

# PASSWORD



THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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VOL. XXVI, No. 2

EL PASO, TEXAS

SUMMER, 1981



400TH BIRTHDAY PARTY CELEBRATION  
OF THE INTERNATIONAL CITY OF  
EL PASO AND JUAREZ

# PASSWORD

*Published quarterly by* THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NANCY HAMILTON, *Editor*

*Editorial Board: Conrey Bryson, Mrs. Eugene O. Porter, Lesa Metz,  
Mrs. John J. Middagh, Millard G. McKinney*

*Correspondence regarding articles for PASSWORD may be directed to the editor at  
416 Bedford, El Paso, TX 79922.*

*The per-copy price of PASSWORD is \$4.*

*Correspondence regarding back numbers of PASSWORD should be addressed to  
Corresponding Secretary, El Paso County Historical Society, Post Office Box 28,  
El Paso, TX 79940.*

*Membership is \$15.00 per year, which includes a subscription to PASSWORD.  
Make checks payable to*

*El Paso County Historical Society, Post Office Box 28, El Paso, TX 79940.*

# P A S S W O R D

(ISSN 0031-2738)

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IN MEMORIAM

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## HAYMON KRUPP, ECONOMIC ADVENTURER IN THE SOUTHWEST

by FLOYD S. FIERMAN

I. B. Goodman<sup>1</sup> of El Paso related that one day while representing his father, Joseph Hillel Goodman, in a business deal with his fellow El Pasoan Haymon Krupp, he noticed that Krupp was using a gold pen to sign the instrument of agreement. The pen was so imposing that "I.B." was inspired to comment, "Mr. Krupp, that's a pretty fancy pen that you have there!" Without hesitation Krupp answered, "This pen is fancy all right. By using it too loosely, it has cost me two million dollars."<sup>2</sup>

From the late 1800's until 1949 when he died, Haymon Krupp was the epitome of economic enterprise. There are some people and their dependents who will never forget Haymon Krupp, some because of their unsuccessful stock investments in his dry oil wells,<sup>3</sup> and others—an almost equal number—who tell of Haymon's largess, particularly in providing coal to the poor of his home city El Paso, and those who prospered as he prospered.<sup>4</sup> Furthermore, the state of Texas remembers him indelibly because he is important in its history and its destiny.<sup>5</sup> No, he was not a soldier. Neither was he a politician and certainly he was not the center of a scandal. Haymon Krupp is an unforgettable Texan because the source of the Permanent University Fund Investments, which today finance the University of Texas system, are oil fields that were brought in by Haymon Krupp and his partners on university land.

This is one gift that made the name of Haymon Krupp immortal in the state annals and still there were others. Haymon Krupp lived in El Paso in the last part of the 19th century and almost half of the 20th century; his economic daring makes him a figure of the last half of the 19th century. He made leaps, he made investments, he built businesses, he took risks that only an over-confident pioneer would do. Haymon operated on the principle that the treasures in west Texas were limitless. The "success pie" to him was infinite. All one had to do was seek the opportunities and then secure a way to finance them.

But Haymon Krupp was not always a big operator. He started virtually from zero. Born March 14, 1874, in Russia, he migrated early in life with his family to New York City. Attending the public schools of New

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*Floyd S. Fierman is the author of several studies about pioneer Jewish settlers in the Southwest, of which the latest is **The Schwartz Family of El Paso**, published last year by Texas Western Press. He has been spiritual leader of Temple Mt. Sinai since 1949 and for several years taught at the University of Texas at El Paso.*

York, he early became conscious of sounds as well as sights. Unlike many American migrants, he learned to speak the English language without a foreign accent. He had a good ear in addition to his desire to speak like a native American. Elias G. Krupp<sup>6</sup> told me that when Haymon came to El Paso he learned to speak Spanish fluently.

Haymon Krupp was drawn to El Paso because his older brother Harris was there. He arrived in 1890 and immediately went to work for Harris.<sup>7</sup> Why did Haymon leave home? An easy answer, and perhaps a correct one, is that he was one of a large family of children and he felt that he was a burden to his parents. He wanted to lighten his father's load, for he was one of fourteen children. He sought out his brother Harris and he was warmly welcomed. One account expressed by his grandson, Alan D. Stone,<sup>8</sup> suggests that Haymon worked for Harris for only six months and then went into business for himself. This is a possibility, but hardly so. In 1880 El Paso was little more than a village with 736 inhabitants, but it had grown to 10,838 people in 1890 when Haymon Krupp arrived there. If we consider that half of the population or more were Spanish speaking, it would have been unusual for a 16-year-old boy with very little knowledge of Spanish to have operated his own store. Furthermore, there is other evidence that Haymon may not have opened his own business before 1905. Why? There is on record in the El Paso County Courthouse evidence that in 1905 Haymon made payment for a pawnbroker's bond and continued to do so through 1916.<sup>9</sup> Why a pawnbroker's business? If you have little capital and if you have not established credit, this would be an alternative way to initiate a business with limited funds. Another possibility is that Haymon Krupp could have advanced a pawnbroker's bond for somebody else, possibly in his own store to encourage business traffic.

So much for the pawnshop. How about going into business for himself at age 16? It would be more likely for Haymon to go into his own business in 1905 when he was 31, even if it was a pawnshop, than in 1890 when he was 16. Additionally, to put the business opening of 1890 to rest, there are legal data supporting the evidence that Haymon was in business with his brother Harris as late as 1901.<sup>10</sup>

The County records lead us to the conclusion that Haymon Krupp had a pawnbroker's license. It seems that this was how he got started until 1916; after that there is no evidence of a pawnbroker's bond in his name.

The Harris-Haymon store is listed in the City Directory of 1896-97 as H. Krupp and Brother, 233 San Antonio Street, with J. Stoloroff as a clerk. In 1900 it was designated as H. Krupp and Brother at an extended address: 231-233 San Antonio Street.



*Bernhard Krupp provided this photo of the family about 1910. Standing are Leah and Haymon Krupp. The children are Paula, in front, Bernhard and Birdie. Paula is now married to H. James Stone of Brockton, Massachusetts; Birdie married Leland H. Hewitt, a graduate of West Point who was stationed at Fort Bliss; and Bernhard is married to Maxine Mott Smith.*

The turn of the century was a turning point for Haymon and Harris, and also a time of importance for Haymon, personally. He felt fortified enough in 1899 to ask Leah Silverman of New York to be his wife and to bring her to El Paso. Three children were born of their marriage: Birdie, Bernhard, and Paula. This marriage gave Haymon roots and spurred him on. By 1910 the brothers, Harris and Haymon, separated as

business partners. Harris opened a store which bore the name, The Famous. Haymon opened The Bazaar in the same year, located next door to his brother's store. The Bazaar was a wholesale and retail dry goods store carrying men's clothing and furnishings including men's boots, shoes and hats.

Elias G. Krupp recollected that his uncle Haymon was an aggressive merchant and his idea of publicity was to use the sidewalks for his different sales:

... one of his most outstanding sales was selling men's suits at \$10.85 each. [At one point in his business career] he had four nephews working for him.<sup>11</sup>

Aid in tracing some of Haymon Krupp's activities is afforded by the El Paso City Directories. Besides the Bazaar in 1918, Haymon owned a shoe company called the Shelby Shoe Co. Haymon was president and Elias G. Krupp was the vice president. Paul E. Krupp,<sup>12</sup> Elias' brother, is found as the proprietor of the Guarantee Shirt Co. From what is known of Paul's later career, either Haymon Krupp staked him or else he worked outright for Haymon. Haymon found leverage through his successes and credit was not difficult for him to attain.

In 1913 Haymon Krupp's nephew Elias G. Krupp worked as a traveling salesman for Haymon Krupp and Co. This experience taught Elias the New Mexico, Arizona and west Texas territory and assisted him when he went into the children's clothing wholesale business many years later.<sup>13</sup> In 1913 Harris Krupp had changed the name of his business from the Famous to the Fifteen Dollar Clothes Shop, and Paul E. Krupp clerked for him. A prominent advertisement on page three of the 1916 City Directory advertised: Haymon Krupp and Company Manufacturers of Shirts, 314-316 South El Paso Street. This was the same location of the Haymon Krupp and Company wholesale firm which carried women's and men's clothing. This is the first evidence of Haymon's venture into manufacturing. By 1916 Elias G. Krupp was taken off the road and brought in to become the manager of Haymon Krupp and Co.

Haymon's first location, a dry goods store called the Bazaar, was located where Lerner's is now situated at 101 North Mesa. At a later date he moved his store to San Antonio Street. By that time he had five nephews working for him: Elias, Paul, Ephraim, Leon (Ephraim's brother), and Sol. Each of them was given the opportunity to run his business and to participate in the profits.<sup>14</sup> The training that Haymon gave his nephews proved priceless when they entered their own respective businesses.

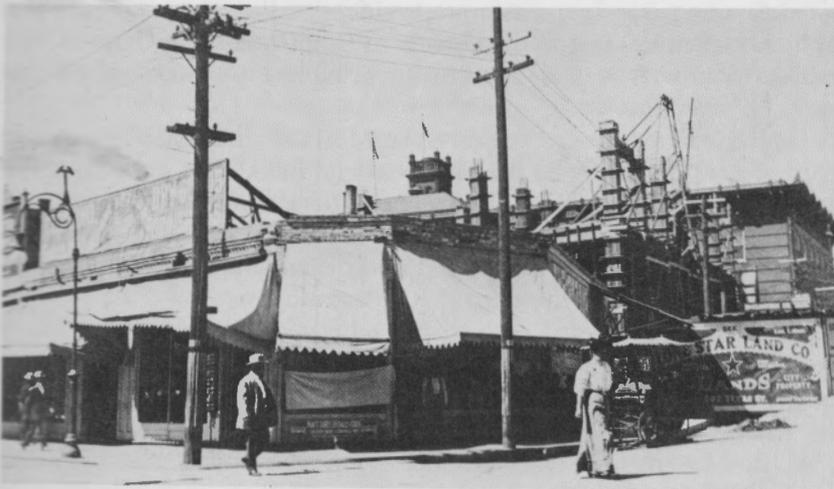
In 1910, when Elias G. Krupp arrived in El Paso, Haymon decided to open a wholesale dry goods house and occupied a store at 314 South El

Paso Street.<sup>15</sup> Now he began to move rapidly. Soon thereafter his wholesale business became so large that Haymon, according to Elias, decided to give up his retail investment.

About this time Francisco Villa came on the scene and, for a period of eight or nine months, occupied a room in the quarters above 314 South El Paso Street. Elias related that Villa would come down to the store practically every day to "shoot the breeze," and it wasn't long before he and Haymon became good friends. Each took a liking to the other and they conversed in Spanish.

By 1911 Villa returned to Mexico and soon became known as General Pancho Villa. Following a series of military successes, General Villa sent word to Haymon that he wanted him to outfit his army. Mr. Krupp, as he was called by his nephews, sent Elias and Haymon's brother-in-law, Victor Caruso, to Villa's headquarters in Chihuahua, Mexico. The meeting resulted in the general's giving Haymon an order to outfit his army on the one condition that Haymon would accept the general's currency in payment. This currency, "Villa money," Haymon Krupp agreed to accept, and he floated the Mexican currency which was at first accepted at the rate of two Villa bills for one American dollar. During the rise and fall of General Villa, he kept in communication with Haymon and practically paid in full for all the purchases that he made for his army.<sup>16</sup>

It was no secret that while Haymon sold Pancho Villa clothing for his army he, like many other El Pasoans, sold merchandise to the estab-



*Haymon Krupp's Bazaar Store at Mesa and San Antonio in the early 1900s. (Photo by Gerlach's El Paso Photo Co.)*

lished Mexican government as well. Getting the purchase order and getting paid for the merchandise sold were two different matters. Collection of debts on either side was not easy. The *El Paso Herald* of October 16, 1914, notes that Haymon Krupp instituted a lawsuit in the 41st District Court against the United States of Mexico and General S. R. Mercado, a former general in the Huerta army. Krupp claimed that Mercado owed him \$11,900 for merchandise purchased on October 23, 1913. Krupp had provided "overalls" for the Huerta army.<sup>17</sup>

In his suit Krupp was represented by the law firm of Burges and Burges of El Paso. Krupp was unable to obtain any satisfaction for the debt from the Mexican government so he directed his lawyers to try to collect the delinquent account from two banks, the First National Bank of El Paso and the Marfa State Bank. These banks either had guaranteed the Mexican account when the purchase was made or Haymon had been informed that either the Mexican government or S. R. Mercado had accounts at each of the banks. Haymon's legal approach was to garnishee the banks which held the Mexican accounts. Before the Honorable P. R. Price, judge of the 41st Judicial District, Krupp in part claimed:

... Plaintiff says that he has reason to believe and does believe that the garnishee, First National Bank of El Paso, Texas, a corporation, of which J. S. Reynolds is president, is indebted to defendants and each of them or that it has in its hands effects belonging to the defendants and each of them.<sup>18</sup>

The suit contended that Mercado, a citizen of the Republic of the United States of Mexico, was a non-resident of the State of Texas and that he was then residing in the County of Doña Ana in the State of New Mexico. Exhibit A was an invoice itemizing the purchase which was mostly for overalls.

A similar suit was lodged against the Marfa State Bank. There is no record of a written reply by the First National Bank of El Paso but there is one from the Marfa State Bank. The bank claimed:

... That said Marfa Bank is not now nor was it at the time said writ of garnishment was served upon it indebted in anything or any amount to the said S. R. Mercado.<sup>19</sup>

The adjudication lingered on and Haymon never retrieved the money owed him. On September 21, 1923, the case was dismissed.

In his steps up the ladder, Haymon Krupp in 1916 rented another store where shirts were wholesaled, located at 314-316 South El Paso Street; the basements were also occupied. Examining his overhead, Haymon reasoned that the funds he was expending on rent would be better used if he owned his own property. Subsequently, he built his own building at corner of Overland and Santa Fe Streets, a building later

occupied by the Hortex Manufacturing Company in the 1950's.

Haymon Krupp's plans began to fructify further. Shipping merchandise from eastern factories was costly and slow. His answer was: manufacture your own garments. Haymon decided to enter the manufacturing business as well as retain his wholesale firm. He leased two buildings diagonally across from the building that he had constructed and prepared for a new challenge. Still later he built another building which in the 1980's is occupied by the United Inc. at 202 West Overland. In these different buildings Haymon organized two distinct plants, one to manufacture men's work clothes and the other women's dresses. At one peak period he employed approximately 500 workers and had the largest business of this kind in the Southwest.

M. Bernhard Krupp, Haymon's son, said that his father's buildings were of reinforced concrete, which was unusual in those days.<sup>20</sup> The advantage, of course, was to have low insurance rates.

Haymon's first venture into any manufacturing, according to his son, was in the making of shawls (*rebozos*). He astutely observed that his Latin customers liked and wore *rebozos* but Haymon could not find and buy what the market demanded. He acquired two sewing machines and encouraged women in his employ (at the wholesale building) to try producing them. He ordered the materials and the manufacturing process started.

Not long after this, the Krupp people found that they were overstocked in *rebozos*; the factory had become over-productive. A decision was made to cease manufacturing *rebozos* but not to disperse the skilled workers. There was another market in sight. Why not manufacture women's dresses and children's clothes? They started with children's dresses, then made housedresses labeled "Brownie-May." Haymon's nephew, Solomon P. Krupp, was vice president of the Krupp Dress Co. Haymon, for some unknown reason, did not become president. The president was R. N. Hanau.

From the dress business, Haymon slid into the pants business. This was a natural move. Leon Krupp, another nephew, was the advertising man and the label was "Leadall." Nephew Ephraim Krupp and Rubin Cohen, a consummate plant manager, ran the operation. They lasted profitably from 1924 to 1931. Rubin was the inside man and Ephraim the sales representative.<sup>21</sup>

Disaster was in the wind, though. One day in 1931 the Krupp plant was suddenly struck by an all-consuming fire. According to Bernhard, most of the help scattered after the disaster and the management was unable to start again. After the fire, Ephraim Krupp and Rubin Cohen went into the pants manufacturing business themselves, but after a



*This is the building of Haymon Krupp & Company, wholesale drygoods and clothing factory, located at West Overland and North Santa Fe Streets in 1914. (Photo by Gerlach's)*

number of years they were unsuccessful. It was just too early for denims; they had not caught on as yet.<sup>22</sup>

Haymon Krupp was an excellent executive. All his companies were corporate companies and stock was issued, given or purchased by his employees. They were given the opportunity to effect a success by their individual endeavor. When these people made mistakes, Elias G. Krupp recalls, they were rarely criticized and they were always given friendly help.<sup>23</sup>

Stock interest had to be earned, however. At a point and at a time when Haymon thought they were ready, his nephew Elias and his son Bernhard were given the same tests and were admitted as stockholders.<sup>24</sup>

Another business initiated by Haymon Krupp was the wholesale Tracy Shoe Co. in 1924. He was president, Elias G. Krupp was vice president, and F. P. Tracy was secretary-treasurer. The Krupp Silk Company, operated by Paul Krupp, had a New York office in 1921 at 61 East 11th Street, and an El Paso office at 123 North Kansas when El

Paso Guarantee Shirt Company was located there. Haymon headed the Haymon Krupp Products Co., with D. D. Potter as vice president and M. B. Krupp, secretary. They manufactured polish at 314 West Second Street. Eli Paul, another nephew of Haymon's, was the proprietor of a store with the indigenous name, the Two Republics Dry Goods store, at 112-114 East Overland Street.<sup>25</sup>

According to Bernhard Krupp, his father also had a retail shoe store someplace along the line, next door to the wholesale outlet, called Ever-Where Shoe Co., unrelated to his wholesale business.

It is now evident that Haymon Krupp was self-propelled. Yet all these retail, wholesale and manufacturing ventures were to be outshone by a new adventure—oil wildcatting.

It all began inconspicuously. In the year 1910 there was a candy store in El Paso at 206 North Oregon. Because of the shipping distance and the possibility of deterioration in transit, fine chocolate candy was not obtainable in El Paso from either the east or the west coasts. Answering this need, the Pickrell family opened a confectionary, preparing fine candies in their kitchen. What better name for it than the description of its patrons: The Elite Confectionary. C. S. Pickrell was president. One of his relatives, Frank, was destined to become an important personality in the Krupp saga.

It was this Pickrell, Frank, who became a partner of Haymon when he ventured into the oil business. Numerous newspaper articles were written about this partnership, but none of them relates how or where the partnership was made.<sup>26</sup> There is no information and there are no people to relate this information of how the two met and struck up a deal. After all, Frank Pickrell was a young man who had just returned from World War I and Haymon Krupp was a middle-aged man. What interest would they have in each other? If we follow Haymon Krupp's career, we can readily spot that he had a ready eye for talented people and hot opportunities. The record supports that whenever he ventured into a new business, he found skilled people to match his business acumen. Once he accepted the opportunity, he would become president of the organization and the technical person became vice president. This was true when he was associated in business with relatives as well as with others.<sup>27</sup>

Haymon Krupp and Frank Pickrell may have met like this. Frank worked for the Elite Confectionary, a family business. Haymon visited the Elite frequently to buy the excellent candy. He could have taken a liking to the young, personable Frank. Frank, who was eager to leave the monotony of waiting on the trade in a candy store, had an association with a man by the name of Rupert T. Ricker. During World War I

Ricker had been Frank's company commander. Rupert had grown up in Reagan County where he dreamed of economic achievement. After the war he returned to his ranch where severe drought was slowly destroying his cattle. It was no secret that an oil field had broken open in nearby Ranger. It was natural under these adverse conditions that he should hope that oil might be found on his family's property as well. Ricker knew that the University of Texas was the largest landowner in Reagan County. He surmised that it would be prudent to "block up" a large acreage of university land for development or speculation.

Dr. Johan A. Udden, professor of geology at the University, had submitted to the Board of Regents a photograph of a map, together with a report on the probable or potential mineral resources of the University lands. Udden stated:

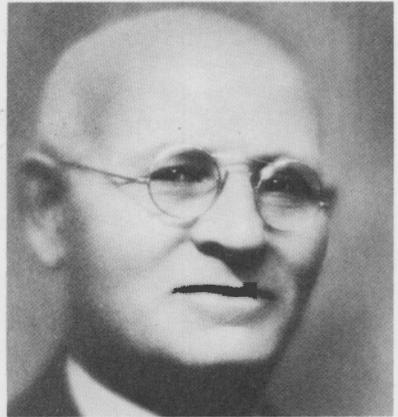
...it does not appear unreasonable to regard it as suggesting the possibility of the existence of buried structures in which oil may have accumulated...Drilling should not be undertaken, however, before a thorough geological

examination has been made whereby the exceedingly small chance of making the right location for a test may be materially increased.<sup>28</sup>

Ricker could have seen this report. Determined to promote wildcat wells in Reagan County, he "blocked up" 674 sections totaling 431,360 acres which represented all the University's land in Reagan, Irion, Upton and Crockett Counties.

He hoped to sell permits to drill on this property in sufficient numbers to enable him to drill a well. He and his associates were, however, unable to raise the \$43,136 rental which needed to be paid to the State. When but a few days of grace remained, Ricker sold the fruit of his labor in Fort Worth, Texas to Frank T. Pickrell and Haymon Krupp of El Paso for five hundred dollars.<sup>29</sup>

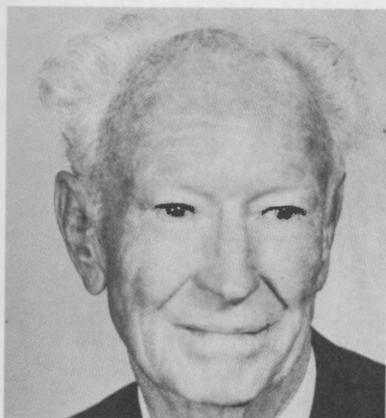
There is no clear account of how or where Pickrell and Krupp became involved with Ricker in this enterprise. One possibility is that the El Pasoans were in Fort Worth and, by chance, encountered Ricker and heard of his need for money. According to Samuel D. Myres, Ricker received \$2,500 for his rights, distributed \$2,000 to the men who joined



*Haymon Krupp*

him in his unsuccessful venture, and used \$500 to pay his expenses. He then disappeared from the picture.

Another possibility is that Ricker had met the two previously in El Paso. Pickrell may have brought the concept to Krupp to develop, as he had a reputation for being interested in promising business deals. Furthermore, Ricker must have been too intelligent to walk away from his dreams. A 1915 law graduate of the University of Texas, he was no roustabout. Perhaps Krupp had heard of the Udden geology report and, through Pickrell, contacted Ricker in order to enter the oil prospecting venture.



*Frank T. Pickrell*

At any rate, Ricker sold his interest and Krupp and Pickrell paid the rental fee. Twenty-five hundred dollars was not too large an outlay for Krupp at this time, according to an El Paso banker, who indicated he could have handled a \$50,000 investment at that time.<sup>30</sup> Fred Pickrell, however, had little or no capital. When the time came to raise funds to drill a well, Krupp went to New York where he had business contacts.<sup>31</sup> But he failed to raise the

money he had hoped for, so the two decided to do their own developing. In April 1919 the Texon Oil and Land Company was organized for this purpose.

The company was capitalized at 2,000,000 shares of one dollar par value. An agreement was executed with New York brokers authorizing the Texon Oil and Land Company to geologize and select 200,000 acres in payment for the total capital stock. The 200,000 acres was geologized and selected for the Texon Company by Hugh H. Tucker.<sup>32</sup>

Once again there was difficulty. The brokers met resistance in their effort to sell Texon stock, since it was not an operating company. There was no spudding and there were no spudders. There was no oil production. Something had to be done.

To overcome this deficiency Pickrell and Krupp bought three producing oil wells in Burkburnett. At the ultimate some 685 certificates of interest were sold in New York at a price of \$200 each.<sup>33</sup>

During their sales campaign the name Santa Rita came to designate the

initial well of Group I.<sup>34</sup>

Pickrell moved from New York to San Angelo because he realized that time was drawing short. By law he had to drill a legitimate hole before the established deadline and he had to secure a supply of water required for the actual drilling.<sup>35</sup> The date was January 6, 1921. Several legends have grown up about the drilling of that first well. One version has it that the team arrived by train only hours before the deadline and drilled a water well near the tracks in the interest of time. Another goes that the well was drilled near the railroad track because some of Pickrell's leased drilling equipment was damaged while being unloaded. According to Myres, some of "the best writers" have contended that the wagon carrying the machinery broke down and the well was drilled at the location of the accident. Myres makes it clear that the site had been selected and the derrick had been built days before any machinery was moved in.<sup>36</sup>

Once Pickrell began drilling, the operations continued at a slow pace throughout 1921 and 1922. Finally:

On Sunday morning, May 27, 1923, Carl Cromwell, driller of the Santa Rita, and his tool dresser, Dee Locklin, cleaned out the hole with a bailer. They had by then drilled to a depth of 3,055 feet...When the bailer was lowered to the bottom of the well again and brought to the surface it was found to be filled with oil...They concluded to tell no one. [They wanted to be certain.]<sup>37</sup>

The next day, May 28, 1923, the Cromwells saw a thin column of gas and oil vapor rising from the derrick. The Santa Rita, a flowing well in the center of 64 square miles, flowed three times on that day, twice on May 29, and once regularly each day thereafter for 35 to 40 days.

The developments which followed involved a productivity which stretches the imagination. This was University land. The oil produced upon the University's land alone has been such as to cause a sum in excess of \$300,000,000 to accrue to its Permanent Fund as its one-eighth royalty.<sup>38</sup>

The Santa Rita rig remained at the site of the well for about nineteen years and it continued to be pumped. Reflecting upon the large benefit this rig and those nearby had rendered the University, it was dismantled in January 1940 and placed in storage. The Board of Regents then approved a plan to erect and dedicate the rig on the University campus in Austin.<sup>39</sup>

The Texon Oil and Land Co. had oil pumping but it could not finance extensive drilling. To solve the problem, the company turned to M. L. Benedum, Joe C. Trees, Levi Smith and Associates of Pittsburgh, giving leases on 10,240 acres in the middle of the huge block in consideration

for the drilling of eight tests. Krupp, Pickrell and others received a quarter interest in the Big Lake Oil Co. which was formed for development purposes. The Plymouth Oil Co. was organized as the holding company.

The Big Lake Oil Company's first four tests were small like the Santa Rita No. 1: Nos. 6 and 7 were dry and it was not until No. 11 was drilled in for a flow rating of 500 barrels daily that success was assured.

Krupp and Pickrell made millions out of the Big Lake field, but in less than a decade Pickrell lost his fortune in cotton and other speculations.<sup>40</sup>

In a 1964 interview, Frank Pickrell told me that Haymon Krupp held a four-fifths interest initially and Pickrell held a one-fifth interest. Apparently, once they began to elevate, that division continued. It went into millions of dollars for both of them and a sizable return to their stockholders. Haymon Krupp, in evolving his oil interests, met an attorney, Jack Gordon.<sup>41</sup> It was Jack Gordon who introduced Haymon to the G. A. Loomis and Co. brokerage house that fostered the Texon stock in its early beginnings.

In 1929 Pickrell claimed that their holdings were sold to the Continental Oil Co. for twenty-six million dollars. Five million each went to Haymon and Pickrell and sixteen million to the stockholders.<sup>42</sup>

It was not long after the great oil discovery that Haymon and Frank parted ways. Haymon was a confident and good loser. Once he lost his fortune, he was ready to explore again. Pickrell, despite his ability, was a defeated man. Haymon Krupp, though he had achieved phenomenal success in the oil business, continued his interest in cotton financing, which he knew nothing about, and the retail business.

Louis Sobol, columnist for the *New York Evening Journal*, on January 22, 1936 interviewed and characterized Haymon who was in New York looking for further funding. According to Sobol, Krupp supplied coal and food for the poor of El Paso for many years. Sobol reported apocryphally that Krupp helped rout the bad men and the hard women out of Texon, a town he founded and developed. That may be correct, but saying that he accomplished this with "a six shooter one day and a shotgun the next" adds color but has no factual basis.

Another article written by a writer who signs his work C. E., in the March 3, 1936, *New York Post*, relates:

... "Tell me, Mr. Krupp," I said, "you made 25 million dollars for the university, but did you make anything for yourself?"

"Surely I made money for myself," he answered. "I made three and a half to four million."

"Have you still got any of it?" I asked...

"Quite a bit," Krupp said. "Although I took an awful licking in the market. I lost a million in cotton, you know; I've still got a couple of million in real estate."<sup>43</sup>

The columnist's brother, who was with him at the time, said, "Mr. Krupp's chief interests are not in oil. He has vast department store interests in Texas."

"That's right," Krupp said. "But my son Berhard and nephew Elias G. take care of that. The truth is that I am absorbed in the oil business. It is thrilling, romantic work."

Sobol described him thus:

Haymon Krupp seemed to be in his early fifties. He's about five feet nine, and I would guess his weight at about 155. He has clear, gray eyes that have a pleasant twinkle, and a friendly but decisive voice, the kind of voice that would appeal to a Board of Directors.

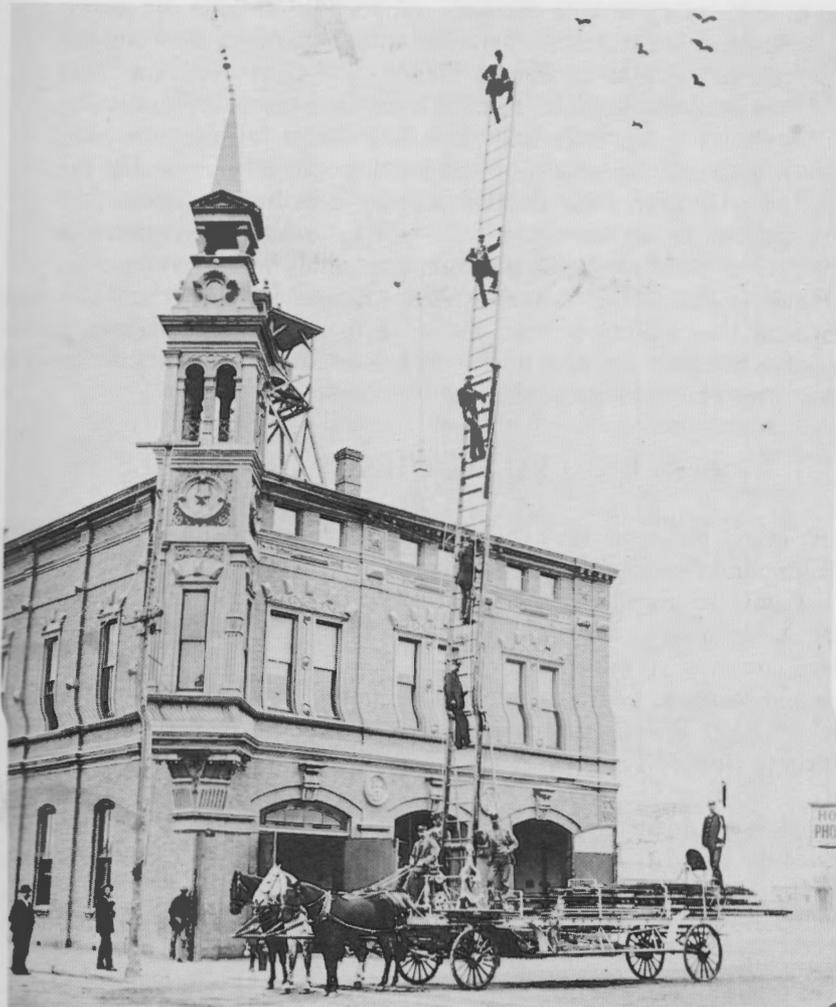
Once you are successful and you attempt to continue to achieve, it is not difficult to reach out for public prominence. Haymon knew how to do it. Newspapers in Texas and New York carried headlines heralding Haymon's ambition to make another strike. The *Dallas Times Herald* of February 10, 1936, declared: "Texas Oil Man in New York, Once Friend of Villa, Says He'll Strike Another Well." The *Denison Daily Herald* of February 10, 1936, forecast: "Haymon Krupp, Texas Oil Man, Sees Another Field in Hudspeth County." A San Antonio newspaper on February 10, 1936, announced: "Haymon Krupp, Texas Oil Man, Feels New Pool Is On Its Way." The *Pampa Daily News*, the *Corsicana Daily Sun*, both scream the same message. A Lubbock newspaper is not so kind when it states: "Brusque, Baldish Texas Oil Man Feels New Field Will Be Found Soon; Dreamed Big Lake." The *El Paso Herald Post* of Monday, February 10, 1936, announced: "Haymon Krupp Hopes To Repeat Oil Strike. He's Trying Again. Haymon Krupp in New York Sees New Oil Field Find." All this is buttressed with a news article from the *Pampa Daily News* of February 11, 1936: "Leasing Booms in Wildcat Field as Oil Gusher Flows in Titus County." Even the Yiddish newspaper, the *Jewish Morning Journal*, of February 28, 1936, carried an article about Haymon.

Haymon Krupp never lost hope of making another discovery.<sup>44</sup> He organized another oil company to replace the one he had sold. He had founded the Haymon Krupp Oil Co. in 1935; in 1945 the Krupp-Flaherty Oil Corporation was in operation. Haymon Krupp was president and his friend, Joe H. Goodman, was vice president. Harry Newman was vice president-secretary-treasurer.<sup>45</sup>

Haymon Krupp, however, was not to find oil success in the dimen-

sions that he found it the first time. Nonetheless, he sought financing as long as he could breathe the clear El Paso air.

Investors had confidence in Haymon Krupp because when he entered



*Built in 1888 as El Paso's City Hall, this building once housed the City offices and the Police and Fire Departments. Haymon Krupp once used the building for business. Located at South Santa Fe and West Overland Streets, it is now owned by Oskar Rosen and his son, William, whose firm, the United, has its office and warehouse there. (Photo courtesy El Paso Public Library)*

into a deal he speculated with his own funds as well as those of the investors. Furthermore, he tried to limit the investors' gamble. Here, for example, is one of his methods to seek confidence in the buyer. On May 19, 1941, Krupp entered into an agreement with the State National Bank of El Paso, seeking financial support for another oil project.

Krupp has heretofore deposited 5,000 shares of the common capital stock of the Krupp-Flaherty Oil Corp. with the State National Bank of El Paso, Texas, in escrow in connection with a public offering of 4,000 shares of the company stock...said stock would not be disposed of nor would the owners thereof be entitled to any distribution...unless the holders of all securities who will have paid cash therefore under purchases from the company...shall have been repaid...

Haymon was trying to attract needed financial support and the State National was willing to hold his stock in escrow as a reserve against losses suffered by the new investors. It is unknown how many shares or what sum Haymon raised, but he was unsuccessful.<sup>46</sup>

## THE UNITED — A CHAIN OF STORES

At about the same time that Haymon Krupp was involved in the oil drilling and development, he opened a chain of retail stores. Ever alert to his family responsibilities, he embarked on this enterprise in order to find a dignified niche for his son Bernhard. This was initiated in 1928. Bernhard was president and nephew Elias G. was also an officer. They opened stores in California, Arizona, Texas and New Mexico. According to Oskar Rosen, they opened a store a month.<sup>47</sup> Two of the Nahn brothers worked for them.<sup>48</sup>

In 1938 Bernhard was president of the United Inc. G. E. Bloomberg was vice president and Harold Potash, lawyer and confidant of many Jewish El Pasoans, was secretary-treasurer. In 1939 the United was sold to Abe Horwitz and Oskar Rosen, president and vice president respectively, and Potash remained as secretary-treasurer. The United under M. B. Krupp appears to have been an unprofitable enterprise.

Steve H. Lauterbach, CPA, of Lauterbach and Borschow, analyzed the financial statements of the United Inc. from 1929 to 1950 and reported:

The net profit picture was extremely bleak during the decade of the 1930s. It was not until 1940 that the company achieved profitability. However, from 1940 until 1950 the United Inc. showed a profit in every year. (No financial statements were available for the war years of 1942, 1943, and 1944.)

The company expanded its number of stores greatly in the beginning 1930's and apparently this turned out to be a most unwise move. The United Inc. had stores all over the Southwest, all of them in small towns in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. By 1931 the company had twenty-five stores, and yet in this depression year generated a loss of \$165,000, a very significant amount of money in those days. Gradually the United Inc. consolidated the number of stores it operated and along with this move came profitability. By 1941 the company operated only eleven stores and was operating at a profit. By 1946 when the war was over, Oskar Rosen had purchased part of the company and the operation was trimmed down to eight stores, located in the Southwest. The period 1946 through 1950 was one of solid earnings and growth.

It appears then from a historical viewpoint that the company expanded at precisely the wrong time. A comparison of the 1929 and 1930 financial statements shows an increase in number of stores from six to twenty-four; an increase in sales of over \$400,000, and yet a significant loss from operations. It was not until the United Inc. streamlined its operations and the country moved out of the depression that profitability was achieved.

Although the years 1930 through 1939 were rough years profit-wise, the company never approached insolvency. The ratio of current assets to current liabilities (often used to test solvency) never dropped below two to one and the United Inc. was always adequately capitalized. So the company was never in danger of bankruptcy although it did go through some rough times. It was not until the country entered war and the management of the United Inc. streamlined the company that profitability was realized.<sup>49</sup>

Now under the ownership of Oskar Rosen and his son William (Bill) Rosen, the United is a profitable enterprise. The chain is much smaller than it was under the Krupp management and it operates in the black because of the watchful eye of the Rosens and because of their sagacity.

There is degradation when you lose money. Once you move from a mogul to just another businessman trying to eke out a living, you lose prestige.

One of the men working at the State National Bank in the late months of 1979, who shall remain anonymous, told me that one day in the line of duty he had to consult the minutes of the Bank. He said that while

seeking a reference that he needed he saw the name of Haymon Krupp. What did he see? He saw that Haymon had resigned as a member of the Board of Trustees. Reading a bit further, he read that Haymon had been refused a \$500 loan.<sup>50</sup> What is the moral, if any? When you lose your money, you lose your influence, yes, even your power.

Despite Haymon Krupp's severe losses in the stock market, in cotton gins and cotton financing and his investments in further oil speculation, he died in honor and was able to leave his wife Rebecca (Becky) and his children a respectable estate.<sup>51</sup>

When Becky married Haymon she was a maiden school teacher who had saved much of her earnings and had invested conservatively. Elias G. Krupp told me that Becky, soon after the marriage, made her personal resources available to Haymon. Haymon, ever aware of his indebtedness, returned what he had borrowed from her before his death. Becky, in turn, when she expired, bequeathed to Temple Mt. Sinai and Congregation B'nai Zion a sizable legacy.

Haymon also took good care of his children. He wanted to remember them with a sizable legacy. While engaged in further drilling, he gave his extensive land holdings on the Mesa Highway as security for a loan advanced by his friends Joe H. Goodman and Simon Kahn.<sup>52</sup> Shortly before Haymon Krupp died, he repaid his indebtedness and reacquired the land.

Twenty years after Haymon's death on February 21, 1949 the land proved valuable.<sup>53</sup> Oil and gas were not found there but it had another use. It became the site of a housing development, the land being sold by Haymon's children to developers.

Haymon Krupp protected Becky, his family, his religion and the poor of the city. He was a remarkable man.

## ELIAS G. KRUPP

The Krupp saga is incomplete without reference to the career of Haymon Krupp's nephew, Elias G. Krupp, called "Uncle" Eli by children and bankers alike. Eli in every way wanted to emulate his uncle.

I first met Elias G. Krupp in February, 1949, when he came to interview me during a severe snowstorm in Pittsburgh for the Temple Mt. Sinai pulpit in El Paso.

Elias, Eli or "Uncle Eli," went into the finance business after he left his uncle Haymon's enterprises in the middle 1940s and shortly thereafter went into the wholesale children's clothing market, operating from a location on Mills Street. I don't know how profitable the business was but I always had the feeling that while Eli wanted to

operate "in the black," if he didn't, there were other resources to abundantly sustain him.

With this outlook, Eli gave work and gifts to many of El Paso's social institutions. There was hardly a service organization in El Paso that did not benefit from his association. In addition to Temple Mt. Sinai, of which he was a past president and honorary trustee, and the El Paso Jewish Federation, he aided communal institutions like the Jesuit High School and the United Way. He was on the governing board of the USO during World War II and received a "Papal blessing" from Pope Paul VI for his contribution to the "Welfare of the Catholic Citizenry." He was honored by the National Conference of Christian Jews, was a charter member of the El Paso Heart Association, an associate trustee of Brandeis University, and a member of the boards of Our Lady's Youth Center, El Paso Boys' Club, Loretto Academy, and Camp Fire Girls, Inc. He was a life member of the Jewish Chatauqua Society, an educational arm of the Temple Brotherhoods of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.



Elias G. Krupp  
(Courtesy M.J. Romo)

Eli and Bishop Sidney Metzger of the Catholic Diocese were good friends and Eli was a close friend of all the rabbis who served congregations in El Paso.

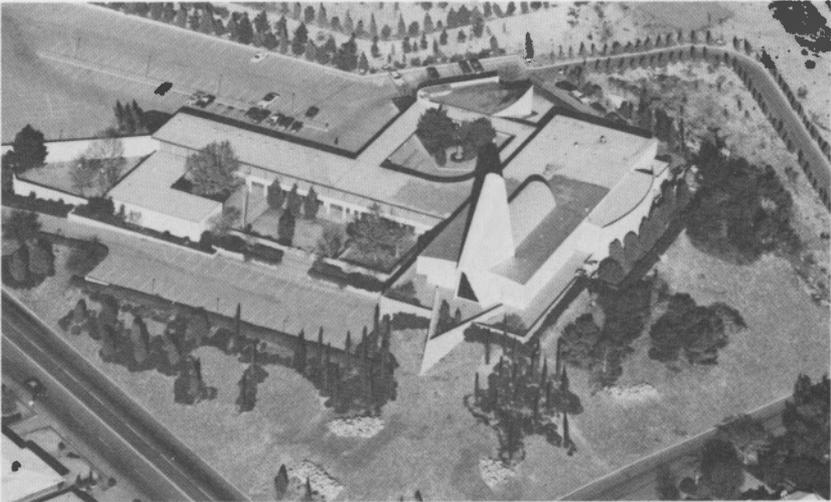
He was intuitively fond of children and when we would permit it, he would attend the Temple Mt. Sinai religious school classes on Sunday morning and distribute gum to the children.

When the beautiful Temple Mt. Sinai edifice was being considered, and when the leadership reached many of its impasses, it was frequently Eli who would say: "I'll put up the money. Let's go on to the next matter of business." The foyer at Temple Mt. Sinai was named in his honor and later in his memory: the Elias G. Krupp Foyer.

Eli and Brannette (Mayer) were the parents of two daughters. Carlyn (Mrs. Bernard) Levenson, whose husband is deceased, has two sons, Peter and Brent. Elinor Kratzer is the mother of Leonard Kratzer.<sup>54</sup>

Elias Gabriel Krupp was born July 7, 1892, in New York City, and died in El Paso on May 6, 1974. Eli had a sense of history. He left four scrapbooks which document the communal activities in his life.

Eli started life with nothing and he had very little when he came to El Paso. He inherited a million dollars from his wife's estate (half of which belonged to his daughters). He worked for many years, living well but not lavishly. He was a generous man with his earnings and when he died, he left an estate of \$1,023,556.30. This was a life well lived.<sup>55</sup>

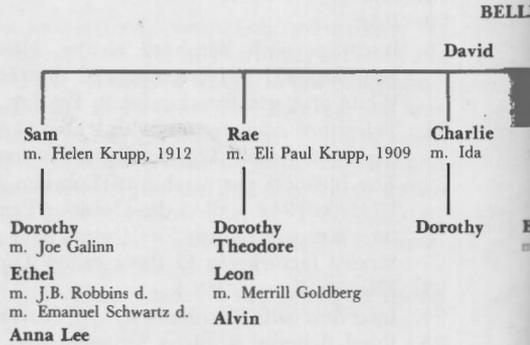
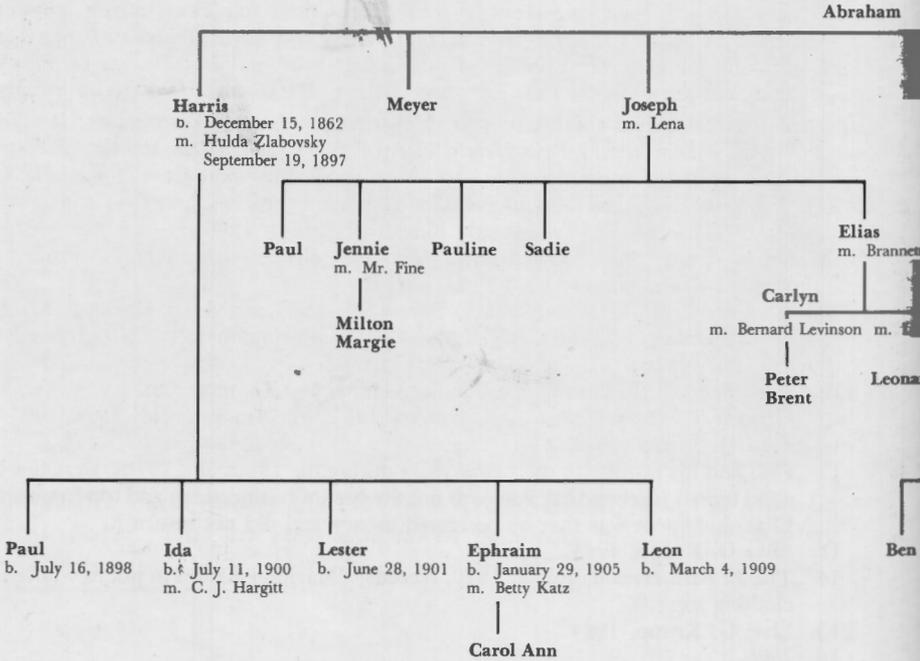


*Temple Mt. Sinai houses the Haymon Krupp Chapel and the Elias G. Krupp Foyer. This air view was taken in spring of 1980. (Photo by Darst-Ireland)*

#### REFERENCES

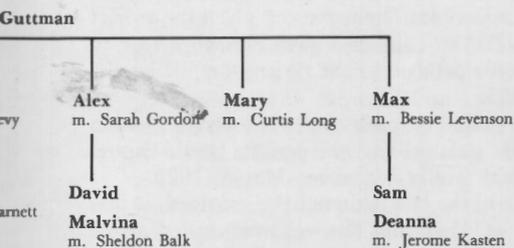
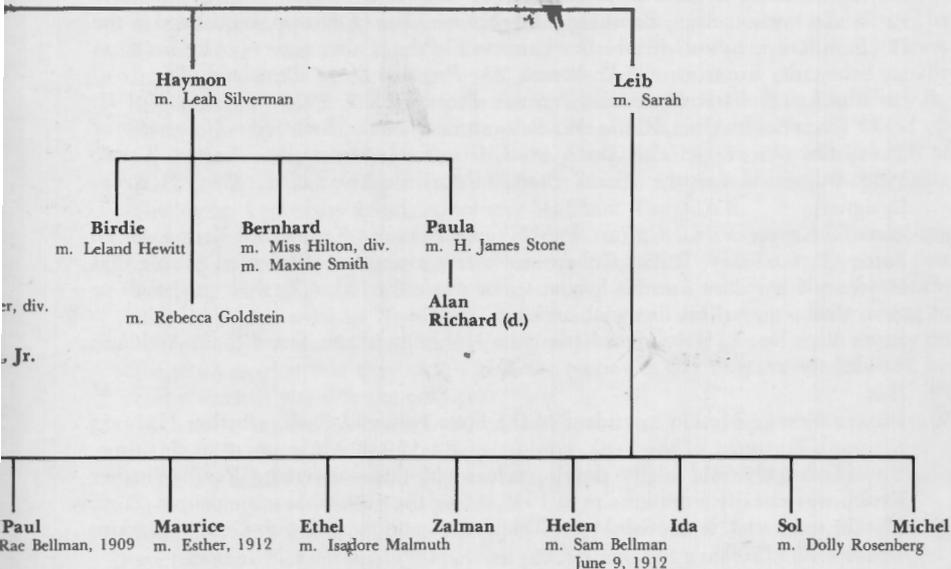
1. Isedore Bernard Goodman was born in Earlham, New Mexico Territory, on November 10, 1897. Earlham is now called Vado. He was variously called by his friend, "I.B.," "Tex," and "Pick." "Pick" is derived from "Isedore-Picadore" as he was called at school. He attended the El Paso Military Institute and was graduated from Syracuse University where he met his wife, Fanny Sattinger, who was from Indianapolis. They had three children: Haskell (Jack), Barbara and Dorothy, deceased. Mr. Goodman mixed a love of Judaism and devotion to worldly culture with business acumen. He died in El Paso November 30, 1980. Consult: Hymer Rosen, *Joe H. Goodman*, privately published 1978, and Isedore B. Goodman, *A Young Texan in Lithuania*, privately published, 1976.
2. I.B. Goodman recalled this episode when I visited him at his sick bed in the spring of 1980.
3. In a letter to Harry Spitz dated May 30, 1944, Krupp stated that he hoped to repay investors in the unsuccessful Hudspeth County venture through dividends from 5,000 shares of his stock in the Krupp-Flaherty Oil Corp.
4. Evelyn Rosing Rosen told me that her father, William Rosing, collected \$30,000 in Haymon's original oil enterprises. November 11, 1980.
5. Consult *Permanent University Fund Investments*, Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 1978. Published by the Board of Regents of the University System, Allan Shivers, President.

6. Correspondence with Elias G. Krupp, March 1964.
7. Harris Krupp came to Texas in 1889 and first opened a five and dime store. He then opened a men's store on the corner of Stanton and Texas Streets, now occupied by Al's Shop. He married Hulda Zlabovsky in 1897 and their marriage brought five children: Ephraim, Paul, Lester, Leon and Ida. He left El Paso in 1916 and went to Salt Lake City and Tucson. He was a Mason and a Shriner. Harris Krupp had another brother, Meyer, who was in El Paso before Haymon. We learn from the *El Paso Herald* of April 6, 1905: "Meyer, brother of Harris and Haymon, former merchant of El Paso, is visiting home from Nome, Alaska. He has been engaged in mining and the mercantile business there for the last seven years." That would have brought him to El Paso in 1898.
8. Letter from Alan D. Stone, *Haymon Krupp Chronology*, Brockton, Massachusetts, January 23, 1964.
9. Deed Records, El Paso County, Surety Pawnbroker's Bond Haymon Krupp, Grantor, State of Texas, Grantee May 22, 1905, September 26, 1907, September 24, 1908, January 1, 1915, January 1, 1916.
10. Deed Records, El Paso County, Krupp, Harris and Haymon, Grantor of Warranty Deed to Henry C. Ponsford, January 18, 1901: also Warranty Deed.
11. Elias G. Krupp, 1964.
12. Paul and his brother in their later years during the 1960s and 1970s, were not on good terms. It seems that Paul was not the best of businessmen and too frequently Elias' judgment was that he borrowed money and did not return it.
13. Elias G. Krupp, 1964.
14. The *El Paso Herald*, July 2, 1910, records: "Haymon Krupp to put in wholesale clothing store."
15. Elias G. Krupp, 1964.
16. *Ibid.*
17. Haymon Krupp vs. First Bank of El Paso, Texas, Garnishee in suit of Haymon Krupp vs. United States of Mexico et al, No. 11270. The District Court of El Paso County, Texas, 41st Judicial District, November Term, 1914.
18. *Ibid.*
19. *Ibid.*
20. Interview with Bernhard Krupp, November 3, 1979. The *El Paso Herald*, February 25, 1916, announced that Haymon Krupp had bought the Zack T. White property fronting Santa Fe, San Antonio and West Overland Streets.
21. Telephone conversation with Rubin Cohen, October 28, 1980. Rubin Cohen was city manager for Top Notch, Levi Strauss, from 1947-1975.
22. The business partnership of Ephraim Krupp and Rubin Cohen extended from 1931 to 1942, called the Outdoor Pants Company. Ephraim became manufacturer's representative for Hortex, later represented Farah. Cohen managed Levi-Strauss factories in El Paso, called Top Notch. They are now both retired.
23. Elias G. Krupp, 1964.
24. Interview with Bernhard Krupp, November 13, 1979.
25. Ethel Bellman Robbins Schwartz told me that Eli Paul Krupp, like many merchants on East Overland and San Antonio Streets, was forced to close his doors during the Depression of the 1930's. He then retreated to the Mormon community of Safford, Arizona. Eli Paul's wife was Sam Bellman's sister. Sam Bellman was a successful merchant in El Paso. This information is part of a series of discussions with Mrs. Schwartz beginning in 1979.
26. I never knew Haymon Krupp. He had died in the Winter of 1949 and I came to El Paso in July 1949. His widow, Rebecca G. Krupp, lived across the street from our



\*There were 14 children, of whom only five are known today.

Assistance with genealogy by Ann S. Goodman and  
Ethel Bellman Robbins Schwartz.



- home and we became close friends. I also knew Haymon's children and their respective spouses. Much of the information that I am presenting on this phase of Haymon's career is garnered from Rebecca and Haymon's children, particularly Paula and her son Alan, Bernhard, and nephew Elias G. Krupp. Elias lived in the Haymon Krupp home when he first came to El Paso. Other sources of information are essentially from: Samuel D. Myres, *The Permian Basin, Petroleum Empire of the Southwest*, El Paso, Texas, Permian Press: Vol. I, 1973 (Guynes), Vol II, 1977 (Superior). Also: Martin W. Schwettman, *Santa Rita, The University of Texas Oil Discovery*, The Texas State Historical Association, Austin, Texas, 1958 (reprinted for the Texas State Historical Association, Carl Hertzog, Designer).
27. Elias G. Krupp, Victor Caruso, Paul Krupp, Ephraim Krupp, Sol Krupp, D. D. Potter, F. P. Tracy, Rubin Cohen, are a few examples of talented people that Haymon either drew into his businesses or was attracted to by their proposals or ideas that required his financial backing.
  28. Santa Rita No. 1. Reproduced from the Holdings of the Texas State Archives: T665.5, Sa59, p. 5.
  29. *Ibid.*
  30. I asked George Matkin, president of the State National Bank, whether Haymon Krupp, a customer of the bank, could swing a \$50,000 investment at this time. This is what it would take to develop a lease. Matkin answered, "Yes." Whether Krupp was already a millionaire in 1919 before the gusher, as some people claim, Matkin suggested, is another story. Telephone conversation with George Matkin, October 30,<sup>6</sup> 1980.
  31. *Op. cit.*, Santa Rita No. 1.
  32. *Ibid.*
  33. "Krupp paid approximately \$125,000 for the property and sold it to Texon in exchange for stock." Apparently, Krupp had the income or the credit to do this in 1919. Myres states that Pickrell conceived the idea of forming groups consisting of 16 sections (10,240 acres) each and selling certificates of interest, each representing a five-acre equity in the larger holding, thus to finance the drilling of a well on each of the blocks. Myres, Vol. I, p. 204.
  34. Santa Rita was the patron saint of the impossible. The name was given the project by some Catholic stockholders in New York. They also gave Pickrell a rose to take back to Texon. He was to scatter rose petals over the rig and say, "I hereby christen thee Santa Rita." Vol. I, p. 205.
  35. The law stipulated that a well must be drilled on each of the 171 permits within one year. Time was short. If they did not start drilling, the permits would expire. Owen P. White, writing in the *New York Times Magazine*, May 3, 1925.
  36. "A popular explanation, in which some of the best writers have indulged, is that the wagon carrying the machinery broke down and the well was drilled at the place of the accident. This story, of course, is an old canard encountered many times in the history of the oil industry. This story and others like it overlook a physical fact that could have been verified with a little investigation. The site had been selected and the derrick had been built days before any machinery was moved in." Myres, Vol. I, p. 211.
  37. Santa Rita No. 1, p. 9. (See *Permanent University Fund Investments for the Fiscal Year Ended August 31, 1978*, Board of Regents of the University of Texas System.)
  38. Myres, p. 205.
  39. Letters addressed to Mrs. Haymon (Becky) Krupp, Fierman Files. "Provision for

the organization and maintenance of the University was made when Texas became a republic. The Constitution of the Republic of Texas set apart 'for the endowment, maintenance and support of said university and its branches, 1,000,000 acres of land.'" Other provisions were made in the Constitution of 1876. The Constitution took away lands granted to the University under an act of 1858, gave in lieu a million acres further west. Another million acres were added by the Legislature in 1883. The land, poor for agriculture and ranching, brought very little income and the university was a poor one until Krupp and Pickrell found oil on the university land beginning with the Santa Rita No. 1. Historical sketch of the Petroleum Development of University Lands, Berte R. Haigh, Supervising Geologist, University Lands, Geology, Midland, Texas, n.d.

40. San Angelo, Texas, *Standard Times*, February 23, 1949. George Matkin of the State National Bank wrote me on November 8, 1979: "The story goes on that both Mr. Krupp and Mr. Pickrell were making so much money in the oil business that they both went to New York and spent a great deal of their time sitting in brokers' offices speculating on the stock market, and they lost so much money on the stock market that they didn't have the money to pay the taxes on their oil income when it was due the next year."
41. He was the brother of Frank Gordon who moved to El Paso and at one time worked for Haymon Krupp. He later opened his own wholesale house. Frank's daughter is Mrs. Herbert M. Schwartz (Bernice). His son, Stanley, died at an early age, leaving a wife and three children.
42. Interview with Frank Pickrell, April 14, 1964, at his home, 703 Kern, EL Paso. It appears that Pickrell was a 50 percent partner and not a one-fifth partner. Krupp, throughout all his dealings, maintained a reputation of fairness. When I met with Frank Pickrell, he appeared to be disgruntled. Certainly he could not have been unhappy about his share in the wildcatting.
43. "Mr. Krupp ... went into the cotton business with Britton Davis, a man who knew something about the cotton business but, as I recall, not too much. Davis was operating a business of lending money to the farmers to make their crop, buying the cotton from the farmers and selling it to the mills in the southeastern part of the country. They did a large volume of business for several years and they got into trouble. I don't think that they went through bankruptcy but they finally did go out of business." Matkin, 1979. Haymon Krupp told the columnist C. E. that in 1936 it cost \$150,000 to drill a discovery well of five thousand feet, although the cost might be cut in half on ensuing wells. Krupp also told him that he could sell all the oil he produced. "Nowadays, instead of sinking a well on guesswork, we spend a fortune in 'geologizing.' Geology has reached the point where we can tell whether or not we are drilling in a spot where oil will be found. Naturally, we haven't reached the point where we can tell what quantity of oil will be found, or what grade of oil will be found, but we do know when we are drilling over oil land." *New York Post*, March 3, 1936.
44. The *El Paso Herald-Post* of February 10, 1936, quotes him: "I feel that I am going to discover another oil field." At this time Krupp had drillers working in three shifts in Hudspeth County. On October 26, 1936, he was getting ready to sell stock in a new venture in El Paso's lower valley.
45. Associated with Krupp in the management of Haymon Krupp and Co. were O. S. Osborn, vice president and general manager, and Harry B. Newman, secretary-treasurer. Osborn was graduated from the Missouri State University as a civil engineer. He located railroads in Alaska and Siberia. For eight years he was the chief engineer of the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railroad. Harry

Newman was experienced in oil financing and mining. The property controlled under notarized and recorded leases of Haymon Krupp and Co. is situated in far west Texas. It is reached by a paved highway connecting with McNary and Fort Hancock, stations on the Southern Pacific and the Texas and Pacific Railroads. It is also connected by a graded gravel road with McNary a distance of about eight miles to the location where the first well is now being drilled. All the property in which leases were being offered in 1936 is situated in Block 74, Township 6, Hudspeth County, Texas. From a brochure given me by Rebecca G. Krupp, dated about 1936.

46. This instrument is in my possession. I obtained it from the Haymon Krupp family. The date of issue was May 26, 1941. Even though Haymon made this effort to attract and protect investors, the investors were unhappy. About twenty years ago I examined the Harold Potash files (in the Caples Building) on Haymon Krupp. Scores of letters from investors wanted to know what had happened to their investments. They expected an almost immediate return, but it was not there.
47. Telephone conversation with Oskar Rosen, November 16, 1979.
48. The Nahms were from Las Vegas, New Mexico. On August 31, 1950, and on May 18, 1961, I received two letters in response to my own inquiry, both from Miss Ruth Nahm, who informed me that she had nothing that she thought was of value concerning her family. She wrote, "I am proud of my Jewish heritage." I received messages on March 19, 1965, from Mrs. Milton Nahm who informed me that her husband, a professor of philosophy at Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania, had written a book, *Las Vegas and Uncle Joe, The New Mexico I Remember*, University of Oklahoma Press. I know Joe Nahm. He lived in El Paso for a few years and now lives in Carlsbad, New Mexico.
49. Analysis made by Steve H. Lauterbach, CPA, Lauterbach and Borschow, September 3, 1980.
50. Chris P. Fox informed me that Haymon Krupp served as a director of the State National Bank from January 9, 1923, to December 19, 1932, at which time he resigned. Correspondence with C. P. Fox, February 6, 1964. Another view about Haymon is presented by George Matkin: "I think he had gone off our Board voluntarily when he was in financial trouble, but he continued to be a friend and customer of the State National Bank as long as he lived, and the management continued to assist him as far as they were able to with his limited finances." Correspondence from George Matkin, Chairman of the State National Board, November 8, 1979.
51. A few months before his death, a letter from the office of the Collector of Internal Revenue, Austin, Texas, requested a check be made of his stock certificate book on United, Inc. Since he was no longer the controlling stockholder in 1948, the inquiry was referred to Oskar Rosen and A. Horwitz. Haymon Krupp's first wife, Leah, died November 27, 1931, after living in El Paso for 32 years. He married Rebecca Goldstein on January 22, 1933, and she survived him at his death on February 21, 1949. Of his children, Birdie and Bernhard had no children of their own; Paula and her husband, H. James Stone, had two sons, one deceased and Alan.
52. Simon Kahn (March 28, 1889—February 4, 1968) arrived in El Paso in 1913 and started a small bakery. He came to America in 1905 at the age of 15 and settled in Baltimore. He worked in a bakery there, saved his money, and in 1913 came west. When Simon came to El Paso he immediately started his own bakery. His first site was on West Overland Street. Both he and Mrs. Kahn (Ida Pesachson) worked at the day's baking and then delivered their goods in a horse-drawn wagon. The

business started growing and in 1915 Kahn Baking Co. moved to new quarters at 2020 Myrtle Avenue. Then in 1923 Mr. Kahn constructed the building at Rio Grande and Oregon Streets. This building is now called Kahn's Sweet Shop. In 1961 the baking firm built a \$750,000 plant at Dallas and Mills Streets. Simon invited his brother-in-law, Karl Wallace (m. Anna Pesachson), in 1930 to join him and soon thereafter Wallace became general manager of the operation. After Simon's death Karl led the management and after his death, Isadore Kahn, Simon's oldest son, became president of the firm. Isadore is joined by his brother Louis, a graduate of the Siebel Institute of Baking, and Seymore Wallace, Karl Wallace's son. A third son, Abraham S. Kahn, died in the service of his country during World War II. Simon Kahn's daughter, Miriam (Mrs. William) Goldfarb, is represented by her husband on Kahn Bakery's Board of Trustees. Isadore Kahn's son, Andrew, is the only member of the third generation who was active in the firm in 1980.

53. When Haymon Krupp died on February 21, 1949, many institutions honored his memory. The Texas House of Representatives issued a resolution to Mrs. Rebecca Krupp which concluded: "Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Texas of the 51st legislature, That we, the members thereof recognize and appreciate the great services rendered not only to the State of Texas, but to hundreds of needy persons and appreciate him as a public-spirited citizen." It was signed by Durwood Manford, Speaker of the House. On November 4, 1958, Logan Wilson, president of the University of Texas, informed Mrs. Rebecca Krupp that the University had reconstructed the Santa Rita, No. 1, for special and permanent display at the Nineteenth Street and San Jacinto Boulevard entrance to the campus. A brief dedication ceremony, to which she was invited, was held just before the Texas A&M game on the field, November 27, 1958. Temple Mt. Sinai, El Paso, Texas, also issued a resolution in his memory, signed by Luis Zork, president. Hadassah issued a resolution, as did El Paso Lodge No. 509, B'nai Brith, Alex Silverman, president; Congregation B'nai Zion, I. Erlich, president; the Board of Directors of the El Paso Community Chest, James Dick Jr., president. Haymon Krupp was also posthumously elected to the Hall of Honor of the El Paso County Historical Society in 1970. In 1950 Congregation B'nai Zion dedicated the Haymon Krupp Memorial Hall; a statement written and delivered by Rabbi Joseph Roth marked the occasion. The Chapel at Temple Mt. Sinai is named the Haymon Krupp Memorial Chapel and an oil painting of Mr. Krupp hangs in the entrance hall of the chapel.
54. The *El Paso Times*, April 9, 1931, reports that Mrs. Elias G. Krupp (Brannette) was willed \$1,000,000 and her two daughters \$50,000 each by Mrs. Krupp's uncle Nathan Frank of St. Louis. There were years of litigation. Mark Frank, a nephew, contested the will, but lost. Nathan Frank's will was sustained by Circuit Court Judge Robert Kirkwood in St. Louis, as reported by the *El Paso Times*, April 12, 1935. Mrs. Elias G. Krupp died at the age of 41, on March 3, 1936. Community property and half of her separate holdings were bequeathed to her husband Elias. The outstanding half of her holdings was placed in a trust for her heirs, Carlyn and Elinor Krupp. Elias and Harold Potash were named trustees for the fund according to the *El Paso Times*, March 20, 1936. Elias G. Krupp died at the age of 81, *El Paso Times*, May 7, 1974.
55. For further reference consult: Office of County Clerk (Probate Court), El Paso County, Texas. In the matter of the estate of Brannette Mayer Krupp, No. 7410. In the matter of the estate of Elias G. Krupp No. 22956. Inventory and appraisal.

EL PASO DOCUMENTARY III  
DEFENDING SPAIN'S NORTHERN FRONTIER —  
THE EL PASO AREA

by W. H. TIMMONS

The Apache problem of the second half of the 18th century demanded a comprehensive reorganization of Spain's northern frontier defenses. In accordance with the Royal Regulations of Presidios of September 10, 1772, a chain of fifteen presidios roughly 40 to 50 leagues (100 to 130 miles) apart was established in a line extending from the Gulf of Mexico to the Gulf of California. The Royal Regulations of 1772 may be found in Spanish and English translation in *Lancers for the King*, edited by Sidney B. Brinkerhoff and Odie B. Faulk.

The document presented here, which is being published for the first time, supplements the Royal Regulations and deals specifically with the El Paso area. It was written by Don Antonio María Sánchez Alonso de Daroca, lieutenant governor of New Mexico with his headquarters in El Paso del Norte. Divided into two parts, the first portion is a repetition of Articles 10 and 11 of the Royal Regulations of 1772 concerning El Paso del Norte, while the second part consists of Lieutenant Governor Daroca's recommendations and orders for implementing those articles.

This document may be found in the Juárez Archives, Reel 45, frames Special Collections and Archives, University of Texas at El Paso, 144-147. Rebecca Ramos and Laura Timmons have assisted with the translation.

Don Antonio María Sánchez Alonso de Daroca, veteran lieutenant of the provincial cavalry regiment of Querétaro, governing lieutenant of this town of Our Lady of Guadalupe of El Paso del Rio del Norte, jurisdiction of the district of New Mexico.

With regard to Articles 10 and 11 of the new Royal Regulations of Presidios presented in San Yldefonso September 10, 1772, His Majesty has ordered the following concerning El Paso del Norte. In the protection of this old presidio a populous town of the same name has been established which, with the nearby

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*Dr. W. H. Timmons, professor emeritus of history at the University of Texas at El Paso, prepared this article as the third in a series regarding the El Paso-Ciudad Juarez observance of Four Centuries '81 during 1981. He originated the celebration and is a member of the board of the El Paso County Historical Society.*

missions, numbers more than 5,000 persons; since the inhabitants are well armed, they can and should defend themselves by themselves, thus complying with the obligation contracted at the establishment of the town and the conditions imposed in the distribution of the fertile lands which they occupy. For this reason and in order to continue the cordon of the frontier, I order that this company without loss of time move to establish a presidio in the vicinity of the town of Carrizal, and on a spacious and level site which upon inspection proves to be very abundant in water and pasture; as a result of this move it will be situated in the line at the projected distance from San Buenaventura; they can give each a hand and interchange their detachments, in this way protecting the province and-especially the yilla of Chihuahua.

With the view of maintaining free communication with the province of New Mexico and of providing security to the town of El Paso and its nearby missions and mission Indians, my viceroy will appoint at once a subaltern army officer of good conduct at a salary of 1,000 pesos, who in the capacity of lieutenant governor will organize the civilians at El Paso, composed of Spaniards and other persons, into regular companies of militia; they will be provided with the necessary arms at the cost at which they were acquired by my royal treasury so that they can attend to their own defense and can escort to Robledo, twenty leagues distant, the trains of muleteers and travelers who annually go to and from New Mexico. At that point will be established a detachment and new town by the governor of that province, as will be provided for in its proper place.<sup>1</sup>

Having received by the mercy of our august sovereign the honor of being chosen to command this town of El Paso del Norte and its jurisdiction and to implement its defense, I must have the complete obedience to the spirit of this royal resolution which seeks only the tranquility and well being of all subjects. Therefore, I order that all citizens between 18 and 60 years of age appear before me at my living quarters on Sunday, December 5, 1773, with their muskets which were registered at the time of the last census, together with those persons who do not have arms. All will draw lots assigning them to companies, and they must obey the officers and sergeants who will be named by the commanding officer. Failure to do so will result in a penalty of eight days in jail, a fine of 6 pesos in reales, and the loss of most of their possessions in accordance with the mandate of the royal court as recommended by me.

In the above mentioned articles His Majesty orders not only the formation of a militia but also what is necessary for the security of the country. So that I will have complete knowledge about all matters necessary in carrying out my commission and to satisfy the royal intention, I therefore order that all those exercising a public function must obtain my permission. Those who violate this will be fined 12 pesos in reales and will serve two weeks in prison. Should they be persons of color,<sup>2</sup> 50 lashes will be administered at the public pillory, together with whatever other punishment the royal court may assess. And so that the news reaches everyone and none can plead ignorance, I hereby order that this directive be published at all the usual times and places, and that it be sent to the lieutenants of the towns downriver so that their inhabitants can appear before me in the same manner as those from El Paso del Norte on December 19, 1773. This proclamation is issued in this town of El Paso del Norte on November 29, 1773, and is herewith authorized by this lieutenant governor who is acting in the absence of a royal or public official, none being available in this jurisdiction.

Antonio María de Daroca  
(signature)

Lorenzo Antonio Quarón  
(signature)

This proclamation is to be published in the customary places to the ringing of bells. To certify this, I herewith sign it on this said day, month, and year.

Antonio María de Daroca  
(signature)

<sup>1</sup>This was never carried out.

<sup>2</sup>That is, Negroes, mulattoes, and those of mixed Negro and Indian blood.

## SOUTHWESTERN RESOURCES

by MARY A. SARBER

The Rio Grande Historical Collections includes all types of records and papers relating to the New Mexican and Southwestern experience. It is located in the Library of the New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, and is jointly sponsored by New Mexico State University and a board of directors composed of some of the region's leading individuals. Funding for operations comes from New Mexico State University and from membership and patron contributions of interested individuals.

The impetus behind its organization in 1972 was the realization that the papers and collections of many of southern New Mexicans and institutions were being destroyed, lost or acquired by distant archives. Its purpose is to locate, collect, preserve, and make available for research the personal papers and records that are so important to an understanding of the history and cultural heritage of New Mexico.

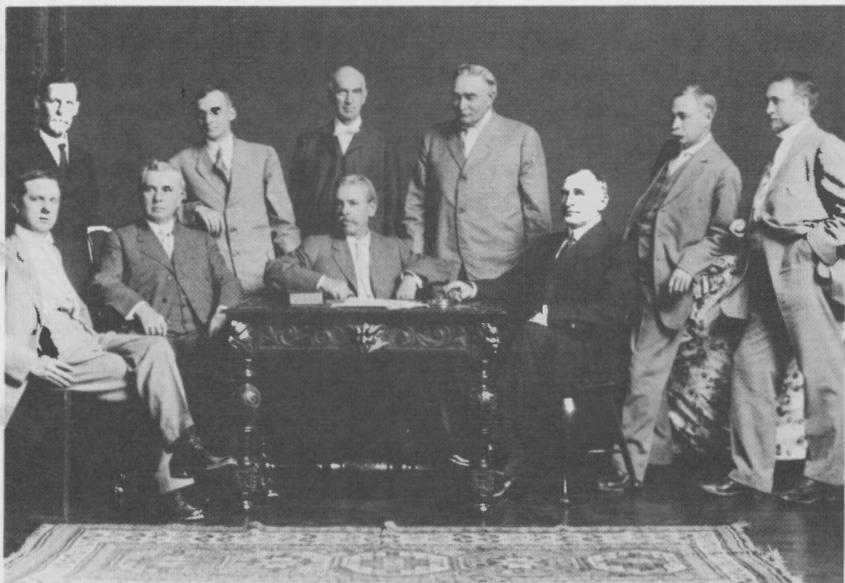
Notable examples of the kinds of materials housed in the archives include the Eugene Manlove Rhodes Collection, containing many letters and manuscripts of this Southwestern novelist; the papers and records of significant miners, such as Louis B. Bentley, William H. Skidmore, and William J. Weatherby; the operating records and correspondence of various ranchers and ranching concerns, including M. M. Chase, George A. Godfrey, the New Mexico Wool Growers Association, the New Mexico Cattle Growers Association, and the Southeastern New Mexico Grazing Association; and the papers of such New Mexican politicians as Congressmen Thomas G. Morris, E. S. Johnny Walker, and Stephan B. Elkins, and H. J. Hagerman, Territorial governor and secretary of the U. S. Embassy in Tzarist Russia.

Also included are the papers of individuals such as R. W. Goddard, pioneer in radio broadcasting and founder of station KOB; J. J. Hagerman, mining, steel, and railroad entrepreneur and pioneer Pecos Valley land developer; Charles De Bremond, Roswell area farmer and sheep raiser and Commander of Battery A, New Mexico National Guard, which served on the border during the Mexican Revolution and in France during World War I; and E. O. Wooton, botanist and first major investigator of and standard authority on New Mexican flora.

The papers of the Freudenthal family, who were pioneer Jewish merchants, and of the Amador family, prominent in early Las Cruces activities, are also in the Collections. Another notable item is a first edition of the OAHSPE, the central work of the Faithist religion, edited in pencil by its author, John B. Newbrough, in preparation for a second edition.

Many other collections are described and available for research. Guides to these collections may be inspected in the University Archives. A study area on the second floor of the University Library is reserved for researchers, and reference services are also available.

Additional efforts of the program include maintenance of a subject-oriented photograph file and publication of a twice yearly magazine, *Rio Grande History*, for donors, members, and history enthusiasts. For further information on becoming a member, contact the Rio Grande Historical Collections, University Library, Box 3475, Las Cruces, NM 88003.



*This photo of a group of prominent El Pasoans, taken about 1910, is from the Rio Grande Historical Collections of New Mexico State University. Only four of the 10 are identified: Richard Burges, seated far left; Félix Martínez, seated center; James A. Smith, standing to Martínez' left; and Zach White seated right. Anyone who can identify others is asked to contact the Rio Grande Historical Collections or Mary Sarber at the El Paso Public Library.*

## ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

Many expressions of thanks have been received by the El Paso County Historical Society for its role in helping to host the 85th annual meeting of the Texas State Historical Association during the first week of March.

The El Paso Society and the El Paso Museum of History hosted a reception honoring Marilyn McAdams Sibley, incoming president of the state organization, and Albert H. Schroeder, president of the Historical Society of New Mexico, which was meeting jointly with the Texans. The Texas Catholic Historical Society also met with the two other state groups in the Civic Center.

The Society will take part in the Four Centuries '81 Birthday Party celebration at the Civic Center July 10-12. An exhibition of historic photographs and recordings of old-timers, made by the Oral History Institute of the University of Texas at El Paso, will be featured. The celebration will include exhibits, entertainment and other activities indoors and out, with the cutting of the giant birthday cake scheduled July 11.

Dr. W. H. Timmons, Society board member and "Mr. History" for Four Centuries, hosted a series of seven lectures on events of El Paso history, held at the El Paso Public Library during the spring. He opened the series on March 11, on "Oñate's La Toma." Later speakers were the Rev. Ernest Burrus, S. J., on "The Founding of Our Missions"; Dr. Timmons, pinch-hitting for Conrey Bryson, on "The Rio Grande Becomes a Boundary"; Dr. Edward Leonard, "Arrival of the Railroads"; Dr. James M. Day, "The Building of Elephant Butte Dam"; Richard Estrada, "The Mexican Revolution"; and Franklin Smith, "The Chamizal Settlement."

On April 30, the 383rd anniversary of "La Toma," Oñate's proclamation claiming the Rio Grande country for Spain, a dedication ceremony was held on the plaza of San Elizario. Dr. Timmons, who originated the monument project and arranged for most of the funding, was a central figure in the program for which Father Burrus served as master of ceremonies. Others taking part included Col. (Ret.) James W. Ward, president of the El Paso County Historical Commission. Members of the Commission and the Mission Heritage Association were special guests. A special cancellation stamp was issued by the San Elizario Post Office for the dedication. The El Paso County Historical Society took part in funding the monument, which was designed by past president Pat Rand. Three plaques describe the visits to this area by the earliest Spanish expeditions.

Medallions commemorating Four Centuries '81, bearing the emblem of the Historical Society on one side and of Four Centuries on the other,

are available at the City Museums and several local banks at five dollars each. They are a special project of the Society for Four Centuries.

Past president Dr. E. H. Antone edited the 1981 yearbook, first in two years, which should be available by the time this issue of *Password* is distributed.

Curator William I. Latham asked Frank Feuille III, president and publisher of the *El Paso Times*, for a copy of the newspaper's 100th anniversary issue of April 2. Mr. Feuille generously provided bound copies of both the *Times* and the *Herald-Post* which also published its 100th anniversary issue the same day.

Several members have received significant honors recently. President Gertrude Goodman was the recipient of the National Conference of Christians and Jews Humanitarian Award in recognition of her many services to the community. The Texas Catholic Historical Society honored 12 area residents for their contributions to promoting the history of the Catholic presence in the Southwest. Artist José Cisneros was presented the Folk Award. Also honored were Leon Metz and Conrey Bryson, past presidents of EPCHS; Dr. John Haddox and Dr. W. H. Timmons of UT El Paso; attorneys Herb Porras Jr. and Frank Ainsa; Mary Sarber, El Paso Public Library; Bishop Emeritus Sidney M. Metzger and the Rev. Ernest J. Burrus, S. J.; Mrs. Paul Taylor and Marc Simmons, New Mexico historians.

When Gov. Bill Clements learned that Tom Lea and Carl Hertzog would not be in Austin to receive the Texas Arts Award, he offered to make the presentation personally during a trip to El Paso a few days later. The award was for their work on the 50th anniversary program for the El Paso Symphony Orchestra. Lea also was granted the \$1,000 Lon Tinkle Award from the Texas Institute of Letters in recognition of his distinguished career as an artist and author and his continued contribution to Texas literature. Both Lea and Hertzog are in the EPCHS Hall of Honor.

Mrs. Hans Brockmoller is arranging the 1981 Tour of Homes for October 3 in Kern Place.

The Hall of Honor dinner has been scheduled for November 15. Mrs. Edgar B. Dodds and Mrs. Ross O. Borrett are banquet chairmen and Frank G. McKnight heads the selections committee.

Society members mourn the loss of three members of the Board of Trustees, Ralph González, Mrs. Maurice Schwartz and Dorrance D. Roderick. Hedwig Schwartz was a life-long resident of El Paso and was active in many civic organizations. Her late husband was named to the Hall of Honor in 1966. Dorrance Roderick was former publisher of the



*Greeting guests at the El Paso Museum of History-El Paso County Historical Society reception for those attending the Texas and New Mexico state historical meetings in March were, from right, Tuffly Ellis, editor of the Southwestern Historical Quarterly; Mrs. W. H. Timmons; Dr. Timmons in his "Mr. History" costume; and El Paso Society president Gertrude Goodman. (Photo by M. G. McKinney)*

El Paso Times, took a significant role in furthering the El Paso Symphony for many years, and was very active in civic affairs. Both were charter members of the Society.

Many new members have been added to the rolls in recent months. They include Mrs. Bettye Abbiss, Lynn Barnard, Mr. and Mrs. Joe M. Battle, Mr. and Mrs. Donald C. Bennett, Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Carter, Mr. and Mrs. William C. Collins, Major (USA-Ret) and Mrs. William J. Coonly, Dr. and Mrs. Branch Craige Jr., Anne Ponder Dickson, Miss Pauline Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde F. Haggard Jr., Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Hanks, Dr. and Mrs. Morton Leonard Jr., Mr. and Mrs. John E. Martin, Col. (USA-Ret) and Mrs. Homer Pitzer, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph G. Rea, Drs. Creighton and Elizabeth Rhea, Terence R. Rowland, Mrs. Nancy S. Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Summerford, Elizabeth C. Sympton, Col. and Mrs. William R. Thomas, Col. and Mrs. A. L. Warfield, Edward M. Wingo Jr., Josette Wingo, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Womack, Mrs. L. E. Wood, Mrs. Alice R. Word, Robert E. Word, Mr. and Mrs. Manuel R. Ybarra and Mr. and Mrs. Dexter M. Mapel.

## MEMORIES OF THE PAST

By MRS. FRED LUDLOW

Memories of the past? Ah, yes, I have memories. Memories that now seem like a dream that couldn't have happened to me.

It all began in Cape Town, South Africa, where I was born.

We were a happy, well-to-do family consisting of Mother, Dad, brother Albert, and sisters Violet and Ruby.

Then on December 5, 1906, tragedy struck. It was Violet's birthday, and Mother and Dad had gone downtown to pick up the birthday cake. Meanwhile Violet told the cook she could leave because Violet wanted to make the tea and coffee. She struck a match to light the stove, and somehow her long hair caught fire. She panicked and grabbed the kitchen curtains, which only intensified the fire. When our parents returned, she was in terrible pain. She died in Dad's arms with a smile on her face.

Mother became very depressed and our doctor suggested to Dad that we travel for awhile. In March of 1907 we left our home, going to Ireland, England, Belgium, Germany, France, Switzerland and Italy. Dad had a brother in Venice and we stayed there a month. Then back to South Hampton, where we set sail for America, docking in New York. After a month there, we took a train to Tacoma, Washington. My parents liked this part of America very much so Dad bought a home in Gig Harbor (near Tacoma). Here my brother Gordon was born. We stayed in Gig Harbor nearly three years. Then a friend talked Dad into going to Mexico, where there were oil and mining activities. We sold our home and moved to Guadalajara in 1910. All went well for a few months, then Dad received a cablegram urging him back to Cape Town to settle some business affairs. He left intending to come back on the return ship. We never saw him again. He died of a heart attack in Rhodesia.

We had always had plenty of money so Mother, thinking all she had to do was write for more, didn't economize. She found out on writing that because Dad died without a will, the estate was tied up until my brother Albert became 21.

Albert quit school in his senior year to look for work. He found a job in the State of Chihuahua, where they were building a new dam called Boquilla. Once more we moved, this time to Santa Rosalia, the nearest town to Boquilla.

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*Mrs. Ludlow's article was the second place winner in the annual Historical Memories Contest sponsored by the Historical Society.*

Needless to say our life style changed drastically. We went from caviar to beans. Mother had to learn to cook, wash, iron and keep house. She sold some of her treasures and we adjusted to a new way of living.

Then came the Revolution. Pancho Villa had gathered a band of men together to fight the *federales*, who were in power at that time (1910). Villa soon took many of the small towns, and each day we heard rumors that he was coming our way. We were afraid to leave our homes. The *federales* built trenches in the form of crosses down the center of the streets to protect themselves. Finally one day at 2 p.m., they attacked Santa Rosalia. Bullets whizzed by in all directions. The Villistas won. Most of the *federales* were killed. The Villistas robbed the stores, and then marched on.

Albert came as soon as they left and took us to Boquilla to live in one of the company houses, which had just been built above the dam.

We had barely got settled, when the Villistas moved into Boquilla. This time not a shot was fired; they marched in and took possession. This happened in December. The train from America with our Christmas supplies was on the track. The first thing the Villistas did was loot the train. You would see them open cans of plum pudding, taste them, and then, spit the food on the ground.

Albert always wore a Stetson hat, and one day he came home from work wearing a large, dirty sombrero full of holes. He told us that one of the soldiers asked him how much he wanted for his hat. Brother answered, "It's not for sale." The soldier pulled out his gun, took the hat, put his old dirty one on my brother's head, and gave him an I.O.U.

Another time, the Villistas took our donkey, tied him to a post by the neck and by his tail to another post; then, they lined up with their guns and tried to shoot off his tail. They also stole Albert's race horse.

A rumor circulated that the Villistas planned a dance at the company's club house, and the general said that all American women were to attend. Mr. McKenzie, the company superintendent, called the men together and told them something had to be done at once. As a result all the women and children and one man, were loaded in a motor boat (the only one in Boquilla) with a week's supply of food and were taken to the Island. Guns were given to all the women and to Mr. Roland, and they were told to use them on themselves if the Villistas came after us. The week passed and food was running out by the eighth day. Mr. Roland and the women had only coffee, while the children had only tortillas to eat. On the ninth day around 11 a.m., we heard the putt-putt of the motor boat. We all fell to our knees and prayed that it would be our men. It was. Everyone was crying and laughing at the same time. The Villistas had moved on and we returned to Boquilla.

My brother was worried and thought we would be safer in Durango. He went with us to get us settled. We found a home for rent at 212 Calle Principal. Our neighbor on one side was a priest, and on the other, a famous artist, Lupe García.

We loved Durango, because so many nice things happened to us there. My sister Ruby was 16, and the fellows would give her a "gallo" almost every week. A "gallo" is a group of boys who come to your home around midnight and play and sing for an hour. The girl for whom it is given comes out on the balcony and applauds after each piece. When I had my tenth birthday, I was invited to come to the plaza at 5 a.m. Everyone brought gifts and sang "Las Mañanitas." At Easter time all the young girls and boys go to the plaza in the evenings to a "Kiosco." While a band plays, the boys go around in one direction and the girls in the other, and as they pass they break colored egg shells filled with confetti on each others' heads. In the summer when the fruit ripens, different homes have open house and families go and pick all the fruit they want. Everywhere there is music, on the street corners, in all the parks,



*Col. Pancho Villa at Juárez after the battle of May 8-10, 1911. (Photo from M.G. McKinney Collection)*

the restaurants, the homes. One of the young men who was eager to take my sister Ruby out, had a coach with two white horses and a driver sent to our home every afternoon to take us where we wanted to go. If we went to a show or the confectionary for a soda, we were always told it had been paid for.

Then one night about 11 o'clock the Villistas, under the command of Tomás Urbina, surprised the *federales* by attacking Durango. The battle raged for three days and nights. The *federales*, with the exception of about ten, were all killed.

On taking the city, the first thing the Villistas did was to loot the grocery, jewelry and department stores, then set fire to the buildings. They gave orders that all homes should be left open day and night. The Villistas would enter your home at any time looking for guns, horses or even a pretty girl. Lupe García, who had moved in with us, took some brown shoe polish and painted sister Ruby's face. Each time the soldiers came into our home, Ruby got on her knees by a tub of clothes and pretended to be the maid doing the laundry.

I saw Villa twice. The first time he was dressed in khaki and wore a cap. The second time he was resplendent in a black uniform with silver buttons and a large black hat also trimmed in silver. He always rode into a town on a beautiful horse. Behind him were the soldiers and behind them a bunch of bedraggled women carrying pots and pans.

Our troubles increased after this. Villa burned all the railroad bridges and tore down the telephone wires. We couldn't communicate with my brother. Our money ran out and Mother started selling her jewelry and finally, the furniture a piece at a time, until four of us were sleeping in one bed. Month after month went by and still no word from my brother. We gave him up for dead. At last there was nothing more to sell and we were hungry. Mother swallowed her pride and went to the consul for help. He scolded her and said that he was in Durango to help British subjects and that he would give us enough to live on until we heard from brother.

Finally one day a messenger came to our home with a telegram. When Mother took it, she fainted as she thought it was a death message. One of the neighbors read it to us. It was from Albert, saying that he would arrive in Durango the minute the bridges were mended. Two weeks later he came, and our friends in Durango turned out en masse to greet him. The band played, people clapped and yelled, and Albert was carried on the shoulders of our friends down one street and up the other for about an hour. It was a joyous time for all. After our evening meal, Albert told us what he had experienced during the months we were separated.

The company had sent him to Columbus, New Mexico, as an escort

for the women and children of the American workers who wanted to leave. On the way back he was captured by Villa, who accused him of being a spy. No amount of talking could convince Villa to the contrary. Albert was thrown in jail and told he would face the firing squad in three days. The sentence was to be carried out, when Villa returned from a raid on some big ranch to get food for his men. Brother said, "I was wearing a white suit and there were so many fleas, lice, and bedbugs that I couldn't brush them off fast enough, and so I just watched them crawl over me in a steady stream." On the third day he was taken out of his cell and stood up against the wall before a firing squad of six men. He was asked if he had anything to say. He replied, "Only that I am not guilty." When he spoke, one of the members of the firing squad broke away, ran and put his arms around brother, and shouted, "He is not a spy; he is Don Alberto and I worked for him on the Boquilla Dam." So, due to one of God's miracles, he lived to come back to us.

Albert paid all the outstanding bills. We packed our few belongings and went back to Boquilla with him where we again moved into one of the company houses. We went through two more battles while there.

Then in November 1916, the superintendent, Mr. McKenzie, told us that we must leave our homes and go to the United States, as Villa said that he would shoot every *gringo* he found. We boarded a train for El Paso that night with much fear, as we had heard about the 300 families who had left before us in March. The Villistas had halted their train inside the Cumbre tunnel (which is about 160 miles southwest of Juárez), and set fire to the tunnel exits. All burned to death, including Mr. and Mrs. Abel and their four-year-old son. They were related to the Visconti family, friends of ours in Santa Rosalia.

We hadn't traveled far when the men sighted Villistas coming. They told us to lie flat on the Pullman floors. The men got their rifles, and for a while it was quite lively with shots coming from all directions. However, the train outran the bandits, and we pulled into Juárez at 3 a.m.

When we got to El Paso, we took the first hotel we came to on San Francisco Street and found out the next day we had spent the night in a bawdy house.

My brother applied for and got a job in Fort Hancock, Texas, where he started digging ditches with a big Bucyrus machine for the irrigation system we use in the valley today. There were no houses to be had in Fort Hancock. We settled in Clint, where I met my husband, raised two daughters and have lived for 62 years.

And so a family born in four different continents, namely South Africa, Europe, Australia and America, finally ended their wanderings in the Rio Grande Valley, El Paso County, in the State of Texas.

## HERITAGE HOMES OF EL PASO

by HARRIOT HOWZE JONES

The Mansion at 250 Pennsylvania Place



(Photo by M.G. MCKINNEY)

The Spanish-style house was built in 1930 for Mr. and Mrs. Arthur L. McKnight. The architect was Otto Thorman, and Russel Ramey, the builder. The present owners are Mr. and Mrs. George H. Harvie.

The house has two stories and a full basement. It is constructed of brick and stuccoed a rosy cream-color. The pitched roof is of maroon tiles and the shutters and all outside wood work are the same dark red. A tower, slightly off center of the house, holds the deeply inset front door and the spiral staircase inside. Two narrow stained glass windows in the tower admit light onto the staircase. To the left of the tower at second-story level, is a balcony. At the other end of house is another balcony over an arch-way leading to the garage.

One enters a square hall, from which rises the spiral staircase, with treads of terrazo tile and wrought iron banister. Gray-green tiles cover the floors on the ground level. There are magnificent oriental rugs throughout. Most of the doorways are arched and there are several arched niches in the walls, holding interesting objets d'art.

Opposite the front door is a small room where there is an enormous "Grandfather" clock, ten feet tall, with carved oak frame and leaded glass doors. This was imported from Germany by Myrtill Coblentz, from whose estate it was purchased by the Harvies.

To the right of the hall is the sunny dining room. Behind that are the pantry, kitchen and maid's room. Also in that area, there is a small elevator to the second floor.

To the left of the hall, down two steps, is the large living room. To give an idea of its size, the rug on the floor measures 19.5 feet by 21.5 feet. There are windows on three sides of the room. A charming patio, full of shrubs and flowers, may be seen from the back windows.

Upstairs there are four bedrooms. At one time each bedroom opened onto a screened sleeping porch. These porches have been enclosed and serve as sitting rooms for the bedrooms.

The original owners were the McKnights. Arthur McKnight was a native of Independence, Texas, and his wife, nee Frances Gillespie, came from Huntsville, Texas. When they first came to El Paso, they lived at 3000 Federal Avenue, and then moved to St. Louis, where they lived for five years. He was general agent for Aetna Life Insurance Company. The McKnights lived in this house for nine years, then bought a place in the Upper Valley which they named Rancho Feliz.

There are two McKnight sons, Tom and Frank, both of whom live in El Paso. Tom was in the Air Force for seventeen years, then was with an electronics firm in California. His wife is the former Ora Taylor of Brookville, Indiana. Frank, whose wife is the former Sarah Stevens of El Paso, was in the cotton business for years. Then he spent some time in Washington associated with the Secretary of Agriculture. He now owns an art gallery and does custom picture framing. He serves on the board of the El Paso County Historical Society.

According to El Paso City Directories, the house was vacant from 1939 to 1942. In 1943 Mr. and Mrs. Gustave Spindler were living there. In 1954 the house was bought by Mr. and Mrs. George H. Harvie.

Mr. Harvie's father, Crawford Harvie, came to El Paso in 1891. He and his brothers started the El Paso Laundry and Cleaners, one of the oldest firms in the city still doing business. George Harvie joined the business as a young man. Mrs. Harvie is a native El Pasoan, nee Catherine Harp. They have two sons, George Frederick and James Crawford Harvie. George Frederick, known as Fred, lives in El Paso with his wife, the former Paula Kortkamp, and two sons. James and his wife, nee Margaret Ann Davidson, live in Houston and own the Contential Diamond Center.

## BOOK NOTES

by MARY ELLEN PORTER

*Sagas of Old Western Travel and Transport.* Wilbur Hoffman. San Diego: Howell North Books. \$20.00.

A twenty-year old bride skips a clipper ship rounding Cape Horn with a mutinous crew aboard and an infirm husband.

*Blackfoot and Buffalo Book.* James Willard Schultz. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. \$7.95.

The Blackfoot Indian and his adjustment to a new way of life following the disappearance of the buffalo.

*The Chisholm Trail.* Don Worcester. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. \$14.50.

The story of the great cattle drives from Texas northward produced the greatest of all folk heroes — the American cowboy.

*Trails to Texas.* Terry G. Jordan. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press. \$15.95.

Outlines the origin of the system of open cattle ranching that dominated the Great Plains in the late 19th century. Terry Jordan is chairman of the Department of Geography at North Texas State University.

*A Harvest Yet to Reap. A History of Prairie Women.* A publication of the Women's Press: Toronto. Distributed by University of Nebraska Press. \$12.50.

Tells the personal stories of women who survived the frontier.

*Time of Harvest.* John L. Sinclair. Frenchtown, New Jersey: Columbia Publishing Company. \$14.95.

One of the five regional novels that have distinguished American literature.

*Apaches: A History and Culture Portrait.* James L. Haley. New York: Doubleday and Company. \$17.95.

Represents a new methodology in researching American Indian history.

*More Tales From Slim Ellison.* Slim Ellison. Tucson: University of Arizona Press. \$17.50 cloth; \$9.50 paperback.

Slim's recollections of months away from any comforts demonstrate the need for truth, manners and humor among the men who choose this way of life.

*Pueblo, Hardscrabble, Greenhorn: The Upper Arkansas, 1832-1856.* Janet Lecomte. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press. \$7.95.

Tells the story of the settlements, men and women who struggled to make a living, or a good life, out of wild Indians, stubborn soil and the

thin grass of this hard valley.

*Houses of Gold.* John Carden Campbell. San Diego: Howell North Books. \$15.00.

The state name of California was derived from a Spanish legend of an island of gold. Gold has always influenced California's history. Essentially, however, this is a story of houses, a pictorial journey through the "gold country." A rare history of homes built between 1850 and 1900 along what is now Route 49.

*ESSAYS ON THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION: REVISIONIST VIEWS OF THE LEADERS.* George Wolfskill and Douglas W. Richmond (eds.). University of Texas Press, 1979.

The historiography of the Mexican Revolution has progressed a good measure from the emotional environment of the 1930s which spawned such laudatory and condemnatory tracts as Nathaniel and Sylvia Weyl's *The Reconquest of Mexico* on the one extreme and Evelyn Waugh's *Robbery Under Law* on the other. One of the latest tributes to detached research is *Essays on the Mexican Revolution*, a thoughtful collection of essays edited by George Wolfskill and Douglas W. Richmond.

The slim volume is an outgrowth of the Walter Prescott Webb Memorial Lectures, held at the University of Texas at Arlington in 1978. William H. Beezley, Friedrich Katz, Richmond, David C. Bailey and Lyle C. Brown assessed "the nature and quality of Mexican revolutionary leadership." The results, in the words of the editors, are "challenging new insights that are, in most instances, the beginning of major studies."

While the degree of challenge varies and one wonders at the omission of Calles and Huerta, perhaps the two most stereotyped revolutionary figures; the description is valid. Beezley presents a contrast between the fascination of villagers toward a local incipient birdman and their ignorance of Madero at the beginning of the Revolution. Concluding that the martyr never captured the imagination of the masses while living, the author counters an oft-quoted contemporary observation on Madero that "every town he entered was a Jerusalem."

Villa, Carranza, Obregón, and Cárdenas are examined in the remaining essays. Katz believes that the first failed to fit a convenient mold, neither peasant, worker, nor bourgeois revolutionary. Nor was Villa's governorship "a regime of cut-throats and bandits," as critics have alleged, but one of social reform. The evaluation also coincides with Mexico's recent recognition of the man best known on this side of the border as the ravager of Columbus, New Mexico. Richmond attempts to

retrieve Carranza's sagging reputation by depicting him as Mexico's first successful revolutionary president, receiving support from all but the foreign and upper classes. Bailey's view of Obregón as an astute survivor does not clash substantially with the traditional image, nor does Brown's description of Cárdenas as a balancer of forces within the power structure.

*Essays on the Mexican Revolution*, while offering few gasps of amazement, should excite the interest of both the scholar and the lay reader as we await the promised expanded works.

GARNA L. CHRISTIAN

(University of Houston-Downtown College)

*RAILS AT THE PASS OF THE NORTH*. Edward A. Leonard. Texas Western Press, 1981. \$3.00.

This monograph, No. 63 in the Southwestern Studies series, is a valuable contribution to El Paso history. It is a greatly expanded version of material originally published in *Password* which earned Dr. Leonard the Eugene O. Porter Award for 1979.

Dr. Leonard points out that, although the Southern Pacific, Texas & Pacific and Santa Fe lines all reached El Paso during 1881, there was no real "race" in the same sense as that for Raton Pass, since the pass above El Paso could accommodate more than one track.

Railroads began to be taken seriously elsewhere in Texas by 1850, but it was not until after the Civil War that efforts toward transcontinental roads began to affect El Paso. The Southern Pacific was building eastward from California, while its subsidiary, the GH&SA, was responsible for laying track between San Antonio and El Paso. From the east the Texas and Pacific was moving toward El Paso, still in the Permian Basin when the SP ran its first regular train into the city. Dr. Leonard describes the tribulations of the Santa Fe line in becoming established southward from Colorado in what became the West's most famous railroad war.

Two transcontinental southern routes were achieved in 1881, one the linking of the SP/GH&SA with the T&P, and the other the Santa Fe route from the north that bypassed El Paso for Deming. By July 4, 1881, El Paso had service to Los Angeles and San Francisco on one line and to Albuquerque and Kansas City on another; in December, access to Fort Worth and Dallas was added. The Mexican Central in 1884 completed its line from El Paso to Mexico City.

To the five railroads of the 1880s, El Paso added the El Paso and Southwestern in 1902, connecting with the copper mining district of Arizona, and the Mexican Northwestern in 1912.

After World War II, Dr. Leonard points out, the levels of freight and passenger service continued to be higher than in pre-war years as population in the Southwest increased. El Paso saw the first multi-unit diesel locomotive ever constructed, which Santa Fe used on its Super Chief in 1936, and the introduction of diesel freight engines by the SP in 1947. The last steam locomotives vanished during the 1950s, the same decade in which the city put its train tracks below street level after decades of delayed traffic through the downtown area whenever trains went through.

"The future looks very good for the railroads of El Paso," concludes Dr. Leonard. He cites two influential recent changes: the purchase in 1980 by SP of the Rock Island main line from Tucumcari to St. Louis, and the planned merger of Missouri Pacific (T&P) with Union Pacific to create one of the nation's largest rail systems. He foresees continuing expansion of rail freight and hopes for the preservation of passenger service.

A former professor of political science at the University of Texas at El Paso, Dr. Leonard is now a partner in Energy Management and Research Associates. He has been a railroad buff since childhood and is involved in the project to renovate a steam engine for excursion trips during the observance of Four Centuries '81.

NANCY HAMILTON

El Paso



*Dr. A.T.B. Beauchamp of Paris, Texas, bought a print of this photo when he visited El Paso in 1891. San Jacinto Plaza is blanketed with snow. Behind it are the railroad tracks which ran along Main Street until 1956. Mesa is the street running from right to left uphill. The Franklin Mountains are in the background.*

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