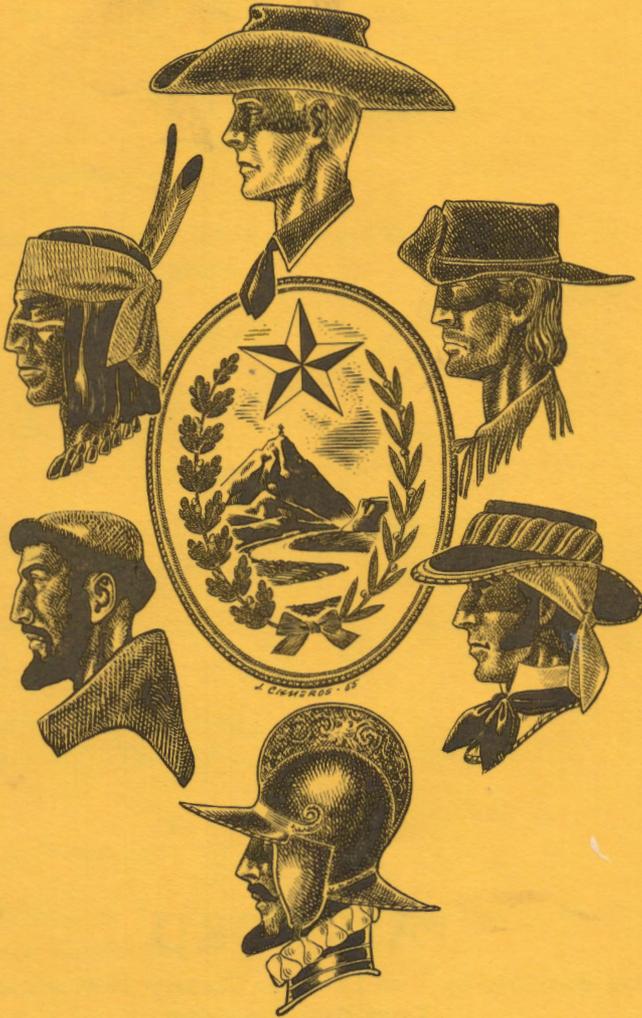


PASSWORD



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EL PASO, TEXAS

WINTER, 1980

PASSWORD

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Robert K. Banner

Victor J. Von Schoeler

Maj. (Ret.) John W. Denny

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Jenaro Cenicerros

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HALL OF HONOR ADDRESS A BACKWARD GLANCE

DR. EVAN HAYWOOD ANTONE

President, El Paso County Historical Society

The year just past has been a good one for The El Paso County Historical Society, one of accomplishment and solid progress. Let me cite a few examples.

First, the El Paso Museum of History has become a reality. As its supportive organization, the Society is now identified with a museum in which we can meet and display our holdings. As I stated last year, this association is mutually advantageous, for the society needs a museum and it needs us. Now we must strive to become true trustees and true boosters. It is a big job, but we need a big challenge such as this offers.

Second, the storage room at the museum is also a reality. In it, we can store, organize, and catalog our holdings. For the first time, our curator can work with purpose and direction.

Third, the Society's financial position is stronger, thanks to careful planning by directors, investing by our treasurer, and successful fund raising projects.

Fourth, our affiliation with the American Association for State and Local History is established as is our support of El Paso Community Foundation.

Fifth, our annual events have grown stronger during the past year — the historical memories contest, the Gorman essay contest, the Tour of Homes, *Password* and *Conquistador* — all these have improved under mature and dedicated leadership.

Sixth, this Hall of Honor Banquet itself reflects the care and concern which its founders envisioned. Both the selection committee and the banquet committee deserve a round of applause for their work.

Finally, the slate of officers who will take over the leadership next year is an excellent group. I predict they will serve magnificently in 1981, this banner year of celebration of Four Centuries at the Pass. They will be involved in this community effort and they will join in welcoming the Texas State Historical Society when it meets in El Paso for the first time ever.

Serving as your president during the past year has been an honor and a pleasure. It came at a time when I was able to accept and devote time to the assignment. I thank the society members who elected me, the board members with whom I worked, and the committees for the wonderful job they have done during this administration. It has been one of the most memorable years of my life and you have made it so. Again, I thank you.

1980 HALL OF HONOR

The 20th annual Hall of Honor banquet, held November 2, 1980, at the El Paso Country Club, honored two distinguished El Pasoans: the late Henry Thomas Ponsford, whose work as a builder has lived after him in many of the most important structures in the community, and Dr. J.M. Hanks, who served many years as superintendent of the Ysleta Independent School District.

The program was opened by the Historical Society's president, Dr. E. Haywood Antone, who gave the traditional address to begin the Hall of Honor festivities. The tribute to Mr. Ponsford was made by Fred Hervey, a member of the society's board of trustees and 1976 recipient of the Hall of Honor designation. The response was by Mr. Ponsford's son, Henry J. Ponsford, one of 42 Ponsford family members present for the occasion. The tribute to Dr. Hanks was made by Ross Borrett, a member of the society's board and long associated with the school superintendent as a member of the Ysleta School Board. Dr. Hanks accepted the award. The invocation and benediction were given by the Rev. Philip Baker of Ysleta United Methodist Church.

Mrs. H.D. Garrett was chairman of the selection committee and Mrs. Edgar Dodds was in charge of the banquet. Others involved in the arrangements were Mrs. Jack Resen, invitations and programs; Mrs. R.J. Hoover Jr., reservations; Mrs. Frank McKnight, decorations; Mrs. Leroy L. Mathis, publicity; Mr. and Mrs. Francis Broadus Jr., hospitality; Mrs. William Latham, guest books; Mr. Latham, logo and plaques; and Col. (USAF Ret.) and Mrs. E.J. Walsh, Jr., refreshment tickets.

Hosts and hostesses were officers and directors of the society.

Previous Hall of Honor recipients are:

1961—James Wiley Magoffin and Lawrence M. Lawson; 1962—Richard F. Burges, Maud Durlin Sullivan and the Rev. B.M.G. Williams; 1963—Eugenia Schuster and Robert Ewing Thomason; 1964—Allen H. Hughey Sr. and Mrs. W.D. Howe; 1965—Ernest U. Krause and Lucinda de Leftwich Templin; 1966—Charles Robert Morehead and Maurice Schwartz; 1967—Robert E. McKee and Chris P. Fox; 1968—Zachariah T. White and Jack C. Vowell; 1969—James A. Smith and J. Carl Hertzog; 1970—Haymon Krupp and Eugene O. Porter; 1971—Hugh S. White and Charles Leland Sonnichsen; 1972—Olga Bernstein Kohlberg and Joseph F. Friedkin; 1973—Juan S. Hart and Judson F. Williams; 1974—Joseph Magoffin and José Cisneros; 1975—James P. Hague and Tom Lea; 1976—Mrs. Otto Nordwald and Fred Hervey; 1977—Cleofas Calleros and Msgr. Henry Buchanan; 1978—R. R. Jones and Dr. Edward W. Rheinheimer; 1979—Thornton Hardie and Louise Johnson Schuessler.

TRIBUTE TO HENRY T. PONSFORD

by FRED HERVEY

We are tonight doing honor to two persons, one who is molding and leading people and events of today and one who molded and led people of yesterday. Our wonderful nation was made great by these leaders of yesterday and will sink or rise by the efforts of today's leaders.

Mr. H.T. Ponsford was a great builder and a successful leader. The accomplishments and success that we enjoy today reflect the leadership qualities of Mr. Ponsford and his ilk, sturdy, steady at the helm, yet kind and compassionate, with a radiant vision for the future.

The information about his life was gathered by his son, Harry Ponsford.

Henry Thomas Ponsford was born in St. Thomas, Ontario, on November 14, 1866. He was one of a large family, having six brothers and four sisters who grew to adulthood. His father was a younger son of a landed family, whose estate of some 2,000 acres near Exeter, England, was inherited by the oldest son. His father homesteaded a farm adjoining the growing town of St. Thomas. His 160 acres included the finest of farming land; his apple orchard alone took in 20 acres. As St. Thomas continued to grow, four of the brothers, including Henry, founded the building firm of Ponsford Brothers.

On Christmas Day 1890, Henry married Kate Jordan, the daughter of an English sea captain who sailed between England and Canada. Their home was on the south estuary of the Thames, six miles from Canterbury in Kent. Kate had a brother, Walter, and a sister, Fanny. Throughout life she was a faithful helpmate to her husband.

While still a young man, Henry became afflicted with chronic asthma and on the advice of his doctor, sought a warmer and drier climate. He arrived in El Paso on the last day of March in 1897. It was a beautiful, warm day and when he stepped off the train he said, "This is the place for me."

While locating himself, he went to work as a bricklayer for the Wright Brothers, who had the contract for the masonry work on the Mexican Central passenger depot in Juarez. He stayed at the Pierson Hotel, where he met B.M.G. Williams, recently arrived from England, who was working as desk clerk and boarding with Fred Wright. Thus began a life-long friendship. [The Rev. Mr. Williams was named to the Hall of Honor in 1962.]

Henry's wife and three children, Henry, Walter and Pearl, arrived in El Paso on August 2. He began to build and sell houses and thus was laid the foundation for Ponsford Brothers in El Paso.

He had a deep sympathy for anyone who was sick or in distress and was quick to lend a helping hand. He was a keen judge of human nature, and as one who was upright in his own dealings, he had no difficulty

in telling whether the man he was dealing with was sincere.

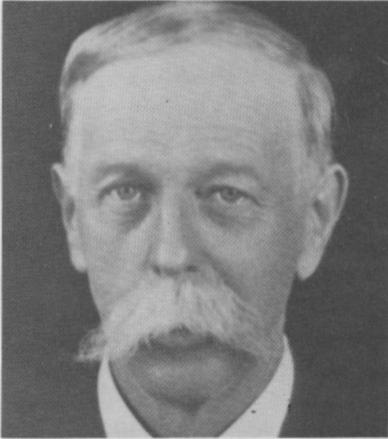
In 1905 he was one of the group who conducted the campaign to raise the money to build a permanent home for the YMCA on North Oregon Street at Missouri. This was an outstanding asset to the youth of El Paso. It had the first swimming pool in the city. Up to that time, the only place where a boy could swim was the river. An outstanding physical program was developed by its secretary, Charles F. Titus, and physical director, P.C. Jacobus. For several years El Paso won the national YMCA title for cities of its size. A church league was organized in basketball and, shortly, the City League. Mr. Ponsford was elected a director and later, for several of the trying years of the 1930s, he was its president.

Mr. Ponsford was a charter member of the El Paso Country Club. Its early day location was in Woodlawn Park on the present site of Washington Park. He was a member of the committee which welcomed the two Presidents, William Howard Taft and Porfirio Díaz when they met in El Paso in 1909, and attended the formal dinner which was the highlight of the ceremonies, given by President Díaz in Juárez.

In business he enjoyed the confidence of all with whom he had dealings. When the El Paso attorney, Millard Patterson, decided to build a school for the teaching of Mexican youth as a memorial to his wife Lydia, who was a faithful member of Trinity Methodist Church, he phoned Mr. Ponsford. He said, "I am going to build a school for the instruction of Mexican boys. Trost and Trost are making the plans and when they are completed, I want you to build the building. I am leaving for California for the summer and as you need funds, draw on me at the State National Bank."

Later when the Mitchell family of Marfa, Texas, decided to build an industrial building for teaching a trade to the boys, so that they would be self-supporting when they returned to Mexico, they commissioned Mr. Ponsford to build "The Frank and Jennie Mitchell Memorial Industrial Annex to the Lydia Patterson Institute." Cooperating with the Rev. Lawrence Reynolds, principal of the school, he included all the facilities he considered desirable. They consisted of a gymnasium and basketball court extending through the ground and first floors, a swimming pool with showers and lockers, and most important of all, the shops. The largest was the carpenter shop which occupied most of the balance of the ground floor. On the first floor were a printing shop, a tailor shop and a shoe repair shop, together with the offices for the building. On the second and third floors were an auditorium and four additional classrooms, and on the fourth floor were rooms for members of the faculty and two dormitories, one for the older and one for the younger boys.

Mr. Ponsford was always a friend of children. He was one of the organizers, together with the Rev. William B. Hugg, pastor of Trinity Methodist Church, and other church members, of the Southwestern Children's Home. He was active in acquiring and improving the home on Arizona Street. For many years he was its president, both at that location and after a splendid new home was built on Altura. The home, from its earliest days, was fortunate in having the services of Mrs. Victor Moore, under whose leadership it acquired faithful friends throughout the Southwest. At times the home cared for more than 100 children. The care was the equal of any which they might have received at home. Prayers were said morning and evening and grace at meals. The children were given assigned tasks about the home, for which they received an allowance which they could spend without being accountable to anyone. Each child had his own locker which he was expected to keep in order. Many fine citizens were reared in the home.



H.T. Ponsford
(Courtesy H.J. Ponsford)

Mr. Ponsford also served as a director of the El Paso School for Girls, later the Radford School.

He was a steward of Trinity Methodist Church for many years. His family had been members of the Church of England, which he attended before coming to El Paso. Kate Ponsford was from a long line of Methodists and sang in the choir of Grace Methodist Church in St. Thomas before coming to El Paso. The Rev. Percy Knickerbocker, an outstanding early-day preacher, extended the invitation which made him a member of Trinity. All the Ponsford children became members of Trinity also.

As a Mason, he was a member of Lodge 1111 in El Paso, a Knight Commander of the Court of Honor in the Scottish Rite, a Royal Arch Mason and a Shriner. He was also a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

He was one of the group who established the El Paso Masonic Hospital at Piedras and Montana streets and for many years was its president. During these years, the original purchase price was paid out and the nurses' home was built on Raynor Street. When the hospital property was sold, the proceeds were given to the Providence Hospital to assist in erecting their present building on North Oregon Street.

Mr. Ponsford was a director of the Rio Grande Valley Bank and Trust Company and of the City National Bank. When the Peoples Building and Loan was organized as the first savings and loan association in El Paso, he was asked to become a director. He had been the first person in El Paso to build a house for a man to be paid for in monthly payments. There were no government housing agencies and the insurance companies felt processing the small payments required too much overhead. Mr. Ponsford's only requirement was that the owner have his lot paid for. He felt that in paying for his lot, he had learned the lesson of saving. When asked to serve with the Peoples Building and Loan, at first he hesitated because of a possible conflict of interest, but when it was explained to him that the new organization accepted monthly payments before the owner was in a position to build, so that he could gradually acquire a fund sufficient to make a down payment on a house, Mr. Ponsford said, "I am for anything that will encourage the working man to save." Later he became president of the association.

He was the contractor for many El Paso landmark buildings, including the Plaza Theater, the W.W. Turney residence which became the El Paso Museum of Art, and the Dr. George Turner residence which is now the headquarters of the El Paso County Medical Society. He built the original headquarters building in El Paso for the Standard Oil Company of Texas, the office, assay and plant buildings for the Phelps-Dodge copper refinery, and the headquarters building for the Southwestern Irrigated Cotton Growers. Among the many schools he built were Ysleta High School, the original Bowie High School (now Guillen), the Radford School for Girls, Cadwallader, Coldwell and the first White School, and others in the communities of Deming and Silver City, New Mexico.

He built the first defense housing project in El Paso, consisting of 100 duplexes located off Montana near Chelmont. Later he built the first unit of the Ray Sherman project. With the start of World War II, he did defense work at Fort Bliss, White Sands Proving Ground, Holloman Air Force Base and William Beaumont General Hospital.

Other noteworthy buildings associated with Mr. Ponsford are hotels in Albuquerque, Carlsbad and Marfa; banks at Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Pecos and Fabens, and churches including Trinity Methodist, First Presbyterian, First Church of Christ, First Christian and many others in surrounding communities.

Mr. Ponsford's relations with labor were always of the finest. When the International Bricklayers' Union decided to build a brick plant in El Paso, he was invited to become a director. The International owned only one other plant in the United States, one in Chicago. In 1927, when the International Union voted to issue Mr. Ponsford the sixth

gold membership card in its history, the dinner at Hôtel Cortez was attended by 300 of El Paso's leading citizens. Tributes were paid to Mr. Ponsford as a citizen by Mayor R.E. Thomason, Alderman Ray Sherman and other civic leaders.

His sense of duty was of the highest. Although his illness continued through his life, he was always up to begin his work every morning. He had a high sense of justice and fair play. Within his family there was never any sense of favoritism shown among his children.

Mr. Ponsford passed away on May 6, 1942. His firm had just completed the first unit, consisting of 140 buildings, for the Alamogordo Bombing Range, now Holloman Air Force Base. This work was done at the time of the critical fighting in North Africa, when bombers were so badly needed. The installation was completed and occupied four days ahead of schedule.

A lifetime friend said of Mr. Ponsford, "He was a man without guile." Because of him and others like him, El Paso is a better city.

Now let me take a few moments to tell you of my personal contact with Mr. Ponsford.

My brother, George, and I went into the drive-in root beer, orange juice and sandwich business in 1930. Mr. Ponsford built our building on credit evidenced by a note. George had no business experience, and I had only experience in a soda pop, popcorn and candy stand operated at my father's summertime open-air picture show.

It was soon discovered that one of us must get an outside job. I was unsuccessful, but my brother found a job. Mr. Ponsford called to congratulate me on taking on the full responsibility and inquired as to when I was going to bring in a payment on the past due note payments. I promised to be in with a payment the next Saturday. When Saturday arrived and I couldn't make a payment, I reasoned that I would wait until Monday and then make a payment; but Monday I still had no payment, so decided to wait until Tuesday. On Tuesday morning, Mr. Ponsford called for me to meet him at his office, not with the idea of making a payment, but to talk. I reported after lunch and received my first lesson from Mr. Ponsford. It was that keeping my appointments with him was more important than bringing money, that my concern and intention were his first concern. At this point he said, "What do you think of reporting your progress or payment once a week?" I said, "I would like to do this." He replied, "Good, what time?" I said, "One-thirty, after my lunch business is over." He said, "Good, I will expect you at 1:30 next Monday."

That next Monday I reported at 1:30 and got my second lesson from Mr. Ponsford. I did not have enough money for a payment. We discussed some problems in regard to my business. Then Mr. Ponsford said,

"Do you have a dollar in your pocket?" I answered, "No, sir." He said, "All right, go get one." I returned with the dollar, he took it and got out my note, wrote the date and noted \$1 paid and showed the balance as reduced by that amount. He told me, "Good, you have made a payment. You owe less today than you did yesterday. I'll see you next Monday." From then on I brought a payment each week, sometimes only a dollar and sometimes large enough to deduct interest due. Many times during these visits he would ask me questions such as, "How do you know what you make on your root beer and hamburgers? How do you know you get all of the sales recorded on the cash register? How do you know how many customers you have?" Of course, I knew none of these things, but I soon found out. I devised procedures that I then revealed to Mr. Ponsford, who was always pleased when I came up with good plans. (These controls are still the basic procedures we use in the management of 1,200 Circle K stores in 12 Southwestern and Western states.) He was understandably pleased when I brought in larger payments as my controls stopped the leaks in my business.

One day I found out that one of my competitors had offered to buy my note from Mr. Ponsford. I rushed down to see what I might do about the situation. Mr. Ponsford said, "Do you have any reason to think you will be unable to pay me the balance on your note?" I said, "No, sir, I think I will be able to pay it off." He said, "I am satisfied that you will pay off the note. It is not for sale. Go back to work."

Over the years, I have reviewed many things he taught me and I consider them the foundation of my business experience, built by Mr. Ponsford's questions and support. I have many times thought that Mr. Ponsford must have seen something in me that was not evident to a lot of other people.

One thing Mr. Ponsford did that I have pondered about over these years: One day when we were on the way to visit and look at the Oasis in Five Points, we approached the railroad crossing and a train was also approaching it. He turned, looked at me and asked "Are you game?" I said, "Yes, *sir!*" He pulled the spark and gas lever all the way down on his Model T and we beat the train by a comfortable margin. He never brought this subject up but, I must admit, my respect for Mr. Ponsford took on a new dimension. He must have been telling me that even a conservative, cautious man must have the "get up" to beat the train to the crossing.

What a wonderful disciplinarian, what a kind, compassionate man Mr. Ponsford was! And how fortunate El Paso and I were that he came our way! I have tried to emulate Mr. Ponsford, and when I do good things, I often remember Mr. Ponsford, who pointed the way for me.

TRIBUTE TO DR. J. M. HANKS

by ROSS BORRETT

Over the 28 years that I have worked with Dr. J.M. Hanks, the living honoree for the 1980 Hall of Honor, I have been impressed by his humanistic attitude, permeating all his thoughts and actions, and by his understanding for the feelings of others in any consideration, no matter how trivial it was.

Let us now go back to the beginning—the birth and childhood of our honoree. Dr. Jessie Mack Hanks was born October 8, 1901, in Bradford, Anderson County, Texas, a small rural community. For your information, I found a map of Texas and looked to see just where Bradford was. Well, there it was, tucked into far East Texas. You take your Texas map and look for Dallas, then Houston; now go halfway between those cities and more to the east to about 60 miles from the Louisiana border, and there is Bradford.

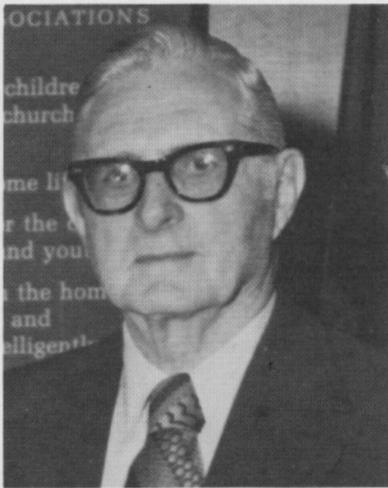
His father, Jessie Palmer Hanks, was a farmer and politician, having served on the Commissioners Court and also as a school board trustee in Anderson County. His mother, Maggie Ruth Hanks, was a housewife and a very busy one, because she raised not only our honoree but two other boys and four girls. Most of Dr. Hanks' family stayed in the East Texas area. He saw one of his brothers become a contractor, one a school superintendent, and of the four girls, they became homemakers, entered the business world, and one became a school teacher.

Dr. Hanks was among 100 students who attended Springfield School, which offered the first through tenth grades, a regular rural school where the basics and discipline were foremost in importance. Even so, in a small school a well-rounded education was important and we find our honoree was particularly fond of math, social studies, and economics. For his extra-curricular activities, he was active in basketball, the debate team, school drama club, and public speaking. During his school years he received numerous awards in public speaking.

As the son of a farmer, he was expected to do chores and to work on the farm, and this he did. Our honoree tells me that if he was late or forgot to do the chores — well, the wrath of his father came down on him. His dad did not like to have any of his sons grow up to be careless, sloppy or lazy; the building of character in youth was of the utmost importance. In doing this, his father was also teaching him responsibility.

As a high school student, he decided that law would be a good career. This required going to college. While still a law student, he received his first teaching assignment at Springfield rural school. At this time he was only 19. After this job, I am afraid that law lost out to education. After

one year as a teacher in the high school, he was promoted to principal at Swanson Hill High School, also in Anderson County. At this time you did not need a teaching certificate nor a degree to teach in the high schools, but did need to indicate the intention to obtain one. Because of his teaching job, he could attend college only during summer vacations. It was thus he completed his bachelor's degree at Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas, in 1920. He was a classmate of Lyndon B. Johnson, who was editor of *The Star*, the school paper. This friendship served him well in later years.



Dr. J.M. Hanks

Dr. Hanks decided that was not suitable for him and he took a job as principal of a school in Midland, Texas. But the people of Ysleta would not take "no" for an answer. The then superintendent wired Dr. Hanks: "I am offering you \$150 a year more than you originally agreed to come out here for and I will expect you here bright and early Monday to begin work." You must remember that in those days \$150 a year was a goodly extra sum for a teacher, and with this added incentive, the thoughts of the wild West faded and our honoree came to Ysleta.

When he arrived, he found a three-story school building, the same one that houses the Ysleta Grade School today. It served grades one through 12, almost like the school he had left behind in East Texas. In those days the school system consisted of two schools: the Ysleta Grade School and six rooms of what is now Cadwallader, with a total of 600 students.

Dr. Hanks acted as teacher and coach for two years, then was asked to be principal of the high school. After two more years, in 1929 he

It was during one of these summer sessions that Dr. Hanks met a friend whom he had not seen in some time. As they were walking across the campus, he asked his friend what he was doing at San Marcos. The answer was, "I'm looking for a certain person to fill a job in the Ysleta Common School District."

You would not think of our honoree as an adventurous soul unless you realize that El Paso, the nearest town to Ysleta, was considered, first the Far West, and second, untamed. The people of the East had the impression that this was really the wild West, the kind you saw in movies with six guns, killings and outlaws.

was appointed superintendent of the system with offices on the third floor of the same school building.

All through the depression, school work and the district moved along and grew at a slow pace. In 1937 a bond issue of \$1 million was passed. This money was to be used over a period of time, with the immediate need to sell \$500,000 in bonds to build Ysleta High School. It was also at this time that the Ysleta Common District W-4 was changed to the Ysleta Independent School District. A merger was made with the Texaco District and the San Jose District, bringing an expanded enrollment. For this reason, the need for a new high school was urgent.

Because of the economic conditions in 1937, no one would buy the bonds. I think that this was the first of a great many serious challenges that faced our honoree. Because of the district's tax valuation, only half the bond issue could be sold. This was exactly the amount needed to start the new school. The inability to sell the bonds, however, did not stop our honoree. Dr. Hanks went to Austin and found that an old law, still on the books, allowed the State Board of Education to buy bonds from districts such as ours. So the half million in bonds was sold to them and Ysleta High School was built. To me this shows how a quiet, reserved, but determined person can come out on top.

The school district continued to grow slowly and steadily. When World War II came along, Dr. Hanks received a leave of absence to enter the Air Force in Miami Beach, where he graduated as a second lieutenant. He was assigned to the Pentagon where he was made a liaison officer. After attaining the rank of major, he was discharged in 1946.

When he returned to the district, again in the job of superintendent, here is the picture he found: Most of grades 1, 2 and 3 were on half-day sessions. All the gymnasiums in the elementary schools were divided into classrooms. Toilet facilities and cafeterias were inadequate. Some schools did not have any cafeterias at all, because they were being used as classrooms. The only solution was a bond issue large enough to relieve these problems.

To refresh your memories, this was the time when Ascarate wanted to become a municipality. First they voted to be one, then they voted not to be one, and all of this time the City of El Paso was having a fit because if this took place, the growth of El Paso was finished toward the southeast. So, the minute the Ascarate bunch decided not to incorporate, the City annexed all of this area including the two oil refineries and Phelps Dodge. At this time (later the law was changed), whenever the City expanded its boundaries, that automatically expanded the boundary of the El Paso Independent School District. Thus those major industries, which accounted for about 40 per cent of the taxable real estate value of the Ysleta District, were no longer available to help

support the proposed bond issue. But did this stop our honoree? Not at all.

In looking for a solution, he found that many school districts across the nation had become "impacted" by extra students because government projects and military bases had brought in large numbers of workers and their families. Dr. Hanks contacted other school districts that were affected by the same problem that had occurred in El Paso with its military and other federal governmental activities. After three years of research, many trips to Washington, and discussion of the problem with people all over the country, he was encouraged when Congress passed Public Law 815 and Public Law 874. Under Public Law 815, the Ysleta District has received some \$6 million for the construction of buildings, and under Public Law 874, the district has received from \$500,000 to \$1 million per year in lieu of property taxes and we are still receiving money under this law. Over the years since those laws were passed, Dr. Hanks continued to exert leadership at a national level to see that school districts entitled to these funds could continue to receive them.

In the days following World War II, there was a shortage of teachers and recruiting was going on all the time. Dr. Hanks went back to his home town on a recruiting trip, soon after his return from the service. While he was there, his friends introduced him to Robbie Holloway, a home economics teacher. Dr. Hanks went back to Ysleta, convinced the board that the district needed a home economics teacher, then returned to Palestine, Texas and convinced this young lady that she was the only one who could fill this position. Eventually he also convinced her that he needed lots of love and good cooking for himself, and they were married in 1949.

All of Dr. Hanks' efforts were not only concerned with money and buildings. They covered many fields such as human relations, curriculum, and the many responsibilities a superintendent has. He was also concerned about "fads" in education. I refer to such innovations as open classrooms, the segregating of children into "super learners" and laggards, team teaching, and many more. Many changes have been suggested over the years, but Dr. Hanks always said to take a long look at what was proposed and take the best of the idea and let the rest go. Do not change just for change alone, he said. His idea was to challenge the able learners and expand their learning laterally instead of the shallow vertical move which would advance a student into a higher grade just because he was very bright.

Realizing the changes needed each year in offering a curriculum to help each student achieve his greatest potential, Dr. Hanks has supported worthy innovations and pilot programs. Two of these which have been



Taking part in the Hall of Honor observance were, from left, Henry J. Ponsford, accepting the award in honor of his late father; Dr. E. Haywood Antonio, president of the El Paso County Historical Society, and J.M. Hanks, recipient of the award for a living honoree. The certificates were prepared by Jose Cisneros.

Photo by M.G. McKinney

most beneficial, the Miami Linguistics and the Oral Language programs, have enabled Spanish-speaking children to avoid repeating their first year in school. He was instrumental in establishing an all-level reading program and in securing an area vocational high school to expand the vocational-technical training available in the school system. The bilingual education program was taught in the Ysleta Independent School District long before it was mandated by state law. A form of bilingual education existed in Ysleta as early as 1948.

Dr. Hanks has spent many hours deciding how to handle personnel problems so no one would feel left out. Having served as a high school teacher, coach and principal before becoming superintendent, he has always stressed the importance of the classroom teacher's role in the public schools. He has met with individual teachers and with groups of

teachers throughout his experience as superintendent to try to help them with any of their problems.

For a half century, each time the school system faced a great challenge, under the quiet leadership of our honoree the people of the district were united to meet each problem. You can see that when you "look at the record" as the politicians are saying currently, we won most of them. Dr. Hanks has said to me many times, "None of this would have happened if it were not for the efforts of the school boards, administrators, teachers and the people of the area who were interested in the welfare of Ysleta.

To me there is a saying that I think fits our honoree: "The character of a man is shown by how he meets adversity." As I have just shown you, he met adversity head on and, in his own quiet way, overcame it.

Pride in our area, especially in the schools, was always a theme of Dr. Hanks. I have seen him become very upset whenever anyone said anything derogatory about anyone or anything concerning the Ysleta schools. Most of what Dr. Hanks has done has been not only for our school district and area, but also for others across the state and across this great country of ours.

He has been granted many honors. Having completed his master's degree at Sul Ross State University, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Education degree by New Mexico State University in 1965 in recognition of his work in the field of education. A few of his other honors include:

1967—Distinguished Service Award of the Texas Association of Vocational Agriculture Teachers.

1970—Distinguished Service Award by Distributive Education Clubs of Texas.

1972—Administrator of the Year Award by Ysleta Teachers.

1973—Commendation by Texas Classroom Teachers Association for outstanding achievement as a school administrator.

1975—Honored by American Business Women's Association as Boss of the Year.

1977—Honored Ex at Ysleta High School.

1979—Human Relations Award of Trans-Pecos Teachers Association.

1979—New high school named for him by Ysleta School Board.

His activities were not limited to his school work. His civic interests have included service on the University of Texas at El Paso Mission '73 committee, on the board of the El Paso Museum of Art, as a committee member for the International Boundary and Water Commission's Chamizal Treaty efforts, committee member for El Paso Community College study, service on the 1976 Bicentennial celebration committee, and

chairmanship of the official board, the board of trustees and the building committee of Ysleta United Methodist Church.

In surveying his career, we can see that he came to a school district of 600 students and left it when it had 46,000 students. From two buildings, it became a district of 44 schools and an administration complex. Along the way he faced challenges and problems that were seemingly insurmountable, taking each as it came up and putting each one in perspective as he resolved it.

"Greatness is not in what you have made, or done, for yourself, but in what you have given away to others." In Dr. J.M. Hanks we have a man who fulfills this saying. For this reason and many more, Dr. Hanks, it is a privilege and pleasure to welcome you as a member of the El Paso County Historical Society's Hall of Honor.

EL PASO DOCUMENTARY I THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ONATE EXPEDITION IN EL PASO HISTORY

by W. H. TIMMONS

During the 1580s and 1590s the monarchy of Philip II of Spain became extremely interested in the conquest and colonization of New Mexico. The Rodríguez-Chamuscado expedition of 1581, the first one to arrive at the Pass of the North, thus marking the beginning of 400 years of El Paso history, and the Espejo expedition of 1582 had reported the existence of rich mines in that frontier territory, as well as favorable conditions for missionary work. For more than a decade the viceroy of New Spain searched for a suitable candidate to carry out Philip's plans for the conquest and colonization of New Mexico. At length, in 1595 the viceroy awarded the contract to Don Juan de Oñate, who was given the title of governor and captain-general.

There were countless delays in getting the expedition assembled, but at length, in January, 1598, the colony of 400 men, of whom 130 brought families, began the march northward from southern Chihuahua. In addition, there were 83 wagons and carts to carry the baggage and provisions, and more than 7,000 head of stock were driven on foot. Unlike previous expeditions, which followed the Conchos river to the Rio Grande, the Oñate expedition headed straight north across the sand dunes of the Chihuahua desert until on April 20, 1598, it reached the river which the Spaniards called the Río del Norte.

The Oñate expedition is significant in El Paso history for two reasons. In the first place, after it ascended the river for a distance, Oñate, on April 30, 1598, issued a proclamation in which he took formal possession of the entire territory drained by the Río del Norte for his monarch, Philip II of Spain. The ceremony took place at approximately the plaza of present day San Elizario, since the river at that time ran several miles north of its present channel. Oñate's act, called *La Toma*, or the taking possession of, brought European civilization to the Pass of the North in 1598 and laid the foundation for more than two centuries of Spanish rule in the American Southwest. This event preceded by a decade or more the colonizing activities of the English on the Atlantic seaboard, the French in Canada, and the Dutch on the Hudson river.

Dr. W.H. Timmons, professor emeritus of history at the University of Texas at El Paso, has prepared this article as the first in a series regarding the El Paso-Ciudad Juarez observance of Four Centuries '81 during the coming year. He originated the celebration and is a member of its Commission, as well as serving on the board of the El Paso County Historical Society. The documents reproduced here were copied by Dr. Timmons when he researched the records of Oñate's expedition in Spain.

Secondly, the Oñate expedition is significant because it is the first to use the term "El Paso." After taking formal possession, it ascended the river for several days, and on May 4, 1598, at a site just west of present downtown El Paso, it crossed the river to the east side. Oñate called this operation "El Paso del Río del Norte," meaning the fording or crossing of the river.

Presented here are two pages in facsimile from a copy of the itinerary of the Oñate expedition, the original of which may be found in the Archivo de Indias in Sevilla, Spain. The entry under April 30, 1598 reads: "On April 30, 1598, day of the ascension of our Lord, at this Río del Norte, Governor Don Juan de Oñate took possession of all the kingdoms and provinces of New Mexico, in the name of King Phillip, our lord, in the presence of Juan Pérez de Donís, royal notary and secretary of this jurisdiction and expedition. There was a sermon, a great ecclesiastical and secular celebration, a great salute and rejoicing, and in the afternoon, a comedy. The royal standard was blessed and placed in charge of Francisco de Sosa Peñalosa, the royal ensign."

The entry under May 4, 1598 reads in part: "On May 4 we did not travel farther than to the pass of the river and the ford (*del passo del Río*). Forty of these Indians came to the camp. They had Turkish bows, long hair cut to resemble little Milan caps, headgear made to hold down the hair and colored with blood or paint. Their first words were manxo, manxo, micos, micos, by which they meant 'peaceful ones' and 'friends.'"

Plans are under way at the present time to erect a suitable monument in the plaza of San Elizario to memorialize the Spanish contributions of the 16th century and the historic event of *La Toma* of April 30, 1598. The El Paso County Historical Society has contributed the sum of \$400 to help make this project a reality.

SOUTHWESTERN RESOURCES

by MARY A. SARBER

Many books are published about the Southwest each year, a few by major eastern publishers but most by small presses located here in the Southwest. Since 1971 the Border Regional Library Association, an organization of librarians and library supporters in Trans-Pecos Texas and Southern New Mexico, has been making annual awards to the best books published each year. The purpose of the awards is to encourage the writing and publication of outstanding literature about the Southwest by giving recognition to both authors and publishers.

The awards were conceived and begun by Virginia Hoke, former Southwest Librarian with the El Paso Public Library. All types of books are considered, from children's literature to reference tools, but the emphasis is on history. Over the years the University of Oklahoma Press has led the field with a total of ten awards, followed by the University of Arizona Press with six, and Northland Press and Texas Western Press with four each. Many El Paso writers have won awards, including Charles H. Binion, Frank Mangan, Glennis Hinshaw and Lizabeth Lovelace Davis, Clark Champie, Leon Metz, Dale L. Walker, W.D. Smithers, Jose Cisneros, Oscar J. Martinez, Conrey Bryson, James M. Day, Elroy Bode, and the late Chester Seltzer, whose pseudonym was Amado Muro.

The Southwest has rich resources in both the number and the high quality of books produced about the region. Most of the best published over the past ten years will be found on the following list.

WINNERS OF BRLA SOUTHWEST BOOK AWARDS

1971 - 1980

1971

- EMILIO KOSTERLITZKY, by Cornelius Smith, Jr. Arthur H. Clark.
THE DAY THE COWBOYS QUIT by Elmer Kelton. Doubleday.
THE TAOS TRAPPERS by David J. Weber. University of Oklahoma Press.
THE SPIDER, THE CAVE, AND THE POTTERY BOWL by Eleanor Clymer. Atheneum.
INDIAN PAINTERS AND WHITE PATRONS by J.J. Brody. University of New Mexico Press.
THE SANTA FE TRAIL: A HISTORICAL BIBLIOGRAPHY by Jack Rittenhouse. University of New Mexico Press.
EL PASO SCENIC AND HISTORICAL LANDMARKS by Charles H. Binion. Texas Western Press.

1972

- THE MORLEYS by Norman Cleaveland. Calvin Horn.
THE SPIRIT OF COCHISE by Elliott Arnold. Charles Scribner's Sons.
GENERAL CROOK AND THE SIERRA MADRE ADVENTURE by Dan Thrapp. University of Oklahoma Press.
WHEN CLAY SINGS by Byrd Baylor. Charles Scribner's Sons.

- TOM RYAN, A PAINTER IN FOUR SIXES COUNTRY by Dean Krakel. Northland Press.
A BIBLIOGRAPHY OF WRITINGS AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY TOM LEA by Glennis Hinshaw and Lizabeth Lovelace Davis, El Paso Public Library Association.
EL PASO IN PICTURES by Frank Mangan. The Press/El Paso.

1973

- FRONTIER CRUSADER: W.F.M. ARMY by Lawrence R. Murphy. University of Arizona Press.
A SIMPLE ACT OF KINDNESS by Winston M. Estes. J.P. Lippincott.
TOMBSTONE: MYTH AND REALITY by Odie B. Faulk. Oxford University Press.
THE BOY WHO MADE DRAGONFLY by Tony Hillerman. Harper and Row.
THE GREAT SOUTHWEST by Elna Bakker and Richard C. Lillard. American West.
ANALYTICAL INDEX TO PUBLICATIONS OF THE TEXAS FOLKLORE SOCIETY by James T. Bratcher. Texas Folklore Society.
STRANGERS IN THE FRANKLINS by Clark Champie.
TEXAS by Robert Reynolds. Charles H. Belding.

1974

- PAT GARRETT by Leon Metz. University of Oklahoma Press.
ULZANA by James R. Olson. Houghton Mifflin.
VICTORIO AND THE MIMBRES APACHES by Dan Thrapp. University of Oklahoma Press.
THE LIFE AND LEGEND OF GEORGE McJUNKIN: BLACK COWBOY by Franklin Folsom. Nelson.
DESERT, THE AMERICAN SOUTHWEST by Ruth Kirk. Houghton Mifflin.
SOUTHWEST CLASSICS by Lawrence Clark Powell. Ward Ritchie.
SAN ELIZARIO by Eugene Porter. Jenkins Publishing Company.
MEXICAN FOLK RETABLOS by Gloria K. Giffords. University of Arizona Press.

1975

- LAMY by Paul Horgan. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.
I, TOM HORN by Will Henry. J.B. Lippincott.
THE PRESIDIO by Max Moorhead. University of Oklahoma Press.
THE DESERT IS THEIRS by Byrd Baylor. Charles Scribner's Sons.
THE PEOPLE CALLED APACHE by Thomas E. Mails. Prentice Hall.
NEW MEXICO NEWSPAPERS by Pearce S. Grove, Becky J. Barnett, and Sandra Hansen. University of New Mexico Press.
DEATH WAS THE BLACK HORSE by Dale Walker. Madrona Press.
MANY WINTERS by Nancy Wood. Doubleday.
CASAS GRANDES: A FALLEN TRADING CENTER OF THE GRAND CHICHIMECA by Charles C. DiPeso. Northland Press.
RIO GRANDE, photographs by Robert Reynolds, text by Tony Hillerman. Charles H. Belding.

1976

- CHARLES F. LUMMIS: THE MAN AND HIS WEST by Turbese Lummis Fisk and Keith Lummis. University of Oklahoma Press.
- THE MONKEY WRENCH GANG by Edward Abbey. J.P. Lippincott.
- STORMS BREWED IN OTHER MEN'S WORLDS by Elizabeth A.H. John. Texas A & M Press.
- HAWK, I'M YOUR BROTHER by Byrd Baylor. Charles Scribner's Sons.
- PUEBLO: MOUNTAIN, VILLAGE, DANCE by Vincent J. Scully.
- WOODY PLANTS OF THE SOUTHWEST by Samuel H. Lamb. Sunstone Press.
- CHRONICLES OF THE BIG BEND by W.D. Smithers. Madrona Press.
- ART AND INDIAN INDIVIDUALISTS by Guy and Doris Monthan. Northland Press.

1977

- GERONIMO, THE MAN, HIS TIME, HIS PLACE by Angie Debo. University of Oklahoma Press.
- SOUTHWESTERN ARTS AND CRAFTS PROJECTS by Nancy Krenz and Patricia Byrnes. Sunstone Press.
- PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SOUTHWEST by Ansel Adams, Foreword by Lawrence Clark Powell. New York Graphic Society.
- NEW MEXICO, A HISTORY by Marc Simmons. W.W. Norton & Company and the American Association for State and Local History.
- FACES OF THE BORDERLANDS by Jose Cisneros. Texas Western Press.
- TALES OF THE BIG BEND by Elton Miles. Texas A & M University Press.
- THE HANDBOOK OF TEXAS, A SUPPLEMENT (VOL. III), edited by Eldon Stephen Branda. The Texas State Historical Association.
- Zia Books, "A Deluxe Paperback Series of Western Classics," University of New Mexico Press.

1978

- YAQUI WOMEN: CONTEMPORARY LIFE HISTORIES by Jane Holden Kelley. University of Nebraska Press.
- RIDERS TO CIBOLA by Norman Zollinger. Museum of New Mexico Press.
- MIMBRES PAINTED POTTERY by J.J. Brody. School of American Research and University of New Mexico Press.
- BORDER BOOM TOWN: CIUDAD JUAREZ SINCE 1848 by Oscar J. Martinez. The University of Texas Press.
- CANYON SUMMER by Jack and Mike Couffer. G.P. Putnam's Sons.
- DOWN WENT MCGINTY—EL PASO IN THE WONDERFUL NINETIES by Conrey Bryson. Texas Western Press.
- CANYON DE CHELLY: ITS PEOPLE AND ROCK ART by Campbell Grant. University of Arizona Press.
- MERIDIAN OF MESILLA by Gregory Beene. Puerto del Sol Press.
- THE HORSE SOLDIER, 1776-1943: VOL. II, THE FRONTIER, THE MEXICAN WAR, THE CIVIL WAR, THE INDIAN WARS, 1851-1880 by Randy Steffen. University of Oklahoma Press.

1979

- MARIA by Richard L. Spivey. Northland Press.
FROM HOPALONG TO HUD by C.L. Sonnichsen. Texas A & M Press.
THE JUGGLER by Karl Kopp. Place of Herons Press.
LOS PAISANOS: SPANISH SETTLERS ON THE NORTHERN FRONTIER OF NEW SPAIN by Oakah L. Jones, Jr. University of Oklahoma Press.
MORRIS B. PARKER'S MULES, MINES AND ME IN MEXICO, 1895-1932 edited by James J. Day. University of Arizona Press.
THE APACHES by Donald E. Worcester. University of Oklahoma Press.
THE CONFEDERATE ARMY OF NEW MEXICO by Martin Hardwick Hall Presidential Press.
TARAHUMARA by Bernard L. Fontana, photographs by John P. Schaefer. Northland Press.
TARANTULAS by Joan Berg Victor. Dodd, Mead.

1980

- INDEH, AN APACHE ODYSSEY by Eve Ball. Brigham Young University Press.
TO BE ALIVE by Elroy Bode. Texas Western Press.
MEXICAN EMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES, 1897-1931 by Lawrence A. Cardoso. University of Arizona Press.
THE COLLECTED STORIES OF AMADO MURO by Amado Muro. Thorp Springs Press.
AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A YAQUI POET by Refugio Savala University of Arizona Press.
TEXAS PUBLISHERS AND PUBLICATIONS DIRECTORY by D.W. Skrabanek and Anne R. Souby. S&S Press.

THE FIRST FORT BLISS SCHOOL

by ROSEMARY P. TAYLOR

Before World War II, the children of officers and enlisted personnel stationed at Fort Bliss attended schools in El Paso. They were taken in the 1890s and early 1900s by mule-drawn Daugherty wagons, later they rode streetcars or walked, and still later buses were provided by the Army.

By 1948 the city schools were becoming overcrowded with Army children, and it was decided to start a school for lower grade pupils on the Post. This first public school on the base was established during the time when Fort Bliss was celebrating its Centennial and the Fort Bliss Replica was being built. A small vacant building was provided by Fort Bliss. Mrs. Nettie Bee Page, who had been teaching at Crockett School, became the first teacher, with first grade, and soon afterward I was hired as the second grade teacher. We and subsequent teachers were appointed and paid by the El Paso Public Schools, and the Army provided our classrooms.

By 1951 the school had increased by five grades and Mrs. Page became the principal. Classes were held in buildings scattered all over the Post. A visit to every class required a journey of eight miles. Enrollment was approximately 600 that year. Army busses brought the children to and from home and also took them to another building for lunch. This building had been a kitchen and dining area for World War II prisoners. Mrs. Page used to say that we could have been properly termed a "School on Wheels."

The first school might also have been called a "fractured institute of learning" since the classrooms were scattered in different parts of the Post. Mine was in an unprepossessing building set low in an area called "White Acres." In a flat desert landscape, not unlike the moonscapes we have seen photos of since, White Acres was quite away from the Main Post on the east side of the reservation. The headquarters for the school was on Austin Road, about a mile from the lower grade classrooms. In a way it was an expression of confidence in us, but many a time I wished to be closer to the principal's office.

During warm weather, the unrelenting sun baked our brains in those old wooden buildings in White Acres. When playground time came, only a substitute mother love could enable one to endure playground duty. We boasted of one swing and one slide, shared by more than 100 children.

The author is the wife of Colonel (USA-Ret.) James K. Taylor, who was on duty at Fort Bliss when the school she describes was established. Well known locally as an artist, she provided the illustrations for her memoir of Bliss School.

Each class had 45 pupils. We started the day with "The Star-Spangled Banner," "The Eyes of Texas," which I loved to sing although not a Texan by birth, and a prayer allowed in school in those days. Then we had reading and phonics and language arts. Recess at 10 o'clock was always longer than scheduled because all children shared the same restroom and the lines were long.

Busses came at about 11:40 to rush us to lunch in another building across the Post. For the first year we had a cafeteria in our building in White Acres and the children from other buildings came there to eat, but as the student population grew our lunchroom became too small. Mary Copenhaver, the other teacher, and I often struggled to keep alert in the afternoon during that first year because the nearby cookstove created a furnace-like atmosphere.

It was not always wise to arrive first in the morning at White Acres because often one could not get in. On dusty days when the classroom had not yet been unlocked, children and teachers would cluster close to the two-stepped doorway, for then White Acres became a dust bowl. It was on such a day at lunchtime that I heard what sounded like a tornado. I had never left the class alone on a bus, and I was extremely glad I had not done so then. We were all seated, ready to go to the new cafeteria, and the bus was parked between the two buildings when there came a tremendous sound and a giant dust swirl. Through the dust we could see the tail of an airplane which had crashed only a few feet from our classroom. Our lady busdriver sped away, in order to avoid a pos-



*Fort Bliss School at 1823 Austin Road in 1951.
Courtesy El Paso Public Schools and M.G. McKinney*



"It felt like a small tornado."

sible explosion. We went safely on our way, scared, trembling and ecumenical; my only word to the frightened little ones was to pray, and I did not care how. People quickly gathered to see what had happened, but by then we were safely eating at the lunchroom on Austin Road. I was most thankful they had moved the old cafeteria from our building.

The teachers were marvelous and achieved much with very little. We made our own visual aids when we needed them, shared our arty, music and rhythm lessons, and even put on two Christmas programs in the Post Theater with 400 "angels" dressed as angels!

We were fond of our old non-airconditioned barrack buildings; with curtains they did not look so bad. Besides being pioneer teachers, we must have been quite healthy, for we only missed two days in two years. That winter of 1948-49 was the first time I ever heard of "snow days." Where I came from in the East, pupils and teachers alike usually went to school, rain or shine, blizzard or tornado. I had only one "weather day" off in 18 years of schooling back East.

Mrs. Page, the principal, was a master teacher in her own right, marvelous with young children and firm but affectionate. I remember how precise her directions were. Mrs. Winifred Houser became her assistant in later years.

I do not know whether a historical marker was put on the site of the first school, a brick building on Austin Road. The old wooden buildings in White Acres have long since been torn down, but the memory of the fine experience there has stayed with me. I hope that the children who were taught in those days retained some of that good feeling as well.

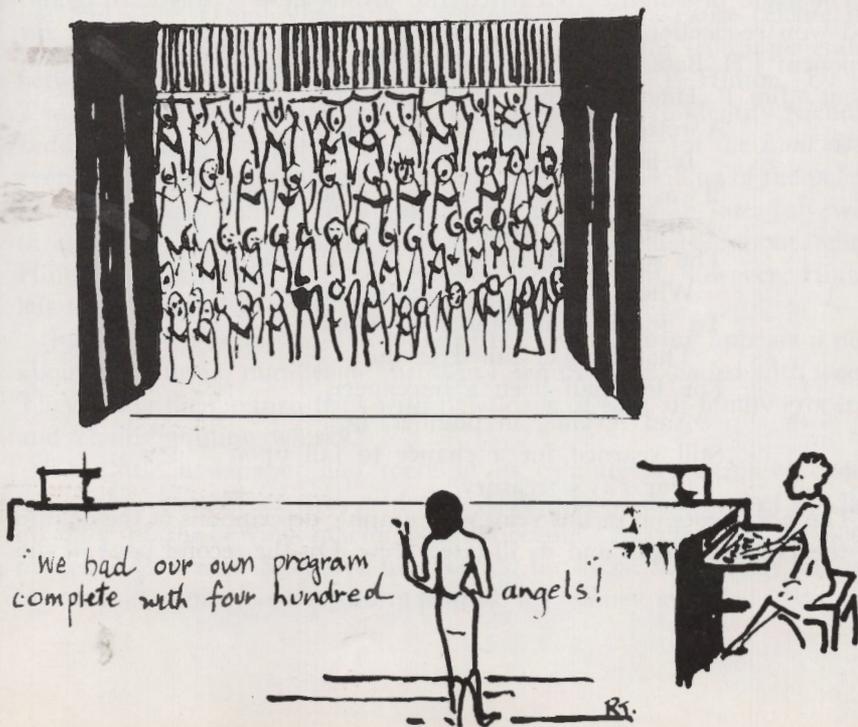
School was still school, but in the long run we verified the adage that all it takes is" . . . a teacher who cares and a child's mind set for the adventure of learning." Life adjustment was every day; we were fairly

free from artificial learning situations, and the teacher as well as the pupil had the opportunity to learn. I found that children as well as adults are basically the same everywhere. Accents may differ, customs may seem odd, but people usually want to help.

In a way, I want this to be a tribute to Mrs. Page. We often hear of a "Teacher of the Year," but Nettie Bee Page was a guiding light for many years. She was a perfect person for a unique school, where the children who attended had been all over the world and had gone to all types of schools. I salute her for all her years at Fort Bliss, especially the early ones when she helped build that school. Our school had morale, and she was the person who tied us together. At that time A.H. Hughey was superintendent of schools and Major General John L. Homer was commanding general of Fort Bliss.

In 1958 a new school building opened at 4401 Sheridan Road. It was built by the El Paso Public Schools on land leased from the Army. The school was named for Colonel William Wallace Smith Bliss, veteran of the War with Mexico for whom the Post was named. Mrs. Page continued to serve as the principal until her retirement. She died April 22, 1979.

I do not know what became of most of the children who attended the old school, but I still hear from some of the teachers. I remember the original Bliss School with great affection. I can still see in my mind's eye the dust swirls on the road to White Acres, where almost every day seemed sunny and bright.



THE RESCUE

by NANCY HAMILTON

If James P. Hague¹ had not been such a strong Republican, El Paso might not have needed rescuing. And there might never have been a newspaper called *The Rescue*, published just a little more than a week during August of 1883.

But Mr. Hague *was* a staunch Republican—he had been appointed district attorney in 1870 by his party's state administration—and he had continued to exert considerable political power in El Paso for more than a dozen years. Of course, he had his opponents, such as S.H. Newman,² the editor of the *Lone Star*. That newspaper's main purpose was to bring strength to the Democratic party. Thus it was with some dismay that Mr. Newman regarded the city election of August, 1883, because the Democrats did not produce their own slate of candidates. Instead they participated in the Citizens' Reform Ticket, which Mr. Newman considered a patchwork concoction of the two opposing parties. The reform ticket was presenting Mayor Joseph Magoffin for re-election and a slate they hoped would substantially weaken Mr. Hague's political status.

As part of their campaign strategy, twelve supporters of the reform ticket dubbed themselves editors and published a small newsletter, which they called *The Rescue*. The editors include some prominent names: W.J. Fewel, S.H. Buchanan, Fred Lurkins, James Marr, Joseph Sweeney, J.H. Comstock, I.F. Harrison, J.L. Bonner, T.J. Beall, J.A. Shannon, Charley Wing, and G.A. Hancock.

The issue of August 15 carried the joyous news: Mayor Magoffin had won re-election with a total of 431 votes against only 190 for his opponent J.H. Bate. At the top of the front page was a five-stanza poem about "Jim P. Hague's Scow" which opened:

A rotten scow was on the sea:
It held a dirty crew;
'Twas manned by Bate and other frauds
And a "shanghai" or two.
The scow was owned by Jim P. Hague,
Who'd shipped the pirate crew
To do for him some dirty work
That he had failed to do.
For Jim had been a buccaneer,
And reveling in plunder, he
Still yearned for a chance to fall upon
Our city's treasury.

The poem goes on in this vein, with graphic descriptions of the demise of the Hague "scow" and its ill-fated crew. On the second page of the

newspaper, an editorial announces that *The Rescue* has accomplished its mission. Crediting it with a significant role in the election victory, the editors explain that they will continue the publication as an evening newspaper, with J.M. Scanland,³ described as "a practical newspaper man," as editor.

The issue numbered Vol. I No. 1 appeared the following day, August 16. The most important story on page one was headlined "The Doughty Case," an account of the preliminary hearing in the shooting death of a policeman. The incident had kept El Pasoans' tongues wagging since July 11. On that evening a visitor from Connecticut, Howard H. Doughty, joined by a group of acquaintances, had been looking for a good time. After some imbibing, the men arrived at a notorious red light district house known as "No. 19," where the police were summoned because of Doughty's errant behavior which included waving a pistol around. Patrolman Tom Mode answered the call, shots were fired, and the officer was found fatally wounded after Doughty fled the scene. These details, however, were not recounted in the cryptic report on the hearing before District Judge Tom A. Falvey⁴ in Ysleta.⁵ Testimony was given by "Mr. N. Biddel," as *The Rescue* identified him, a member of Doughty's party who said he had not witnessed the shooting. The judge set bail at \$2,500 and scheduled the case for the October court session. The names of Doughty's attorneys offered a clue as to the importance of the case; they were Allen Blacker, who had served as district judge from 1875-1880, and Congressman S.W.T. Lanham. Blacker also helped provide the bail. The Doughty case that summer became a cause célèbre not only because of what had happened, but because of the feud it generated between Newman and the *Times* editor, Richard J. Hinton. Unlike *The Rescue* editor, Hinton had taken every occasion to identify Nicholas Biddle, drinking companion of Doughty, as a reporter for the *Lone Star*, even going to some lengths to try to link him with the killing of the policeman. Newman pulled out all the stops, responding in late July with threats that he would expose some "interesting facts" about editor Hinton. What those "facts" were never came to light, however; Hinton left town before Newman published his exposé.⁶

Just below *The Rescue's* account of the court hearing appears a note about the unusual number of burros in town that day loaded with wood. They made their return trips with new loads, it says, of family groceries and chain-lightning whisky.

The little newspaper had room in its columns for items of choice gossip. For example, it was said that Alice Singer, daughter of the late inventor of the sewing machine, had become "smashed" on an actor named F.C. Bangs. She gave him \$7,000 for house furnishings, expecting to marry him — but the man took her money and fled. "Women

who become infatuated with actors," observed the editor, "are not entitled to sympathy when they get their fairy wings singed."

Lightbody and James, who kept El Paso men well dressed, advertised that their alligator shoes would wear as long as three years.

An editorial on August 17 raised the question of what to do about Mormon polygamy. Other newspapers around that period were also commenting on the practice. Scanland opined that "The only way to settle the Mormon question is to do away with suffrage in Utah and govern the territory by a commission." He felt polygamists did not deserve the rights of other citizens.

Elsewhere in that same issue is another tidbit of gossip from overseas: "In spite of the combined efforts of her family and medical advisers, Queen Victoria obstinately declines to go abroad for her health and insists on spending the autumn at Balmoral. She is determined to be near John Brown's grave, and will make daily visits to it, contriving new testimonials of the esteem in which she holds the memory of that departed gillie. Her family are exasperated at her expenditure of feeling on this subject, which begins to border closely on the ridiculous."⁷

Also reported on that date was news that the commander of troops at Fort Bliss, located north of Hart's Mill on the Rio Grande, had received instructions from the government to begin the removal of bodies of Union soldiers who were buried in the military graveyard. The bodies were being removed to Fort Snelling. Mayor Magoffin and Judge Blacker, said the item, were assisting the officers by designating the graves of the bodies to be removed.

A few days later an advertisement appeared describing the new City Cemetery north of Concordia,⁸ some two-and-a-half miles east of El Paso. It had been selected as the burial place of the Free Masons, the Roman Catholics, and the City. Emerson and Berrien were offering lots 20 feet square in a 20-acre site, described as "entirely above high water and free from quicksand." The price was not given.

One of the big stories of August 18 was a report on the volunteer fire company. It had a new hose cart, capable of carrying 1,000 feet of hose. The department also had two ladders, one 27 feet long and the other 25, which could be extended. The men had 60 waterproof coats and a new alarm bell with two clappers, capable of alarming not only the entire city, but "our neighbors across the river."

The Mexican Central railroad was making progress in laying track. It had reached a point 440 miles south of El Paso and was expected to keep inching southward to Mexico City rapidly, since money was available for the work.

Other current events included a fracas between two waiters at the Central Hotel and a report that the Chiricahua Indians were still com-

mitting depredations in the Sierra Madre of Mexico.

On August 20, it was reported that the adobe wall that had surrounded the main plaza in Paso del Norte,⁹ had been demolished. The ground of the plaza had been plowed and plans called for planting of trees and laying out of walks in the area, making it "ornamental as well as useful."

The trial of Frank James, notorious murderer and robber, had begun at Kansas City on charges of two bank robberies and related murders, and Hayti (sic) was undergoing a revolution according to the issue of August 21. There was another editorial about the Mormons, commenting



Juarez Plaza, referred to in The Rescue, as it was decorated for the September 16, 1888, celebration.

Courtesy M.G. McKinney

on the failure of legislation to address the polygamy question. A large advertisement of the G.H.&S.A.¹⁰ railway system stated that passengers could travel to San Francisco without change on the longest continuous sleeping-car service in the world.

Mayor Magoffin's inaugural message was reproduced on the front page of Issue Number 6 on August 22. Although El Paso's city government had been organized for the first time in 1873, when Ben Dowell was elected mayor, it had become dormant after the election of M.A. Jones in 1875 and remained so until 1880. But it was not until the election of Magoffin in 1881 that the city began moving ahead—due in no small part to the coming of the railroads and the sudden development of new enterprises to meet the needs of an influx of newcomers. Thus Mayor Magoffin, by 1883, had enough experience in the office to know what he

was doing and the foresight to address the problems facing the fast-growing community.

He had six major points of concern in his message, all planks in his election platform. First, he wanted to establish a pest house, a matter of urgency because the smallpox season would be coming in November. Next, he wanted to issue bonds in an amount not to exceed \$5,000 to build a hospital, subject to approval by the voters.¹¹ His third item centered on the importance of the fire department and its need for more equipment. Fourth, he recommended a system of drainage and street improvements, which could be started under bonds voted the previous year. His fifth point was to establish "a system of public schools that shall be second to none in the country." The mayor served as an ex-officio member of the school board of trustees.¹² And finally, he recommended passage of an ordinance providing for weekly rather than bi-monthly meetings of the city council.

On page three of the issue of August 22, a full column is devoted to a story headed "The Green-Eyed Monster." This was a tale involving a man who had an unusual role in the history of the Southwest, Henry O. Flipper. He had been commissioned in the Army in 1877 as the first Negro graduate of U.S. Military Academy at West Point. The son of slave parents, he spent 40 years on the frontier. He was stationed at Fort Davis in 1881 when Colonel W.R. Shafter accused him of embezzling government funds. Flipper was acquitted of the charge, but was dismissed from the Army for conduct unbecoming an officer in June of 1882.¹³ He then moved to El Paso and, according to the story in *The Rescue*, had been living with another former Army man, H.W. Woodruff, and his wife, Vina. Early on the morning of August 22, the two men engaged in a loud argument on Utah street near San Antonio street, with Woodruff accusing Flipper of being more than friendly with his wife. Vina joined the battle and struck her husband in the face with a rock, for which she was later fined \$5 and costs. She then swore out warrants against her husband, who in turn swore out a warrant against Flipper. The next morning the two men appeared before Mayor Magoffin—in those days the mayor had a court to handle minor matters such as this—and they were fined \$5 each and costs "and admonished to behave themselves." An interesting postscript to the incident is the fact that *The Rescue* published in full a letter from Flipper. Texas newspapers in those times generally disregarded such responses from their Negro readers. Flipper explained that he felt it was "about time that decent people, at least, should put an end to the 'thousand and one' tales about my having been 'cashiered' for embezzling public funds. I was fully and honorably acquitted of the charge of embezzlement. I was dismissed—not 'cashiered'—on trumped up charges, under the 61st

Article of War, which is: 'Any officer who shall be convicted of conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman shall be dismissed from the service.'

"Every person who wishes to know the exact truth of the matter is referred to General Orders No. 19, Adjutant General's Office, Washington D.C., June 15, 1882, a copy of which is on file at the Adjutant's Office at Fort Bliss, Texas, and is, no doubt accessible to any gentleman who wishes to see it. Moreover an examination of the order will show that there never has been a 'woman in the case,' and all the hullabaloo about a woman in the case was simply for effect. *Semper fiat justitia.*"

Later in 1883, Flipper left El Paso to work in Mexico in surveying public lands. Engineer A.Q. Wingo took him as his assistant, in fact insisting that Flipper be retained in the position after discriminatory pressure was applied. Flipper became the first American Negro to gain prominence in the engineering profession and spent 37 years in civil and mining engineering in the Southwest and Mexico. In 1919 he went to Washington as translator for Senator A.B. Fall's subcommittee and in 1921 became assistant to Fall when he was named Secretary of the Interior, serving until 1923. Flipper later worked for oil companies in Latin America until 1931 and died in 1940 at Atlanta where his brother was a Bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church.¹⁴ Flipper spent a number of years in El Paso, and only in recent years has it been made clear that his dismissal from the Army was influenced by prejudice.

The news coverage of the Flipper incident was much different in *The Rescue* from that in the *Lone Star*.¹⁵ The latter paper not only wrote about the parties in the fracas in a derogatory manner, but added that Woodruff, who worked at the Acme Saloon, was a fugitive from justice from another state where he had killed a man. And Flipper's letter, which he must surely also have sent to the *Lone Star*, did not appear in its pages.

The eight issues of *The Rescue* illustrate that El Paso was a busy and interesting town during a single week of August in 1883. The little paper itself did not indicate that the issue numbered Volume I Number 7 was to be its last; however, the opposition, the *Lone Star*, carried a smug obituary on Saturday, August 25, which read as follows:

The career of *The Rescue*, the evening sheet started during the campaign, was short. It was originally intended simply to be run until after the election by the executive committee of the citizens' reform party, but was continued by J.M. Scanland for a week, until Thursday evening, when it died a natural death for lack of proper support.

Jack Vowell, in his study of El Paso's political history during that pe-

riod, indicates that there was an economic recession at the time, although El Paso was not as hard hit as the rest of the country—a phenomenon that is still true of the city's economy.¹⁶ Although a page or more of each issue of *The Rescue* was devoted to advertising, the income apparently was not meeting the costs and perhaps Editor Scanland, as an experienced newspaperman, could see that the enterprise simply would not work. On the other hand, *Lone Star* Editor Newman may have been using a double-barrelled shotgun against both Hinton of the *Times* and Scanland, since both men left their posts at about the same time.

In later years Scanland moved to Louisiana where he edited a newspaper in a town near Shreveport. Back issues of various publications he had edited were stored in a house he had owned, and in recent years Mrs. Barbara Hays, who rented the house, was invited by the owner to take any copies she wanted. Mrs. Hays presented copies of Louisiana papers to a university in that state, and fortunately for El Paso history buffs, sent a set of *The Rescue* to her brother, W.E. Lunsford, who had moved here not long before. Mr. and Mrs. Lunsford presented the newspapers to the University of Texas at El Paso Department of Mass Communication which prepared a special display of them for student perusal. Thus, after nearly 100 years, El Pasoans again may read the writings of J.M. Scanland in a little-known journal that recorded an interesting episode of El Paso history.

REFERENCES

1. James P. Hague came to El Paso in 1871 at the age of 23, appointed by Governor E.J. Davis as attorney of the district court of El Paso and Presidio counties. Defeated for re-election in 1874, he practiced law and for several years was in partnership with his brother-in-law, William M. Coldwell. He was very active in Republican politics at both the local and state levels. Morgan Broaddus, *The Legal Heritage of El Paso*, Texas Western Press, El Paso, 1963, pp. 113-115.
2. S.H. Newman (1846-1886), a staunch Democrat, was editor of the *Lone Star*. During the 1870s he became notorious as an opponent of the Santa Fe Ring while editor of the *Las Vegas Weekly Mail*. Simeon H. Newman III, "The Santa Fe Ring, a letter to the *New York Sun*," *Arizona and the West* Vol. XII No. 3.
3. John Milton Scanland is best remembered in the El Paso area for his short biography of Pat Garrett, originally published in El Paso in 1908 soon after the former sheriff was slain, and republished in facsimile by Filter Press, Palmer Lake, Colorado, in 1971. He ended his newspaper career in Louisiana, where he edited a weekly at Bossier, near Shreveport.
4. Tom A. Falvey was district judge in El Paso County from 1880 to 1892. Broaddus, p. 131.
5. El Paso became county seat as a result of the controversial election of December 3, 1883, when that function was removed from Ysleta.
6. John J. Middagh, *Frontier Newspaper: The El Paso Times*, Texas Western Press, El Paso, 1958, pp. 17 ff.
7. Queen Victoria was rumored to have an undue personal interest in her servant, John Brown.
8. The post, which had been located at Concordia from 1868 to 1877, was relocated in 1879 near Hart's Mill just west of El Paso. Concordia was originally a ranch settlement established by Hugh Stephenson in 1840. He probably named

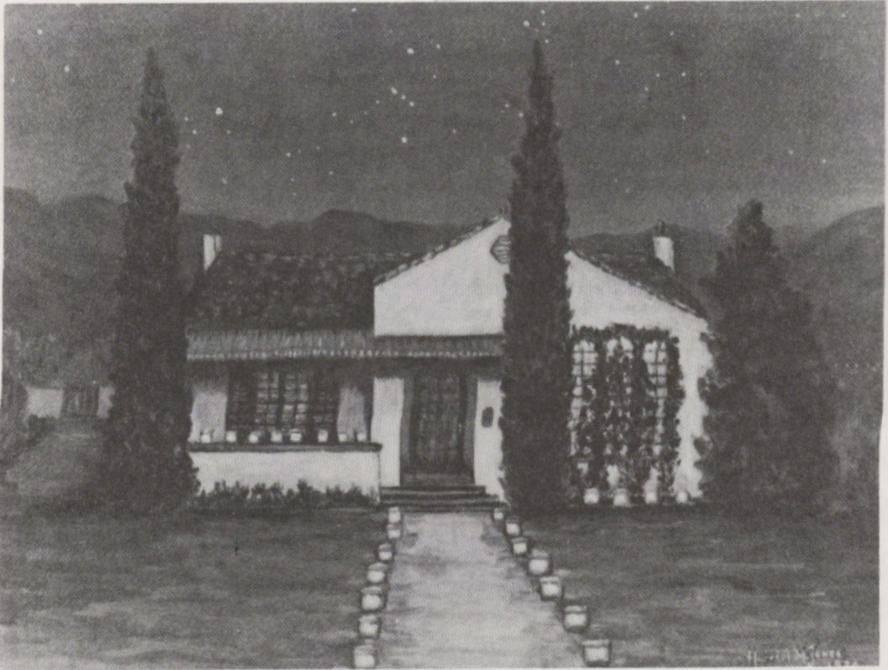
it for the Missouri town where he grew up. The cemetery there still bears the name Concordia. Rex Strickland, *Six Who Came to El Paso*, Texas Western Press, El Paso, 1963, pp. 34, 35. M.H. Tomlinson, *The Garrison of Fort Bliss*, Hertzog and Resler, El Paso, 1945.

9. Paso del Norte was renamed Ciudad Juárez in 1888.
10. The Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railway Company was organized in 1870 with the objective of connecting with the proposed Southern Pacific to afford a rail line between Texas-Louisiana and the Pacific Coast. The connection was completed on January 13, 1883, and the first through passenger train from San Francisco reached San Antonio February 7, a day after the first through train from New Orleans made its trip west. Hugh B. Wilson, "A Brief History of the El Paso Division, Southern Pacific Lines," unpublished ms., 1923.
11. The public hospital became the present Thomason General Hospital.
12. The school district was a Municipal District from its inception until shortly before its 1960 bond issue election, when it became totally independent in order to facilitate the legal aspects of voting bonds for construction. An election on April 4, 1882, forced the assumption of the city of a free public school. Trustees were elected December 5, 1882, with Mayor Magoffin and the county judge serving as ex officio members of the board. The first tax-supported school opened March 5, 1883. Elaine Lewis Morrel, *The Rise and Growth of Public Education in El Paso*, El Paso, 1936, pp. 38, 39.
13. Theodore D. Harris, editor, *Negro Frontiersman, The Western Memoirs of Henry O. Flipper, First Negro Graduate of West Point*, Texas Western Press, El Paso, 1963.
14. *ibid.*
15. *Lone Star*, August 22, 1883.
16. Jack Vowell, "Politics in El Paso, 1850-1920," unpublished Master's thesis, Texas Western College (University of Texas at El Paso), 1950.

HERITAGE HOMES OF EL PASO

by HARRIOT HOWZE JONES

THE JONESES' CASITA BLANCA



*Christmas Eve at 3000 Gold Avenue—Painting by the Author
Photo by John Ireland*

About 30 Heritage Homes have been surveyed in this series: Magnificent Mansions, Elegant Edifices and Humble Homes. The house at 3000 Gold Avenue falls into the latter category, but is beloved by my husband and me, its longtime owners.

The house was built in 1922 by Otis Coles for Mr. and Mrs. James A. Borders. Mr. Borders was president of the American Trust and Savings Bank. This area was a new addition then, known as Castle Heights. This house was the first built on the east side of Piedras Street. The street names in this section (Gold, Silver, Copper, Bronze) reflect that at one time a small smelter occupied the land.

The Casita is surrounded now by mansions: the Paul Harveys' beautiful hacienda, built in 1928; the handsome home built by Frank Coles in 1931, now owned by Mr. and Mrs. C.J. Hatchett; the "Ed" Hines house, now owned by Lt. and Mrs. John Lanahan; and the palatial home of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Dipp (*Password XXV No. 1*).

Our house is typically Mexican-American style: white stucco, red roof, blue doors and window frames. A blue and white metal awning protects the little front porch. Blue, the color dedicated to the Virgin in the Mexican-Spanish culture, is often used on entrances to a house, said to protect from evil. The house is larger than it looks from the outside, with four bedrooms and two baths, plus a maid's room and bath in the basement. So few houses built today have either a basement or a front porch, and how nice these are!

Mr. Borders died about 1932. Mrs. Borders lived in the house until 1951, when it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. Samuel J. Anagnostu, owners of the Eagle Cafe.

We bought the house in 1954 and our method of purchasing it was rather unusual. Col. Jones retired from the Army, with more than 41 years' service, in 1953. We had both been brought up as "Army Brats," so had moved frequently and had no particular ties to any place, and we could not decide on where to make our retirement home. All our lives we had been *ordered* where to go. We felt like two birds in a cage, and when the cage was opened and we were told to go wherever we pleased, we did not know where to go! We traveled all over the United States, visiting friends and looking at houses they showed us. Still undecided, we went to Europe where we had a wonderful time, but after a few months we realized that we had jolly well better make up our minds as to where we'd settle down, and for a very good reason. The Army will ship the household goods of a retiree ONE more time within a year from retirement. The year was almost up. We sat down with pads and pencils and "rated" all the places we liked and why. Climate, cost of living and nearness to Army facilities ranked high. Our choice was El Paso, and we have never regretted it.

My husband wrote to the quartermaster at West Point where our household goods were stored and asked him to ship them to the quartermaster at Fort Bliss, who was asked to store if possible, or to place the goods in civilian storage.

I wrote my mother in Washington that we had decided on El Paso, and that we wanted her to come with us. She still had many friends in El Paso, as my father, Gen. R.L. Howze, had been in command at Fort Bliss for six years before his death. Then I wrote to an old friend in El Paso, Col. Jess G. Boykin. I told him that we were coming and asked him to let us know if he knew of a house on one floor, with basement and porch, four bedrooms, two baths, a fireplace, nice neighborhood, a view of the mountains and not too much money. Quite an order. Then we settled down for a couple of months more in Europe.

When we returned, we helped Mother to sell her house and she went to stay with her sister-in-law while we started west by car. I had not

had a reply from Col. Boykin, but while we were with our daughter and her family in Ohio, my mother phoned that a letter had come from him, and she read it to me. He described this house, which seemed to have everything I had asked for, including a reasonable price. I said the house sounded fine and we would certainly look at it. Then, when Mother learned we would not get to El Paso for about 10 days, she insisted that I should phone Jess Boykin lest the house be sold before we got to El Paso, and "at least *talk* to him about it."

Even when one is past 50, one's instinct is to obey Mother, so I phoned him. Both he and his wife said they thought it was just the house for us, and on an impulse I said, "Would you buy it for us?" They both gasped and Jess asked if I would pay the latest price. I said nonchalantly, "Offer them (a certain price) which they won't take, then go up \$500 every time they say no, and see what you can do." I was shaking when I hung up the phone. My husband was sitting across the room, puffing on his pipe. He never said a word. After living with me so long, he knows that I do unpredictable things.

In about two hours Jess phoned. "Well, you have bought a house!" I asked what I was paying, and he had gotten \$2,000 off the price. I asked if he had to give them any money and he said of course he had—\$500. What a friend! I told him we'd put a check in the mail at once and thanked him deeply. He said he was scared to death that we would not like it and I said no matter, if we didn't we'd sell it, but I was sure we would. I called my mother, who was so happy that she had a home waiting for her.

When we got to El Paso, we fell in love with the house. The Boykins had a huge party for the three of us, and many of the people we met then said, "Oh, you're the crazy people who bought the house over the phone!"

We love our Casita and it is truly a Heritage Home. To our nine grandchildren, it is the "Old Homestead," the only place they can remember visiting Grandpa and Grandma. It is full of happy memories of our family which now includes eight great-grandchildren. It is a home-like and attractive little house, particularly when decorated with luminarias on Christmas Eve.

ACTIVITIES OF YOUR HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Miss Gertrude Goodman heads the slate of 1981 officers who were elected at the October 26 quarterly meeting in the El Paso Museum of History.

Others elected at that time were F. Keith Peyton, Dr. James M. Day and Colbert Coldwell, vice presidents; Mrs. Mary Ann Dodson, recording secretary; Mrs. Janet Brockmoller, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Robert Heiser, membership secretary; Robert Dymcza, treasurer; William I. Latham, curator; and Mrs. Sarah Jane Dodds, historian. Named directors were Frank Mangan, Mrs. Martha Bethune, Mrs. Rosita Horowitz, Mrs. LeRoy Mathis, Patrick Rand, Richard Estrada and Mrs. Sandra Hoover.

The subsequent untimely death of Keith Peyton left a vacancy on the current board as well as that for 1981. The constitution provides that in the event of such vacancy, the president may appoint someone to fill the position.

The program for the October meeting was a presentation by Dr. John O. West professor of English at the University of Texas at El Paso and a nationally known authority on folklore. He described some religious shrines in the Southwest, illustrating the talk with slides he has taken.

TOUR OF HOMES

The 1980 Tour of Homes was a delightful success, reports Chairman Janet Brockmoller. Five residents of Pennsylvania Place graciously opened their homes for the event on October 5. They are Col. and Mrs. Al Warfield, Mr. and Mrs. George Harvie, Mrs. M. Bassett Daugherty, Col. and Mrs. Homer Pitzer, and Dr. Creighton and Dr. Elizabeth Rhea.

Assisting the chairman were Jack Resen, publicity; Mrs. Ken Edwards, hospitality; M. G. McKinney, photographs; Robert Dymcza, finance; and Mrs. H. Crampton Jones, historian who provided descriptions of the homes on the tour. Serving as head docents were Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Rand, Mr. and Mrs. Tom McKnight, Albert Haag, Col. and Mrs. John Evans, and Capt. (U.S.N. Ret.) and Mrs. William Burgett. Dozens of other members of the Historical Society were involved in the event, which is the major fund-raising project of the year.

The chairman reported that almost \$2,000 was realized from the tour, a record high. She pointed out that among the society's functions that are helped by this event are support for the El Paso Museum of History, publication of *Password* and *El Conquistador*, sponsoring of the Historical Memories and Gorman Memorial essay contests to gather and

record historical events, co-sponsoring workshops on preservation, provision of docent programs and training for the museum, providing of historical plaques, and special activities such as seminars, special museum exhibits, historical research, and recognition of distinguished El Pasoans in the Hall of Honor.

STATE CONVENTION

The El Paso County Historical Society will be involved in hosting the Texas State Historical Association and the New Mexico Historical Society at their first joint meeting and first meeting in El Paso March 5-7, 1981. Dr. W.H. Timmons, member of the society's board, is involved in local arrangements for the conference. The local society and the Museum of History plan to host an opening social event for the meeting.

The TSHA is the oldest learned society in Texas, having been founded in 1897. Also convening in El Paso with the TSHA will be the Texas Folklore Society, Texas Catholic Historical Society, Texas Historical Commission, Texas Archeological Society and the Society of Southwest Archivists.

FOUR CENTURIES

The board has arranged for the society to sponsor the official Four Centuries '81 medallion for the anniversary celebration to be observed in El Paso and Juarez next year. One side will carry the emblem of the Historical Society and the other side will have the Four Centuries logo. Efforts are being made to have the medallions struck and available by the end of 1980.

Leonard Sipiora, director of museums for the City of El Paso, has advised the Society of a special exhibition for the Museum of History in celebration of Four Centuries. It is a collection of 25 paintings by Marjorie Reid, "The Rise and Spread of the Butterfield Express Line Across the Face of Texas and New Mexico—1857 to 1866."

NEWS OF MEMBERS

Membership in the Society was granted to those who generously opened their homes for the Tour of Homes. Other new members include Dr. Kenneth B. Shover, chairman of the Department of History, University of Texas at El Paso, and Mr. and Mrs. Richard E. Martin.

Leon Metz' new book about El Paso is available from the Chamber of Commerce and local book stores and will be reviewed in a forthcoming issue of *Password*.

BOOK NOTES

by MARY ELLEN PORTER

Tour Guide to old Western Forts. Herbert M. Hart. Boulder: Pruett Publishing Company. \$22.50.

The author has spent nearly 20 years researching military history in the Old West and his extensive knowledge of the subject makes this the most complete guide to military forts that can be bought. Includes maps, photographs and a brief history of old fort sites in 17 western states.

A Man as Big as the West. Nellie Snyder Yost. Boulder: Pruett Publishing Company. \$11.50.

The story of Ralph "Doc" Hubbard, a "man of many hats and faces." It is Doc Hubbard's knowledge of and liking and sympathy for native Americans, their history and culture, that set him apart and above so many of his contemporaries. A tribute to a respected and beloved "Sagebrush Socrates."

Kit Carson: A Portrait in Courage. M. Morgan Estergreen. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. Hardcover \$15.95, softcover \$7.95.

Carson's life is followed from his birth in Western North Carolina in 1809 until his death in 1868. The account is based on source materials and interviews with Carson's family, and attempts are made to dispel many of the falsehoods and half-truths found in other books about Carson. In essence, a history of the West as that region developed over the first three-quarters of the 19th century.

The Ranchers: A Book of Generations. Stan Steiner. New York: Knopf. \$12.95.

The story of the Pettit family, who moved from Texas to New Mexico by wagon train in 1932, just as their ancestors had come to Texas a century earlier. Similar journeys made by other families are recounted and represent five and six generations on the land. A splendid bit of Western Americana.

His Own Counsel: The Life and Times of Lyman Trumbull. Ralph J. Roske. Reno: University of Nevada Press. Paperback \$7.50.

"Neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States." This historic resolution became the 13th Amendment to the United States Constitution. Lyman Trumbull was its author. Trumbull, a lawyer by profession, was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1855. He aided in the founding of the Republican Party and was a close associate of Abraham Lincoln. One of the Nevada Studies in History and Political Science.

New Mexico. The Shining Land. John L. Sinclair. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press. \$14.95.

John Sinclair has lived in New Mexico for over 50 years and his extensive knowledge of New Mexico culture and history imbues his narrative with an authenticity that conveys the power, mystery and magic of the land. Beautifully illustrated.

The Legend of Ogden Jenks. Robert Emmitt. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press. \$5.95.

The story of Ogden Jenks is in the tradition of American romance and fable. He was mining a rich copper vein in the Colorado Mountains and took a series of partners for help and companionship. These all had violent endings, however. Finally he marries, which proves no easier to bear. His overriding desire for isolation precluded lasting companionship, yet brings out the great theme — basic and overpowering — the unimaginable solitude of the early west.

Socorro: A Historic Survey. John P. Conron. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press. \$14.95.

The architecture of Socorro, New Mexico, has an unusually rich blend of Spanish, Territorial and Victorian styles. The book is written in the spirit of the Historical Preservation Act of 1966 and over 60 of the city's historic sites are surveyed. Numerous photographs, particularly those of Joseph E. Smith, pioneer southwestern photographer, will be of great interest to both laymen and professionals.

Community of the American Frontier. Separate but Not Alone. Robert V. Hine. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. \$12.95.

Robert V. Hine, one of America's foremost western historians, asserts that America's essential need is a "genuine community of human beings." This need, he says, has not been met. In this book the author looks back through time to community on the American frontier and moves from Puritan towns, carefully laid out around a central square (and deliberately limited in population) through the surge westward to the family life-style of the Mexican *ranchero* and its adaptation by American ranchers. An absorbing book, with rare and graphically eloquent illustrations of the frontier era. Hine skillfully focuses on the contemporary need for a sense of belonging.

Wooden Leg. A Warrior who Fought Custer. Interpreted by Thomas B. Marquis. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. \$3.50 paperback.

Wooden Leg tells of his boyhood and maturing at age 17 with his Cheyenne parents. Indian customs, games and hunting methods are interestingly detailed. The government forced the Indians into reservations where their traditional life styles were seriously altered. Finally, the Cheyennes, Arapahoes, Crows, Uncapas and other Plains Indians broke out and camped together in northern Wyoming. Soldiers came to try to get them back but the Indians hated soldiers and, as there were many thousands of them, killed the soldiers with arrows, gunshot or any convenient method until none was left. The Cheyennes roamed the plains afterward but eventually surrendered. Wooden Leg tells of their movement to the south and later back to the Tongue River in Wyoming, their original hunting ground.

(The foregoing *précis* of *Wooden Leg* was submitted by H.J. Summers, of Pasadena, California, a member of the EPCHS and a cousin of this column's editor.)

BOOK REVIEWS

The Missions of New Mexico Since 1776. John L. Kessell. University of New Mexico Press, 1980. \$45.

The very year that on the far-away eastern coast courageous legislators declared our national independence, a conscientious Franciscan friar, Atanasio Domínguez, set down a detailed description of the missions in New Mexico, including at that time northeastern Arizona and the El Paso Valley. This valuable source was made accessible to a wider reading public through an English translation in 1965 (reissued in 1975) by the scholarly efforts of Eleanor Adams and Angélico Chávez.

The present volume is the logical sequel to *The Missions of New Mexico, 1776*, and answers the important question, "What has happened to the missions recorded by Friar Atanasio Domínguez over two centuries ago?"

As the author explains in his brief but informative Preface (p. xi): "The scope of the work was set by Domínguez. Only those missions that he described, the ones extant in 1776, are treated, and in the same order he contrived. Those abandoned before his time — from Abó to Giusewa to Hawi-kuh and Awátowi — and those built later — from San Miguel at Socorro (which fits in both categories) to the santuario of Chimayó and the church of San Francisco at Ranchos de Taos — fall outside it."

The Historical Introduction (pp. 2-34) explains the kind of materials used in the construction of the missions, outlines the work of the Franciscans, tells the sad story of the neglect into which the missions fell for some years and greater damage accruing from a misguided concept of progress — "fewer of the churches of 1776 were lost to neglect than to the quest for progress that followed" (p. 10) — and details how and why the missions are to be regarded as significant monuments.

The accounts, photographic materials — historical and contemporary — and sketches record the story of three groups of missions: Santa Fe, Rio Arriba and Rio Abajo (to the north and south of the capital respectively). The text draws on important historical sources and presents modern descriptions. The notes at the end of each section enable the interested reader to consult reliable sources. The bibliography, although not reflecting the use of archival materials, includes virtually everything of importance that has been published on the missions of New Mexico.

Of particular interest is the series of sketches in color of the 23 New Mexican missions — including Ysleta, Texas — made by John G. Bourke in 1881. This entire set, preserved at the United States Military Academy Library in West Point, is reproduced in the volume. The photos, taken over a long span of years, regularly show the exteriors and interiors of the church edifices described in the text, occasionally the residents of the villages, often a part of the town where the church stands, and sometimes prominent figures in ecclesiastical and civil life.

Readers familiar with the author's *Mission of Sorrows* (1970) or *Kiva, Cross, and Crown* (1979), will already know with what competence, clarity and enthusiasm he writes about the Southwest. They will certainly not be disappointed in his latest publication.

A good index makes readily available the rich contents of the volume. Paper, type, photographs, and all else come up to the high standard readers have come to expect of the publications of the University of New Mexico

Press. The book will appeal to everyone interested in the rich heritage of our Southwest.

El Paso, Texas

—ERNEST J. BURRUS, S.J.

(Father Burrus, a new member of the Historical Society, is one of the world's leading authorities on the history of New Spain, especially the work of missionaries in the American Southwest.)

The Schwartz Family of El Paso. Floyd Fierman. Texas Western Press. \$3.

The story of the pioneer Schwartz family of El Paso is an epic — a compelling drama of love, devotion, selflessness and religious conviction. Who better to chronicle this saga than Dr. Floyd S. Fierman, rabbi of El Paso's Temple Mt. Sinai, who has been their spiritual adviser and close friend for nearly 40 years.

The progenitor of the Schwartz enclave in El Paso was Adolph who, during the period of the "Jewish Inquisition" in Europe in the 1880s, came to Mexico by a circuitous route which included New York, Cincinnati and San Francisco. It is not known why he chose these spots in his new country except that he was devoutly Jewish and these places harbored those who wished to pray within their accustomed fashion and to observe the strict Jewish dietary laws. It is known that he landed in New York in 1883, 16 years of age, with 15 cents jingling in his pocket, and he immediately looked for work. He did what nearly every penniless Jew of that time did — became a peddler. He learned English rapidly and soon had enough money to move onward.

He eventually landed in Juarez where, with the money he had accumulated, he opened a store in partnership with one Simon Picard. His next acquisition was a wife — the lovely Fanny Amstater, also Hungarian, who was visiting a sister in Juarez.

Before 1900 many merchants preferred Juarez to El Paso for their business endeavors, but this was of short duration. Foreign, as well as domestic, pressures forced the repeal of the Mexican Free Zone Law, with the result that Juárez declined and El Paso grew and prospered. And Adolph Schwartz grew and prospered.

With the advent of the Jewish bloodletting in Central Europe at this time, Adolph worried about his family there and was finally able to move most of them to El Paso, where he placed them in his business. He had always been a merchant and his first store in El Paso was the Fair, which eventually grew, by some merchandising alchemy, into the Popular Dry Goods Company, one of Texas' largest and most popular marts.

One of Adolph's most fortunate moves was to place his nephew, Maurice Schwartz, and two cousins, Joseph Zelman and Ignatz Weiss, into his operations. This trio was undoubtedly responsible for much of the company's success.

But business was not the sole concern of the Schwartz'. Devout Jews, they engendered, fostered and promoted the Jewish community of this city. Their religion meant much to them and their beneficence and magnanimity are well known.

Dr. Fierman's study is well researched and beautifully documented with Appendices (which include geneological charts). Enlightening photographs are liberally displayed. He is the author of numerous studies on the Jews of the Southwest, including two previous Southwestern Studies.

El Paso, Texas

MARY ELLEN PORTER

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Halley's Comet, May 16, 1910, as seen over San Antonio Street by photographer W.F. Stuart. The original of this photograph was discovered in an antique shop in Victoria, British Columbia, by Richard Rudisill, photo historian with the Museum of New Mexico. Courtesy, Photo Archives, Museum of New Mexico.

Officers and Directors 1980

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