at right. Float is that of Krakauer, Zork and Moye.*

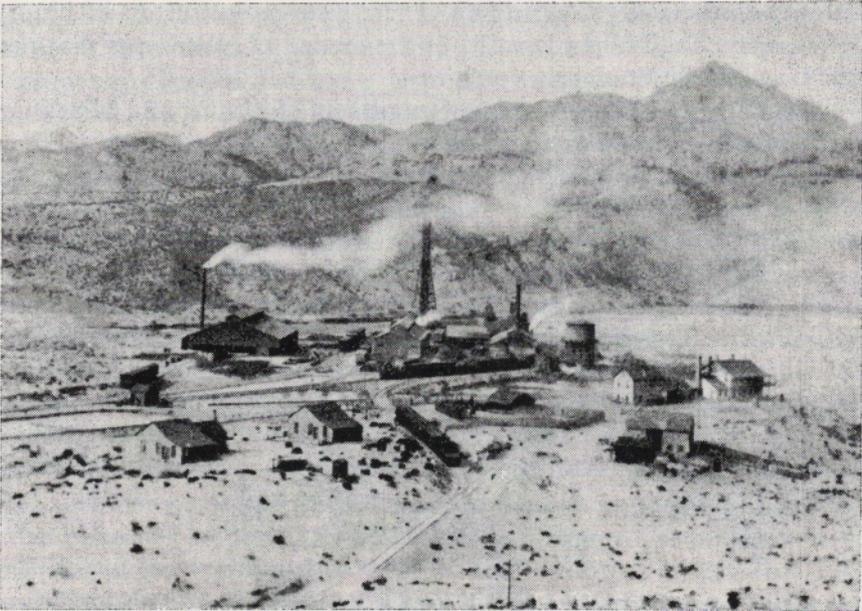
*(Dr. H. E. Stevenson Collection, El Paso Public Library)*

The popularity of this convention was so great that the Southwest International Miner's Association was organized in El Paso in January, 1901, in connection with the Mid-Winter Carnival that was so famous in early El Paso history. The Miner's Association met in El Paso in 1902 and 1903 before moving its activities to Chihuahua City. During its three years in the city, the association sponsored a drilling contest at the Mid-Winter Carnival, at which the best drillers from mines all over the Southwestern United States and Mexico exhibited their skill at boring a hole into a rock. Contemporaries related that the event caused much excitement. In 1902 the contest was won by Theodosia Bigneria of Minas de San Pedro, who drilled a hole  $17\frac{3}{8}$  inches deep in fifteen minutes. Such was the circus-like manifestation of mining, a show which pitted human force against the strength of inanimate nature, a contest accompanied by a great deal of boisterousness.<sup>10</sup>

About three miles west of El Paso a thriving place known as Smelertown had developed. It was the brainchild of Robert Safford Towne,

who opened this smelter on August 29, 1887, at a time during which it represented the only really important custom smelting works in the Southwest. It remained so for over thirty years. In less than a year after it was built, Towne sold the works to the Kansas City Consolidated Smelting and Refining Company, an organization which operated it until April 4, 1899, when ownership passed to ASARCO. When built, the plant had four lead blast furnaces and four hand roasters designed for processing lead and silver. The smelter burned in 1901, but it was rebuilt and converted to the processing of copper, and it has continued so since.<sup>17</sup> In 1900 it had nine blast furnaces which aggregately averaged processing one thousand tons of ore daily. During the year the company purchased 300,000 tons of ore for which it paid \$6,500,000, and from that ore came 45,000 ounces of gold, 7,600,000 ounces of silver, 20,000 tons of lead, and 5,500 tons of copper. Its annual payroll was \$375,000 and the amount paid to railroads for ore hauling was \$1,200,000. Tax duties paid at the border to both Mexico and the United States amounted to just over \$250,000.<sup>18</sup> The figures reveal the magnitude of the operation at a time when it looked like things were going to get better.

The smelter and the concentrator in Ciudad Juárez called for the building of additional railroads for the hauling of ores in from the mines and supplies back to them. By 1902, the city had seven connecting rail-



*El Paso Smelter, about 1890. "Mulero Peak," now Mount Cristo Rey is upper right.*  
*(Leon C. Metz Collection)*

roads as follows: (1) Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe, (2) Southern Pacific, (3) Texas and Pacific, (4) Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio, (5) Mexican Central, (6) Rio Grande, Sierra Madre and Pacific, and (7) El Paso and Northwestern.<sup>19</sup> Some of the railroads later consolidated and eventually were eclipsed by other forms of transportation, but no question can be raised to argue the fact that they formed the spokes for the mining hub that was El Paso prior to the Madero Revolution in Mexico. The smelter served as the bearings upon which that hub rotated.

Another of Longuemare's interests, a school to train miners, was also to become a reality shortly after his death. This was the founding of a State School of Mines at El Paso "for the purpose of teaching the scientific knowledge of mining and metallurgy." The act of the Texas legislature was approved on April 16, 1913, at the height of speculative mining activity in New Mexico and Chihuahua. The citizens of El Paso pushed for the school and the City of El Paso provided the land. At the Fall term, 1914, the State School of Mines and Metallurgy opened its doors with a faculty trained in geology, coal mining, engineering, chemistry, and assaying. Lecturers specialized in mining law, copper and lead smelting, the Cyanide Process, ore dressing, internal combustion engines, air compression, and first aid. One faculty member served as "a tutor in Spanish," a position revealing the importance of mining in northern Mexico to the college curriculum. There were no instructors of history, philosophy, English or education or the myriad of other types that now permeate the institution.

In 1919 the school became the Department of Mining and Metallurgy of the University of Texas and then in 1921 it was the College of Mines and Metallurgy. In 1931 the school was authorized to grant Bachelor of Arts degrees, a significant fact revealing the shifting emphasis away from mining education.<sup>20</sup> More and more, degrees have been granted in the arts and in education and the name has been changed to Texas Western College and finally to the University of Texas at El Paso, but the fact remains that its initial intent was to educate for purposes of mining and metallurgy. Today, as students and faculty and staff complain of the sulphur smell and smoke coming from the ASARCO stacks which are just one short mile distant from the campus, they are prone to forget the closeness of purpose that once existed between the smelter and the school.

Another periodical devoted to Southwest mining was a monthly dedicated exclusively to metallurgical interests. Charles A. Dinsmore established the *El Paso Mining Journal* in 1908. It was never a large operation, having a circulation of 700 copies in 1910, but it had significance until revolutionary activities caused suspension of mining operations in Chihuahua. In 1916, Dinsmore ceased publishing his magazine. No

complete file of the *Journal* exists so far as is known, while those few fragments of copies extant are housed in the Southwest Room of the El Paso Public Library, in a collection known as "Southwest Mining File."<sup>21</sup>

A specific illustration will reveal the activities of mining in Chihuahua and its ramifications on El Paso. This would be the Corralitos Land and Cattle Company, one of the most successful mining operations of the area. The corporation was formed in 1886 by a group of New York financiers headed by Edwin Denison Morgan, cousin of the famed J. Pierpont Morgan.<sup>22</sup> These New Yorkers banded together to purchase a property in Chihuahua known as *El Rancho de Corralitos*. Located 125 miles south of El Paso, the Corralitos Ranch consisted of over one million acres, an area 25 per cent larger than the state of Rhode Island. It and some other famous Chihuahua ranches were situated near Casas Grandes. To the south was William Randolph Hearst's *Babicora*, to the west was Lord Delaval Beresford's *Los Ojitos*, to the northwest was the Boyd ranch named *La Carreta*, to the north was the Palomas Ranch, some two million acres in all, and to the east lay the spreading valleys owned by Don Luis Terrazas, whose generalship commanded about six million acres.<sup>23</sup> The Corralitos ranchers had some impressive neighbors.

More than that, though, they had a plan. Since their acreage stretched to the top of the Sierra Madres, they had a good stand of timber, mostly pine, to complement the grass of the open ranges. Water was a problem in spots, but generally the Corralitos River and Lake Guzmán served adequately. Timber and cattle were only two staples of the ranch. By way of further exploitation, the corporation established the Candelaria Mining Company to extract ores from a group of *antiguas* known as *Minas de San Pedro*. Finally, to round out the operation, they erected an ore concentrator in Ciudad Juárez and built a railroad from the ranch to the city to provide economical transportation. The Corralitos Land and Cattle Company was a big operation, combining cattle, timber, and mining interests, one which lasted until 1916 when the violence of Pancho Villa and his followers forced a cessation of the activities. At its height, the ranch and mines supported approximately six thousand persons, of whom one hundred were Americans. Even with the interference of revolutionary activities, the ranch still had 60,000 head of cattle in 1924, and dryland farming produced wheat, corn, fruit, and vegetables.<sup>24</sup> In 1941 the ranch was sold to Rodrigo Quevedo of Chihuahua and William W. Wallace of El Paso for \$100,000, but by then the ranch had lost its cattle, and the multitudinous acres were a model of inactivity.<sup>25</sup>

From its beginning through the Revolution, the Corralitos Land and Cattle Company had only two general managers, Britton Davis, who served until 1906, and E. C. Houghton, who was with the company

when he died in 1928. Davis was perhaps the more flamboyant of the two. Born the son of Texas governor Edmund J. Davis, Britton Davis attended the United States Military Academy, graduating fourth in his class in June, 1881. As a second lieutenant, he joined the Third Cavalry in July, 1881, the unit to which he was assigned when he participated in the Apache Campaigns in Arizona in 1884 and 1885. Later, in 1920, he penned a book about these activities, a work entitled *The Truth About Geronimo*. After September, 1885, Davis was on leave of absence from the army, and he resigned his commission on July 1, 1886 to become president of the San Luis Mining Company in Pima County, Arizona.<sup>26</sup>

By 1890 Davis was in El Paso actively involved in cattle and mines. In 1894 he went to Kansas City to promote the building of stock pens for El Paso, and the following year was involved in a large land purchase in Mexico between Ciudad Juárez and the Samalayuca Hills, where coal was believed to exist in large quantities. The plan was to build a railroad to develop the coal mines. Davis, general manager for the Corralitos Cattle Company, the Candelaria Mining Company, and the Juárez Company, moved steadily toward a position of prominence in El Paso. Until June, 1901, his company offices were in Ciudad Juárez, but in that month the organization moved to the third floor of the Coles Building in El Paso, where they occupied six rooms.<sup>27</sup>

Davis presented a paper to the 1902 International Miner's Association meeting which he titled "Investments in Old Mexico," and at about the same time he added another title to his string, that of president of the Aventura Mining Company.<sup>28</sup> In 1902, he served as Chairman of the Miners Collection Committee of the International Miner's Association and worked for the founding of a first class social club for El Paso, one which stressed the need for good companionship and camaraderie to begin at four in the afternoon.<sup>29</sup>

When the Ciudad Juárez concentrator owned by the Corralitos Company was closed on January 20, 1904, Davis was asked how long it would remain idle. With characteristic brevity he replied: "It is closed down 'till they get ready to start it again."<sup>30</sup> Perhaps no connection exists, but on March 5 of that year Davis became president of a new one million dollar corporation organized under the laws of New Mexico. This was the Northern Mexico Development Company, which claimed Alamo-gordo as its home office. The purpose of this organization was to operate mines in Mexico and the United States, but it specifically held title to two mines, the Aventura and the Santo Domingo, both of which were in the Sabinal Mining District of Chihuahua. Purchase of these mines was from the Candelaria Mining Company, which Davis served as general manager.<sup>31</sup> Perhaps this new company led Davis to resign from the Corralitos Land and Cattle Company in 1906 and leave El Paso. By

1929 he was living in San Diego, California, where he died a "few years" prior to 1935.<sup>32</sup>

After Davis left, Edward Cone Houghton became general manager for the company. A native of Santa Fe, Houghton had been educated at St. Michael's College and had ranched in northeast Texas and on the Black Range of New Mexico prior to becoming ranch manager of the Corralitos in 1895. Thereafter he was associated with the Corralitos Land and Cattle Company. After he took over as general manager in 1906, Houghton kept affairs on a progressing attitude until the Revolution got serious in 1916. Then, there was nothing to be done. It was the Revolution, and only the Revolution, that caused the Corralitos Land and Cattle Company, with its broad interests in farming, ranching, railroads, timber and mining, to diminish its activities. The El Paso office and the concentrator at Ciudad Juárez felt the crunch.<sup>33</sup>

But as the world turned in El Paso in 1900 it looked like the golden age of mining would be perpetual. The El Paso Chamber of Commerce was initiated at the beginning of the year, taking quarters "No. 5, Little Plaza," just behind the Mine and Smelter Supply Company. Its office was shared with the International Miner's Association, an organization that agreed to pay half of the building fund debt. In 1903 the Chamber of Commerce moved its offices around the corner, to 107 San Francisco Street, and again the International Miner's Association moved in, but the block was still engulfed by the Mine and Smelter Supply Company. The following quotation from the 1902 City Directory shows just how sensitive the Chamber of Commerce was to mining interests:

The El Paso Chamber of Commerce is two years old and devoted to the advancement of the city along every line of possible progress, fully realizing El Paso's importance as the Mining Center of the Southwest and the only one in the United States International in location and character. Hence, having moved into its own building, it took immediate action to secure a cabinet of minerals representative of El Paso's tributary mining company.<sup>34</sup>

When the ASARCO smelter burned down in 1901, spokesman H. E. Runkle took the opportunity to assert once again that "mining is the mainstay of the country." He explained that "75,000 men are living off of mining in this section," fully one-half of the people of the territory. The other half live off of the 75,000 persons "who are creating wealth and disbursing it here." He continued:

To lose the El Paso smelter and not get another one would mean losing half the resources of all this country, and with it half of all other enterprises. The railroads could cut off half their employees, and the country would go back to what it was in the time of the jack rabbit and coyote. I mention this to show that this is purely a mining country and to prove that the people here cannot take too much interest in mining.<sup>35</sup>

Runkle did not need to be too concerned, though, for the ASARCO smelter was reconstructed and another one was in the making. This was the Federal Copper Company, which was organized on June 9, 1899. Between January and September, 1901, the Federal Smelter was erected on the site now occupied by Memorial Park. After it was "blown in," crews of over one hundred men worked its furnaces day and night. But it got caught in the price wars. So long as the price of copper was high it did well, but low copper prices resulted in non-payment of debts. On September 12, 1903, after just two years of functioning, the Federal Smelter was shut down by court order. The company tried to reopen in 1904, but with no success. In 1905 the El Paso Foundry and Machine Works restored it for use by the Southern Smelting and Refining Company, but by the end of the year the effort was aborted when the Southern Smelting company disintegrated. Then later that year, copper magnate William C. Greene bought it just before his empire started falling apart. Court battles characterized the property in 1907 and 1908, and it was finally sold at auction for \$26,000. In 1912 the Federal Smelter was dismantled when the Darbyshire-Harvie Iron Works bought the remains of the machinery and equipment.<sup>36</sup>

That same decade brought interest in a local mining concern that was unique for being "the only tin mine in the United States ever to be developed to the point of mining, milling and smelting." The tin deposits were discovered as early as 1896 some twelve miles north of El Paso in the vicinity of Mundy Springs on the edge of the Franklin Mountains. By 1899 the property had been acquired by the newly formed Florilla Mining Company headed by B. H. and Lamar Davis and C. R. Morehead. In September, 1909, an eastern capitalist, S. H. Chauvenet, entered into an agreement with the Florilla Company to form the El Paso Tin Mining and Smelting Company.

By mid-October fifty men were working on a plant that eventually represented a \$150,000 investment. The peak year of exploration was 1910 at which time eight veins were being worked and the peak year of production was 1911 when five tons of pig tin were produced. The metal was displayed at the November, 1910, El Paso County Fair, but production ceased after 1911. The total amount of pig tin produced was eight tons, one for each vein in the mine. In 1913 the company borrowed money from the State National Bank of El Paso, and it became evident that a split had developed between Chauvenet and the El Paso developers. When the State National filed suit for payment of the notes in December, 1915, it filed against C. R. Morehead as vice-president and acting president and Lamar Davis, W. H. Winter, and James H. Parker as directors. On December 24, 1915, the company was placed in receivership, so its property was sold in 1917 at which time all debts were paid

and the property went to C. N. Bassett. In 1942 the mine was reopened for the extraction of ore and seven tons were taken out. But it was not profitable, so the mine was closed again.<sup>37</sup> The effort represents the mineral contagion that ran rampant in El Paso early in the twentieth century.

The prosperity was based on the mining supply firms, foundries, engineers, and stock promoters in addition to the smelters. In March, 1901, the *Herald* stated that El Paso was "rapidly becoming the headquarters for mining industry of the southwest and northern Mexico" and that many of the larger mining supply houses were opening branch offices here or arranging for representatives.<sup>38</sup> Already there were thriving firms which supplied materials for mines in Chihuahua and Sonora, and in New Mexico and Arizona. One of the first, and most successful, was Krakauer-Zork-Moye, which began in 1888. It was thriving at the turn of the century, and reaching for greater volume. Not to be ignored was the Mine and Smelter Supply Company which boasted development and promotion of the Wilfley Concentrating Table and the Marcy Mill.<sup>39</sup> The International Machinery Company was also selling mining supplies. El Paso Foundry and Machine Company was the largest of the machinists, but Pass City Foundry and H. P. Noake were also working. There were only two mining engineers listed in the 1901 City Directory, Juan S. Hart and Church and Church, and only four firms investing in mining stocks.

Change patterns between 1901 and 1920 are reflected in the following chart showing the number of firms:

Area of Interest	1901	1902	1910	1915	1920 <sup>41</sup>
Machinery and Supply Houses	2	4	18	12	12
Mines and Stocks	4	11	3	none listed	15
Mining Companies	none listed	none listed	15	15	35
Mining Engineers	2	11	13	8	13

By numbers it appears that activity peaked about 1910 and maintained that level to 1920. The increased numbers of mining companies headquartered in El Paso in 1920 is largely accounted for by firms moving in from revolution-torn Mexico. Mexico's minerals were largely responsible for the ascending volume up through 1911. When Harry M. Scott returned from a long trip through Mexico in 1910, he characterized El Paso as "the most important mining center in the country." It was no ordinary statement, for Scott represented the *Mining World* of Chicago, one of the most prestigious magazines on the subject.<sup>42</sup>

Mexico's revolution had a two-sided effect on El Paso. On the one side there was closing of the mines in northern Mexico owing to the increased fighting. Many mines were attacked and closed by revolutionary forces. This caused a drop in the volume of machinery and supplies moving through El Paso. The lighter volume lasted through 1916 when World War I brought metal prices up to the point that some daredevils returned to the Mexican mines knowing they would be faced by rebel attack. And when that happened the El Paso suppliers profited.

The second effect is partially shown in the table of statistics above. As the miners were forced out of Mexico, many of them set up offices in El Paso, a set of circumstances that explains the increase in the number of mining companies in town up to 1920. Enough of them came to The Pass that they were able to form The Mine and Smelter Owners' Association of Mexico in El Paso in 1915. Its purpose was to deal with Pancho Villa in an effort to save the mining equipment he had confiscated and to persuade him to permit the reopening of mines and smelters located within his jurisdiction. The association even enjoyed limited success. Coupled with this growth in the number of mining companies was the increase of activity of the ASARCO smelter. The company's smelters at Velardeña and Chihuahua were shut down, so the ore available was sent to the El Paso smelter until mid-1918.

After the revolution, the Mexican mining industry rebuilt and expanded, but the circumstances were altered. Dislike of foreigners, increased taxes and tariffs, and complicated operating restrictions just gave a different environment. By the end of 1923, the "freight forwarders" of El Paso had so many orders for mining machinery that they had to hire men for night shifts.<sup>43</sup> But the departure of Porfirio Díaz heralded the end of the golden age of mining in Mexico, and an inevitable change in the mining industry in El Paso.

#### FOOTNOTES

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5. Griggs, *Mines of Chihuahua, 1911*, p. 24.
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7. Griggs, *Mines of Chihuahua, 1911*, pp. 324-349.

8. John R. McNeely, *The Railways of Mexico: A Study in Nationalization* (El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1964; Southwestern Studies Monograph No. 5), pp. 14-15.
9. Francisco R. Almada, *Diccionario de Historia, Geografía y Biografía Chihuahuenses* (2nd ed.; Chihuahua: Universidad de Chihuahua Departamento de Investigaciones Sociales Sección de Historia, 1968), p. 516; Griggs, *Mines of Chihuahua, 1911*, p. 17.
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19. *Ibid.*, pp. 56-57; McNeely, *Railways of Mexico*, pp. 14-15; C. L. Sonnichsen, *Colonel Greene and the Copper Skyrocket* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1974), pp. 156-157; David F. Myrick, *New Mexico's Railroads—An Historical Survey* (Golden, Colorado: Colorado Railroad Museum, 1970), pp. 82094; Edward A. Leonard, "Rails to the Pass of the North," *PASSWORD*, XXIII, No. 3 (Fall, 1978), pp. 87-95.
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25. *El Paso Herald-Post*, May 29, 1941, p. 1, c. 6.
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27. *El Paso Daily Herald*, November 13, 1894, p. 1, c. 6, and August 20, 1895, p. 4, c. 3, and May 23, 1901, p. 8, c. 1.
28. *El Paso Herald*, January 18, 1902, p. 9, c. 1-4.

29. *Ibid.*, February 3, 1902, p. 5, c. 2, and February 21, 1902, p. 6, c. 2.
30. *Ibid.*, January 20, 1904, p. 6, c. 5.
31. *Ibid.*, March 25, 1904, p. 6, c. 3.
32. *El Paso Times*, April 15, 1935, p. 1, c. 3.
33. Ralph Emerson Twitchell, *Leading Facts of New Mexican History* (4 vols.; Cedar Rapids, Iowa: The Torch Press, 1917), III, 219; *El Paso Times*, April 11, 1928; p. 3, c. 5; *El Paso Herald*, April 10, 1928, p. 2, c. 4, and April 13, 1928, p. 2, c. 5.
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40. *Worley's Directory of the City of El Paso, Texas, 1901* (Dallas: John F. Worley, 1901), pp. 384-385.
41. The figures are from the *El Paso City Directory* as follows: 1901, pp. 384-385; 1902, pp. 431-432; 1910, pp. 521-522; 1915, pp. 564-565; 1920, pp. 964-965.
42. *El Paso Herald*, March 25, 1910, p. 7, c. 2.
43. Bernstein, *Mexican Mining Industry*, pp. 107, 118-119, 134.

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In 1857, the Department of the Interior set out to build a wagon road westward from El Paso to Fort Yuma. The wagon building crew of forty wagons, fifteen drawn by mules, 25 by oxen, crossed the Mississippi on June 27, headed for El Paso. The Superintendent predicted they would reach the Pass in 40 days. One hundred seventeen days later, on November 30, the mule drawn portion of the caravan pulled into El Paso. The ox teams holed up for the winter in Fort Belknap, Texas.

—Jack L. Cross, "The El Paso Fort Yuma Wagon Road, 1857-60,"  
*PASSWORD* 4:4, Jan., 1959

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On May 11, 1886, a War Department order directed that "the military post on the Rio Grande in Texas, now called Camp Rice will hereafter be known and designated as Fort Hancock." It was named for the distinguished soldier, Major General Winfield Scott Hancock, who had died the previous February.

—Ruhlen, "Fort Hancock, Last of the Frontier Posts,"  
*PASSWORD*, 4:19, Jan., 1959

# TOWNS OF EL PASO COUNTY, 1898-1902

by DORIS NESBITT

Can you list the names of towns in El Paso County? Just as new names are appearing, others are fading. Descendants of former residents, here and elsewhere, are trying to locate some of these former residences. At times, their only clue is mention in letters sent "back home."

In checking the Texas section in two old Atlases for 1898 and 1902, 37 names were cited within El Paso County as it then existed. Some seem to be named for the resident family, such as Fay, Finlay, Malone, Montoya, and Torbert. Who were they? Where did they go? (At the Genealogy Department, El Paso Public Library, we have correspondence with a descendant now in New Zealand.) What is the story behind Alfalfa, Arispe, Eagle Flat, Iser, and Wild Horse? They were all El Paso County locales. Some explanation is found in the fact that two other Counties were formed from the territory that was El Paso County at the time the cited Atlases were published, Culberson County in 1911, and Hudspeth County, 1917.

With the increasing number of persons interested in their backgrounds as well as their genealogies, the need to identify places increases. Places are the key to many records filed by areas, districts, states, or zones, in a variety of archival arrangements.

The following list shows towns of El Paso County, some with populations, listed in *Cram's Universal Atlas, Geographical, Astronomical and Historical* (New York, Cram, 1898); and *Cram's Standard American Railway System Atlas* (New York, Cram, 1902).

<u>Cram's 1898 Atlas</u>	<u>Cram's 1902 Atlas</u>
Alamore, 100	Allamoore
Alfalfa	Alfalfa (mail to San Jose)
Armendariz	Armendariz (mail to San Elizario)
Arno	Arno (mail to Pecos, Reeves Co.)
Belen	Belen (post office name, Socorro, 305)
Boracho	Boracho (mail to Kent)
Canutillo	Canutillo (mail to Vinton)
Clint	Clint, 28
	Courchesne (mail to El Paso)
	Dalberg (mail to Sierra Blanca)
Eagle Flat	Eagle Flat (mail to Allamoore)
East El Paso	(not listed)
El Paso, 10,338	El Paso, 15,906 (4 banks)
Etholen	Etholen (mail to Sierra Blanca)
Fabens	Fabens (mail to Clint)

Fay	Fay (mail to Chispa, Fort Davis County)
Finlay	Finlay (mail to Fort Hancock)
	Fort Bliss (mail to El Paso)
Fort Hancock	Fort Hancock, 41
Grayton	Grayton (mail to Sierra Blanca)
Guadalupe	(not listed)
	Harris Spur (mail to Fort Hancock)
Hot Springs	(not listed)
Iser	Iser (mail to Fort Hancock)
Kent	Kent
	Lanoria (mail to El Paso)
	Lasca (mail to Sierra Blanca)
	Longhorn (mail to El Paso)
Malone	Malone (mail to Sierra Blanca)
Montoya	Montoya (mail to El Paso)
Rio Grande	Rio Grande (mail to Clint)
Rivera	(not listed)
San Elizario, 1,397	San Elizario, 1,479
	San Jose (mail to Ysleta)
Sierra Blanca, 100	Sierra Blanca
Socorro (300)	Socorro (rr name Belen) 28
State Line	State Line (mail to Vinton)
Torbert	Torbert (mail to Sierra Blanca)
Towne	Towne (mail to El Paso)
Van Horn	Van Horn, 37
	Vinton
Wild Horse	(not listed)
Ysleta	Ysleta

This El Paso County survey is just one illustration of the value of *old* Atlases, maps and reports to genealogical research. If you discover similar items, especially older, but even including the nineteen-thirties, please help the El Paso Public Library to help others when you are ready to dispose of them. These supply a source not duplicated by city directory collections, as many roots predate incorporation. Your gifts are tax deductible.

## HISTORICAL MEMORIES CONTEST

The El Paso County Historical Society awarded prizes at its January Board Meeting to the winners of its fourth annual Historical Memories Contest, an essay contest for personal memories of Senior Citizens. Co-Chairmen F. Keith Peyton and James M. Day announced the winners as follows:

- 1st prize, \$100: Mrs. Helen Keleher, 1800 North Stanton for "John L. O'Shea, Railroad Pioneer."  
2nd prize: \$50: Lovella S. Gary, 611 Rubin, for "The Memorable Year 1925-26."  
3rd prize, \$25: Ermine E. Hourigan, 10255 Saigon Drive for "The Interurban."

Honorable mention prizes, a year's membership in the Historical Society, with subscription to *PASSWORD* went to Hesper MacMillan, Claremont, Calif. for "Hueco Tanks Adventure—1914;" Mrs. Bonnie Bentley, 201 Cortez for "Memories of El Paso, 1907;" Caroline S. Haigh, Midland, Texas for "The Arrival and Departure of Circus Trains;" Charlotte Foster Hansen, 3424 Polk Ave., for "It Did Happen Then;" and Ben F. Jarrett, 1225 Robinson Ave., for "El Paso in Passing." The winning essay appears in this issue. Others will be published later in the year.

The judges reported an excellent variety of entries and urged that the contest be continued annually.



*Mrs. Helen O. Keleher receives award from President Patrick Rand, and returns it to Mrs. Albert R. Haag, Secretary, to be contributed to American Red Cross.* (Photo Ralph Guilliams)

JOHN L. O'SHEA  
RECOLLECTIONS OF INCIDENTS IN THE LIFE  
OF A RAILROAD PIONEER  
by HELEN O'SHEA KELEHER

In 1893 my father, John L. O'Shea, came to the Southwest from Denver, Colorado. Specifically he came to Alamogordo, New Mexico. At that time he was associated with the Eddy brothers who were builders and owners of railroads. Eddy county is named after them, as was the city of Eddy which was eventually changed to Carlsbad. The Eddys moved into Alamogordo, New Mexico and their objective was the building of a narrow gauge railroad from Alamogordo to Cloudcroft, New Mexico. My father John L. O'Shea superintended the building of this picturesque and extremely scenic railway. Our family had the first house in Alamogordo and it was the only house with indoor plumbing. It was located on the corner of 10th and Virginia. The rest of Alamogordo at that time was a typical tent city of the old west. The family pictures of this era in the life of Alamogordo have been donated to the Historical Society of Alamogordo, the museum and the Lodge.

With the population increase due to the influx of railway workers it became necessary to build a school and a church, and since my father had actively promoted both projects, it was quite natural for him to be a member of the first Alamogordo school board. The church, incidentally, was attended by all denominations. Also during that period a large frame hotel was built, which later furnished the scene for a spectacular fire. The hotel burned to the ground. There also existed a huge lumber yard which accommodated the demand for more sized lumber from the original inhabitants of Alamogordo. The freshly cut trees came from the abundant forests in the mountains.

Governor Mechem of New Mexico, the uncle of the last Mechem to hold that post, and my father bought up a good deal of the land in and around Cloudcroft knowing that the inherent beauty of Cloudcroft would prove overwhelmingly attractive to people trying to escape the oppressive heat of the lowlands. Between them they built one hundred three room houses complete with "Chic Sales" outhouses. And yes the doors were all decorated with the classical crescent moon cutout. Wild deer and their fawns would come up to the screen doors to be fed, and would often knock the screens in if not attended to immediately. Bears could usually be found scavenging around the garbage dumps. Tiny wild roses and tiny wild strawberries covered the ground. Cloudcroft was the most beautiful place I have ever seen. It soon became fashionable for El Paso families to take their children up to Cloudcroft during the hottest part of the summer. In a more serious vein a children's Sanitarium was founded in

Cloudcroft due to serious illnesses suffered by El Paso children, who were too weak to resist the heat extremes in El Paso. The Lodge, built completely of logs, was a beautiful structure with wide verandas on three sides and it too became a very famous summer resort for El Pasoans weary of continuing hot weather.

When the Alamogordo-Cloudcroft railroad was completed my father moved to El Paso in 1898 and became a conductor on the El Paso and Northeastern railroad as he was still associated with the Eddy brothers, who were the owners. Our first home in El Paso was on the site of La Villita, next door to the Crawford house, which is still standing. My father sold this "flat" and he bought a house on 411 Boulevard, now called Yandell. Mr. Ponsford Sr. was putting the finishing to our new home as we moved in. We were only a few blocks from Kansas Street and the old, shabby depot, and as a little girl I would go down to the depot followed by my little Chihuahua dog. My object in going was to meet my father coming in on the passenger train. This was all happening in 1902 and my parents were somewhat worried by the large number of tracks I had to cross before reaching the station. They needn't have worried because there was always a gateman in the tower who would yell at me in Spanish not to cross in case there was any danger. As soon as there wasn't any danger he would signal a go-ahead and he would yell "corre, corre", and I would. That was a long time ago.

In the summer of 1906 there was great excitement running through the town of El Paso; for the new Union Station, which took two years to build, was about to receive its first train, the Golden State Limited. The old, small and shabby depot, which had faithfully served eight railroads into El Paso was about to be superseded by its young and handsome rival. The old station was situated more or less on the same spot occupied by E.F. Hutton. This station had served the El Paso and Northeastern, which later was changed to the El Paso and Southwestern. Much, much later this same railroad was changed to the Southern Pacific. The offices were where the ABC bank building now stands.

So it was the El Paso and Northeastern's Golden State Limited that was going to inaugurate the shiny new station, and it was my father who was bringing the train in. All El Paso and I were eagerly taking advantage of this momentous occasion to welcome the first train in, and I in particular to welcome my father. It was a gala event and although the heat was suffocating all the ladies of El Paso were there in all their finery. Big picture hats, tight waists, long dresses, puffed sleeves, parasols and a few gloves here and there. There was also a boisterous and enthusiastic crowd of several thousand people, and as the train rolled into the Depot the famous McGinty band struck up a lively tune. My father's friends who were all on hand started yelling and cheering as my father stepped

down from the motionless train. They enthusiastically handed him a McGinty, which was a huge stein containing a quart of beer. The stein was colorfully decorated with a variety of beautiful vegetables instead of flowers. Amid the cheering my father accepted the McGinty and proceeded to drink it down. My mother, who was present, was deeply embarrassed and the incident continued to be a disgrace in the family for many years, not because my father drank a stein of beer, but because my father drank a stein of beer in front of all El Paso.

Eventually we moved to 908 East Rio Grande. It was a narrow street with wide parkways on each side of the street, and it was completely lined with petunias. It was the prettiest street in town and one of the newest. During World War I the soldiers would march down the street. Since my father couldn't contribute a son to the war effort, he naturally became interested in the welfare of the young soldiers and always went out of his way to make their path less dreary. Since he possessed a farm up the Valley between Canutillo and Anthony he hit on the idea of bringing bushels of grapes, peaches, apples and pears from the farm down to Rio Grande Street. He also bought a large galvanized tin tub and a large amount of cups. He would get a hundred pound block of ice, put it in the tub, fill the tub with water and he was ready to make welcome the tired and sweaty boys marching past. The soldiers would always find an excuse to halt nearby, and as soon as they heard "fall out" they would make a dash down the street to where the fruit and ice water were awaiting their arrival. They enjoyed their respite and many of them came to be fast friends of my father's.

This casual association was enjoyed by all except for some of the neighbors who complained bitterly about a few trampled petunias. These protests were routinely ignored and the boys were evidently touched by my father's solicitude because my father received a great many cards from Europe addressed as "Dear Dad", commenting on his earthy hospitality and many of them wishing they were back in El Paso. My father had a soft place in his heart for these boys going off to war, and he had a real compulsion to do everything possible for them. As a further example we would be standing in line to see a movie and he would notice several of the soldiers waiting in the line ahead of him. He would quietly count them, buy tickets for all of them and come back to his place in the line. His little acts of kindness to the soldiers made him a well known figure both in the army world and the civilian world. The fact that he always went around town in a large Buick touring car was also notable, but the most notable object in sight was his dog, a big airedale, who would hang on to the lights of the car with his front paws securely gripping the lights. No amount of speed or swerving could shake Jiggs loose from his paw-hold. Jiggs would always guard the car when my father

had to leave it. Yes, everybody in town knew John L. O'Shea, adopted son of El Paso, and none can deny that his many facets as a railroad man, as a real estate broker, and as a very popular citizen of El Paso made him an extraordinarily memorable citizen of this fair city.

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Rosco E. Conkling, co-author with his wife of the western historical classic, *The Butterfield Overland Mail*, was also a distinguished musician and conductor. He was a pupil of Antonin Dvorak at the National Conservatory in New York, and was the organizer, in 1939, of the El Paso Chamber Music Society. On May 6, 1933, he conducted an El Paso Symphony Orchestra group in a performance of Haydn's *Creation* 800 feet below ground in Carlsbad Caverns.

—Robert M. Stevenson, *Music in El Paso, 1919-1939*  
(Texas Western Press, Southwestern Studies No. 27, 1970)

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"As El Paso and the rest of Texas went dry in 1918, and as the federal Volstead Act took effect in 1920, *gringos* from all over the South, the Midwest and the Southwest descended upon the Mexican frontier towns to quench their thirst for liquor and to enjoy pleasures not readily or legally available in the States. Being the largest of the border cities, Juárez quickly developed a variety of entertainment highly popular with the hordes of tourists.

"Juárez had unenviable fame before the Prohibition Era, but with the passage of the dry law this town achieved unprecedented notoriety. Bars, cabarets, gambling houses, brothels, honky-tonks, lewd shops and dope parlors proliferated. One newspaper reported that the city's main street boasted more saloons than any other street in the world. Although a law forbade close crowding of liquor dispensaries, this same thoroughfare had a bar nearly every twenty feet for six long blocks."

—Oscar J. Martínez, *Border Boom Town, Ciudad Juárez since 1848*  
(University of Texas Press, 1978)

## SOUTHWEST ARCHIVES

by BUD NEWMAN

Before beginning the year as newly appointed editor of this column, which was originally instituted to assist scholars in their search for primary source historical data, it behooves me to speak out on the subject of just what sort of archives are of interest to these researchers.

Clearly, almost any written record qualifies as an archive. While not pretending to speak on behalf of any library or records storage facility, it falls within the scope of more than ten years experience for me to suggest what kind of records are most apt to be studied and quoted.

First of all, it should be noted, archives and special collections libraries should not be regarded as great big trash bins in which people can dispose of accumulated garbage without doing violence to their sentimental conscience. Most of these types of libraries have some method to their acquisitive madness, even though it may not be readily apparent to the casual observer. In other words, they have a long range purpose to their collection development policies (which may be varied), and potential donors should ascertain what these policies are before bringing a truckload of material to the institution's doorstep. I know of one university library that specializes in labor records; another concentrates on the manuscripts and correspondence of the poets Robert and Elizabeth Browning. The El Paso Public Library has a fine archives of local history, collected over the years by a succession of perceptive librarians and a farsighted board of directors. Indeed, it has been this largely self-perpetuating latter group which established collecting policies not long after that library's inception. Having maintained consistent objectives for about seventy-five years has brought them to their present state of having one of the most wonderful western collections in the country—in spite of their perennial low budget. Future boards there should bear this in mind and attempt to enhance the collection rather than to divert funds from it. Posterity will be grateful.

On the other hand, one can never state with certainty what will eventually turn out to be a good collection. Some of the most hailed and widely advertised collections have received little or no attention, whereas scholars have flocked to examine some of the least promising. The eminent historian, Arnold Toynbee, wrote that all history is essentially parochial in its nature. This, then, is a good rule to follow, generally speaking. Records that contain a history of events in North Carolina would rarely be as welcome in California as they would if they were deposited where they belong. Most libraries in the Southwest attempt to collect materials pertaining to their own particular region.

If you have any doubt about the value of the papers which you are about to throw out, or to which institution they should go, contact your local librarian. In this area call:

Mr. Leon Metz  
University of Texas at El Paso  
(915) 747-5697

Mrs. Mary Sarber  
El Paso Public Library  
(915) 543-3815

Mr. Austin Hoover  
New Mexico State University  
(505) 646-3839

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“Early Monday morning, Ben was at City Hall, and by ten o’clock found himself aboard a red wagon pulled by two husky mules. The wagon was equipped with a sturdy rack down its center and arranged to accomodate four fifty-five gallon wooden barrels, two on each side. Each barrel was affixed with a spigot cock, or hung at the bottom so that water could be drawn out. His job was to drive the wagon to the Army post, Fort Bliss, fill the casks with water, then drive around certain sections of town such as the one where he lived, calling out “Water man!” Ladies or children would hie themselves to the wagon, their pails and pennies in hand and get on with the business, paying for and filling their containers. On occasions where the vessels were large, Ben would carry the water in for his customers.”

—B. Franklin Jarrett, *Seen Through the Eyes of a Button*  
(El Paso, 1977)

## HERITAGE HOMES OF EL PASO

by HARRIOT HOWZE JONES

### THE KENT HALLA HOUSE (CARUSO HOUSE)



The house at 718 Prospect Street is known as The Caruso House, although Victor Caruso, for whom the house was built, lived in it only about three years out of its 66 years of existence. There have been many occupants since 1913 when it was constructed, most people think by Trost and Trost, who built so many fine houses all over El Paso.

The house, which rests on a stone foundation, is built of tan brick, one story and a very large basement. It has a flat roof, parapetted. An architrave frieze, with small Greek dentils surrounds the entire house, just under the roof line. Eight small pillars with Ionic capitals uphold the roof of the porch, which has stone balustrades. Originally all the trim, including door and window frames, was white, now it is a soft yellow. A wrought iron fence surrounds the property. Next to this is what had been a vacant lot; Caruso had it filled in with dirt and a wall built at the back. He then turned it over for maintenance to the city. It is called Caruso Park.

Victor Caruso, to judge by his name, must have been of Italian descent, but he was in business in Mexico for some time. Fleeing the Revolution, he came to El Paso about 1911. He was married to the former Rose Silverman who was the sister of Mrs. Haymon Krupp. The Krupps lived across the street and the Krupp children, Paula, Birdie and Bernhard recall happy times in the charming house. It is not clear just what Victor Caruso's business was but they left to live in California in 1916.

William Kraft lived in the house from 1916 to 1932, he was also an

escapee from the Mexican revolution. Bernhard Krupp recalls that as a boy he and his sisters were sure that Mr. Kraft was very wealthy, as they were impressed with his enormous limousine driven by a red-headed chauffeur.

In 1932 the house was bought by Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Hawkins, owners of Hawkins Dairy. Mr. Hawkins died about 1953, Mrs. Hawkins continued to live there with her children until 1957. These children were: William W. Jr., John, Virginia, who married Edward Hight Smith, and Hugh. Hugh Hawkins is the only one still living in El Paso.

From 1958 through 1963 the house was owned by J.C. Dobson. For some time it was vacant and then purchased by Frank Schultz and Dale Brown, who used it as an antique store. In 1977 the house was bought by Kent Halla, who is a contractor.

Mr. Halla states that the house was in poor repair when he acquired it, and he has done wonders in restoring it to its former glory. The exterior was repaired and repainted, the grounds are attractively planted and maintained.

The interior of the house is in perfect shape. On entering, the gleaming hardwood floors make the first impression. To the left of the entry the dining room speaks of Trost at once with the heavy mahogany beams in the ceiling, the alternate panels of wood and plaster of the walls, with plate rail above, the built-in window seat. Another frequent Trost feature is the stained, leaded glass skylight set into the ceiling, with small matching ones in each corner.

The living room, on the right has a good sized mantel with matching baseboard and window molding. French doors, of clear, beveled, leaded glass and matching fanlight, lead into a sun room, where there are many green plants. There had been similar French doors to the left of the fireplace leading into a hall, but these had been removed. Mr. Halla had these copied from the others, he made drawings and the beveled glass pieces were made in Juarez and the leading and frame work was done in El Paso. It is a perfect match. A stained glass skylight is set into the ceiling of the hall. Mr. Halla obtained a beautiful headboard and dressers of oak for the master bedroom, and added small shutters instead of curtains. The bath has an enormous tub and the faucets at the tub and also the basin are shining brass. There is a guest room and bath, a library with fireplace surrounded with Mexican tiles, and a small den. There is a desert scene in stained glass in the breakfast room and also in the kitchen, with its tile floor and counters. A butler's pantry between the kitchen and dining room. In the basement are five rooms and a bath.

Mr. Halla is to be congratulated for taking a house that had been beautiful but had fallen on evil days, and restoring it into its former beauty.

# ACTIVITIES OF YOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## EUGENE O. PORTER MEMORIAL AWARD

The Editorial Board of *PASSWORD* announces the annual Eugene O. Porter Memorial Award to Edward A. Leonard for his article "Rails to the Pass of the North," in the Fall issue of *PASSWORD*. The award of \$100 is given annually to the writer of the best article of the year published in *PASSWORD*, honoring the publication's founding editor, Dr. Eugene O. Porter. Other articles rated highly by the judges included "The Forgotten Site of Fort Bliss," by Millard G. McKinney and "The Montezuma Times," by Nancy Hamilton. During the year, *PASSWORD* published the work of 20 authors, 8 of them new to *PASSWORD*.

The Eugene O. Porter Memorial Award is financed by gifts to the Society in honor of Dr. Porter, who edited *PASSWORD* for its first nineteen years and established high standards of scholarship and research for the publication. Further contributions are solicited to continue this award through the years. Tax deductible contributions may be made to Eugene O. Porter Memorial Fund, El Paso County Historical Society, Box 28, El Paso, Texas 79944.

## NEW PRESIDENT

President Patrick Rand announced to the Board of Directors of the Society at its December meeting that business pressures, home commitments, and other activities have made it impossible for him to continue in the post of President of the Society to which he was re-elected at the annual October meeting. Under the Constitution, First Vice President Thomas D. Westfall becomes President. As immediate past President, Mr. Rand expects to continue active support of the organization. At the January meeting, Directors approved the appointment by President Westfall of Evan Haywood Antone as first Vice President and of Mrs. Richard G. Miller to fill Dr. Antone's unexpired term as Director.

## CAVALRY MUSEUM

As sponsoring organization of the Cavalry Museum, which now serves as the Society's headquarters, the Historical Society encourages its members to volunteer for service as docents, to guide organized groups and individual visitors on tours of El Paso's principal historical museum. During the Christmas holidays and throughout January, the Museum has been displaying an authentic collection of historically accurate model trains and railroad equipment, presented by the Model Railroad Club of El Paso. On February 1, docents and Historical Society officers welcomed members of the Texas Museum Association to the Cavalry Museum as a part of their annual convention held this year in El Paso.

### NEED A PASSWORD?

Since the appearance of *PASSWORD*, the quarterly publication of El Paso County Historical Society, in 1956, it has become recognized as one of the better historical publications in the Southwest. It is in constant demand for source material on the history of the area. Some of the issues, however, are out of print.

Some years ago, the board of directors of the Society adopted a motion setting the price of extra copies at \$10 for 1956, 1957, and 1958 issues. All others are \$3 each. This still is below the price set by book dealers.

There are some extra copies and if you are missing an issue or two, needed to complete your file, contact the Curator, William I. Latham, 532-9196, and ask about those you need. Not all are available, but many can be had. A request has come in recently for a complete file, and this is no longer possible. In the next issue of *PASSWORD*, a complete inventory prepared by Latham will be published.

The Curator, incidentally, needs one issue to complete his file. If you have Vol. II No. 1 (Spring 1957) please contact him. This issue is completely out of print.

The price of \$5 each for 1956, 1957, and 1958 issues, which appeared in the last issue of *PASSWORD* was an error. The correct prices are as listed above.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL TIME

January 1st is the renewal date for membership in the El Paso County Historical Society, and mailing lists for *PASSWORD* are being revised to eliminate names of those who have failed to renew. The annual membership fee of \$10 includes opportunity to participate in various Society activities, discounts on many of the books sold by the organization, and four issues of *PASSWORD*.

As the new year began, Membership Secretary Mrs. Patrick Rand reported a total of 904 members, including 749 regular members, 95 life members, and 60 institutional members (libraries, universities, museums, other historical societies, etc.).

## LIFE MEMBERS, 1979

- |                                     |                                      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Mr. and Mrs. S. N. Abdou, Jr.       | Albert W. Lindsey                    |
| Mrs. Helen K. Agnew                 | Mrs. Ada L. Lorentzen                |
| Mr. and Mrs. August L. Aimone       | Dr. Wayne L. Lorentzen               |
| Mr. and Mrs. Joe L. Alcantar        | Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Lowman            |
| C. E. Armstrong                     | Mrs. Margaret M. Lund                |
| Mr. and Mrs. Richard N. Azar        | Mr. and Mrs. C. D. McKee             |
| Mrs. C. D. Belding                  | Cdr. (USN Ret) and Mrs.              |
| Dr. C. T. Bowman                    | M. G. McKinney                       |
| Mary W. Boykin                      | Mrs. Hugh McMillan                   |
| Judge and Mrs. Hans E. Brockmoller  | Mrs. John H. McNeely                 |
| Mrs. Cleofas Calleros               | William B. Mayfield                  |
| Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Carroll          | Mrs. Florence C. Melby               |
| Mr. and Mrs. José Cisneros          | Rt. Rev. Sidney M. Metzger           |
| Mrs. Colbert Coldwell               | Mrs. G. Ralph Meyer                  |
| Mr. and Mrs. Barry Coleman          | Mr. and Mrs. Richard G. Miller       |
| Mrs. Nancy D. Cooper                | Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Morgan            |
| Mrs. Branch Craige                  | Mrs. Ruth R. Mott                    |
| Mr. and Mrs. Jack V. Curlin         | Mrs. Mac Murchison                   |
| Mrs. H. M. Daugherty                | Mrs. Shirley H. Murphy               |
| Mrs. Roy H. Davidson                | Mr. and Mrs. John B. Neff            |
| Mr. and Mrs. Frank Feuille III      | Dr. Lawrence Nickey                  |
| First City National Bank            | Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ortiz            |
| Mrs. John P. Foster                 | Col. (Ret.) and Mrs. Stuart J. Palos |
| J. Hal Gambrell                     | Mrs. Wallace Perry                   |
| Mrs. Kathleen Gilliland             | Brainerd S. Parrish                  |
| Mr. and Mrs. Robert Given           | Mrs. Dan R. Ponder                   |
| Mrs. Charles Goetting               | Mrs. Eugene O. Porter                |
| Miss Margarita Gomez                | Mrs. Robert B. Price                 |
| Miss Gertrude Goodman               | Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Prieto            |
| Mrs. Frank Gorman, Sr.              | Mr. and Mrs. Carlyle J. Rabe         |
| Mrs. T. C. Gunning                  | Mrs. C. M. Ramirez                   |
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| Mr. and Mrs. Ray C. Johns           | Mrs. J. Harold Tillman               |
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| Mrs. Gowan Jones                    | Mrs. Emily H. Vowell                 |
| Paul Kayser                         | Mr. and Mrs. Jack C. Vowell, Jr.     |
| Mrs. Helen Keleher                  | Mr. and Mrs. Lewis P. Walker, Jr.    |
| Rufus E. Lee                        | Mrs. R. Sam Watkins                  |
| Mrs. Amelia Levy Lemmon             | Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Young         |
| Mr. and Mrs. Robert A. Levy         |                                      |

## NEW MEMBERS SINCE LAST ISSUE OF PASSWORD

Mrs. A. S. Adkins, Sr.	Ernest W. Nunn
Bonnie Bentley	Mr. and Mrs. C. Neil O'Hara
Miss Margaret O. Benton	Marge Patterson
John W. and Flora C. Curd	Mr. and Mrs. Don Pettit
Fred R. Egloff	L. B. Piontkowski
Lovella S. Gary	Forrest G. Robinson
Jerome M. Gerstein	William C. Robinson
Mary K. Giles	Dr. and Mrs. José Roman, Jr.
Caroline S. Haigh	Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert G. Sawtelle
Charlotte Foster Hansen	Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Schumaker
A. M. Krohn	Dr. and Mrs. Ralph E. Simon, Jr.
Martha Gale Lyle	H. J. Summers, Pasadena, Calif.
Mrs. Jack McDaniel	Vincent C. Weaver
Mr. and Mrs. Frank G. McKnight	Mr. and Mrs. Joe H. Wilson
Arthur Needham	Mrs. Anson Wiseman

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The original folksong, *The Yellow Rose of Texas*, was inspired by a comely mulatto girl who was with General Santa Anna in his tent at the outset of the Battle of San Jacinto. One writer claims that, rather than taking a siesta, as history credits him, when Sam Houston's attack began, Santa Anna was partying with Emily—"the yellow rose of Texas."

—Martha Anne Turner, *The Yellow Rose of Texas, The Story of a Song*  
(Texas Western Press, Southwestern Studies #31, 1971)

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The El Paso City Council at its monthly meeting on March 7, 1884, passed an "Ordinance to Preserve the Peace." It provided that "no person shall make use of, shoot, or discharge any catapult, nigger shooter, cubber sling, or other instruments or devices by means of which missiles of any kind or description are hurled or projected."

—PASSWORD, XIII, 93, Fall, 1968

## BOOK REVIEWS

### THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF EL PASO, ITS FIRST THIRTY YEARS

by MARY S. CUNNINGHAM, *introduction by* KAREN J. BLAIR

(Texas Western Press, University of Texas at El Paso, \$15)

The one who declared "The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world" must have known some of the doughty ladies who were charter members of the El Paso Woman's Club. In a read-through of Mary Cunningham's historically interesting book, one is struck by the persistence of those ladies at the turn of the century.

Even without suffrage or women's lib, a few dozen determined females were able to bring culture and civilized living to a raw frontier town. They set the pattern for a better lifestyle which we now enjoy.

Most of this was brought about by busy women banding together into that formidable institution—the club. The wife of pioneer politician W. W. Mills is credited with starting the first formal organization by gathering some of her friends together in her adobe home on San Francisco street in 1894. Most of them had been doing civic work singly since El Paso was incorporated in 1873 and began to blossom in 1881. They elected officers and voted to study cultural and news events.

Along with the self-improvement program (the only way most women were able to further their education) the wives and daughters of hardy pioneers were avowed "do-gooders." An auxiliary Civic Improvement League was established early on. Those members went after projects like public playgrounds, beautifying city streets and parks, stopping the practice of spitting on the streets and providing sanitary drinking fountains in schools.

We are inclined to think of living conditions 75 to 100 years ago in El Paso as being almost primitive by today's standards, far removed from the problems and events of today. But the Texas Federation of Women's Clubs was thriving and the El Paso club one of its biggest chapters. In getting back and forth to the yearly conventions our isolation appeared to be no deterrent. We are amazed at the magnitude of conventions held here as early as 1900. Texas Women's Press Association, astonishingly, came here in 1901, 1902 and 1910, sending hundreds of delegates.

The local Woman's Club rose to the occasion, providing rooms, dinners and courtesies which, as described in newspaper articles, were as elegant as anything we could lay on today. We complain that El Paso is so far away from the rest of the state that it is hard to attract meetings here. In the early days of this century whole trains were booked to bring in delegates.

We are also impressed with the ability the ladies had for raising large amounts of money for projects and to bring in cultural programs of substance, such as the Chicago Symphony. We couldn't do that now unless it was part of the Community Concert circuit.

El Paso is in the throes of debating the pros and cons of staging a big international exposition here in two years, with many doubting that we can swing it. In 1916 the Woman's Club pitched in to man the Mexican Village exhibit and a restaurant for an International Soil Products Exposition which attracted 92,328 persons in 12 days. Exhibitors came from every state, plus Canada, South America, Australia and Europe. The club cleaned up \$1,000 for its share of the project—to go toward its own building.

From the very start, the club ladies moved about from pillar to post trying to find suitable meeting places. They gathered in private homes, theater and business buildings, the public library and Chamber of Commerce rooms. Always before them was the goal of having their own building. A member, Thirza L. Wescott, deeded half her home at California and Kansas to the club and the members went in debt to buy out the other half.

When it was paid off the club bought a lot at Mesa and River for \$8,000 and in 1916 the El Paso Woman's Club became the first in the state to erect its own building.

Mrs. Cunningham has related the events by focusing each chapter on the presidents. She doesn't stick to chronology completely and sometimes the reader becomes confused jumping back and forth from 1900 to 1910, for example, in trying to follow the sequence of events. But she has included a goodly amount of city history along with the progress of the Woman's Club and a picture section provided by Millard McKinney is a special bonus. The attractive green and white book is jacketed with a wraparound view of early El Paso scenes, tastefully designed by Haywood Antone.

*El Paso, Texas*

—BETTY J. LIGON

#### FROM HOPALONG TO HUD: THOUGHTS ON WESTERN FICTION

by C.L. SONNICHSEN

(College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1978, 179 pps., \$9.95)

For several decades, Leland Sonnichsen has been accumulating western novels: buying them, reviewing them, reading them, saving them. All along, his intention has been to write something about western fiction, something that would demonstrate the truth of his theory that western novels form a sort of autobiography of the American West and that popular fiction deserves to be studied for what it reveals of our concept of the West and ultimately of ourselves.

*From Hopalong to Hud* is the long-awaited fruit from seed a long time germinating. Eleven essays make up this splendidly-produced book by the eminent Texas A&M Press, beginning with "Western Fiction: Index to America," which tells what the West means to America and the world, and ending with a brief "Doors to Open" conclusion which offers some suggestions of studies needing to be done.

By far the strongest chapter, published separately to deserved acclaim, is "The Wyatt Earp Syndrome." Here is the most devastating analysis ever written on how a mythology can be created which will, apparently forever, make it difficult if not impossible, to arrive at the truth. The case in point is Stuart Lake's creation, out of the whole cloth, of Wyatt Earp.

"The West That Wasn't" is a sharp investigation into the revolt against stereotypical westerns and the inclination to substitute for them a whole new set of stereotypes worse than the originals.

"The Ambivalent Apache," is a provocative piece which sets forth the idea that hardcover novels have for many years appeared to take the side of the Indians, while paperback westerns have held the line that the Apache was a savage, cruel and bloodthirsty monster deserving of no pity, only contempt.

In "The Two Black Legends," Sonnichsen offers a view of the classic Black Legend (that the Spaniards were uniquely cruel, bigoted, tyrannical, obscurantist, lazy, fanatical, greedy and treacherous) along with the more contemporary Black Legend, a part of the fermenting anti-Americanism along and south of the Mexican border country: to wit, that the Americans are uniquely cruel, bigoted, tyrannical and etcetera.

Sonnichsen's "Thoughts on Western Fiction" that comprise this book are thoughts we can be grateful he shares with us. There is much here that will generate more thinking and more study and that, after all, is what Sonnichsen believes needs to be done.

*University of Texas at El Paso*

—DALE L. WALKER

### HISTORIA DE LA IMPRENTA EN CIUDAD JUÁREZ

by IGNACIO ESPARZA MARIN

(Ciudad Juárez: Imprenta "Lux," 1978, 23 pp.)

This booklet is a history of publishing in Ciudad Juárez. Although President Benito Juárez brought a printing press to Juárez when his government in exile took refuge in this border city in the 1860s, it wasn't until the early 1900s that a press was permanently installed locally. This was done by Don Espiridion Provencio, the grandfather of recent mayor Mario Jáquez Provencio. Those interested in names of people involved in the Juárez publishing field, the many establishments, and the varied publications that have appeared over the years will find much information here. Today Juárez has 52 printing shops which support about 360 families.

The author is himself in the business and a member of the Juárez chapter of the Chihuahua Society for Historical Studies. The work includes a nice introduction by Professor Armando B. Chávez M., well known Juárez historian.

*University of Texas at El Paso*

—OSCAR J. MARTÍNEZ

## CONTRIBUTORS TO THIS ISSUE

THOMAS D. WESTFALL, new President of the El Paso County Historical Society, retired in El Paso after a 26 year career with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. He holds a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the University of Illinois, and served in the U. S. Marine Corps in World War II. He is past President of the El Paso Rotary Club and El Paso Archaeological Society, and current president of Goals for El Paso.

PATRICK RAND, immediate past President of the Society, is a member of the architectural firm of Carroll, Dusang and Rand. His past contributions to *PASSWORD* include the carefully researched history of the Federal Smelter (Fall 1977).

FRANCIS C. BROADDUS, JR., a fifth generation El Pasoan, was educated at El Paso High School and the Texas College of Mines and received his law degree from the University of Texas Law School. He has practiced law in El Paso for 30 years.

WILLIAM I. LATHAM, past President and now Curator of the El Paso County Historical Society, is a veteran El Paso newspaper man and retired as Editor of the *El Paso Times*.

JAMES M. DAY, Professor of English at U-T El Paso, received his Ph D from Baylor University. He was Director of State Archives at the Texas State Library for seven years and came to El Paso in 1967. He is past President of the West Texas Historical Association, and now President of the Texas Folklore Society.

DORIS NESBITT is Librarian of the Genealogy and Documents section, El Paso Public Library.

HELEN O. KELEHER was born on Denver's historic Capitol Hill and came to El Paso at age 4; attended Mesa School (later Bailey) and the old El Paso High School on Arizona Street; graduated from Loretto Academy in Las Cruces. For 40 years she was with the El Paso County Probation Office, in charge of dependent and neglected children, and was Superintendent of Rio Vista Farm in the lower valley.

BUD NEWMAN, editor of the Society's news letter, *EL CONQUISTADOR*, was the first editor of *PASSWORD*'s Southwest Archives Section, and returns to that position with this issue. He is a staff member of the Archives and Special Collections section of the U-T El Paso Library.

HARRIOT HOWZE JONES, former Director of the Society was Editor of the comprehensive 1973 publication *El Paso, a Centennial Portrait*. Not a trained architect, she has gained an impressive knowledge of architectural designs and terms through the Heritage Homes series.

BETTY LIGON, entertainment and book editor of *El Paso Herald-Post*, is a member of the Press Club, Sigma Delta Chi Journalism Fraternity, National Organization of Women, Western Writers of America, El Paso Corral of the Westerners, Ninety Nines, El Paso Aviation Association, and is the mother of five children.

DALE L. WALKER, Director of News and Information Services, U-T El Paso, is a prolific book reviewer and author. His many published works include *C. L. Sonnichsen, Grassroots Historian* (Texas Western Press, 1972).

OSCAR J. MARTINEZ, Director of the Institute of Oral History, U-T El Paso, is author of the landmark history of Juárez, *Border Boomtown, Ciudad Juárez since 1848*.

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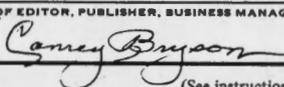
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