

# PASSWORD



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## PASSWORD

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## **IN MEMORIAM**

Mrs. Robert S. Crowell  
Maurice Kubby  
Mrs. George A. Morrow  
Tom Rogers  
Walter Wulfjen

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# TOWN AND GOWN: THE EARLY YEARS



by  
Nancy Hamilton

**W**hile most of us are showing our age as we reach 70, The University of Texas at El Paso does not. It is blessed with many new buildings—the College of Business Administration opened its new home in January of this year, and the six-story Central Library is still under construction. Besides the evidence of the campus's physical appearance, there is the joyful phenomenon of youth in the majority of the students. From this standpoint, then, the University will be forever young despite the number of years it continues to count.

This year marks a celebration of the University's beginnings, a period filled with unforgettable people whose names are still found on the campus. Among them are "Cap" Kidd of dynamite fame, who inspired Kidd Field and a seismological observatory named for him; the Seamon brothers of the earliest faculty, whose name designates one of the buildings; L. A. "Speedy" Nelson, one of the early graduates who returned to spend his teaching career there and for whom the first endowed professorship is named; and many more.

The origins of the school go back many years earlier than the legislative act that brought it into being in 1913. As Francis Fugate points out in the only history of the institution thus far, El Paso was a popular meeting place for mining conventions of various sizes. When the miners got together, they often wished aloud that a good mining school could be established in El Paso. Around the turn of the century, when the population was about 15,000, this hope was aired from time to time, and in 1902 the *El Paso Herald* carried an editorial suggesting that the town would be an ideal location for a school of mines. A year later, during the International Miners' Association annual convention in El Paso, a resolution was introduced to lend the organization's support to the goal of securing "the proposed school of mines of Texas for El Paso." Representative W. W. Bridgers of El Paso, picking up on the suggestion, of-

This article was presented as a talk for the quarterly meeting of The El Paso County Historical Society on February 27, 1983. Mrs. Hamilton is assistant director of the News Service at The University of Texas at El Paso and former editor of *Password*.

ferred to introduce a bill that would locate the school in El Paso. The University of Texas since 1900 had been offering work leading to the degree of Mining Engineer, but apparently had not met with much success. Representative Bridgers, a man who was careful about spending state money, thought it would help to have a site for the school made available by the community, and the Chamber of Commerce approached some influential business leaders about it. A statewide publicity campaign was conducted, but Bridgers' bill did not even reach the floor of the House. El Paso's remoteness from the rest of the state was felt to be a factor in that disappointment.<sup>1</sup>

Meanwhile, another type of school—the El Paso Military Institute—was chartered in 1907 and opened its doors on September 3, 1908. A group of local citizens contributed money toward the venture, and 18 acres of land adjacent to Fort Bliss (now on the main post) were donated by August Meisel. The buildings were designed by the prominent architectural firm of Trost & Trost, with Otto Kroeger as contractor. Four more acres were given by Charles R. Morehead, Captain T.J. Beall and the heirs of the estate of Captain Charles Davis. The Institute had 38 students when it opened, and was accessible from the Fort Bliss streetcar line plus some walking.<sup>2</sup>

A remarkable man joined the faculty in 1909, one whom many El Pasoans came to know either during his years in the city or later, when he paid annual visits to attend the Sun Bowl football game. He was Henderson E. VanSurdam, known as Harry, who died on May 28, 1982, at the age of 100. He moved to El Paso in 1909 to become director of athletics at the Military Institute, and the following year became superintendent while continuing with the athletics program. He coached a championship basketball team in 1911 and his football team beat the University of New Mexico. But, unlike Harry VanSurdam, the Military Institute was not destined for a long life. Many of the students were sons of mining engineers who worked in Mexico and who, when the revolution came, fled to the United States, jobless, penniless, often with only the clothes on their backs. The loss of students at the Military Institute became critical in 1912. Then VanSurdam approached his board of directors, whose members included J. J. Mundy, Charles Newman, Felix Martinez and Horace B. Stevens, as he recalled in a 1977 interview. He got their permission to ask the state to take over the property in order to establish a state school. This meant raising \$50,000 to pay for the

land and the buildings, in a community of 20,000. While lobbying for this project, VanSurdam returned to his early love, music, and led a small orchestra that played for the newly opened Hotel Paso del Norte and other posh places where El Paso's high society gathered. He organized a symphony orchestra in 1913.<sup>3</sup>

This time, the idea for a mining school took fire. State Senator Claude B. Hudspeth and Representatives Richard Burges and Eugene Harris introduced the act in the 33rd Legislature. It was adopted unanimously by the Senate and on March 26, 1913, was passed by the House. On April 16, 1913, Governor O.B. Colquitt signed the act into law.<sup>4</sup>

Last year, when The University of Texas System was taking steps to protect the insignia of its component institutions under trademarks, the U.T. El Paso News Service was asked to find out when the term "miners" was first used in reference to students of the institution, whose athletic teams are still known by that name. The search ended with a perusal of the enabling legislation reproduced in an issue of *NOVA*, the University's quarterly magazine. The opening words of Bill No. 183 read:

An Act creating a state school of miners and metallurgy, for the purpose of teaching the scientific knowledge of mining and metallurgy in the State of Texas, to the end that the mineral wealth, oil, etc., may be developed upon the State school lands of this State, and declaring an emergency, Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas: A school of miners and metallurgy is hereby created for the State of Texas: Said to be located and established in or near the City of El Paso provided citizens of the City of El Paso shall make and execute unto the State of Texas a deed to the tract of land comprising 21 acres of land, more or less, now comprised in the reservations of the El Paso Military Institute, adjacent to the Fort Bliss Military Reservation, together with the buildings and improvements thereon situated....<sup>5</sup>

As that last statement indicates, the idea from Bridgers' original bill had been incorporated into this one, that the community should provide the property. People had been working to this end, many of them active both on the Institute's board and in the Chamber of Commerce. Negotiations to raise the necessary funds were undertaken by the Chamber's School of Mines Committee, an indication

that the Chamber of Commerce has had a committee interested in The University of Texas at El Paso since before the institution came into being. The committee members included A. Schwartz, C. H. Finlay, and I. A. Shedd. After some study of the problem, the Chamber decided it could not commit its future directors to an obligation as hefty as \$50,000, so early in 1914 local businessmen were asked to sign guarantee notes against that sum. On April 13, 1914, three days short of a year after the bill had become law, Robert Krakauer, president of the Chamber, announced that the goal had been reached. The list of more than 50 men and firms reads like a Who's Who of El Paso for that time.<sup>6</sup>

Just a few days later, the University of Texas Board of Regents met and formally established the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy at El Paso. While the Legislature did not provide funds to buy the property, it did appropriate \$15,000 "for the use and benefit of said school of miners and metallurgy for location, support and maintenance." The University of Texas Board of Regents was to appoint the faculty and supervise the operations of the school. Provision was made for a dean of the school, as the local executive in charge of the institution. The undated "Announcement," the first publication about the new school, briefly described El Paso and also listed a number of reasons why the city was attractive as the location for a school of mines:

El Paso's primary resources include mining, agriculture, livestock, and timber. The United States government is spending \$10 million on the greatest irrigation project in the world to provide a cheap and unfailing water supply for the Rio Grande valley above and below El Paso....

Within one to ten miles of El Paso are found in great variety those geological formations that are usually associated with the mining industry, not only in metal mining but in coal mining as well. In opportunity for geological study no mining school in the United States is more favorably located.

The second largest smelter in the world is situated in El Paso. It is fully supplied with equipment for the most modern methods of treating such ores of copper, lead, gold, and silver as are suitable for smelting. It will in reality be the main metallurgical laboratory for the students at the School where they will study in minute detail every step of

the various processes of ore treatment by smelting. This is an exceptional opportunity to students and its value for technical training can hardly be estimated. The large variety of ores carrying minerals of copper, lead, zinc, iron, manganese, magnesium, barium, arsenic, antimony, and silver that come to the smelter, forms a large and constantly shifting mineralogical collection that can hardly be duplicated elsewhere.<sup>7</sup>

The "Announcement" also boasted of a "practice mine" in the Franklin Mountains, describing it as "a tin mine, the property of citizens of El Paso. Arrangements have been made with them to use this mine with its plant and mill equipment as a practice mine. There are several other mines slightly more remote, but easily accessible at which similar arrangements have been made for practice work...."<sup>8</sup>

The little booklet also carries a photograph of the El Paso Smelting Works. The affiliation that began in those first months of the School continues today, as students in metallurgical engineering receive training experience at Asarco. That company, through the years, has been a contributor of funds, equipment, and other resources to help the institution.



S. H. Worrell, first Dean of the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy. (Photo courtesy News Service, The University of Texas at El Paso)

Many memorable people helped to establish the School's high academic standards and to initiate a quality of teaching excellence which has continued through the years. Among these people was the School's first dean, S. H. Worrell, who was also Professor of Mining and Metallurgy. He was a graduate of The University of Texas



Professor John W. ("Cap") Kidd, a member of the "Mines" faculty from 1914 until 1941 and Dean of the institution from 1923 until 1927. (Photo courtesy News Service, The University of Texas El Paso)

and came to the Texas State School of Mines and Metallurgy at El Paso with impressive credentials: three years as an analytical chemist for the University of Texas State Mineral Survey; one year of teaching at the Colorado School of Mines while a special student in mining and metallurgy; several years of industrial experience at the Ladd Metals Company properties in Idaho, the Two Kings Mining Company and the Southern Mining Company (both in the state of Chihuahua); a year of study at the California School of Mines; a return to Mexico as a mine official; a year of graduate work in engineering at The University of Texas; four years as chief of the testing laboratory of the Bureau of Economic Geology Investigation on Texas Coals and Lignites.<sup>9</sup>

There were four other professors on the faculty, all of whom contributed significantly to the foundation of academic soundness which was laid down in those early years: Arthur K. Adams, John W. Kidd, H.D. Pallister, and F.H. Seamon.

Professor Adams, in geology and coal mining, was the first Harvard graduate to teach at the School. He had taught at the New Mexico School of Mines and had gained experience in industrial

and government work before coming to El Paso.

John W. Kidd, the beloved "Cap" Kidd, was to remain at the school until his death in December, 1941. His alma mater was Oklahoma A & M, and his industrial work had taken him from Oklahoma to the state of New York. He had taught electrical engineering and physics at Texas A & M, where he earned an E. E. degree, and he had spent a year each with the United States Reclamation Service in the Elephant Butte project and the El Paso City Engineering Department before accepting the call to the School of Mines. His 25 years of service left an indelible imprint on the students and the school. His belief in the importance of athletics inspired him to use \$800 of his own funds in 1915 to equip one of earliest football teams. When a real football field was finally built (on the present campus site), it was named after him, and in recent years became the home of The University of Texas at El Paso championship track team. During the 1920s and 30s, lacking funds but not imagination, he and his students built roads and tennis courts, and made other improvements to the campus, including work on Seamon Hall. When space became an acute problem in the building now called Old Main, he solved the problem of how to "stretch" the building. With 144 sticks of strategically-placed dynamite, he successfully blasted away the area behind the stairway leading from the ground floor to the first floor. And he did the job so skillfully that he caused not a single crack in the foundation or even in the window panes.<sup>10</sup> In 1922 he became acting dean, then served as dean of the college from 1923-27. The late Engineering Dean Eugene M. Thomas said of "Cap" Kidd: "Many schools have their Mr. Chips, some individual who devotes his life to the institution and becomes a tradition because he constantly works for the institution and the students. Such a man was Dean John W. Kidd."<sup>11</sup>

At the time David O. Leeser was named Outstanding Ex-Student in 1969, he described "Cap" Kidd like this: "He was hard as a rock, a tobacco-chewing, cussing miner who really knew his profession. He helped me to get the gardener-janitor job, and he also paid some of us students to help with dynamiting tasks." Mr. Leeser added that Professor Kidd always placed the blasting caps and did the first tappings himself, leaving the less dangerous duties to the students.<sup>12</sup>

Another member of the original faculty was H. D. Pallister, who was to teach geology and mining for six years. A graduate of the

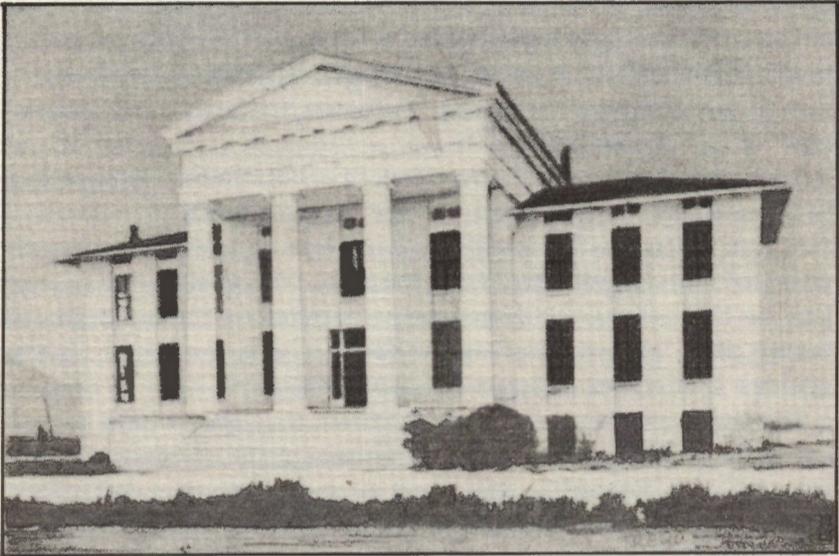
Case School of Applied Science, Professor Pallister was a man of wide academic and professional experience. Before joining the School of Mines faculty, he had been associated with the Chisos Mining Company at Terlingua, had worked in copper in Canada, had taught at his alma mater and at the Pennsylvania State School of Mines. He had also served as engineer for an Ohio township and as assayer for a zinc company in Kansas.

The fourth professor was F. H. Seamon, in chemistry and assaying, a graduate of the Rolla, Missouri, School of Mines. He had been an industrial chemist, had managed a mine in Mexico, had served as an ore purchasing agent for an AS&R subsidiary in Mexico, and from 1898 to 1915 had operated his own assaying office in El Paso. Thus it was not unusual that he should be chosen, with this broad background, for the school's faculty, where he remained until his retirement in 1941. His brother, W. H. Seamon, was to become a professor of geology and mining in 1919, serving until his death in 1927.<sup>13</sup>

T. J. Dwyer, a graduate of Texas A & M and former engineer with the International Boundary Commission and some industrial companies, was an instructor in engineering. R. R. Barberena was a tutor in Spanish, that language being of great value to mining engineers; and Vere Leasure, one of the original 27 students, was a student assistant in chemistry. He had earlier attended the Rolla School of Mines and had worked as an assayer at Pinos Altos, New Mexico. Additional lecturers were L. H. Davis in mining law, G. E. Bignell in ore dressing, D. A. Carpenter in internal combustion engines, and Dr. M. B. Wesson in first aid. A Mining Club was established as an affiliate of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, an organization still active at the University.

The three brick buildings on the original campus (adjacent to Fort Bliss) were the main building, the dormitory, and the assay laboratory. Rental in the 25-room dormitory for students was \$6 or \$8 per month, depending on the accommodations, with an \$18 monthly charge for board. Tuition was free, but a \$30 fee was charged at the time of a student's first enrollment in the school.<sup>14</sup>

For the first two years, the mining school had only male students, but in 1916 it was announced that women would be admitted for the first two years of college work. Ruth Brown McCluney, in a 1975 *NOVA* article, recalls her days as the school's first co-ed. She became a student in the fall of 1916 because, as she puts it, her parents



The Main Building at the School of Mines site adjacent to Fort Bliss. Originally a part of the El Paso Military Institute, the building was destroyed by fire in 1916. (Drawn from a photo which appears in *Frontier College: Texas Western at El Paso* by Francis L. Fugate and published in 1964 by Texas Western Press.)

were not about to let a 16-year-old girl go away to college. She goes on to say that her parents attended Asbury Methodist Church on Hueco Street, the closest church to the School of Mines, and knew some of the students, among them Fred Bailey, who later would become president of The El Paso County Historical Society. "My mother asked Fred to see that no harm came to me. He must have done a good job because I had no trouble at all among so many boys."

She rode the Fort Bliss streetcar to school and walked a little over half a mile across the parade ground, past the stables, then down a long, rocky road to the campus. She took the same freshman courses as the mining students: English with H. E. Harris, college algebra with Tom Dwyer, physics with "Cap" Kidd, and chemistry with F. H. Seamon. She also recalls that during her first year as a student she observed ever-increasing activity at Fort Bliss—the construction of a large area of tents to house incoming troops and also the addition of numerous stables.

Toward the end of October in her first year, the main building was destroyed by fire. "Most of us," she says, "lost our books in the fire and I can remember my grief over losing my brand new

chemistry apron. The rest of that year classes met on the first floor of the dormitory, and a temporary sheet-iron building was used as the chemistry lab. It showed me that all you need for good education is dedicated teachers and interested students—the environment is not too important.”<sup>15</sup>

As it turned out, though, the school’s environment—its location, to be exact—became a matter of great importance as a result of that fire. When the Dean and the faculty came to consider the expense of replacing the building, the whole question of fire protection for the campus, and the compelling fact of the rapid growth taking place at Fort Bliss (as the first co-ed had noticed), it was decided that a new campus site was in order.<sup>16</sup>

The University Regents made it known that they would be asking for funds for a new campus when the Legislature convened early the next year. Meanwhile, Governor James E. Ferguson was having difficulties with the Regents and the Legislature, and finally in August of 1917 was impeached. He was not ousted, however, before he named a site committee for the School of Mines. The members were Mayor Tom Lea and the two men who had been instrumental in the legislation that had brought the school into being, State Senator Claude B. Hudspeth and Representative Richard F. Burges. The committee went to work immediately and found the people of El Paso characteristically supportive and generous. A large property for the new campus was donated by V. E. Ware, H. T. Ware, Winchester Cooley, J. C. Rous, and A. S. Valdespino. Then, on February 28, 1917, a legislative appropriation of \$100,000 for new buildings was completed.<sup>17</sup>

And now suddenly another problem challenged the struggling School of Mines: the loss of several students as a result of America’s declaration of war in April, 1917. But plans for the fall semester went forward nevertheless. And again the people of El Paso came to the rescue of their school. The Jewish synagogue and a nearby public school provided classrooms that fall (while the buildings at the new site were being completed). And, to compensate for the loss of male students, local girls began enrolling for classes. In her “Recollections,” Ruth Brown McCluney tells us that as the war continued, the enrollment became almost evenly divided between women and men.<sup>18</sup>

One characteristic of the new campus that was unique was the architecture. Shortly after the new campus site had been donated,

Dean Worrell's wife, Kathleen, suggested an architectural style inspired by the April, 1974, issue of *National Geographic* magazine, which had pictured buildings in the tiny kingdom of Bhutan, next to Tibet in the Himalayas. The terrain, she thought, resembled that of the Franklin Mountains, and the buildings were very picturesque.<sup>19</sup>

The details of the planning are given by Lloyd C. and June-Marie Englebrecht in their biography of Henry C. Trost, guiding spirit of the Trost & Trost architectural firm which designed about 300 elementary and high schools, colleges and universities.<sup>20</sup> In January of 1917, Robert E. Vinson, president of The University of Texas, was assured by Henry Trost of his firm's interest in the project. Charles E. Kelly of El Paso was a member of the Board of Regents' Building Committee at the time, and that committee recommended to the Board of Regents that the Trost firm be hired. Vinson was not totally committed to the Bhutanese form of architecture, as his letter to Trost and Trost indicates:

We should like to have a style of architecture adopted which will be as economical in the use of space as possible, with a minimum of exterior decoration, and which will also be suitable as a style which may be followed in the future in making additions to the plant which we are now able to erect. I have discussed this matter with Dean Worrell, and it is our desire to have a type of architecture which is peculiarly suited to the surroundings of El Paso, something along the order of the Mission type, or other which Dean Worrell will bring to your attention.<sup>21</sup>

The choice ended up not the Mission type, but the Bhutanese. This became the only college or university campus in the western hemisphere, and likely in the whole world, with this distinctive design.

When Trost & Trost presented their first versions of the architectural design, however, the faculty was not pleased. Dean Worrell reported to President Vinson that "The type of architecture that they planned was not at all pleasing to me. They said in the beginning that they thought the Bhutanese was best suited to our location, but when they got through with it, it was not Bhutanese nor much of anything else, it was strictly Trost & Trost."<sup>22</sup>

The subjects of this disagreement have not been preserved; we do not know what those initial Trost & Trost drawings looked like.



The entrance to Old Main, one of the original buildings on The University of Texas at El Paso campus and regarded as a classic example of the Bhutanese style of architecture. (Photo courtesy News Service, The University of Texas at El Paso)

Nor do we know for sure much about the alternatives, except for some drawings by "Cap" Kidd, whose work, it is reported, represented little in the way of architectural expertise. But some re-working was undertaken, and Trost & Trost came up with a plan that Dean Worrell said he thought would be "very beautiful, decidedly more so than the plan they had before." These plans went to the bidders in May of 1917, and V. E. Ware, one of the donors of the land, made the low bid of \$114,070. Since the Legislature had appropriated only \$100,000, an additional \$20,000 was found from another fund, with the old site as security.<sup>23</sup>

The Main Building, now called Old Main, is considered a classic example of the architectural style. Bhutanese architecture features a low hipped roof, ornamental frieze of brick and tile below the roof line, broken by the windows of the top story, three corbels under the central window, sloping outside walls increasing in thickness toward the bottom by seven inches per ten feet, and deep-set windows on the lower stories.

The buildings of the present campus have been designed by a number of architects over the nearly 70 years of its history. Not all of them are as close to the Bhutanese ideal as Old Main, but the homogeneity of the design has been maintained as closely as possible. One of the preservers of the distinctive style was another well known El Paso architect, Percy McGhee, who designed ten buildings between 1936 and 1951. The first of these was the El Paso Centennial Museum, still cited as one of the outstanding examples of the Bhutanese style on the campus. Others of his buildings are the original Library-Administration building, Magoffin Auditorium, Cotton Memorial, and the early wings of Bell Hall and the Union.<sup>24</sup>

Nearly 40,000 degrees have been awarded by The University of Texas at El Paso under its various names (School of Mines, College of Mines, Texas Western College) over the past 70 years. Remembered here are a few of the people who made significant contributions during its early years. They typify the dedicated faculty members and community people whose cooperation through the decades has helped to transform a long-ago spoken wish into a thriving, attractive, full-fledged, doctorate-awarding university. ☆

#### NOTES

1. Francis L. Fugate, *Frontier College: Texas Western at El Paso, The First Fifty Years* (El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1964), 3-4.
2. *Ibid.*, 4-5.
3. *Ibid.*, 5-6; Nancy Hamilton, "The Founder," *NOVA*, Vol. 13, No. 2 (March, 1978), 3-4.
4. *Origins, The Texas School of Mines and Metallurgy 1913-1915* (El Paso: The University of Texas at El Paso, 1982), "Introduction" (unnumbered pages).
5. *Ibid.*
6. Fugate, 7-8; Hamilton, 3-4.
7. *Origins*, "Introduction" and reproduction of "Announcement."
8. *Ibid.* See also Conrey Bryson, "El Paso's Tin Mine," *Password*, Vol. III, No. 1 (Spring, 1958), 4-13.
9. Faculty biographical material from *Origins*, "Announcement."
10. Fugate, 56; Jeannette Smith, "Cap Kidd's Marvelous Earthquake Machine," *NOVA*, Vol. 4, No. 2 (Winter, 1969), 12-14.
11. Faculty biographical material from *Origins*, "Announcements."
12. Mr. Leeser was Chief Scientist, Materials, for Chrysler Corporation's Amplex Division in Detroit when he was interviewed by Jeannette Smith in *NOVA*, Vol. 5, No. 1 (Fall, 1969), 1-4.

13. *Origins*, "Announcement"; *Fugate*, 65, 75.
14. *Origins*, "Announcement."
15. Ruth Brown McCluney, "The First Coed at Mines: Recollections," *NOVA*, Vol. 10, No. 3 (June, 1975), 13-14.
16. *Fugate*, 21, 25.
17. *Ibid.*, 25.
18. McCluney, 14.
19. Lloyd C. and June-Marie Englebrecht, "The Trost Touch," *NOVA*, Vol. 16, No. 1 (December, 1980), 3-5.
20. Henry C. Trost, *Architect of the Southwest* (El Paso: El Paso Public Library Association, 1981). Mr. Trost was named to the El Paso County Historical Society Hall of Fame in 1981.
21. Englebrecht, 5.
22. *Ibid.*
23. *Ibid.*
24. Dale L. Walker, "Remembering Percy McGhee," *NOVA*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (December, 1977), 12-13.

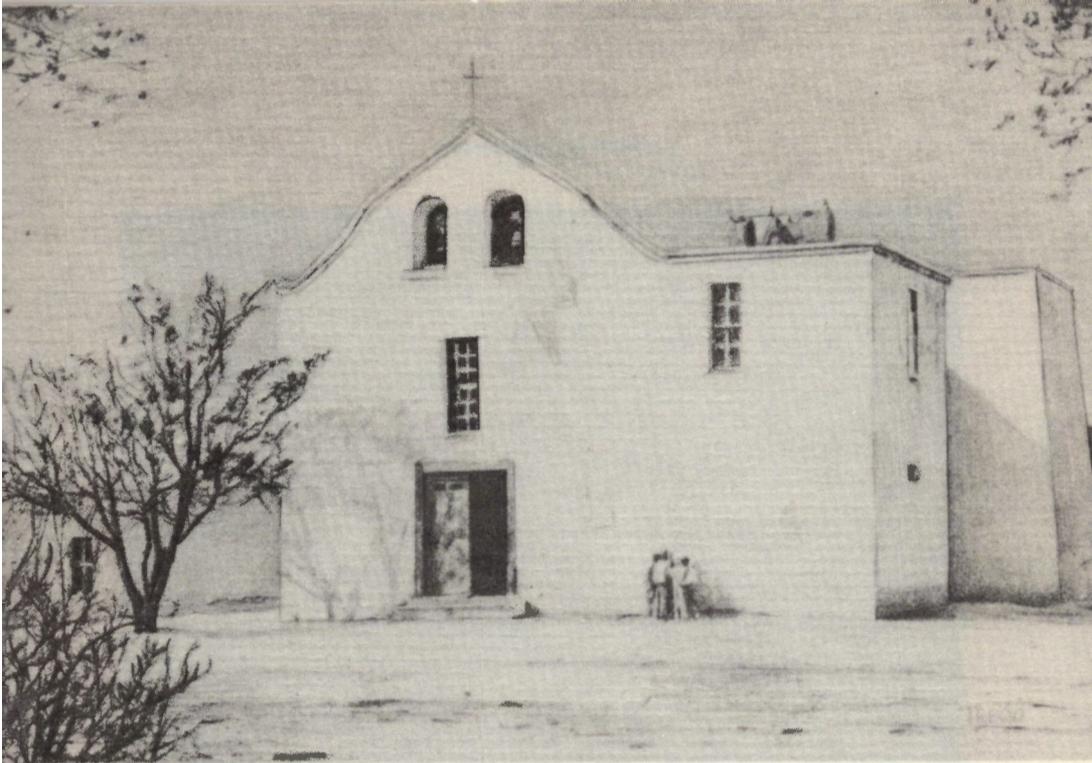


Dr. W. H. Timmons, Professor Emeritus of History at The University of Texas at El Paso, has been appointed to a state-wide screening committee which will accept nominations for the purpose of selecting the 25 most important Texans of all times.

Criteria for selection of the twenty-five are as follows:

1. Only persons who were residents of the state, the Republic, or the area within the present geographical boundaries of Texas are to be considered for nomination.
2. The individual's impact on Texas must have come before 1970.
3. No living Texans are to be nominated.

Nominations must be submitted before November 30, 1983. They may be submitted to the Texas State Historical Association, 2/306 Richardson Hall, University Station, Austin, Texas 78712, or to Dr. Timmons, Department of History, The University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas 79968.



The Ysleta Mission about 1860. (Drawn from a photograph which appears in *El Paso's Missions and Indians* by Cleofas Calleros)

## THE CHURCH OF YSLETA— RECENT DOCUMENTARY DISCOVERIES

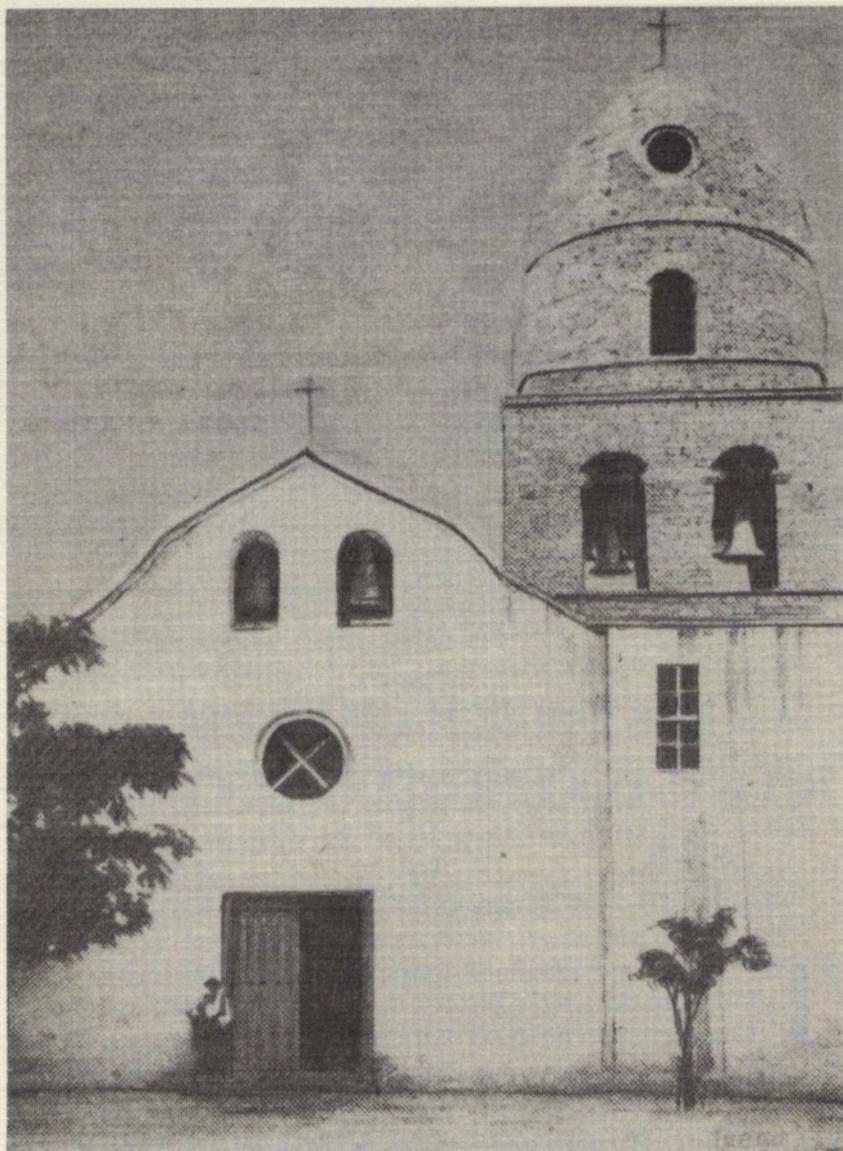


by  
William H. Timmons



**T**he Church of Ysleta, formerly the Ysleta mission, has had a long and celebrated history. It was founded in October, 1680, when Spanish officials and Franciscans established for the Tigua Indian refugees from the Pueblo Revolt in New Mexico a temporary structure located downriver from the Guadalupe mission and named Misión de Corpus Christi de la Ysleta del Sur. In 1691, this structure was replaced by a more permanent building, which lasted until 1740, when it was washed away by the flooding Rio Grande. Four years later another structure was completed which carried the name Misión de San Antonio de los Tiguas. Although the Rio Grande

Dr. Timmons, Professor Emeritus of History at The University of Texas at El Paso, was "Mr. History" during El Paso's 400th birthday celebrations. He is a frequent contributor to *Password*.



The Ysleta Mission about 1880. (Drawn from a photograph which appears in *The Mother Mission* by Cleofas Calleros)

flooded again in 1829 and swept away the Socorro mission, it has been traditionally assumed that the Ysleta mission survived and that at least parts of the present church date from the 1744 structure.

Recently, however, there have come to light two important documents which provide new information about the present Church of Ysleta, thus necessitating some revision in the writing of the church's history. The first document is a report written by Ramón Téllez, an Ysleta official, to his superior, dated March 21, 1844. It was found in Reel 13 of the Archives of the Ayuntamiento of Ciudad Juárez (usually referred to as the Juárez Archives), Special Collections and Archives at The University of Texas at El Paso. The report reveals that sometime before 1844 (probably when the river flooded in 1829) the church had been washed away, leaving only the stone foundation buried three feet deep. It specifies that an argument which resulted among the town's residents on the question of whether to build on the ruins of the old or on a new site on higher ground was resolved by Fray Andrés de Jesús Camacho, who at that time was in the area as the official representative of the Bishop of Durango. He convinced the residents that it would be foolish to build on the ruins of the old, with the result that a new site on higher ground was selected, and steps were taken to prepare the site for the new structure, including carrying the foundation stones from the old site to the new one. After some adobes had been made, Téllez reports that all work came to a halt, though he gives no explanation. Thus the question of whether the church was built in the new location is left unanswered. The evidence of this document indicates only that the 1744 structure had been washed away.

The second document—found in the Juárez Cathedral Archives, The University of Texas at El Paso Special Collections and Archives—provides the answer regarding the construction of the new church. It is a letter written by Fray Andrés de Jesús Camacho to Jean Bautiste Oudin, Bishop of Texas, dated December 1, 1851, about two-and-a-half years after Ysleta became a part of the United States. The friar states that he is seeking a new post but that he is willing to remain at his present assignment in the Lower Valley until all work is completed on the churches in Ysleta and in San Elizario. Work on the Ysleta church, he reports, has come to a halt because of the severe winter, but the roof has been completed, and he is hopeful that work can be resumed in March, 1852, so that the tower can be finished and the bells installed. Should funds for the Ysleta structure become short, he says, the workers can be used to repair the church in San Elizario. The friar then concludes his

letter by saying that the ornaments for the two churches have not yet arrived from Durango but that he is hopeful that they are on the way. Here then is conclusive evidence that the present Ysleta church was completed in late 1851—at least enough for the holding of services.

It is entirely possible, however, that the church tower was not completed for another thirty years, if the dates on two photographs of the church found by Cleofas Calleros are correct. The first one (reproduced in *El Paso's Missions and Indians* on page 30) shows the Ysleta mission, "about 1860," without a tower; and the second one (reproduced in *The Mother Mission* on page 8) shows the mission, "about 1880," with a tower under construction.

Since 1852, the church had been under secular authority, but in 1881 the Jesuits took control of it with the result that the church was renamed Misión de Nuestra Señora del Monte Carmelo, or Iglesia del Carmen, the name by which it is known today, although the Tiguas still refer to it as the Misión de San Antonio.

In 1907 the Ysleta church suffered still another calamity when a fire destroyed the tower and roof. Undaunted by this disaster, however, the parishioners went to work; and within a little more than a year the structure had been completely restored. It is one of El Paso's most cherished historic treasures, and so it will remain. ☆



### WHAT'S IN A NAME

**I**n their book *How Come It's Called That?* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1958), Virginia Madison and Hallie Stillwell say that Valentine, Texas, was named for a Mr. Valentine, president of the Wells-Fargo Company. They also report two popular versions of the name's origin which are given by old-timers in the area—one of these claiming that the name was inspired by the arrival of the first train at that station on Valentine's Day, the other arguing that the town was named for Longfellow's poem "Valentine."

## ON THE EL PASO HOMEFRONT—1918

**D**r. Robert L. Tappan, retired Associate Professor of Modern Languages at The University of Texas at El Paso, has donated a document to The El Paso County Historical Society. It is a letter dated November 28, 1918, and written by Dr. Tappan's father, Dr. John W. Tappan, to a fellow El Paso physician-surgeon, Dr. T. J. McCamant, who at the time was "somewhere in France."

Dr. John W. Tappan came to El Paso in 1907 as a member of the Public Health Service. During the typhus fever epidemic of 1915-1917, he was permitted by the Public Health Service to accept the position of City Health Officer of El Paso at the request of the El Paso mayor and city council. After his retirement from the Public Health Service in 1933, Dr. Tappan served the El Paso City-County Health Department until 1938, first as its assistant director and later as its director.

The following excerpt from his letter to Dr. McCamant clarifies poignantly the magnitude of a battle which was waged on the El Paso homefront during and immediately after World War I.

There are lots of things to tell you about El Paso.... We have all been awfully busy with the 'flu—I made on an average of thirty calls a day for about a month and everyone else did as much or more. The Public Health Service and the Red Cross opened a hospital in the old Aoy School where we treated the Mexican part of the town. The epidemic here was fierce. We had about 10,000 cases in El Paso and the Mexicans died like sheep.... Nurses were not to be had for love or money and people died for lack of attendants. Doctors could not begin to get around and many persons never saw one. I was three days behind in my calls. Some people I would see once and never go back. The other doctors all had the same experience of course. After the peace celebration we had a flare up of the disease again but it was not nearly as bad as the first—very little pneumonia following it. Alderman Semple's wife died of pneumonia following influenza yesterday, though, and Maury Kemp is not expected to live today I hear, so it is not so very mild even now you see. We had six hundred deaths from influenza in the month of October. I was lucky—only had three deaths. Ramey had about 14 I hear and most of the doctors averaged 8. So you see we have been serving our Country right here at home.

Betsy Hagans



Alzina Allis Orndorff (Mrs. Charles) DeGroff, founder of El Paso's Hotel Orndorff and builder of the downtown landmark which bears the name Cortez. (Photo courtesy Mrs. Frank C. Bennett)

# MAMA DE'S VISION



by  
Betsy Hagans



The construction barricades, erected May 1 around the historic Hotel Cortez, signify the continued community support for El Paso Renaissance 400 and its program, begun in 1981, calling for the revitalization of the Downtown area.

Franklin Land and Resources Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of El Paso Electric Company, purchased the building during the summer of 1982. Immediate plans were begun for its preservation and restoration as a viable entity supporting the revitalization program.

The conversion of the eleven-story hotel to a modern office building will meet specifications required by the El Paso County Historical Commission for preserving its historical authenticity. The exterior brick is being chemically washed, rather than sandblasted, and all the original mortar is being replaced and repoured. The pedestrian arcade on the ground floor, which led hotel guests to the grand staircase and lobby, will once again connect Mesa and Mills Streets with retail businesses. The first and tenth floors with their high ornate ceilings will be restored, while the rest of the building will be gutted and readied to accommodate tenants by mid-1984.

This conversion marks the end of an era which began in 1881 with the raising of a hotel on that site, the Parker House, later called the Hotel Vendome, the oldest hotel in the city. This might be a good time, therefore, to say a few words about the business of hospitality which flourished for so many decades on the northeast corner of Mills and Mesa.

With the arrival of the railroad in 1881, the sleepy adobe village of El Paso suddenly awakened. Almost overnight it became a bustling town in which many pioneers saw potential for growth and prosperity. One such visionary was Mrs. Charles DeGroff, who visited El Paso in the 1890s. Acting on her confidence in El Paso's future, she sold her hotel in Tucson, purchased the Vendome, and assumed its management together with her husband and assisted by her son Burt Orndorff. (Later, her other two sons, Lee and Seth Orn-

Betsy Nelan Hagans, a native El Pasoan, is a staff writer for the El Paso Electric Company. She is also working toward a Master of Arts degree in professional writing at The University of Texas at El Paso.

dorff, would enter the real estate business in El Paso.)

Mrs. DeGroff, known to her family and friends as "Mama De," renamed the hotel after her first husband, Lee H. Orndorff. She promptly set to work on a job of complete renovation—inside and out. She even added a fourth story to the original structure and encircled each floor with a wide veranda. Two of Mrs. DeGroff's granddaughters, Burtram Orndorff Pierce and Alzina Orndorff Gay, in an article which appeared in the Spring, 1973, issue of *Password*, quote from *The El Paso Times* of June 25, 1899, the day following the formal opening of the Orndorff Hotel: "The house—every room, nook, and corner...has undergone a complete transformation, and cannot now be recognized as the old Vendome. The Orndorff is in all its equipments a first-class modern hotel..."

Room rents were fifty cents for a single and one dollar for a double. Three meals a day, often featuring quail bought in Juarez for a dollar a dozen, cost \$30 a month.

The hotel boasted one of the first elevators in town. It was a hydraulic lift that seemed to be often choked with river water and sand. "It also had a huge lobby," says Mrs. Helen O'Shea Keleher, who as a child lived with her family in the Orndorff around the turn of the century. "In the middle was a round, black leather, tufted couch which encircled a plant I used to play in."

Mrs. Keleher also remembers following the stately "Mama De" through the hotel as she inspected each of the spacious antique-furnished rooms after one of the two maids had cleaned. "'Mama De' enjoyed checking everything herself," adds Mildred Bennett, another of Mrs. DeGroff's granddaughters.

As the years of successful hotel ownership and management passed and as El Paso moved toward the metropolis that Mrs. DeGroff had envisioned, she started to plan a larger, more modern, more elegant hotel for the city she loved and believed in. In 1925, she began to realize this dream. The historic old Orndorff was razed to make way for an eleven-story deluxe hotel, designed by Henry Trost and estimated to cost \$1.5 million to build.

In August of 1926, six weeks before the scheduled completion of the new hotel, "Mama De" conducted a final inspection of the steamheating system for the new building. In characteristic fashion, she checked each room, floor by floor.

"She got very hot, and when she finished the inspection she came out into a sudden rain storm," explains Martha Cole, daughter of

Seth Orndorff. "She caught pneumonia and died within a few days."

The hotel, described as a "Castle of old Spain on the Plaza," opened under the management of Burt Orndorff on September 11, 1926. "It was far from a happy day," comments Mrs. Keleher, "because 'Mama De' did not get to see it."

Castillian balconies and casement windows flanked the grand art-stone entry. Plaques of Spanish conquistadors and coats of arms gave an old world charm. But perhaps one of the hotel's finest features was its luxurious lobby and interlocking public rooms decorated with beamed ceilings, tiled roofs, grilled ironworks, and stained glass windows and archways.

"When we were meeting people in town, we always met in the lobby," says Marie Chandler, a native El Pasoan. "It was elegant."

The 300 outside guest rooms each had a bath, circulating water, and SerVent doors for convenient service and ventilation.

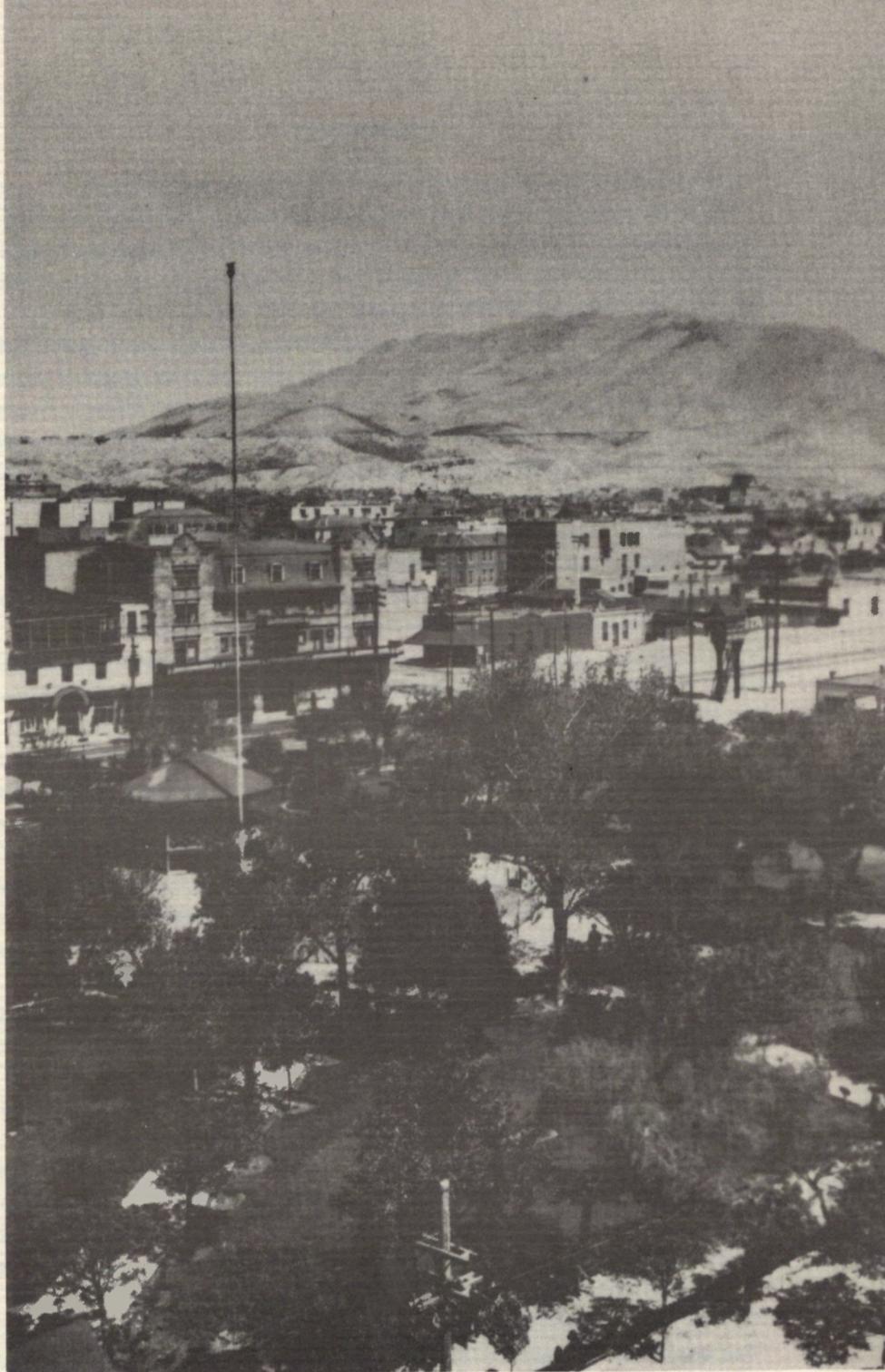
"Uncle Burt invented the SerVent door just for the Hotel Orndorff," says Mrs. Bennett, "and no other hotel had them until the patent ran out."

Kitchenette apartments with refrigerators, electric stoves, and disappearing beds were available by the month. And suites, one of which President John F. Kennedy occupied in 1963, overlooked San Jacinto Plaza.

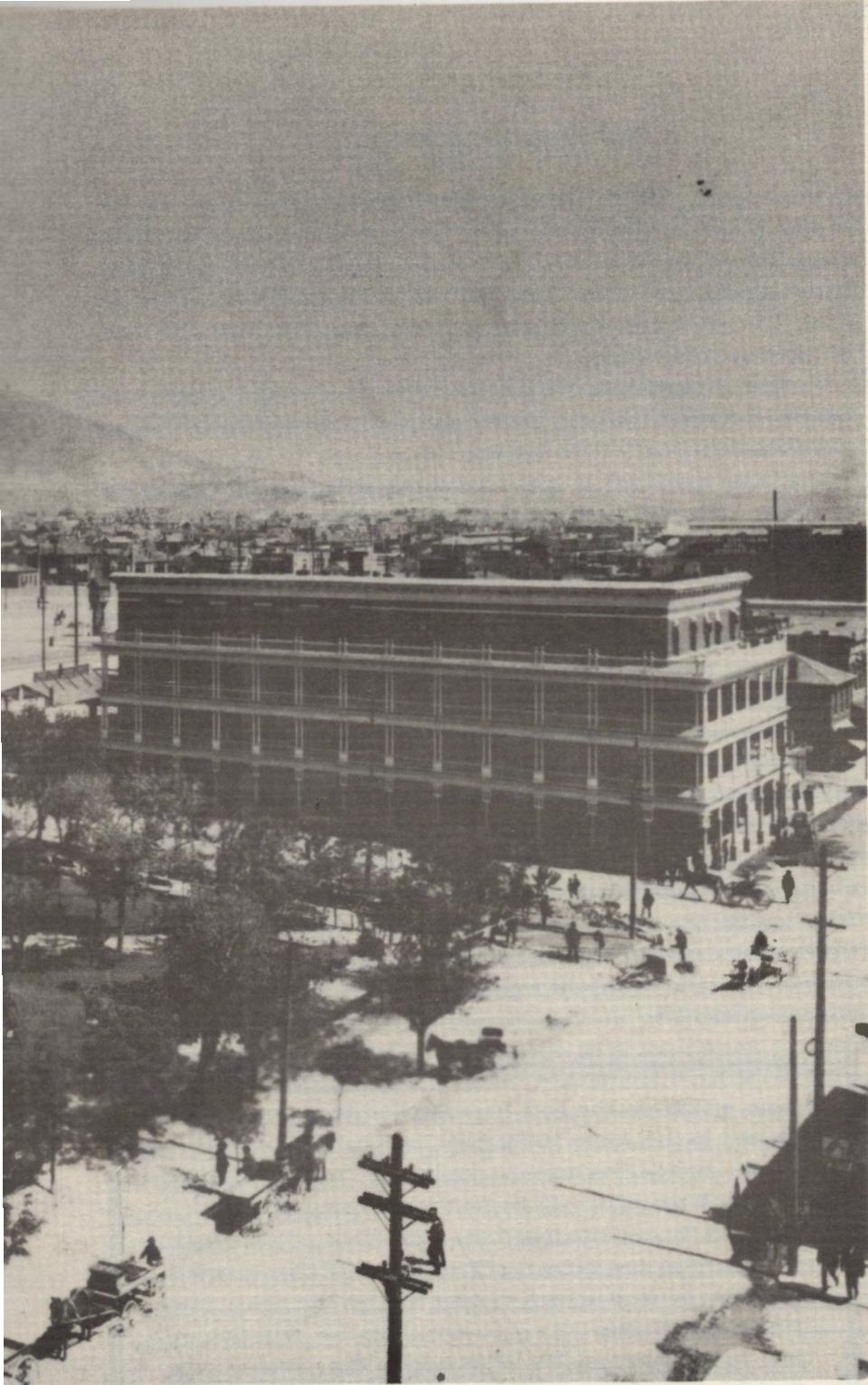
After a year of operation, "Mama De's" family, against her last will, was forced to sell the hotel. Harry Hussman, a local businessman, purchased it, changing the name to Hussman Hotel and placing a marquee bearing the name atop the building.

In 1935, the West Texas Hotel Corporation acquired the building and as part of the opening festivities held a contest for the renaming of the hotel. Many people believed that the name "Orndorff" should be restored because of its familiarity and its historic connotations. The judges, however, awarded the prize to El Paso attorney Thornton Hardie with his suggestion that the hotel be named after Hernando Cortez, the Spanish conquistador who had conquered Mexico in the sixteenth century. They felt that the name complimented the decor and architectural theme of the handsome building.

A year later, under the management of Leas Campbell, the coffee shop was remodeled, expanding the seating capacity by 50 and incorporating a new street entrance. The decor of the new coffee shop perpetuated the motif of the color blue which had been used



Looking across the San Jacinto Plaza to the Orndorff Hotel, 1907.  
(Photo courtesy the El Paso Public Library)



in the original Orndorff Hotel, whose letterhead had read "House of Blue Windows." Red leather upholstered wall seats lined the Mesa Avenue side of the remodeled coffee shop, and white venetian blinds trimmed with blue straps screened the sunlight. Fifty-cent lunches, 75-cent dinners, and special club breakfasts were featured in the new coffee shop.

"I remember going to the movies at the Plaza Theater and stopping in the coffee shop afterwards for an ice-cream parfait," says Mrs. Bennett.

The hotel remained in operation until 1970, when Jorge Murra of Torreon, Mexico, purchased it, later leasing the space to the Department of Labor, Inner City Man Power—the Job Corps. The building was renovated to accommodate the operations of the 315 students. The elegant Crystal Ballroom was turned into a gymnasium.

When the ten-year lease expired, the building was vacated and its fate left in question.

However, with the influence of the Renaissance 400, the future of the old hotel seems to be charted. The structure, which for so many decades housed visiting dignitaries, entrepreneurs, convention delegates, and just regular travelers, will again become a focal point of activity. This time it will house offices and businesses—a change which can be interpreted as a fitting continuation of "Mama De's" vision. She was, after all, a renovator, an innovator, a practical businesswoman. She kept her eye steadily on El Paso's dynamic possibilities, and she spent a great part of her life serving El Paso's changing needs. ☆

**I**n an article on the Fort Bliss Replica Museum which appeared in the June, 1983, issue of locally-published *Paso del Norte*, author Flo Coulehan reminds her readers of an event that no self-respecting El Pasoan would want to forget:

A young lieutenant staged the equivalent of a sit-down strike for two days outside of Pershing's Fort Bliss quarters until the general agreed to take him on the chase into Mexico for Pancho Villa one week after the 1916 Columbus, New Mexico, raid by Villa's troops. His name: George S. Patton Jr.

# THE VIEW FROM THE SECOND WARD

by  
Salvador Ballinas

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"The two most wonderful things that have happened to me in my life are when I became a citizen of the United States and when my essay was awarded First Place in the 1982 Historical Memories Contest."

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I was born in Chihuahua, Mexico, in 1908 and came with my parents to El Paso in 1912. The Mexican Revolution of 1910-1917 was one reason why my parents—and many other Mexican citizens—came to the United States. They were seeking safety and also better living conditions.

At that time, crossing the border into the United States was a simple matter. The only requirement was to register as an immigrant. Finding work in the new country wasn't too hard either. Several employment offices, called "Renganches," were located on South El Paso Street, and they hired newly-arrived Mexicans to work in different parts of the country, mostly for the railroad companies. In 1919-1920 a new Immigration Law went into effect which required that all immigrants living in El Paso or coming across apply for a Passport (Visa) so as to be considered legal residents of the United States and to apply for United States citizenship if they so desired.

As a result of the growing population of Spanish-speaking residents in the Southside, also known as Second Ward, a housing shortage developed and poor living conditions. Most of the homes were lighted by kerosene lamps, cooking was done on wood stoves, coal was used for heating, and there were no sewer systems.

Because of the crowded, uncomfortable conditions, many of the immigrants moved to nearby places which were called Towns or Settlements. Some of these were Lynchville, west of Ft. Bliss; Chivas Town, on Alabama Street; Chihuahuita, on the west side of the Second Ward; Smelter Town, across from the Smelter; Mesa (Stormsville) on the hillside north of El Paso High School; and Las Calaveras,

This article received First Prize in the 1982 Historical Memories Contest. Mr. Ballinas, a retired carpenter, adds this footnote to his work: "I point out that the dates are almost accurate but the happenings are true."

on the north side of the Smelter. Some Spanish-speaking residents even lived on the east side of the Santa Fe Street Bridge, near the dangerous and noisy Rio Grande (also called Rio Bravo), which often ran very swift and carried along its path cattle, trees, and other large objects. In 1925 the Rio Grande destroyed many homes in South El Paso and completely flooded Ascarate, which at that time was mostly farmland.

In my very earliest recollections, El Paso was a horse-and-buggy town—or at least my part of El Paso was. I clearly remember when fire engines were pulled by horses, when there was just one fire station (situated on the corner of Stanton and Overland Street), and when border patrolmen were seen mounted on horses. I also remember that several barns (corrals) were located in different parts of the town, also blacksmith shops. And stray donkeys roamed the streets and along the river banks. Public water fountains for horses were in use—one at Florence and San Antonio Streets and one at Piedras and Alameda.

Sometime during the years between 1916 and 1920, South El Paso began to take on a modern aspect with the paving of the streets and electric lighting. The number of automobiles increased, moter-powered fire engines screamed through the Southside, and the barns and the blacksmith shops began to disappear one by one.

In the Second Ward there were four grammer schools: Aoy, Franklin, Alamo, and (for colored students) Douglass, which was located at Kansas and Fourth Streets. In east El Paso there was Beall Grammar School. On the northside was El Paso High School, as well as several grammar schools. In 1922 Bowie Grammer School was built at Seventh and Cotton Streets. Several of us students from Aoy transferred to Bowie for the first day of classes. From there, we graduated to San Jacinto Junior High. In about 1928 Bowie became a high school—and the Pride of South El Paso. In 1924 the first vocational school in Texas opened. It was located at Rio Grande and Oregon Streets, and many southsiders attended classes there. No one was denied the right to attend the public schools in El Paso.

The only city park in the Second Ward was the Alamo Park, which was located at Fifth and Park Streets. And in east El Paso was Washington Park, which we sometimes visited, getting there on the Park (Electric) Streetcar. Other streetcar routes that I remember were the Juarez-Second ward, the El Paso-to-Ysleta, the Smelter Town, and the Fort Bliss.

### The View from the Second Ward

A very important historical event took place in El Paso during my early boyhood. General John (Black Jack) Pershing departed from El Paso in March of 1916 to lead the Punitive Expedition to Mexico. He paraded from Ft. Bliss to downtown El Paso and was greeted by citizens in front of the old Sheldon Hotel. Many of us from the Second Ward were in the cheering crowd.

The most dramatic incident in El Paso in 1923 was the holdup of the G. H. and S. A. Railroad office, which was located on Octavia Street between Texas and Missouri Streets. At about noon one day, guards from the First National Bank were delivering the payroll money for the employees of the railroad company. Upon arrival, they were met by four Latin males who demanded the payroll money. When the guards refused, the shooting started. One guard named Meers was killed, and one of the robbers, Jose Carrasco, was wounded, as was also an innocent employee of the Railroad Company. At this time I was attending San Jacinto School, and after school we went to the scene of the shooting and saw the front window glasses with bullet holes. The four robbers had all escaped from the scene in their car. The police, who were notified immediately, headed to the Southside, probably thinking that the robbers might try to escape to Mexico. The wounded Carrasco and another of the robbers, Adrian Sanches, were arrested, Agapito Rueda was killed, and the fourth (a man named Villareal) escaped across the river to Mexico. The wounded Carrasco had to have his leg amputated while he was awaiting trial, and Adrian died in jail. Carrasco was tried and was given the death penalty (electric chair). But the then governor of Texas, Miriam (Ma) Ferguson, intervened and changed the death penalty to life in prison.

As years passed by, the son of the guard who had been killed (Meers) probably had in mind to avenge his father's death. One day the junior Meers and some friends went to Juarez to dine in a restaurant. One of these friends by mistake told Meers that a waiter there in the restaurant was the one who had killed the senior Meers. Young Meers shot the waiter to death on the spot and was immediately arrested. He was sent to the Chihuahua State Prison. Not long afterwards, in a rare international agreement, an exchange of prisoners occurred. Carrasco was sent to Mexico and Meers to El Paso. The exchange took place in the middle of the International Bridge.

During the Prohibition days, El Paso was the scene of several spec-

tacular events. Mexican liquor smugglers, armed and wearing high rubber boots, frequently crossed the Rio Grande. Often they were met by U.S. Border Patrolmen, sometimes in the daylight hours. Then the shooting started. Of the few old-timers remaining, we still remember how we used to see the shoot-outs from a distance. But we got scared and ran away because we didn't want to see any killings. At night in our homes we could hear the shootings like firecrackers.

Most of the smuggled liquor was delivered to the Red Light District, located on Mesa Street between Eighth and Tenth Streets. (As I remember, Mesa Street—or Avenue—had three other names at different times during those years: Broadway, Utah, and San Jacinto.)

One of the Patrolmen who was most feared by the smugglers was Tom Threepersons, tall, heavy-set, dark, and part Indian. On one occasion I saw Tom get off his horse and disarm two smugglers at Seventh and Mesa Streets. From the river banks to downtown El Paso, all along Mesa Street, Tom was known by the residents and respected for his bravery.

In 1919, when Pancho Villa took over Ciudad Juarez, an international dispute developed. Stray bullets coming across the border killed several El Paso residents. Our parents made us stay inside the neighborhoods to keep us safe from the bullets. You could hear the bullets coming across above. According to newspaper columns, the U. S. government protested the killings of the El Paso citizens. Long-range guns were set up by the river bank west of the Stanton Street Bridge. When the guns were fired, it shook the ground of the nearby neighborhoods.

Another incident that occurred at about this time, and much publicized in the local newspapers, was a daring hold-up man who terrorized business places in the Second Ward. He was nicknamed Cara de Caballo (Horse Face) because he wore a mask resembling the face of a horse. At night and sometimes in the daytime he held up several business places. Sketches of the



horse-face mask appeared in the *El Paso Times* and also in the Spanish-language newspaper *La Republica*. "Extras" of those newspapers appeared every time he pulled off one of his hold-ups. The police had a hard time trying to arrest him, and when he finally was arrested he was identified as a Latin named Murillo. We newspaper boys felt a little sorry when he was arrested (jokingly) because of the extra pennies we were making to buy candies in school.

Attending sports events was a favorite pastime of mine during the 1920s. The Fort Bliss Arena was the scene of many boxing matches between boxers from Mexico, Arizona, New Mexico, and other states. Capacity crowds attended the matches. Wrestling matches were held in Liberty Hall. There was a baseball field at the Rio Grande Park on Wyoming Street. Two outstanding baseball players from El Paso, the brothers Andy and Sid Cohen, became major league players. Andy played at second base for the New York Giants, and Sid pitched for the Washington Senators. Javier Montes of Bowie High School was declared the fastest runner of the one-mile event at the Texas High Schools Tournament one year, and while at the College of Mines he represented the United States in the Olympics in Europe.

It comes to mind to my include some other events of the 1920s. The old system of the chain-gang was in effect at that time. County prisoners were loaded into trucks, with chains locked to their ankles, and were taken to clean up the streets. The federal and state prisoners were sent by train to serve their terms in prison. These prisoners were taken from the El Paso County Jail, in the Court House, on foot and handcuffed, to the Union Depot. This practice continued for many years, and the U. S. Marshal (or Guard), Mr. Hill, who accompanied the prisoners to the Depot, came to be well known by El Pasoans. While on their way to the Depot, the prisoners could talk to their loved ones and say goodbye. These were sad moments with wives, mothers, and children crying. A Juarez liquor smuggler who served time in prison composed a song called "El Contrabando de El Paso." The song, which mentions Mr. Hill, became very popular and still is sung by many Latin residents in El Paso.

All these things happened during the years when I was growing up in the Second Ward, my First home in the United States and the place where I First learned about joy and sorrow, law and disorder, kindness and cruelty, life and death—lessons which remain in my memory to this very day. ☆

# THE TIMES— ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

by  
Jay Smith

**D**uring the third quarter of 1883, the *El Paso Daily Times* reported faithfully on the happenings in the El Paso area. The following short excerpts present a survey of those happenings, the most emphasized of which was the murder of policeman Thomas Mode and the subsequent events leading up to the attempted murder of the *Times* editor, Sydney Shaw-Eady.

## July 1st

At the Southern Pacific railroad depot two hundred car loads of California wheat arrived yesterday, and the depot presented all day a lively scene as the golden harvest was being rapidly sent over the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio line for shipment to Liverpool.

The citizens of Paso del Norte gave a large ball last night at the theatre in honor of General Ruelas, which was well attended from this side of the river.

Attention, Firemen! You are hereby ordered to assemble at headquarters on Wednesday, July 4th at 4:30 o'clock P.M. in full uniform for parade. All societies desiring to participate are cordially invited to do so. Please communicate on or before July 3rd with C. L. Pierce, Chief, Fire Department.

Will that young gentleman in his buggy kindly remember that the roads are for passengers on foot as well as those on wheels.

Joseph Brinston at Ysleta yesterday paid the last penalty due to outraged law. After two trials, each of which resulted in a death sentence for the crime of rape committed upon the person of Mrs. Davis at Fort Davis over two years ago...the sentence was executed on an open lot.... Long before the hour appointed the crowd commenced to gather around the somber-looking structure.... It was a motley collection, laughing and jeering loudly.... Through some unfortunate oversight the rope had not been properly adjusted. The knot slipped around under Brinston's chin and in horrible convulsions he swung around and around...and there wailed forth from beneath the cap..."Oh, boys, boys!" Minutes that seemed hours elapsed and...he was allowed to struggle slowly to death.

**July 8th**

Many will be glad to know Mrs. Hepburn has opened her new restaurant and ice cream saloon on San Antonio street, second door east of the State National bank. She will give dinners at six o'clock. Special attention paid to ice cream served at all hours. This is certainly one of the cosiest places in the city, under the cool shade of the trees.

**July 12th**

**THE MURDER OF THOMAS MODE**

The life of a brave and efficient peace officer has been taken by the bullet of a reckless drunkard. The history of the crime is briefly told: Two young men, apparently of education, business qualifications and to all exterior appearances, of good character, arrived here from Chihuahua on Sunday last.... These young men, Burt and Daughy, are joined by three others and immediately proceed to enter upon an uproarious debauch. Drunkness, lust, profanity, violence, and finally murder, marked its progress.

At the "Mansard Roof" brothel they created a disturbance, breaking a panel of the door, and otherwise rioting.... Leaving the "Mansard Roof," they went to No. 19, another house of illfame. The police, having observed their demeanor previously in the evening, and hearing of the racket they had created, proceeded to the arrest of the offenders.... Mode stepped in and said: "Which one of you is Daughy?" and Howard says "That is my name." Mode said, "You are the man I want." Both men had their pistols presented at each other.... There was one shot, a kind of pause, and three more in the room, not at the same time.... The Coroner's jury held that Thomas Mode came to his death from a pistol shot at the hands of one H. H. Daughy.... [Daughy escaped, the others were arrested.]

Yesterday our suburban neighbors, Lomas, the milk man, and Staples, the vegetable man, both living south of Concordia, met in the city and exchanged some unkind words, and on their way home the former overtook the latter, and the phial of wrath not having been quite emptied struck him with his whip, which resulted in their stopping and getting down and "at it," terminating in Lomas soon crying enough and accepting of assistance from Staples to get in the wagon again; while receiving the proffered assistance he caught Staples' little finger in his teeth and nearly bit it off. Staples realizing the bite jerked his hand away, and in so doing

pulled Lomas out and gave him a second and more severe pounding, then assisted him to get in his wagon, both driving on, feeling that their duties in this life were not confined to the milking of cows and the growing of vegetables.

### **July 17th**

The Council agreed to allow policeman Mode's widow a full month's salary.

### **July 18th**

#### **MURDERER CAPTURED**

[Daughty] crossed the Rio Grande from Mexico at Ysleta and took the south bound train for San Antonio.... Not to be baffled, Officer Harris, at Ysleta, telegraphed to all points on the two railroads to watch for the fugitive...following him on to Murphysville, 222 miles from El Paso. At this point he learned that Daughty had left the train, procured a horse and rode to Fort Davis, whence he struck out due north.... There Harris telegraphed to Captain McMurry, one of the rangers.... The Captain immediately took a detachment...overhauling and capturing him on the open prairie. [He was returned to the Ysleta jail.]

One of the important needs of El Paso is a respectable strong city jail. The one we have is certainly a dismal, dirty and discreditable enough looking hole to frighten honest men into nightmare, saying nothing of evildoers.

### **July 24th**

#### **Fort Bliss Item**

Work still progresses on the new military road to the city...but there is an immense amount of rock to blast yet, and much leveling to do, although when done it will be a road that will last forever.

### **July 25th**

The police pickings were better yesterday, there being seven cases for prostitution, and two drunks to be settled.... The seven soiled doves went out \$2 and costs each, poorer, while the two drunks went each fifty cents higher.

### **August 15th**

The city election which took place in our town yesterday resulted in the re-election of Mr. Joseph Magoffin to fill the post of Mayor of El Paso.

### **August 23rd**

Hudson Woodruff had his wife arraigneded before the Mayor yesterday morning for striking him on the head with a rock....Mayor Magoffin fined her for striking him. It seems that Lieutenant Flipper, the cadet who was cashiered,...has been living at Woodruff's house, and Woodruff grew suspicious that he was intimate with his (Woodruff's) wife, and drove them both off.... All the parties are colored.

### **August 25th**

#### THE MODE TRAGEDY

The mysterious action on the part of the state in regard to this case has called forth the unanimous condemnation of the citizens of El Paso.... It will be necessary for us to set forth the various persons who have been officially connected with the case, and to review their conduct...in an impartial manner. We will take first of all County Attorney Eblen. What did that gentleman do at Ysleta? The answer is very simple. He did nothing. At the hearing of the case the County Attorney was sick, in other words, hopelessly intoxicated, and the case found its own way into the hands of Mr. Neill [Neill obtained low bail bonds for the others charged in the Mode case, then dropped the charges. The *Times* was outraged]. Something was the matter with the river. The water was perfectly clear yesterday.

### **August 28th**

The civil suit by Woodruff against Lieut. Flipper has been compromised. Flipper obtained a peace warrant against Woodruff and put him on bond of fifty dollars. Woodruff has left the town.

### **August 31st**

We regret it is our painful duty to chronicle a foul attempt on the life of Mr. Sydney Shaw-Eady, the managing editor of the *Times*....The severe criticisms that have appeared in its columns concerning the action of Mr. Neill, an attorney who represented the state on this occasion, has produced considerable enmity against the editor of the *Times*. Yesterday morning, shortly after twelve o'clock, as Mr. Sydney Shaw-Eady, accompanied by Mr. A. Gwyn Foster, assistant manager, left the office, Mr. Neill,...armed with a double-barrel shotgun, a .45 calibre revolver and a formidable bowie-knife, appeared at the corner of the *Times* building and level-

(Continued on page 148.)

## ACTIVITIES OF THE SOCIETY

The spring quarterly meeting, held on Sunday, May 22, at the El Paso Museum of History, featured Dr. Ellywn Stoddard, Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at The University of Texas at El Paso. Dr. Stoddard deftly covered his broad topic, "El Paso and the Border: Prehistory to the Present," through the use of an interesting analogy. He asked the audience to imagine the Sun Bowl football field as one million years in time, "our" goal line representing the present. He began his drive toward "our" goal at the opposite end of the field, that is, one million years ago, when our Pass began to form. Then, in a series of expert "calls," he rapidly "moved the ball" down the field—through the significant climatic and geological changes which have occurred in our area during the past millenium—to about one-fourth of an inch from "our" goal, at which point Cabeza de Vaca made his appearance in this region. As "quarterback" Stoddard maneuvered toward the present ("touchdown"), he clarified the reasons for many of the problems which develop along the El Paso stretch of the Rio Grande—first, the travesty of using a river as a border line<sup>3</sup> between nations because of the profound interdependence existing among the people who share the river; and, second, the deceptions necessarily practiced by the two peoples vis-a-vis their respective governments, each so remote from the actual scene and each so unaware of the immemorial laws governing human life along the two banks of the Rio Grande.

The Society welcomes the following new members: Mrs. Dubois Tobin (Life); Kristi Lynn Brockmoller, Sunny Leigh Brockmoller, Tres Lilly, Navin Navidomski (all Junior); and Mrs. Jessie Scallorn Bassett, John DeMorris, Mr. and Mrs. E.L. Given, James R. Harper, F. Steven Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Bert A. C. Kennedy, Mr. and Mrs. Albert R. Meece, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert C. Morrow, Mrs. Themis Molina Peinado, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Perez-Vitier, Jr., Robert L. Reid (Waco, Texas), Jewell Samples, Dr. and Mrs. Oliver R. Smith, Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Donald Soukup (Anthony, New Mexico), Dr. and Mrs. William S. Strain, Zoe R. Whittington, Mr. and Mrs. Louis B. Williamson, James Yarnell (Wichita, Kansas).

On July 27 and 28, the Society conducted a workshop at Bowie High School for social studies teachers of the El Paso Independent School District. Arranged by Society president James M. Day, the

### Activities of the Society

program included the following presentations: Leon Metz on Fort Bliss, Jack Redman on junior historians, Vincent M. Lockhart on a survey of Texas history, Conrey Bryson on El Paso transportation, Nancy Hamilton on the origin of the names of El Paso schools, and Dr. Day moderating a discussion on El Paso's little-known minorities—with panelists Nancy Farrar (on the El Paso Chinese), Rabbi Floyd S. Fierman (on the El Paso Jewish community), and Sara John (on the El Paso Lebanese). For this service, the Society was awarded an honorarium of \$150 by the El Paso Independent School District.

Newcomb Brunner is the chairman of the 1983 Historical Memories Contest. He describes the contest as one of the Society's most important projects, being a rich source of "grass roots" history; and he encourages all persons 60 years of age and older to submit in essay form their treasured experiences, whether those experiences occurred in the El Paso Southwest or not. He specifies that entries should not exceed 2,000 words and should be submitted to: Historical Memories Contest, P.O. Box 28, El Paso, Texas 79940. Prizes are \$100 for first place, \$50 for second, and \$25 for third.

Mrs. Richmond McCarty and her co-chairman, Dwight Deter, are pleased to announce that this year's Tour of Homes will take place on Sunday afternoon, October 2, from 1:00 until 5:00 and that it will feature several historical homes in the Rim Road and Alexander subdivisions. ☆

## **TEN-YEAR CUMULATIVE INDEX OF PASSWORD (1971-1980)**

**\$10.00 Postpaid**

**Mail Check to: PASSWORD Index  
The El Paso County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 28  
El Paso, Texas 79940**



Clockwise from left: Hood's Sarsaparilla; Dr. Hostetter's Celebrated Stomach Bitters; Dr. Kilmer's Swamp Root Kidney, Liver, and Bladder Cure; Pijo Cure for Consumption. (Photo courtesy Dr. and Mrs. H. D. Garrett)

## BOTTLE TALK

by  
Rebecca T. Garrett

**T**hroughout the spring and summer of this year, the El Paso Museum of History featured a special exhibit of old bottles. Several hundred in number, these bottles are a part of the thousands recovered from an El Paso city dump which was in use from the early 1880s until about 1910. Although these dates cannot be firmly established, the bottles taken from the site fit these dates precisely.

The dump, located in the Chamizal area, became known as "glass hill" because of the large mound of ashes and glass which had built up. Through the years, occasional flooding of the Rio Grande had

Rebecca T. Garrett is a charter member of The El Paso County Historical Society and a former board member. The original version of "Bottle Talk" was read at the May quarterly meeting of the Society.

repeatedly inundated the area, covering the lower layers of the dump with as much as six feet of silt and ashes. The oldest and most desirable bottles were under this deposit, a fact which made digging difficult, dirty, and sometimes dangerous.

After the Chamizal Treaty was ratified and the 1967 date set for transfer of the area to Mexico, Peyton Packing Company abandoned its plant and feed pens; and the farmers in the area moved out, taking their fences and gates. Then we bottle-collectors had free access to the site. Accompanying me on the "dig" were Mrs. Charles Boyce, Mr. and Mrs. Max Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Indermuehle, and my husband, Dr. H. D. Garrett. During the last months before the transfer took place, it was a race against time to excavate the entire area; even so, the site went to Mexico still rich in bottles.

One of the most dedicated and stubborn of the diggers returned to the site the day after the transfer, intending to dig as usual. He was met by armed Mexican soldiers who threatened him with the Juarez jail before escorting him to the new United States border.

The bottles selected for the exhibit are all hand-made. They are not free-blown bottles but hand-blown into the mold with the neck and lip formed by hand. Thus, no two bottles, even when made for the same product, can be identical.

Beer and wine bottles were the most numerous of the alcoholic beverage containers found, probably because—unlike whiskey bottles—they were discarded when emptied. In those years, empty whiskey bottles were customarily refilled from kegs in the saloon. The Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 stopped this practice. After that date the pre-packaged, name-brand whiskey became the standard means of distribution. Among the wine bottles recovered were many which once held champagne—indicating that the El Paso of those decades had a sizable "elite" drinking population also.

The most sought-after find in the entire dump was the bitters bottle. While bitters were considered a medicine, thereby avoiding taxation and the wrath of one's spouse, all bitters were high in alcoholic content. The popular *Dr. Hostetter's Celebrated Stomach Bitters* contained 47% alcohol, or 94 proof. It has been recorded that during the Civil War the government bought *Hostetter's* by the boxcar load to "invigorate" the troops before a dangerous battle. In 1878, the Internal Revenue Department became quite interested in *Hostetter's* as it was being sold in some saloons by the shot and not being taxed as liquor. Finally a decision was made: when sold by the

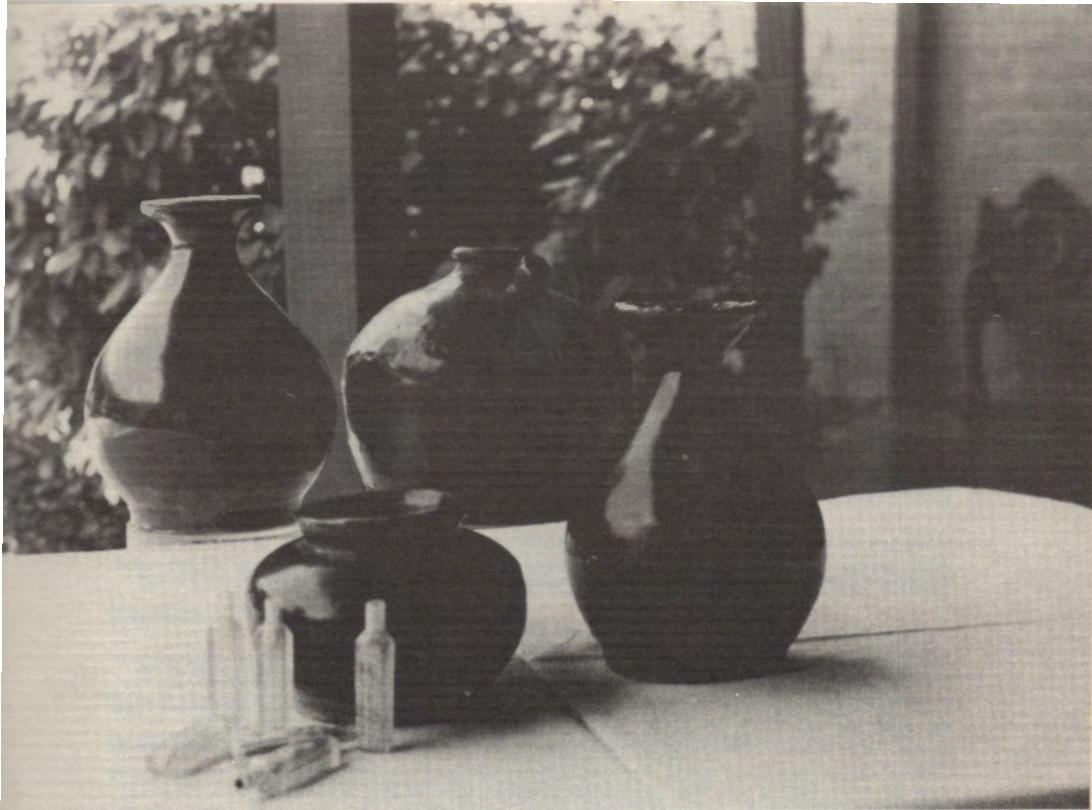
bottle, *Hostetter's* was a medicine; when sold by the drink in a saloon, it was a liquor.

The era of this dump was the heyday for the Patent Medicine or Medical Cure-All, and thus the diggers were not surprised by the abundance of "medicinal" bottles unearthed from "glass hill." A common find was the emerald-green container which held *Piso Cure for Consumption*. The bottle's pretty appearance gives no hint that its contents were among the most harmful of the scandalous patent-medicine business. It contained alcohol, chloroform, opium, and hashish. Sometime in the 1880s, under pressure from the frauds division of the Post Office, the formula was changed to contain only alcohol, chloroform and hashish. This "improved" mixture was then proudly advertised as containing no opiates.

Another innocent looking bottle with pleasing lines held *Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup for Children Teething*. It came highly recommended and contained both morphine and alcohol. Additional patent-medicine bottles found at the dump and included in the exhibit were made for such concoctions as the *Cuticura System of Curing Constitutional Humors*; *Kendall's Spavin Cure for Human Flesh*; *Dr. Kilmer's Swamp Root Kidney, Liver, and Bladder Cure*; *Dr. McLean's Volcanic Oil*; and *Extract of Smart Weed*. And these name only a few.

It can be inferred from the quantity of such bottles found at the site that El Pasoans, like other Americans of the time, were susceptible to the power of an emerging industry: advertising. The exact nature of that power was made clear in the exhibit through an accompanying display of some of the wild and preposterous claims made in newspapers and periodicals of the day. Again, in the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906 the patent-medicine industry was regulated and curtailed.

El Paso's Chinese population contributed handsome, well-designed containers to the dump. Most are brown-glazed ceramic food and drink vessels imported through the West Coast. One exception is the very small four-sided thick glass vial with a long, slender neck. According to an oldtime El Paso pharmacist, this contained tincture of opium and was sold by herb doctors. Its long neck with the small bore allowed minute amounts of the fluid to be dispensed for absorption through the nasal membrane. The little vial, aside from being beautifully crafted, took on an iridescent rainbow coloring as a result of being buried among household



Chinese food and drink containers; tincture of opium, small bottles in front.  
(Photo courtesy Dr. and Mrs. H. D. Garrett)

ashes for nearly a century. Many other bottles reacted similarly. In the exhibit a Lydia E. Pinkham flask and a brown snuff container are also fine examples of "Chamizal Tiffany."

The dump further disclosed that El Pasoans of those decades drank sarsaparilla and other soft drinks, which were bottled by such local firms as Hauck and Dieter, R. F. Johnson & Co., Henry Pfaff, Purity, and Magnolia. Examples of these bottles were included in the exhibit.

Among the culinary bottles recovered from the dump are many of purple and amethyst glass. The housewife in her insistence to see what she was buying pressured the glass industry for a clear glass to replace the natural cloudy aqua glass. To make a clear glass, the industry added manganese to the glass mixture, which caused the glass to turn purple when exposed to the sun over a period of time. The source of manganese was abruptly cut off in 1914 when Germany, the supplier, went to war. Other additives replaced manganese but did not have the purpling potential.

Many unusual and even startling shapes of bottles found at the dump were designed for poisons. These bottles of colored glass have grids, sharp hobnails, ridges, and quilted surfaces—all to alert the

sense of touch and signal danger. This was important in an era of dim lamp light and imperfect vision-correction. A rare 1894 milk-glass container for poison with its neck bent at a 90 degree angle could hardly go unnoticed by even the most absentminded.

The fact that "glass hill" was on disputed territory saved it from destruction in a growing city. This accident of history, plus the efforts of several El Paso bottle collectors-turned-amateur-archaeologists, has given us 30 years of tangible evidence as to the habits and lifestyles of our early community. ☆

(Editor's Note: The El Paso County Historical Society expresses its appreciation to Mrs. Garrett and the other owners for graciously lending their selection of Chamizal bottles to form an exhibit rich in beauty and historic value.)

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Two sources of information on bottles and bottle-making of the 1880-1910 period were used in the preparation of this paper: *Bottles on the Western Frontier*, by Rex L. Wilson (Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, 1981) and *The Illustrated Guide to Collecting Bottles*, by Cecil Munsey (New York: Hawthorn Books, 1970).

Many facts about Chinese bottles of the period were obtained from the late Noon Pon, Sr.

Mrs. Charles Boyce and the late Louis LeVoux contributed much valuable information about the Chamizal dump.

### SOUTHWEST COOKERY OF OLD

The following recipe, from Alice Kirk Grierson's *An Army Wife's Cookbook* (Globe, Arizona; Southwest Parks and Monuments Association, 1972), is reprinted with permission of the publisher. Mrs. Grierson, the wife of Colonel Benjamin H. Grierson, 10th Cavalry, spent much of her married life on Southwest army posts in the mid- to late- nineteenth century. Her *Cookbook* was brought to the attention of the editor by Carmen (Mrs. Albert R.) Meese, a new member of The El Paso County Historical Society.

#### FRIED TOMATOES AND RICE

Fry half a small cup of raw rice in hot lard 15 minutes. In another pan fry in drippings 1/4 of a small onion, not an El Paso onion but a *northern* sized onion. Add 1/2 cup of tomato and let fry. Add hot water to the rice until the consistency of firm boiled rice. Add a little at a time put contents of the two pans together and serve in a hot dish with the toast if you like. Salt and pepper of course.



**SEVEN KEYS TO TEXAS by T. R. Fehrenbach. El Paso: Texas Western Press, \$15.**

In what may be the most provocative publication ever released by Texas Western Press, T. R. Fehrenbach, nationally known for such powerhouses as *Comanches*, *Lone Star*, and *Fire and Blood: A History of Mexico*, offers his description of "the present reality of Texas and Texans." He declares that there is a "true Texas ethnicity, American to the core, American in its origins...but in some ways divergent from the American mainstream"; and he explores this "essential identity" through the use of "seven keys" (actually, "historical perspectives"): the people of Texas, its frontier experience, its land, its economy, its society, its politics, and the nature of change in the state.

Regarding the people, Fehrenbach sees a Texas clearly less homogenous than its image. He states, though, that the "majority of Texans are...descended at least in part from Old American stock that entered the Mexican province, the Republic of Texas, or the State of Texas between 1824 and 1900" and that this majority still exercises a cultural and economic domination in the state, although some of its "political power has been lost to other groups."

As for the impact of the frontier on the ethos of Texas, the author explains that Texas, unlike other states, had two frontiers, one with Mexico and one with the Comanches. This unique frontier experience, he asserts, accounts for "much of the Texan's characteristic empirical, non-ideological, and belligerent mentality," as well as an acute sensitivity to "the eternal possibility of problems along the...only border in the world separating an industrial nation and a painfully emerging Third World society."

In Texas, says Fehrenbach, "The land dominates, in an almost

Russian sense." He calls it a beautiful land—but also "harsh and curiously fragile," "subject to...violent climatic fluctuations," and "not as easily conquered as mere human enemies." The long struggle with the land has created "certain stubborn Texas traits"—among them "a hard-driving pragmatic business sense" and "a desperate belief in growth and 'progress.' "

The Texas economy, perhaps the least understood by Americans of all the seven keys, says the writer, "is based primarily on the exploitation of property." It has taught the Texan that "People must produce something, or service those who do." It has also instilled great respect for individual enterprise, distrust of "most associations with corporate overtones or collective social significance," resentment of the fact that Texas controls no markets for its basic raw materials, and hostility toward those forces which do control them.

Moving on to his next two "keys," he shows that while "Texans *have* managed to create a modern society," they "have not surrendered...the ancient, independent, inherently asocial consciousness of their ancestors." And as for its politics, which he asserts "emerged from Texas society," "one finds...a democracy with politics of the right, suffused with a property-holder's ethos, friendly to the concept of private right."

To the question of how much and in what directions Texas will change "under the various impacts of modern life," Fehrenbach again consults the past, and responds: "Out of the blend of history, nativism, and newcomer will come a society with strong continuity to the past and to the Texas present, and it will be distinctly Texas." Because, he adds, "The mystique of Texas is too strong" to permit otherwise.

With these "seven keys," Fehrenbach "unlocks" what his observations, studies, and experiences reveal as the "state of heart and mind" which is Texas. Many readers may disagree with his conclusions, but none can deny the book's compelling readability and the profound sincerity of the writer's convictions.

HASKELL MONROE

President, The University of Texas at El Paso



**DIARY OF THE JESUIT RESIDENCE OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE PARISH, CONEJOS, COLORADO, DECEMBER 1871-DECEMBER 1875** edited and annotated by Marianne L. Stoller and Thomas J. Steele, S.J.; translated by José B. Fernández. Santa Fe: Ancient City Press, \$9.95.

This is the earliest of nine diaries of the parish of Our Lady of Guadalupe at Conejos in the San Luis Valley of southern Colorado which span the Jesuit presence there (1871-1919). This first volume, as the title indicates, takes up events from December of 1871 to December of 1875 (pages 1-175).

After a few prefatory remarks, four introductory essays (pages xvii-xliv) furnish the background necessary for the reader to follow easily the detailed course of the Diary itself: Marianne L. Stoller, "The Setting and Historical Background"; Thomas J. Steele, S.J., "The Jesuit Fathers"; José B. Fernández, "The Language of the Diary"; The Editors, "Notes on the Beginning."

A series of four contemporary letters (two by Father Personè and one each by Father Baldassare and Father—later Cardinal—Mazzella) furnishes more details than could be expected from the brief entries characteristic of a diary. Appendix A reproduces the Spanish text and English translation of pre-Jesuit (1859-1860) inventories.

This first Diary provides information on the religious life and activities, the liturgy and beliefs of a 19th century Hispanic-American community, ever more and more influenced and pressured by outside groups, different racially and religiously.

Undoubtedly much diligent research went into the numerous and lengthy notes which explain customs and usages, identify places and persons—all data which help the present readers and should save much time and effort in editing subsequent volumes. A brief bibliography not only indicates the sources on which the editors drew, but also points out to interested readers additional pertinent items which they can consult. The index is a most welcome and helpful addition.

The numerous illustrations—the maps in particular—are helpful aids in following and appreciating the cycles of events. The facsimile pages from the Diary give the reader a sense of immediacy with the original manuscript.

Greater competency and a few more hours of attention could have

made a useful source an incomparably better book. I must fault the editors and translator with very serious defects. From the facsimiles it is obvious that they frequently omitted entry after entry of the Diary without sufficient reason or motive for the omissions (page 99). On comparison, I find the omissions just as important and interesting as any of the entries. The numbers are not always reproduced correctly: an obvious "137" (page 25) is transcribed "127." Countless times from childhood on, I heard and prayed "Adoramus te, Christe, et benedicimus tibi," and now I cannot help wondering why the familiar words would be printed incorrectly (page 110). The biographical information is always welcome; but the reader would have preferred somewhat fuller accounts of the Jesuits who left the area and spent most of their lives elsewhere. The important and long activity of Jesuits in the El Paso region is scarcely alluded to in their biographies, yet sources are readily at hand to furnish information in abundance (e.g. Caso, Personè, Ferrari, Pinto).

It is disappointing and disconcerting to find so many accents printed inaccurately because the editors are obviously unacquainted with the most elementary rules. Three hours of a competent scholar's attention should have eliminated all such errors in the text, notes, captions, titles and index. There is no justification for such carelessness which so seriously vitiates an otherwise important contribution to our Southwestern history. Scholars and general readers welcome the editing of such basic sources; but they very rightly expect it to be on the high level it can so easily attain.

ERNEST J. BURRUS, S.J.

Sacred Heart Church, El Paso

and The Jesuit Historical Institute, Rome



**SUL ROSS: SOLDIER, STATESMAN, EDUCATOR** by Judith Ann Benner. College Station: Texas A & M University Press, \$19.50.

A gravestone in the Oakwood Cemetery of Waco, Texas, contains these words: "Lawrence Sullivan Ross. Sept. 27, 1838. Jan. 3, 1898."

A ten-foot bronze statue standing in front of the Academic Building on the Texas A & M University campus receives an annual refurbishing as A & M freshmen "wash Sully down."

In Alpine, Texas, six-hundred miles west of the A & M campus, Sul Ross University prepares to enter its sixty-fourth year as a vital part of Texas' system of higher education.

Who was the man behind this name, Ross?

"For all informed Texans, the name of Lawrence Sullivan Ross is his fame," declares Judith Ann Benner, who spent fourteen years researching Ross's life. Benner's book, the first full-scale biography of Ross, insures that its readers will become "informed Texans," cognizant of the worth of a man named Lawrence Sullivan Ross.

Born in Iowa Territory, Sul moved with his parents to the Republic of Texas when he was a little over a year old. Frequent Comanche raids and the challenge of hard frontier life added to the stamina and courage instilled in the growing youngster by his Indian-fighting, horseracing father.

Following his graduation from college, Ross served briefly as a Texas Ranger, soon rising to the rank of captain under Governor Sam Houston. In 1861, he answered a call for troops by the Confederate state of Texas. Repeatedly promoted during his years of field combat, he held the rank of general at the end of the conflict when he was 26 years old. Also during these years Sul Ross—devoted family man—began a lifelong pattern which required him to balance his private obligations against demands for service to his state.

As Reconstruction drew to an end, Ross, now a prosperous farmer, entered political life—serving first as sheriff of McLennan County, then as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1875, then as a member of the State Senate, and finally as governor from 1887 to 1891, during which time he dealt competently with the problems of a changing, developing Texas.

Even before his second term as governor ended, the board of directors of the troubled Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas begged the governor to "resign his office and take immediate steps to save the college." Refusing to be hurried, Ross finished his term before assuming the presidency of A & M on February 2, 1891.

And in this, his third career of public service, he also excelled: "As important as Sul Ross's presidency was to the increased enrollment, physical growth, financial prosperity, and administrative

developments of the college, his most lasting impact was upon the students themselves and the traditions developed during his presidency."

In the months following his sudden grave illness and death during A & M's 1897-98 Christmas vacation, many tributes to Ross were penned. Then in 1917 came two memorials of more lasting form: the bronze statue of Ross, paid for by private contributions and a ten-thousand dollar appropriation by the Legislature, and an appropriation by that same Legislature for Sul Ross Normal College (now Sul Ross University).

Developed from a wealth of unpublished materials, archival collections, interviews, and published items, *Sul Ross: Soldier, Statesman, and Educator* will appeal to the serious Texan historian. Clear in structure, lively in style, and sprinkled with personal glimpses of an extraordinary man and his family, the book will also satisfy the general reader who appreciates a well-written narrative.

CARLENE WALKER

Department of English

The University of Texas at El Paso



**APACHES & LONGHORNS: THE REMINISCENCES OF WILL C. BARNES** edited by Frank C. Lockwood. Tucson: The University of Arizona Press, \$17.50.

According to his biographer, Will Croft Barnes was a Westerner of parts, ample support for which can be found in this re-issue of his *Reminiscences*, first published in 1941.

Barnes was born in San Francisco, but spent most of his boyhood years with his widowed mother in Indiana. There, an early but by no means transient interest in music led to his first job in a music store and to his eventual return at age 18 to San Francisco, where he sold sheet music. But the music business could not match the lure of seafaring in Baghdad-by-the-Bay, and he tried, unsuccessfully, to enter the Revenue Cutter Service, forerunner of the Coast Guard. In time, he found a secure home in the Army Signal Corps, and a five-year stint followed in the remote Arizona post of Fort Apache.

Aside from occasional skirmishes with Indians, which incidentally won him a Congressional Medal of Honor, frontier army life

turned out to be deadening routine rather than high drama, and the restless youth began to dabble in the cattle business. In 1883, he left the Army to commence full-time cattle ranching near Holbrook. But the collapse of cattle prices near the end of the century caused him to sell out and try his luck again in the same business in New Mexico. Unfortunately, the Arizona story repeated itself and in 1906 he gave up cattle ranching entirely.

Barnes possessed a magnetic personality and a gift for expression, both of which brought him a measure of political success and influence in the two territories—with the result that he attracted the attention of one of the noted conservationists of that era, Gifford Pinchot, then chief forester in the Agriculture Department. In 1907, Pinchot offered and Barnes accepted a position as inspector of grazing in the National Forests. Until his retirement two decades later, the energetic New Mexican drove himself to master, with notable success, the techniques of proper range management, vital to both the (often-conflicting) interests of the stockmen and the requirements of sound conservation policy.

Barnes authored several other works and even toyed with musical compositions. His *Reminiscences* provide vivid glimpses into conditions of life in the rugged and frequently-savage Southwest of the expiring frontier era. The prose is muscular and often gripping, but the style is anecdotal and personal, hence diminishing its value to the professional historian. Nevertheless, for those who have an all-consuming appetite for Southwest Americana, Barnes serves up a feast not soon to be forgotten.

KENNETH B. SHOVER

Department of History

The University of Texas at El Paso



**T**he Texas State Genealogical Society will hold its 1983 conference on October 27-29 at the Sharaton San Antonio Resort and Conference Center, San Antonio, Texas. Details may be obtained from Mr. Clarence F. Neibuhr, 1717 Falcon Drive, Austin, Texas 78741.

**The Times...from page 133.**

ing his gun at Mr. Shaw-Eady, fired. Perceiving the action of the would-be assassin, the editor...pushed Mr. Foster...violently on one side, and at the same time fell flat on the ground. The discharge of the heavy buckshot went over Mr. Shaw-Eady's head and lodged in the woodwork of the *Times* building.

Quickly regaining his feet, Mr. Shaw-Eady passed through the back of the *Times* office....

### **September 1st**

This morning, before Judge Loomis, Mr. G. F. Neill, an attorney-at-law, well known in El Paso, was charged on a warrant with assaulting with intent to kill, Mr. Sydney Shaw-Eady, Managing Editor of the *El Paso Daily Times*.

### **September 9th**

The *El Paso Lone Star* advertises for an editor, a position that has never yet been filled on that paper. ☆

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## **STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION**

(Required by 39 U.S.C. 3685)

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  - A. Publication no. 00312738
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9. The purpose, function, and non-profit status of this organization and the exempt status for Federal Income tax purposes have not changed during the preceding 12 months.
10. Extent and nature of circulation:
  - A. Total no. copies printed: 1,000;  
Actual no. copies of single issue published nearest to filing date: 1,000
- B. Paid Circulation
  1. Sales through dealers, carriers, etc.: Average, none; nearest filing date, none.
  2. Mail subscriptions: average no. copies preceding 12 months, 825; issue preceding filing, 827.
- C. Total paid circulation: same as B/2.
- D. Free distribution by mail, carrier, etc.: 50.
- E. Total distribution: 875 average no. copies preceding 12 months; 877 issue preceding filing.
- F. Copies not distributed
  1. Office use, left over, unaccounted, spoiled after printing, 125 average copies preceding 12 months; 123 issue preceding filing.
  2. Return from news agents: none.
- G. Total: 1,000 (average preceding 12 months and issue preceding filing).
11. I certify that the statements made above are correct and complete.

Nancy Hamilton, Editor

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