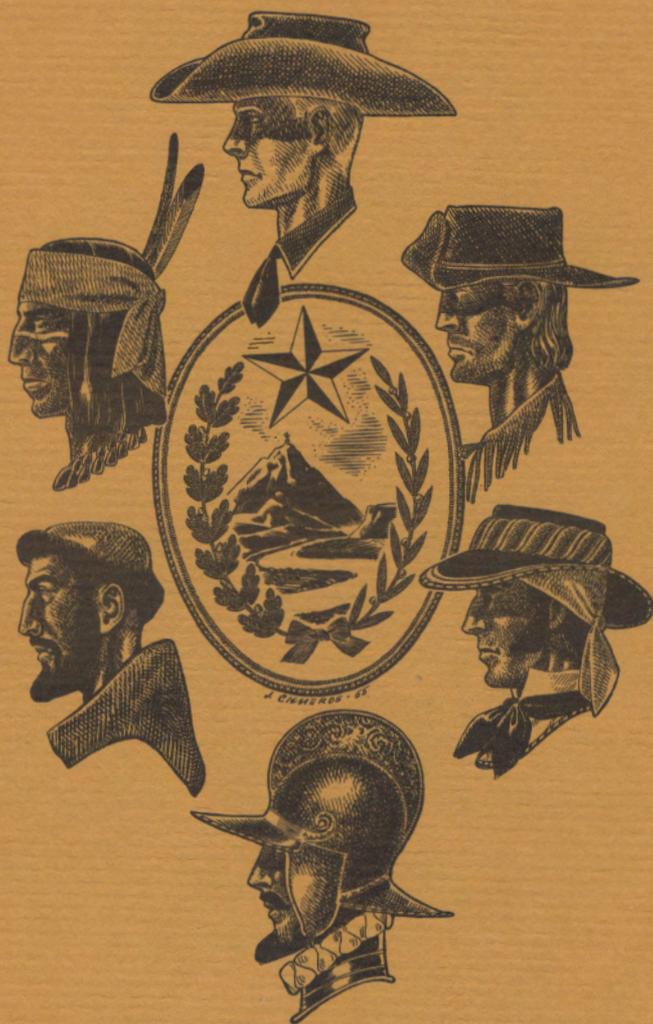


PASSWORD



THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Vol. XXX, No. 3

EL PASO, TEXAS

FALL, 1985



PASSWORD

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PASSWORD



PURPOSE OF THE SOCIETY

To promote and engage in research into the History, Archeology, and Natural History of West Texas, Southern New Mexico, Eastern Arizona, and Northern Mexico; to publish the important findings; and to preserve the valuable relics and monuments.

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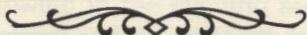
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THE DIARY OF C. R. MOREHEAD

(Part I) Annotated by Nancy Hamilton

Charles R. Morehead, who was to become one of El Paso's outstanding business and civic leaders, kept a journal when he traveled west to investigate business prospects in 1880. A copy was provided to PASSWORD several years ago by Chris P. Fox, then a trustee of the Historical Society, from materials in the Pioneers file of the El Paso Public Library Southwest Collection. The journal has been annotated by Nancy Hamilton, former PASSWORD editor, and it is presented in two sections —the first part in this issue, the second part in the forthcoming Winter issue.



Charles R. Morehead was born in Missouri in 1836. He was educated in public school and the Masonic College in Lexington, where his father was a barber and merchant. At 16, he became a store clerk, and three years later went to work for the freighting company of Russell, Majors and Waddell. Because of his experience with wagon trains to Wyoming and Utah, his employers sent Morehead to Washington in 1858 to discuss their proposed Pony Express with President James Buchanan and the postal authorities. The following year Morehead married Lemire Morris, and the couple settled in Leavenworth, Kansas, where Morehead served as mayor in 1868-69.

This issue's title-page insignia, depicting Mexican pots and ears of corn grown in the El Paso valley, is the work of contributing artist Winifred M. Middagh, a member of the *Password* editorial board.

His 1880 trip, the subject of this journal, was made at the request of his wife's brothers-in-law, H. L. (Henry) Newman of Leavenworth, who had opened a bank there in 1867, and E. S. (Zeke) Newman, who had founded the bank at National Stockyards, Illinois, in 1874. The Newmans and their associates in Missouri were interested in Arizona mining investments. They had no idea at the time that the three of them would ultimately move to El Paso and contribute greatly to its development. (C. L. Sonnichsen and M. G. McKinney, *The State National Since 1881*, El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1971).



Charles R. Morehead, first president of the State National Bank of El Paso, Mayor of the city (1903-1905), "Father of the El Paso Public School System." (Photo courtesy MBank of El Paso)

A biographical sketch of Morehead, the tribute given by George G. Matkin when Morehead was named posthumously to the El Paso County Historical Society Hall of Honor, may be found in *PASSWORD* XI, 4 (Winter, 1966).

The diary shows that the trip proper began in Fort Worth on February 5, 1880, and ended exactly two months later. The westward journey ("over stage and rail") took Morehead to San Francisco by way of El Paso, Silver City and several mining centers, Tucson, Yuma, and Los Angeles. The return to Fort Worth was made entirely by rail via Sacramento, Ogden, Omaha, St. Louis, and Texarkana. For most of the trip, Morehead was accompanied by his friend O. T. Bassett, who also would soon settle in El Paso.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29, 1880. Called to Marshall on 3:45 train by President Brown and Superintendent Noble of the Texas & Pacific Railroad, who had just returned from New York where a contract had been arranged by Mr. Jay Gould, General Dodge and others for the building on the T&P on west to El Paso.

The Diary of C. R. Morehead

Marshall — Located in Harrison County in the Upper East Texas pine belt, this community served as the capital of Missouri during the Civil War when Governor Claiborne F. Jackson and his staff, refugees from their home state, set up headquarters to conduct their business in exile. (*Texas Almanac*, Dallas: A. H. Belo Corp., 1945, p. 94)

Brown and Noble — George Noble and John C. Brown were to have property and business interests in El Paso soon after Morehead moved there. In 1882 Noble, Morehead, and others organized the El Paso and White Oaks Railroad Company. Failing to get financial support from prominent railroad men in Philadelphia, Noble went to New York where Brown helped him enlist the interest of T&P directors. The Gould group later dropped the project when the money market tightened in 1883. Morehead, however, continued his interest in the building of a railroad into New Mexico and was one of the directors when the project was renewed in 1888. (William T. Rabe, "On to White Oaks: The Story of El Paso and Northwestern Railroad," *Password*, XVI, 1 (Spring, 1971), pp. 10, 11, 16)

Jay Gould — He came to dominate the transportation system in the 1880s through financial control of the T&P, Missouri, Kansas & Texas, International & Great Northern, Galveston, Houston & Henderson, Cotton Belt, and other lines. (Robert L. Peterson, "Jay Gould and the Railroad Commission of Texas," *The Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, LVIII, 3 (January, 1955), pp. 422ff.)

General Grenville M. Dodge — Builder of the Union Pacific and founder of a number of cities in the West. (John W. Reys, *Cities of the American West*, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1979, p. 593)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30, 1880. Return from Marshall preparing to start to El Paso.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1880. Snowing and sleeting during the day, commenced snowing in the evening and continued all night, average depth estimated ten to twelve inches. The heaviest snowfall known to the oldest inhabitants.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1880. Passes came today for west trip and return for Mr. Bassett and myself over stage and rail, through to San Francisco.

Oscar T. Bassett — A successful Fort Worth contractor and lumber dealer when at age 30 he met Morehead. The two traveled west together to investigate business opportunities. Originally from Vermont, Bassett was turned down for service in the Union Army at the age of 14. He spent several years in Clinton, Indiana, where he learned contracting and the lumber business. He moved to Fort Worth in 1879 and established a lumber business there, while retaining his business interests in Indiana. (Sonnichsen and McKinney, p.5)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1880. Left Fort Worth for El Paso with O. T. Bassett in a Concord Coach. Very cold. Arrived at Thorpe Springs 7:00 P.M., had good supper at that town.

Nancy Hamilton

Thorpe Spring(s)—Located in Hood County about four miles northwest of Granbury.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1880. Arrived at Comanche and remained overnight. Took a canvas top, spring stage next morning, hauled by two broncos.

Comanche — County seat of Comanche County, located on the Big Bend Trail.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1880. Left for Concho. Arrived at Brownwood 4:00 P.M., arrived at Coleman City 12:00 P.M.

Brownwood — County Seat of Brown County.

Coleman City — County seat of Coleman County. Now called Coleman.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1880. Arrived at Walthal, took dinner, and went on to Concho, arriving at 10:00 P.M.

Walthal — The first stable settlement in Runnels County was situated across the Colorado River from the last surviving evidence of the community, a cemetery located 4.7 miles southeast of Ballinger on a county road off U.S. 67. The town was located on land claimed in the 1860s by the John W. Guest family and surrounded a stagecoach stop. (Claude W. Dooley *Why Stop? Lone Star Legends*, Odessa: Lone Star Legends Company, 1978, pp. 31, 32)

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1880. Remained at Fort Concho with Lt. L. P. Hunt all day, leaving at 9:00 P.M. for Stockton in company with Mr. Corbitt, a German lady and Mr. Ponder. Here the snow passed off. Mrs. Hirma Lightner gave us a big pound cake. Mr. Lightner was an old plainsman and fellow traveler of mine in 1859 on the Salt Lake route. This fort is on the Concho river. We then took the road between Concho and Stockton. Across the river is the small town of San Angelo.

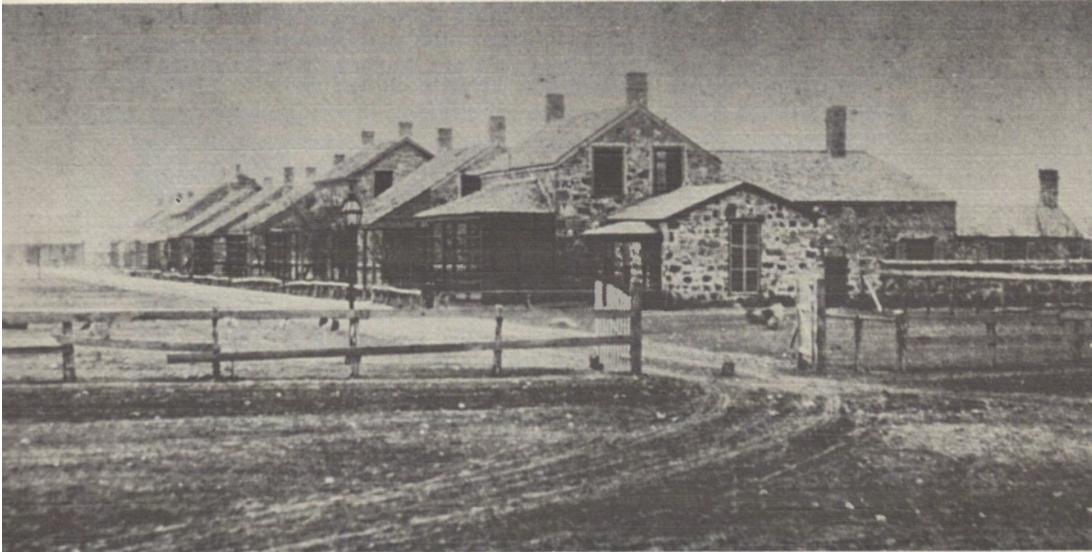
Fort Concho — Established in 1867 at the forks of the North and South Concho Rivers, the fort was described by a traveler in 1879: "Some of the most desperate sporting characters and card sharks in Texas frequented this town." The troops, who for years were involved in Indian campaigns, pursued Victorio in 1880. The fort was abandoned in 1889 and is now a tourist attraction at San Angelo in Tom Green County. (Herbert M. Hart, *Old Forts of the Southwest*, New York: Bonanza Books, 1964, pp. 178-81)

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1880. Arrived at Stockton at 10:00 A.M., had our refreshment bottles filled by Mr. Corbitt and left for Fort Davis minus the lady and Mr. Corbitt. We regretted losing Mr. Corbitt as he told us of many Indian raids in that country and numerous escapes by himself, which was very comforting.

The Diary of C. R. Morehead

Stockton — The fort was established in 1858 at Comanche Springs in Pecos County. At this time it had three substops for Indian control, with troops involved in the 1878-81 campaigns against Victorio and the Warm Springs Apaches. Located 63 miles from the nearest railroad station, it was abandoned in 1886. Fort Stockton is the county seat of Pecos County. (Hart, pp. 128-9)

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1880. Arrived at Fort Davis at 1:00 A.M., changed teams and I left for El Paso. Had a sandstorm with extreme cold, mules now and then would refuse to face the gravel and wind. Arrived at Old Fort Quitman, the stage stand, at 5:00 A.M., changed teams and prepared for the Indians, who were reported near, they having driven off Col. Morris' sheep into the Guadalupe



Officers' Row, Fort Concho, Texas, c. 1881. Except for the wing at the far right, which was built in 1881, this is the way that part of the fort looked at the time of C. R. Morehead's stopover there on February 8-9, 1880. (Photo courtesy Fort Concho National Museum)

mountains near this place the day before. We had a cup of black coffee and bread, all they had. The country here in the valley was thick with tornillo brush. The driver called all aboard. We all had guns and we rolled up the curtains of the wagon and proposed that if any Indians showed up that we would all jump out on the approach of them and take through the brush close together. About six or eight miles out, the driver handed us the reins and cried, "Camp fire smouldering." He lit a match the usual cowboy way and looked around the camp, and came bounding in the wagon and said, "Moccasin tracks, gentlemen," and lit out all the broncos could

stand. We had one change of horses between there and El Paso, the distance being 100 miles from Quitman to El Paso, where we arrived at 7:30 P.M., put up at Mrs. Romans' one-story adobe hotel. . . .

Fort Davis — County seat of Jeff Davis County, established in 1853. It was a post under the command of General Benjamin Grierson in 1880 during the Victorio war. Bypassed by railroad routes, the post was abandoned in 1891. It became a National Park Service site in 1963. (Hart, pp. 55-59)

Fort Quitman — Established in 1858 on the Rio Grande, the post was abandoned during the Civil War, reoccupied in 1868, and was intermittently active until 1881. The post was abandoned in 1871 when a stage station was established there. Due to constant Apache activity in the area, Captain L. H. Carpenter was ordered to the fort in mid-February of 1880 to assess the feasibility of re-establishing the post. Because of the poor condition of the buildings, it was not occupied, although it served as a tactical base during the campaign against Victorio in October, 1880, last of the Indian campaigns in Texas. (Hart, pp. 130-131; George Ruhlen, "Quitman: The Worst Post at Which I Ever Served," *Password* XI, 3 (Fall, 1966), p. 121)

Col. Morris — This may have been John A. Morris, who about 1887 was deeded land near Fort Quitman and in 1889 was a party in a suit to verify title to the land. (J. J. Bowden, *Spanish and Mexican Land Grants in the Chihuahuan Acquisition*, El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1971, p. 188)

Mrs. Romans' (sic) hotel — Mrs. Emily Rohman and her husband, A. B. Rohman, natives of Bavaria, came to El Paso in the 1850s. After his death in the 1860s, she ran a boarding house at the head of El Paso street on the site now occupied by the Mills Building. (Mills, *Forty Years at El Paso, 1858-1898*, ed. Rex W. Strickland, Carl Hertzog; El Paso, 1962, p. 188)

Tornillo — A spiny shrub or small tree with long slender branchlets and pods called screwbeans, it is a mesquite found from Trans-Pecos Texas to southeastern California. (Elbert L. Little, *The Audubon Society Field Guide to North American Trees, Western Region*, New York: Knopf, 1980, p. 501)

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1880. Visited Paso del Norte, Mexico, was entertained by Mrs. Charles Richardson with finest Vino and Agua Dente. This was the only time I ever saw Mr. Bassett drink any wine or liquor, but this wine from native grapes proved quite tempting.

Paso del Norte — The town was renamed Ciudad Juarez in 1888. At the time of Morehead's visit, it dominated the valley with a population of about 20,000. (Oscar J. Martinez, *Border Boom Town: Ciudad Juarez Since 1848*, Austin: University of Texas Press, 1978, p. 19)

Charles C. Richardson — A Kentucky native, he married James Wiley Magoffin's daughter, Josephine, in 1856 and moved to El Paso in 1858, serving as United States consul. He lived in Juarez a number of years and died in El Paso in 1911 at age 76. (Mills, p. 187)

Vino and Aguadiente — Visitors to the El Paso valley in the mid-nineteenth century invariably mentioned vast vineyards and the delicious products of

the grapes. The El Paso City Directory in 1885 stated (p. 15): "Nearly all the ground around Paso del Norte is in vines, the product of which is sold for eating grapes or manufactured into wine or brandy. The grape is known as the Mission grape, from having been introduced by the Spaniard missionaries in the old days of the conquistadores. It is hardy and laughs at insect plagues. About 600 vines can be planted to the acre, and require no further care than to be irrigated ... four times a year and to be covered in winter to prevent freezing. Each vine will produce nearly a gallon of wine which, when one year old, sells for two dollars a gallon. The wine produced from the El Paso grape somewhat resembles pure Port, but has a slight tart flavor, which renders it an agreeable beverage in the heat of summer. With age the brandy ... nearly approaches the finest French product and is completely free from the heavy oils which are so destructive to the human stomach."

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1880. We took dinner with Judge Magoffin and Judge Blacker. They claimed about 500 inhabitants, most of whom are Mexicans. Plenty of room here about for a big city, which it will be in time after the railroads come. It is the natural pass from east to west, north and south, and it became a mining center.

Judge Magoffin — Joseph Magoffin, son of pioneer settler James Wiley Magoffin, was elected El Paso County judge for the 1876-77 term of office. In 1881 he was elected mayor of El Paso, serving two terms to 1885. (J. Morgan Broadus, *The Legal Heritage of El Paso*, El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1963, pp. 116-117)

Judge Blacker — Allen Blacker settled in El Paso in 1873 and was elected district judge, serving from 1875-80. Later he served as representative to the Texas Legislature, El Paso city attorney, alderman, and county judge (1890-92). (Broadus, p. 117)

El Paso population — The United States Census of 1880 counted 736.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1880. Looked around generally and viewed the adobe city.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1880. Went up to the pass some several miles from town with Judge Magoffin, investigated extent of the pass. We invested in land, about 400 acres. Bought it off Judge Magoffin this day.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1880. Getting ready to leave for Mesilla and Arizona. Left at 6:30 P.M. No one in stage but ourselves. Had a pleasant night's ride, arriving at Mesilla at 6:00 A.M., 20th.

Mesilla — Settled in 1850, Mesilla in 1861 became the capital of the Territory of Arizona. It is located 40 miles north of El Paso in Dona Ana County, New Mexico, and was a stop on the stage route to California. (Henry P. Walker and Don Bufkin, *Historical Atlas of Arizona*, Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1979).

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1880. Arrived at Mesilla at 6:00 A.M., took breakfast and left for Tucson at 8:00 A.M. Crossed the Rio Grande and walked up the grade quite a distance. On this day we passed the place where Victorio's band massacred thirteen men and sixteen yoke cattle, the cattle carcasses still remaining. This took place two months before this date. The driver stopped and asked us if we would like to get out and view the battlefield, which we did.

Tucson — Tucson was the first county seat of Pima County in 1864. By 1880, it had a population of 7,007, due to mining activity, which was to decline by 1890. (Walker/Bufkin, p. 60)

Victorio's band — He was the leader of the Mimbres Apaches. During the period 1879-80, he repeatedly outwitted and outfought his Mexican and American military pursuers. This was a time of constant Apache raids on prospectors, traders, and travelers. The incident mentioned by Morehead may have occurred somewhat earlier than the time he gives. In October, 1879, near Slocum's ranch on the trace from Mesilla to Fort Cummings, a wagon train and its eleven teamsters were destroyed. The location and numbers fit Morehead's description, although numerous other attacks took place in the vicinity. (Dan L. Thrapp, *Victorio and the Mimbres Apaches*, Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1974, p. 290 and note)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1880. Arrived at Silver City 7:00 A.M. Took breakfast, found quite a nice town and country. Passed Fort Bowie 11:00 o'clock. At night took supper at Shakespear (sic), a new mining camp.

Silver City — This town was incorporated in 1876 after the discovery of a silver deposit by James Bullard and his brother, John, in 1868. (Thrapp, note p. 343)

Fort Bowie — This Arizona fort was one of the most prominent in the Apache wars, located in Apache Pass at a spring. Active from 1862 until 1894, it is now a National Historical Site. It was named for Colonel George W. Bowie. (Thrapp, p. 81)

Shakespeare — Originally a stage stop of the Butterfield Overland Stage Company at the water hole of Mexican Springs on the 1858 route from St. Louis to San Francisco, the town was called Ralston for several years. In 1879, as new mining interests were developed in the area, it was called Shakespeare by Colonel William Boyle and his brother, General John Boyle, natives of England, who organized the Shakespeare Mining Company. (Philip Varney *New Mexico's Best Ghost Towns*, Flagstaff: Northland, Press, 1981, pp. 129-31)

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1880. Arrived at Dos Cabezas or Wills Spring for breakfast, found here quite a mining camp. Rode all day, arrived at Tres Alamos on the San Pedro River at 6:00 P.M., found here

(Continued on page 142).



HISTORIC TOURS— ALONG THE SUNLIT TRAIL

by Emily and William Burgett

One of the interesting activities sponsored by the El Paso County Historical Society is the annual Tour of Historic Homes. The custom began in 1977. Under the presidency of James Peake, your authors organized the first Tour, which took place on November 6 of that year and featured six beautiful residences.

Understandably, that initial Tour presented the Magoffin Home, located at 1120 Magoffin Street and designated a State Historic Structure. Built in 1875 by James Magoffin, it is an adobe house of 17 rooms arranged around a patio and featuring several native building techniques of the period: ceiling beams (vigas) of pine and cottonwood, walls varying from two to four feet thick, and tile floors. Also offered on the Tour was the Turner Home, at 1301 Montana Street, built in 1916. The furniture and fittings were purchased in Chicago and represented the best available at that time. The building was willed to the El Paso County Medical Society upon the death of Dr. S. T. Turner in 1946. Another item on that initial agenda was the Bowen Home, at 1101 Montana Street, which is described as an architect's jewel. Built in 1902 of red brick, it features a round tower that contains the parlor on the main floor. Among its stunning appointments are parquet floors, oak beams, an oak stairway, and double entrance doors with beveled patterned glass. Also on view

William and Emily Burgett have actively served the Historical Society since 1958. He is a retired Navy Captain and also a retired instructor of mathematics at The University of Texas at El Paso. She is a former Navy nurse.

was the Ainsa House, built in 1915 and located at 1011 North Mesa Street. Of yellow brick construction, its style is Greek Revival.

Visitors were also privileged to visit the Burges House, 603 West Yandell Drive. Built in 1912 and remodeled in 1927 by architect O. H. Thorman, this imposing residence has a white stucco finish and four columns of modified Doric order. The spacious drawing room displays a large fireplace and shelves of books. Across the back of the house is the library, both areas containing about 8,000 books. Also open to viewing was the Karr residence at 520 Prospect Street. Designed by Beutel and Hardie in 1920 for Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Slater, the house was built of hand-cut stone from a nearby quarry and required several years to complete. However, the interior was never completed by the Slaters. In 1961 Mr. and Mrs. John Karr bought the house and followed the original plans to finish the interior. The home has about 7,000 square feet of living space on three levels, one of its special features being a fireproof library located near the front vestibule.



The second Tour, also conducted by your authors, took place on September 17, 1978, and offered six residences in the Manhattan Heights area. The Bailey home at 3033 Federal was designed by architect Thorman and built in 1929 for Mr. and Mrs. John T. Ederington. This two-story Spanish-type home was occupied by the Ederingtons until 1935, by Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Tucker from 1935 to 1948, and by Dr. and Mrs. Maynard Hart from 1948 to 1961. The Johnson home at 3037 Federal was built in 1914 for Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Leavell. A Georgian-style house planned by O. H. Thorman and constructed of brick imported from Pennsylvania, this was the first home in the area. General Pershing, a friend of the Leavell family, was a frequent guest at dinner during the early years of the house. The home at 3038 Federal was built in 1929 for Mr. and Mrs. L. R. Hoard and their six daughters. The Spanish style was developed by architect Mabel H. Welch, and illustrations of this house appeared in the textbook *Planning Your Home for Better Living*, used at Yale University for many years. The home now belongs to Dr. and Mrs. William J. Reynolds.

The home at 3101 Federal was built in 1915 for Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Kerr. Stella Gillespie Kerr visited many southern homes searching for ideas and details which were incorporated by architects Trost and Trost in this house which she called "Windcrest." The home was sold



Built in 1914 for Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Leavell, this Georgian-style house located at 3037 Federal was the first home to be built in the Manhattan Heights residential district. Its present owners and occupants are Lieutenant Colonel (ret.) and Mrs. Floyd L. Johnson. (The El Paso Times staff photo courtesy M. G. McKinney)

in 1923 to cotton farmer Will T. Owen and his wife, who furnished it with art objects from around the world. In 1941 the house was converted into a duplex by Dr. and Mrs. J. D. Love, then restored in 1958 to a one-family home by Dr. and Mrs. Wallace H. Black. In 1976 it was sold to Dr. and Mrs. Diego A. Aranda. The home at 3101 Copper, designed by architect Thorman, was built in 1916 for Mr. and Mrs. H. R. McClintock. It was later sold to Nellie Bliss Robinson, widow of an El Paso mayor. The home was occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Wylie Casteel from 1946 to 1971. In 1976 it was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Joe H. Wilson, who have restored it to its original elegance. The home at 3001 Silver was built in 1927 for Mr. and Mrs. Sam Watkins and was known throughout the city as "Casa de las Flores." The Spanish architecture, developed by Mrs. Welch, features a stuccoed exterior and a red tile roof. The generous use of tile inside the home, particularly in the entrance and on the stairs, and the large patio in the rear enhance the Spanish flavor. In 1975 Mrs. Watkins sold the home to Mr. and Mrs. Sam T. Moore, who renovated the interior while preserving the beauty of the house.

The 1985 Tour of Historic Places is scheduled for Sunday, October 6. It will feature several homes and buildings designed by the renowned architectural firm of Trost and Trost. Dr. and Mrs. J. Harry Miskimins are in charge of arrangements.



The 1979 Tour, conducted by Mrs. Una Hill on November 11, presented four homes in the area surrounding Richmond Park. The Maple home at 2601 Altura was constructed in 1909 for Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Newman and is built around an atrium. The house has the original tile floors in entrance hall, porch, and atrium; the original hardwood floors in the other parts of the home; and also the original hardware, the door knobs being solid brass and crystal. Each of the screened porches, which once adjoined the east bedrooms, has been enclosed to make a sitting room. The Rees home at 2619 Altura is a Spanish-style house designed by architect Welch and built in 1929 for Dr. and Mrs. Harry Leigh. The entryway has a vaulted ceiling; and the doorways, the ceiling beams, and the mantels over the four fireplaces are hand carved from railroad-bridge beams which once spanned the Rio Grande. The Garrett home at 2631 Altura was built in 1907 by Ezekiel S. Newman. The original gas-lighted crystal and silver chandelier is still in place but has been converted to electricity. The carriage house has become a three-car garage, and the servant quarters have been made into a guest house. The McKee home at 2630 Richmond was built in 1921 by Robert E. McKee. Extensive internal changes were made after the home was donated by the McKee family in 1966 to the El Paso Rehabilitation Center, but the home's original spaciousness and convenient room-arrangements can still be discerned.



On October 5, 1980, Mrs. Hans Brockmoller led the Tour to Pennsylvania Place for a visit to five homes which were constructed between the years 1917 and 1948 in the fashionable Austin Terrace area. The Daugherty home, designed by Trost and Trost and built in 1917, is of Italian-Mediterranean style with rose-colored stucco exterior and a roof of greenish tile. The Warfield home, a one-story Spanish-style house, was designed by Carroll and Daeuble and built in 1948 by Ray Ward, Sr. The Rhea home was built in 1917 in Early English style. All hinges, door knobs and similar hardware were

custom designed by Marshall Field. An outstanding feature of this house is the stained-glass window over the staircase. The Pitzer home is a charming two-story Mediterranean-style house built in 1920 by James L. Marr. The Harvie home, designed by architect Thorman and built in 1931, is in Spanish style and features a tower which houses the deeply inset front door and the spiral staircase.



It was again Mrs. Brockmoller who organized the 1981 Tour, held on October 4. This time she guided the visitors to Kern Place, which had been opened as a prestigious residential district in 1913. The home at 711 Cincinnati, known as Hoover House, was built for Richard M. Dudley in 1917. In 1965 the house was given by the Robert Hoover family to The University of Texas at El Paso as a residence for the president of the University. This splendid two-story house has a front upheld by Ionic pillars. Much of the furniture and many of the paintings which now grace the home are from the estate of Josephine Clardy Fox. The Smith home at 1200 Cincinnati was built in 1927. It has two interior arched doorways and a stained-glass window in the stair landing. The Roman home at 1201 Cincinnati was built by Max Moye in 1916 of gray fieldstone and has been called "The Stone Castle" because of the tower and battlement appearance. The Leverton home at 1308 Cincinnati is of English Tudor style and was built by James Davis Mayfield in 1920. The entry doors have beveled glass and sidelights, the porch is tiled, and there is a wrought-iron circular staircase to the second floor.

The 1981 Tour also offered the Jennett home, at 923 McKelligon, a small house built in 1917 and remodeled since. The living room has a beamed ceiling and its original oak flooring. Several years ago, this home was presented by *Better Homes and Gardens* as a decorator's dream of remodeling. The Walsh home at 915 Park is a two-story English Tudor residence. Built in 1917 by Mayfield Development and Improvement Company, it was remodeled in 1973. The Schwartz home, at 1101 Park, is a pink adobe house designed by O. H. Thorman and built by E. D. Lachman in 1920. It is constructed around a patio room which is two stories high and which dramatically features a wide staircase leading to the ballroom on the second floor.



Historic Sunset Heights was the setting for the 1982 Tour, conducted by Mrs. Brockmoller and Mrs. Leroy L. Mathis on October



Dressed in a turn-of-the-century costume which harmonizes with the period when the Davenport house (628 W. Yandell) was constructed, Dina Hirsch, center, attends her duties as docent and chats with two visitors to that home during the 1982 Tour of Homes. (Photo by M. G. McKinney)

3. The Davenport home at 628 West Yandell was built for Sigfried Aronstein near the beginning of the century. A leaded and beveled glass door opens into a spacious entryway handsomely appointed with oak paneling, exposed ceiling beams, sliding oak doors, and a stairway to the second floor. The home is furnished with antiques which complement the period of the home's construction. At 700 West Yandell is the Fitzgerald home, built in 1906 and featuring an entry hall paved with colorful mosaic tile, an atrium two stories in height, panel wainscoting extending up the side of the stairway to a balcony which leads to the second floor, and a third floor originally designed as a ballroom. At 717 West Yandell is the Ellison home, built for jeweler W. T. Hixon early in the century. The stained-glass French doors, the oak molding, the exposed ceiling beams, the original light fixtures, and the dining room's two built-in china cabinets framing a stained-glass window articulate the period's high fashion.

The Melby home at 800 West Yandell was built for Dr. James Vance in 1910. Its gabled front porch is supported by two massive columns; its large entry has an unusual decorative ceiling design; and its living room displays an intricate carved frieze and exposed ceiling beams.

Four of the upstairs rooms have been converted into library rooms for Mrs. Melby's extensive book collection. The dining room has a beamed ceiling, with leaded stained-glass skylights placed between the beams. The Kirkpatrick home at 1201 Prospect is a Spanish-style house designed by Ewing Waterhouse in 1939 for Enrique F. Flores. It has eighteen-inch adobe walls, the windows decoratively trimmed with ceramic tile. The house is entered in the Historic Register of Landmark Homes.

Also of great interest on the 1982 Tour was the building at 519 Prospect. In 1917, Professor Servando T. Esquivel, having just fled Mexico and his association with Pancho Villa, bought what now stands as the front part of the building. For "The Palmore Academy," he joined to the original house an extensive two-story addition. Adjacent to this he built his three-bedroom house, which was the focal point of social activity for the Academy students. The arcade that joins the front portion of the two main structures displays the arches and facades characteristic of the California Mission architectural style.



The Tour held on October 2, 1983, and conducted by Mrs. Richmond McCarty and Dwight Deter, presented several homes in the Rim Road area. The Hoy house at 1107 Rim Road is a California-style house designed by Russell Waterhouse, Sr., and built in 1937 for the Reverend B. M. G. Williams. It has a blue tile roof, second-floor porches, open front terraces, a hanging front porch, and numerous French doors. The Schuster home at 939 Rim Road dates from about 1930. Designed by Mrs. Welch and built by her husband, M. H. Welch, it is in twelfth-century Norman style with twelve-inch brick walls, a steep roof, a round tower, and a nine-foot doorway. The Haddad home at 815 Rim Road was built for Mr. and Mrs. Charles Given in 1929 and incorporates many Spanish architectural details. The Irvin home at 701 Rim Road is a Spanish Colonial Revised house that was built in 1929 by W. F. Ritter for himself. He supervised all the details of construction, including the circular tower room. The 1983 Tour also offered three homes on Blacker: the Guynes residence, a California-style house built in 1937 for Leo P. Hines by the Hines Construction Company; the Margo home, built in 1937 in Modified Pueblo style; and the Brannon home, a modified Georgian house that was built in 1930 for A. E. Graves.





A view of the Enriquez home in San Elizario. Built c. 1730 by Encarnación Escajeda, the house has been occupied continuously by succeeding generations of the Escajeda family. (Photo by James W. Ward)

Mrs. Robert Fouts conducted the 1984 Tour on October 7 to the Lower Valley, which is considered the most historic area of El Paso. The Waugh home at 8812 Old County Road, Ysleta, is a Territorial-style house that was built in 1856 by a Mr. Romero. It was called a "shotgun house" because the rooms are contiguous. The Woll home at 1500 Convent Road, San Elizario, is believed to have been constructed in 1858 as a stage stop. It originally consisted of two buildings with a coach passageway between. The passageway has been converted to a kitchen, and some stained-glass windows have been installed.

At 12748 Socorro Road, San Elizario, stands an adobe home that was built about 1730 by Encarnación Escajeda. A high-ceilinged studio featuring a magnificent stained-glass window has been added, and the older parts of the building have been modernized. Nevertheless, the house retains its original air of a pioneer dwelling at the outpost of New Spain. Its present owners are artist Gaspar Enriquez and Ann García Enriquez, who is a descendant of the builder. Her great-grandfather, Gregorio N. García, was living in the house and was serving as County Judge in 1877 when the Salt War was fought nearby. The Herring home at 308 North San Elizario Road, Clint, is a

(Continued on page 141).



RADFORD SCHOOL

The First 75 Years of Excellence

by Laura Cramer

On January 15, 1910, a group of El Paso businessmen met at the Chamber of Commerce. Their purpose in meeting: to discuss the possibility of establishing a private boarding school for girls. Other meetings followed in rapid succession. And by September of that same year, El Paso School for Girls was ready to open with 18 students and a carefully chosen faculty headed by Ora Slater and Olga Tafel as associate principals. The founders had been offered a building site in Highland Park, near where Sun Valley Regional Hospital now stands, but had rejected it because they considered it "so far outside the city." Instead, they had selected as the school's "campus" three houses in the 1100 block of Terrace Street in Sunset Heights.

By 1911 an intermediate department had opened to include younger girls, and the growth of the school had begun. Growth made expansion necessary, and six years later — in 1917 — ground was broken for new school buildings in Austin Terrace, ironically far beyond what the founders had considered "so far outside the city." The beautiful residence and school were completed and opened on January 20, 1918. Over the arched doorway of the main entrance to the residence the architect set a traditional heraldic device, an open book against the cross of service. This device also expressed the school motto: "Disco Ut Servem" (I Learn that I may Serve).

Faithfully committed to this motto, El Paso School for Girls carried on its purpose of excellence in education in its new home. In 1924

Mrs. Cramer is Dean of Students and Academic Programs at Radford School. Her interest in the history of the school began when she joined the faculty in 1981 and worked as Historian during summer vacations.



El Paso School for Girls, c. 1918, looking through gates to Austin Terrace on Hastings Street. (Photo from the archives of Radford School)

Ora Slater retired, Olga Tafel following her into retirement in 1927.

In August, 1927, a new principal, Dr. Lucinda de Leftwich Templin, former Dean of Girls at Lindenwood College in St. Charles, Missouri, was named. This appointment marked the beginning of a new era for the El Paso School for Girls. Dr. Templin found a school deeply in debt and in danger of closing, but she had not taken the job to preside at a funeral. Soon after she became principal, she aroused in her longtime friends, Mr. and Mrs. George A. Radford of Webster Groves, Missouri, an active interest in the school and its welfare. The Radfords recognized the school's potential under the leadership of their friend, and they decided to pay off the mortgage and to incorporate the school. In May, 1931, following a long period of careful planning, Mr. and Mrs. Radford became owners of the school, and the name was changed to Radford School for Girls. In the years that followed, they continued to spend large sums to modernize it.

Dr. Templin said this of Mr. and Mrs. Radford:

Strangers who do not personally know Mr. and Mrs. Radford continually ask, 'Why do they do it?' Like the Good Samaritan of old, these two splendid persons have an abiding faith in the possibilities of humanity. They love the younger generation and believe that with the youth of today lies the solution of our present difficulties. Mr. and Mrs. Radford believe that this school offers a training and moral development which is needed at this time. They have expended their money here because they realize that in this great southwest there is a need for this type of education, and they know the satisfaction which comes with the realization that they have made possible these greater educational opportunities.

Under Dr. Templin the school steadily expanded its programs, reputation, and physical plant. Julia Brown Hall, named for Mrs. Radford, was dedicated in 1937 and is still used to house offices, the library, and classrooms. In 1956 Nelle Brown Kellar Hall, the new dormitory and dining room were built. Today, as then, lunch is served to students and faculty on linen tablecloths with linen napkins, and — as Dr. Templin requested at that time — the “members of the faculty correct the students’ table manners and their conduct generally.”

With the building of Templin Hall and Auditorium in 1959, the Upper School facilities were greatly enlarged and improved, and the addition of Fulwiler Hall in 1969 added a gymnasium, natatorium, and several classrooms.

Dr. Templin served as principal of the school until her death in 1969. Her personality continues to exert its influence to this day, and there are numerous anecdotes and legends concerning her. Her spirit is said to be with Radford still, and the many traditions established while she was principal are a very large part of what makes Radford unique. In her own words:

The idea of training which requires real effort and recognizes values in accomplishment and personal discipline is not popular. The desire for easy credits and snap courses eclipses the value of the subject matter itself. This is poor training. Character, self-discipline, and mastery do not grow from such soil. Soft teaching and easy studies do not produce moral fibre, or mental stamina. Successful living does not come by following the path of least resistance and avoiding every task that seems hard and unpleasant.

The Old Residence building lost its classroom use about 1971 because of longstanding structural defects; its dormitory was closed about 1974, and the section that contained the patio, classrooms, sleeping porches and some bedrooms were torn down in 1975. The gracious Old Residence, its heraldic device still intact, stands proudly on the corner of Hastings and Radford Streets. The building now houses the Napoleonic Museum and Library and the nucleus of a future museum of many other acquisitions. It was dedicated as a Texas State Historical Site on April 21, 1982.

In 1976 boys were admitted to Mid and Upper school, and the name was changed to Radford School.

Over the years, in addition to the ongoing construction, concerns for curriculum development have continued. A small example of the kind of updating which characterizes Radford School is the group of computer classrooms which in earlier days served as cooking labs.

Just recently Radford School joyously celebrated its Diamond Jubilee, which began with Radford Day ceremonies on September 18, 1984, and culminated in an all-class reunion in early May of 1985. The reunion coincided with the school's annual May Fete program, presented as a musical gift to the seniors from the other members of the student body. Activities at the Jubilee Reunion included — in addition to the May Fete program — luncheons, a dinner dance, and tours of the school. The former students were pleased to observe that while there have been extensive changes, the basic philosophy of Radford — as stated many years ago by Dr. Templin — has stayed the same:

There is no short-cut to education. You have to earn what you get. Education is training in how to think, to work, to study. Education can never be made a pleasant diversion. It is hard work. The standard should be excellence and not mediocrity.★



Southwest Cookery of Old

Mary Sarber, Head of the Southwest Collection at the El Paso Public Library, reminds *Password* readers that the Collection contains a number of cookbooks produced in an earlier El Paso. As an example of how these books reflect an aspect of daily life in those times, she offers a recipe from *The El Paso Cook Book*, which was compiled by the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Y.M.C.A. and published in El Paso in 1898. The recipe, which appears in the section entitled "The Mexican Department," is for ...

Gallina a la Mexicana

Wash and unjoint nice spring chicken, and cover with salted water. Add one small whole onion, so it can be removed after it has seasoned the chicken. Let cook one and one-fourth hours. Take out chicken and put where it will keep warm. Boil two eggs in the shell until hard; separate whites from yolks, and while yolks are hot, mash and mix thoroughly with one tablespoon corn meal, and thicken with liquor chicken has been boiled in. Then add one cup prepared red chile; let boil five minutes; add chicken and whites of eggs chopped.



OUR TOWN— ONE CENTURY AGO

(July-September, 1885)

by Art Leibson

For El Paso it was boom times. And it wasn't just the "tin horns and big-time gamblers" (to use C. L. Sonnichsen's words) nor the "high-grade and low-grade fancy women" who swarmed into Sin City to share in the prosperity of the years immediately following the arrival of the railroads. From New York, where he continued to retain his office on Broadway, came J. Fisher Satterthwaite, the first of the major real estate developers with the vision to see a great future for bordertown. He bought up all the higher lands in the city and spent heavily, and foolishly according to the old settlers, in leveling much of the real estate he acquired. He had plans to extend Upson and El Paso Streets as well as Oregon and Rio Grande. In 1885 he advertised that he had built 90 new homes and that more were under construction. Mesa Gardens, a very popular gathering place in what is now Sunset Heights, was one of his projects.

Another was the improvement of the downtown plaza where livestock frequently roamed. City Council gave Satterthwaite \$600 to spend on the plaza, and with that beginning he built a chain link fence around the park, erected a bandstand, and planted 75 Chinese umbrella trees. All the trees died, but they were replaced and eventually the plaza offered a shady welcome to downtown strollers.

El Paso was also a mecca for consumptives. Doctors in other areas

Mr. Leibson, the author of this regular *Password* feature, was for many years border correspondent for *Time-Life* magazines.

were sending patients out west to share in the altitude and sunshine. Sanatoriums were springing up, and health-seekers came in droves. That was a mixed blessing, for while some outstanding professional men were drawn here looking for health and survival, there were also many who were impoverished. Hundreds of them, short of money, were camping out in what is now the Highland Park area.

Flushed with its success in smoking out the great courthouse scandal, in which substitute plans had been produced by the contracting partnership, *The El Paso Daily Times* nudged Commissioners Court into a full-scale investigation. After a sensational disclosure of an attempted bribe, the probe led to criminal charges against the contractors and an agreement by an innocent partner to build the courthouse according to the original specifications.

In its crusade, the *Times* had feuded with the "weakly" *El Paso Herald*. After the investigation finally came to an end, an editorial observed that "the *Times* had been fair minded and just from the very beginning of this nasty business. It gave only the facts as they occurred from day to day, and expressed no opinions until all the testimony should be in, but at the same time it smelt all along a very big mouse, and now, look and behold, it turns out that our olfactories have not deceived us." Another editorial added this: "El Paso is not the only place where the people have trouble with their courthouse and their jail. The building of these necessary appendages to a county seems to bring out all the worst traits of humanity."

The *Times* wasn't yet ready to let go entirely of the scandal it had uncovered. In a final blast centered on four statues to be installed in the courthouse, the neo-crusader said, "When these four statues of justice ... are put in their appropriate niches in our now famous Courthouse, we hope the artist will make them squint-eyed, knock-kneed, spavined and with an itching open palm furtively put behind their backs," as a reminder of the background of the job.

With a city election coming up in August, the *Times* next launched an appeal to highly qualified men to offer themselves for public office. Day after day the appeal rang out as the *Times* warned that "the next two years are going to be the most critical in El Paso's history." The result was a disappointment in the race for mayor. A nonentity, one J. Gist, and Bob Lightbody, the town's first operator of a men's clothing store, were the only ones to respond to the appeal. The *Times* was disgusted and pulled no punches in belittling the candidates. As a result, there was a last-minute entry in the mayor's

race, Satterthwaite stepping forward to offer himself as an alternative. The *Times* was delighted and praised the real estate developer right up to election day, when he went down to defeat, a close second to Bob Lightbody.

The next editorial campaign called for a new city charter to allow for the expected growth of El Paso. The *Times* charged that the charter under which the city was operating had been rigged through the legislature for the benefit of a few individuals, supposedly motivated by vague but selfish reasons. The present charter limited the city's bonded indebtedness to \$20,000, severely hampering future growth.

Baseball had reached the point where a stock company was organized to build a diamond and grandstand at Kansas and Seventh Streets, and a professional battery was hired to come to El Paso and help coach the team they were expected to lead to a great future. This was after the team, under the name of the El Paso Browns, had accepted a challenge from Albuquerque for a three-game series over July Fourth and had been humiliated by scores of 17 to 9, 20 to 16, and 26 to 7. On returning, one of the players remarked that "We have met the enemy and we are their'n."

Things changed after the hiring of professional battery mates. One of the great teams of the west, from Las Vegas, arrived in El Paso to take on the Browns after having shut out Albuquerque 4 to 0. The odds were 3-1 in the betting, with Las Vegas expected to come out on top. But El Paso, and a number of local citizens who took the odds, celebrated an 8-to-3 victory.

El Paso was not so happy over another sporting event, a matched horse race that brought claims of foul, a put-up job, and even doping of entries. The stench was so bad that the referee had to recall his decision, declare all bets off, and have the race run again.

There had been a day-long celebration on the Fourth of July, ushered in by salvos from Fort Bliss. Included in the observance was a reading of the Declaration of Independence by Miss Josie Magoffin. The *Times* took note of the fact that a customary July Fourth rain did not materialize this year.

Nationally there had been big news on June 19. Crowds of boats escorted a French ship hauling Bertholdi's Statue of Liberty to its new home on Bedloe Island, where it would extend its welcoming arms to immigrants soon to be pouring into the United States looking for freedom and opportunity.

In the Southwest, Geronimo, having twice escaped from the

control of the military, was on the warpath again. We are told that his Apaches were "butchering with incredible cruelty and barbarity," and that civilian militia were being organized to track him down and dispose of him with a finality that could not be expected of the army.

The eastern part of Texas was beginning to enforce Sunday closing, and the effort was moving west. The *Times*, hoping it would be some time before the movement reached El Paso, flatly stated that "It is opposed to blue laws. It believes in Sunday as a day of rest and recreation, and not as a day of mourning, fasting and long faces."

General U. S. Grant died on July 23, given a more prominent place in the *Times* than a story telling that the Santa Fe Railroad would finish the work of driving piles for its railroad bridge over the Rio Grande next week and that completion of the bridge would soon follow.

The first labor union was organized this summer in El Paso, the 16-year-old Knights of Labor.★

✧ Railroad Visions ✧

On February 16, 1852, the (Texas) legislature chartered the Texas Western, as the railroad was commonly called, under its official name of the Vicksburg and El Paso Railroad Company. . . . The intention of the Texas Western was to build from the state line in the east westward across Texas to El Paso — then follow a route from San Augustine to New Orleans. The aim, presumably, was to use New Orleans instead of Galveston Bay's ports as an outlet for East Texas' produce and timber. The plan, however, did not materialize. On August 16, 1856, the line's name was changed to suggest an expanded outlook — the Southern Pacific Railroad Company — but by 1862 it had built only twenty-seven miles of track, between the state line and Marshall, Texas."

About a year later, on "February 7, 1853, the legislature chartered the Memphis, El Paso and Pacific Railroad Company in hopes of connecting northeastern Texas with the Pacific Coast by way of El Paso. No work was done for three years after the charter was issued and only five miles of track were completed westward from Jefferson when the Civil War halted construction."

—Earl F. Woodward, "Internal Improvements in Texas," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, LXXVI, No. 2 (October, 1972), 180-181



RECOLLECTIONS OF OLD FORT STANTON

by Robert L. Tappan

Several years ago when I was introduced to another guest at a dinner party in Ruidoso, she exclaimed with surprise: "Doctor Tappan? We used to know a Doctor Tappan at Fort Stanton!" "That would be my father, Doctor John W. Tappan," I explained. "He was the commanding officer at Fort Stanton from 1926 to 1929 when it was a U.S. Public Health Service hospital for tubercular merchant seamen."

The lady was the late Mrs. Louise Coe, former New Mexico state senator, educator, and for many years matron of the famous Coe Ranch in the Ruidoso-Hondo Valley. She recalled going as a young woman with her husband, Wilbur F. Coe, to parties given by my parents in Fort Stanton, which she said were considered to be among the area's most prestigious social events. Since I was only three or four years old at the time and presumably fast asleep when the guests arrived, I have no memory of those affairs. I do, however, have other recollections of those "dear dead days beyond recall" which the passing years have rendered nostalgic and close to my heart.

Indeed, my earliest recollections are of New Mexico and specifically of Fort Stanton, where I moved from my native El Paso at the tender age of two. Fort Stanton is situated in Lincoln County, famous in New Mexico history as Billy the Kid country and the scene of the Lincoln

Dr. Tappan recently retired from the Modern Language Department of The University of Texas at El Paso.

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County War of the 1870s. Established in 1855 to control the Mescalero and White Mountain Apache Indians, it was abandoned temporarily during the Civil War, later reoccupied and used by Kit Carson as his base of operation against the Apache. Then it became a U.S. Marine Hospital administered by the Public Health Service and subsequently as a State of New Mexico tuberculosis sanitarium. Since 1966 Fort Stanton has been a state facility for the mentally retarded.

The Bonito River meanders along Fort Stanton's edge, and in those days, when it carried more water than it does today, it formed a perfect summer swimming hole at one point. I also remember the narrow wooden bridge across the Bonito which connected us to the "mainland." Like its sister, the Ruidoso River, this seemingly innocuous little creek sometimes used to flood. On such occasions the bridge was covered and the only access or exit was via the primitive road, little more than a trail, that led through Devil's Canyon to Glencoe on the Roswell highway. The excitement of the situation was heightened when some intrepid motorist would venture to cross the beleaguered bridge, sometimes successfully, but more often leaving a stalled Essex or Whippet or Oakland in mid-stream, a helpless prisoner of the Bonito's churning waters.

To solve the flood problem, as well as to provide a needed reservoir, the United States Government commissioned my father to lead a survey team in order to determine the most appropriate site for a dam on the Bonito. Dad saddled up his majestic black gelding "Midnight" and rode west along the Bonito with Procurement Officer William Hendren and several other men, looking for the most likely location for the project. The ultimate result of this expedition was Bonito Lake, which today supplies water to the city of Alamogordo and is one of central south New Mexico's most scenic recreational areas.

Dad and Bill Hendren also rode horseback to the top of White Mountain, or the Sierra Blanca as it is better known today, many years before the road that now leads to the ski area was constructed.

"Midnight": what a magnificent steed he was! I remember that sometimes when Dad was riding I would be handed up to him as a special treat; then one of the men would lead "Midnight" all around the house while Dad held me over the saddle horn. I felt I was truly on top of the world.

Mother was no mean rider herself and quickly reached an



Dr. John W. Tappan, United States Public Health Service, and his son, Robert. This photo was taken c. 1926 in El Paso shortly before Dr. Tappan was assigned as commanding officer of the Fort Stanton Hospital for tubercular Merchant Marine seamen. (Photo courtesy Dr. Robert L. Tappan)

understanding with "Billy," the spirited little sorrel whose full name was Billy the Kid. Dad had given him to my brother David, but my sister Marion and my mother frequently rode him too. Billy had the aggravating habit of running away with his rider, usually straight back to the stable, whenever he thought he could get away with it. He tried

this the first time out with Mother and found it didn't work. He never tried again.

As time passed, the "Midnight" rides around the house left something to be desired. After all, this was old hat by now, and a five-year-old needs something more challenging. So when Red Merrill, who was the garage foreman, told my parents that he would like to give his mare's next colt to Bobby, I was one excited little boy. Unfortunately, I was never to enjoy my promised gift, for shortly afterwards we left Fort Stanton when my father was transferred to another post. Fifty years later I still wonder what that colt was like and what became of him, my very own horse that I never knew.

"Scottie," our beautiful gold and white collie, had moved with us from El Paso to Fort Stanton and was my constant companion. Years later when Mother and I would talk about Fort Stanton days, she said that she always knew where I was visiting just by looking from our front porch around the parade ground. If "Scottie" was lying on Dr. Faget's front porch next door, that's where I was. Or perhaps that particular morning I was visiting the Paymons (Leo Paymon was the pharmacist) or Mrs. Howson, whose husband was materiel officer, or farmer Boyd and his wife, or the Fagans, or Dr. and Mrs. Herbert. Wherever I was, "Scottie" would be waiting patiently outside for me to rejoin him.

On a recent visit to Fort Stanton I was pleased to find that most of the buildings are still as I remembered them, including our house and the one-room schoolhouse where my formal education began. The house no longer has the graceful columns that adorned the front porch when we lived there, but otherwise it looks much the same. The schoolhouse, on the other hand, looks exactly as I remembered it. All grades from primary (something like kindergarten) through sixth were taught by Miss Mary Jane Harris, assisted by a Mrs. Mormon. The year that we left Fort Stanton my sister Marion had completed the sixth grade and if we had remained, she would have had to be bused to Capitan the following year to attend junior high school. I never hear "Oh Fair New Mexico" without thinking of the little schoolhouse where I first heard the state song of New Mexico.

Another building from those days that I recognized was the Occupational Therapy Shop where tubercular patients had the opportunity to learn arts and crafts and sell their work. One of these patients was Dan Kusianovich, who later became one of New Mexico's

(Continued on page 150).



BIDDING AT THE PASS

The Development of Duplicate Bridge in El Paso

by Robert M. Esch

No one can set a precise day when people began to play duplicate bridge in El Paso. Many had learned bridge shortly after the turn of the century by reading the books of Joseph Browne Elwell, the American authority at the time on the original game of bridge (bridge-whist). At El Paso's fashionable Toltec Club men gathered to play rubber bridge for high stakes; and at Ysleta's equally fashionable Valley Inn, according to Martha Patterson Peterson in "All Aboard! The Interurban to El Paso High, 1913-1917" (*Password*, XXVIII, 4), "frequent and popular bridge soirees" were held during the early decades of this century. But the first duplicate game was probably the 1929 benefit for the Community Chest, organized by Hal Foster and Travis White. There were more than 25 tables in play, and while the game was ostensibly a charity game, its organizers hoped to generate interest in duplicate bridge.

Both of the organizers were well qualified to lead the way. Travis White, a prominent El Paso attorney, had read Sidney Lenz, an expert on auction bridge, and he was studying the system of contract bridge being propounded in bridge magazines by Ely Culbertson. Later, Mr. White wrote articles for *The Bridge World*, the very voice of Culbertson, and collected hands that he analyzed in his book *Odd Tricks*. Hal Foster was also an early-day convert to contract bridge

Dr. Esch is an associate professor of English at The University of Texas at El Paso, where he directs the composition program. An active participant in duplicate bridge, he has won several Regional tournaments and earned the rank of Life Master in 1976.

and a close student of Culbertson. Shortly after the Community Chest charity game, he held weekly duplicate games at his Bridge studio in the Hilton Hotel. According to his daughter Liz Goodman, he gave cash prizes for first, second, and third place. He also taught contract bridge to those who respected his demanding standards and his blunt criticism. As someone said, "We learned to play bridge with tears streaming down our faces." Among other excellent bridge teachers and energetic duplicate-bridge promoters in those early years were Elizabeth Burr and Carrie Fant.

It was Carrie Fant who helped organize Ely Culbertson's World Bridge Olympics in 1932. In this game, participants played par hands based on Culbertson's book. Two El Paso ladies, Miss Esther R. Brown and Mrs. Edith Pridgen, virtually memorized the Culbertson book, entered the contest, and won the Texas state championship as the East-West pair. They modestly claimed that they had weak opponents, but their near-perfect score brought them local newspaper publicity and a tall trophy. And duplicate bridge took another step forward in El Paso.

Players began to think in terms of affiliating with the national organization for bridge, the American Contract Bridge League (at that time called the American Bridge League). But some saw no reason to join. The games at the Del Norte Hotel were elegant social functions that meant much to players during the Great Depression. Men dressed in tuxedos; the ladies, in evening gowns. The price for dinner was only \$1.00. If it was the evening for a special event called the Calcutta, what a great time players knew they would have bidding for any partnership that might win. Dr. Jamison once bid his wife up to \$100, and she won the event. At the weekly games, which were directed by Mrs. Alves Dixon and Mrs. G. L. Moreland, players participated in pools; they might win part of the pool or they might lose their quarter, but they had a grand time regardless. Why, asked many, should we in El Paso — an isolated, inaccessible city — pay someone in New York to put on our games?

Logical as that argument seemed at the time, a few of the El Paso players kept thinking about the Big World of Bridge outside the local scene. In 1940, six of those players — Mr. and Mrs. Moreland, Margaret Wilder, Alves Dixon, Bert Semple, and Miriam Mottelson — went to San Antonio for an ACBL tournament. The members of the San Antonio unit enthusiastically welcomed these visitors who had driven more than 600 miles from "isolated" El Paso in order to play in

a recognized bridge tournament, and they wondered how they might interest El Paso in joining ACBL.

As it turned out, they did more than just wonder. In 1941, the San Antonio unit sponsored a regional championship tournament for El Paso at the Del Norte Hotel. Bert Semple and Mrs. Moreland helped generate interest in the tournament. Clara Carter was the dark horse winner of the Calcutta, which netted her the sum of \$186.00, and several "old-timers" remember that Jackie Epstein was on the winning team. Bridge celebrities from all over Texas attended the tournament. George Beynon came from New York to direct. And, as Bernice Burnett recalled several years ago, "he made a magnificent and impassioned speech — then called for speeches from the players to express their ideas. Many responded both pro and con. When the vote was counted, out of the ballroom full of people only five voted to join ACBL!" The vast majority, it seems, felt that they didn't quite hold the cards for further bidding at that time. Or perhaps it was the "forbidding" clouds of war on the horizon which prompted their conservative "Pass."

In 1947, John and Elaine King moved to El Paso from St. Louis, where they had enjoyed the advantages of affiliation with ACBL. They embarked immediately on a vigorous campaign of educating EL Paso's duplicate-bridge players to the benefits of ACBL membership. And this time there was success. In May, 1949, Max Moye, president of El Paso's Del Norte Bridge Club, presented to Mrs. W. E. Thompson what was to be the last traveling trophy for the highest total bridge score earned for the season at that club; for on May 17, 1949, the El Paso Bridge Club, the Fort Bliss



In May of 1949, Max Moye, president of the El Paso Bridge Club, presents to Mrs. W. E. Thompson the club traveling trophy for the highest total bridge score of the season. (Photo courtesy Judy Thompson Koplan)

Officers Bridge Club, and the Kings' Bridge Studio organized as Unit 159, American Contract Bridge League. Many El Pasoans who are still active in competitive bridge recall the excited players in the game that evening when they won their first ACBL master point (the unit which measures bridge achievement in tournament play).

The first Board of Directors included R. A. Densmore, Frank Harriss, John and Elaine King, Mrs. G. L. Moreland, Max Moye, Mrs. R. S. Parker, T. R. Sullivent, and H. P. Robinson. Elaine King was elected president. Frank Harriss, the unit's first treasurer, established a bank account at the El Paso National Bank. Clara Carter, Ross Hill, and Bernice Burnett wrote the unit's first code of by-laws and constitution.

Not long after that, the members of Unit 159 began planning for a sectional tournament in El Paso. Mrs. King was acquainted with bridge luminary Charles Goren, and she invited him to attend. In May, 1950, the *El Paso Herald-Post* recorded the winners of several events in the first Southwest Sunland sectional tournament. Mr. Goren won the Roland Parker trophy in the Individual; Mrs. T. R. Burnett and Mrs. M. Hanks won the Women's Pairs; and Dr. Vincent Ravel and Elmer Berkenfield, two veritable "unknowns" in the duplicate circle, won the Open Pairs. Shortly after this tournament, the Goren column became a regular feature in *The El Paso Times*.

It was not until 1953, when Frank Harriss was president of the Texas Regional Conference, that El Paso held its first Regional tournament. Its setting was the attractive reception rooms of the Woman's Club. In later years, as duplicate bridge became more popular in the El Paso Southwest and as travel to El Paso became easier for the region's bridge players, the Regionals moved to successively larger quarters — to the Hotel Cortez (in 1956, 1959, 1962, and 1968), to the Hilton Inn and the Rodeway Inn (1972), and to the El Paso Civic Center (1976 and 1984).

In 1957, Mrs. H. A. (Effie) Woods became El Paso's first Life Master (the highest rank of player in the ACBL) when she won the Mexican Nationals. Mrs. Woods had come to El Paso from California and quickly established herself as being one of the finest players in the state. She became a regular bidding judge in the Master Solver's Club of the publication *Texas Bridge*. With her son Al, she successfully defended twice her statewide bidding championship for that magazine. She also received even wider recognition for her skill: various hands which she and fellow El Pasoan May Belle Long had played in their national championship win eventually reappeared in



This 1962 photo shows the ten El Pasoans who were the first to earn the American Contract Bridge League rank of Life Master. Seated, from left, are Mrs. Frank Harriss, Mrs. H. A. Woods, Mrs. A. P. Mottelson, Miss May Belle Long, and Mrs. T. R. Burnett. Standing, from left, are Steve Lawrence, Mr. Harriss, Mack Carroll, Mrs. Vernon Berry, and Alex Harrison.

bridge activities in the area. This dream came to be realized principally through the generosity of the late Clarence V. Decker (affectionately known as "Deck"). In 1957 and 1958 he held numerous positions of responsibility in the unit. "Deck" passed away on May 15, 1976, conditionally leaving the residue of his estate to assist in the acquisition of a unit bridge-club facility. Following final settlement of his estate in mid 1977, it was determined that the amount available to Unit 159 would be approximately \$19,000.

Numerous meetings were held, and a detailed digest of requirements were developed. Then a search for a suitable facility — or for land on which to construct a Bridge Center — was undertaken. After about eight months of search, with particular emphasis on locations reasonably centered in the residential areas of the city, the duly designated committee members located a building at 2216 E. Yandell Drive. The owner agreed to rent it to Unit 159 with an option to buy. By August, 1978, the experiment demonstrated that operation of a Bridge Center was financially feasible. On September 19, 1978, following agreement by several unit members to cosign the mortgage note, the site became the property of Unit 159.

After extensive renovation, refurbishing, and ongoing improvements — all accomplished with the financial assistance and the

donated labor of many unit members — the former semi-manufacturing facility was transformed into the attractive, comfortable home of Unit 159: the Clarence V. Decker Bridge Center.

At present, several clubs are actively supporting Unit 159 in the promotion of duplicate bridge: the Fort Bliss Officers' Wives Club, the Del Norte, Sunshine, and Mountain Shadows Bridge Clubs, and the unit game, now called the International City Bridge Club. There are small games and large ones, club championships and local championships, charity affairs, the various Grand National Pairs and Team events, games for "rookies," and an assortment of "flighted" events which group players by the number of master points they have earned. A special feature of the large tournament held in El Paso during the Labor Day weekend of 1984 was a two-session Open Pairs event for "seniors only" (players 55 years of age and older). Because this event attracted more than 50 tables in play, the ACBL district which includes El Paso will qualify for a special Seniors Regional Tournament.

A final major change in the direction of bridge in El Paso occurred in the spring of 1985 when the national organization completed a redistricting plan that shifted the El Paso unit to District 17, which includes New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and Wyoming. This is an exciting change for Unit 159 in that its members will no longer have to travel to such distant cities as Dallas, Austin, or Houston in order to participate in regional Grand National Pairs or Teams championships.

In the five-plus decades since that opening bid at the 1929 Community Chest benefit, a lively sequence of sound calls and a resolute series of skillful plays have secured the "contract" for duplicate bridge in the region of the Pass.★

Historic Tours . . . from page 122.

Mission Revival home that was built about 1861. The addition of a studio with high vaulted cathedral ceiling and mosaic tessori tile in the kitchen has conformed to the original style of the house.

The El Paso County Historical Society is pleased to offer annually these delightful Sunday afternoons along the sunlit trail of Historic Places. It believes that the custom established in 1977 is a commendable one, affording area residents a unique view of the region's history.★

The 16th Cavalry Regiment was constituted July 1, 1916, and organized at Fort Sam Houston, Texas, using personnel from the 3rd, 6th and 14th Cavalry Regiments. The regiment served along the United States-Mexican border in Texas after its organization and during the period of World War I. It was inactivated at Forts Sam Houston and McIntosh, Texas, November 12, 1921.

The Regiment was reactivated in 1942 and served in World War II as the 16th Cavalry Group, Mechanized. . . .

In 1957, the 16th Cavalry was designated as a parent regiment under the Combat Arms Regimental System, and in 1963 was redesignated as 16th Armor. Descendent units of the 16th Cavalry served in the Vietnam War.

—*Crossed Sabers Newsletter* (A Journal of the United States Horse Cavalry Association), Vol. IX, No. 1 (1 March 1985)

Diary of C. R. Morehead . . . from page 114.

a beautiful valley and situation for a town. Rode all night, passed a grove where the Mexican packers were loading the mules to smuggle into Mexico.

Dos Cabezas.— This was a mine for lode gold south of Fort Bowie. (Walker/Bufkin, p. 49)

Tres Alamos — Located on the San Pedro River about seven miles northwest of Benson, this was the site of a Butterfield Stage station. Thomas Dunbar operated the station in about 1877. (Ronnie E. Underhill, ed., "The Tombstone Discovery," *Arizona and the West*, 21, 1 (Spring, 1979), p. 48)

San Pedro River — This river runs south from the Gila into Mexico. Tombstone by 1879 had become the largest town in the nearby mining area following an 1877 silver strike, and several satellite mill towns grew up along the river. (Underhill, p. 48)

The remainder of Morehead's diary will be published in the Winter 1985 PASSWORD. It records the highlights of his ongoing westward journey to San Francisco and his train trip back to Fort Worth. Included also is an addendum, written perhaps years later, which describes his and his family's removal to El Paso.★



A MUSIC OF TWO SPHERES

The Story of Margaret Conkling

by Janet Y. Brockmoller

When she arrived in El Paso about 1920, Margaret Badenoch Vear was an accomplished pianist who would soon become a prominent member of the city's musical circles. When she left El Paso some 30 years later as Margaret Conkling, she was also an accomplished archaeological and historical researcher who, together with her husband, was putting the finishing touches on their now-famous three-volume work, *The Butterfield Overland Mail, 1857-1869*. The account of Margaret's life in these two so seemingly dissimilar worlds is one of those truth-is-stranger-than-fiction stories.

Her musical education began in her native Chicago at the American Conservatory of Music. Later she earned a degree in music from the University of Chicago and went on to Columbia University, where she completed the requirements for a graduate degree and was considered to be a pianist of superior ability. After finishing her education, she married, and her life seemed to be flowing smoothly and predictably. Then her husband became critically ill with tuberculosis, and — like so many others in those times — the couple sought the healing sunshine of El Paso. Apparently, however, they had waited too long: Mr. Vear died a few months after their arrival.

Mrs. Brockmoller, who presently serves as the Society's corresponding secretary, is a frequent contributor to *Password*. She and her husband, Judge Hans E. Brockmoller, are Life members of the Society.

The young widow did not return to the music centers of Chicago or New York. During those brief months of her husband's final illness, she had learned to love El Paso and its musical community. She began teaching piano privately and offered lessons in the public schools after hours. Before long, she was elected president of the El Paso Music Teachers Association. She was welcomed into the McDowell Club and served as its president for a time. Also, she was much in demand as an accompanist and possessed the ability to look over an unfamiliar composition briefly and then play it well.

It was because of a mutual interest in music that Margaret and her future second husband, Roscoe Platt Conkling, met. He was a former student of Dudley Buck and had studied musical composition with Anton Dvorak. Margaret was often asked to accompany Roscoe on the piano when he played the cello or violin. By profession, Roscoe was a mining engineer who had been transferred to El Paso by the American Smelting and Refining Company. He was a powerfully-built man who had hiked alone across the Andes Mountains while he was stationed in Peru. He had also been trained as an archaeologist and during his many travels around the world he had observed and recorded many objects of archaeological importance.

Margaret and Roscoe felt that there was a great need for organized Chamber music in El Paso. In 1925 they proceeded to organize a quartet of musicians who presented concerts in the parlor of Radford School for Girls. Margaret played the magnificent D-Steinway piano, Richard Davis played first violin, Leon Wosika the cello, and C. H. Hopfield the viola. Roscoe conducted and sometimes played second violin. Through the years several other chamber groups were organized by Margaret and Roscoe. Ruth Buchanon Sherwood and Robert Semon played in later groups. Mrs. Romney Mellen typed programs and sometimes sang an aria.

In June of 1930, nine years after the death of Mr. Vear, Margaret and Roscoe were married. The wedding ceremony took place in Bishop's Cap caverns in the Organ Mountains about 40 miles from El Paso. The wedding party gathered in Conkling Cave, where in 1929 Roscoe had discovered human bones associated with fossil remains of many of the great Pleistocene mammals of 100,000 years ago. The discovery had made national headlines and was termed "probably the most important prehistory discovery ever made in America." The cave was later excavated by the Los Angeles County Museum, which in turn exhibited the rare treasures.

For the late-afternoon wedding ceremony, desert flowers decorated the cave. Lighted candles and blossoms adorned the steep pathway to the cave. An improvised altar banked with flowers was created, and a cross was constructed of yucca blossoms. The couple stood under a canopy of white desert flowers attached to the stalactites of the cave's ceiling. Floor candelabra provided light for the ceremony. The wedding vows were read by the Reverend C. S. Walker of the Methodist Church of Las Cruces. Paul Manning of El Paso and Judge Albert Fountain, who had been one of Roscoe's companions during the discovery of the cave, were the only witnesses to the wedding.

The couple lived in Roscoe's home at 1145 East Rio Grande Street, which had long been the meeting place of El Paso's music society. During that time Roscoe played cello or second violin with the El Paso Symphony Orchestra under the direction of H. Arthur Brown. On May 6, 1933, Roscoe took the members of the orchestra, as his guests, by bus to Carlsbad Caverns where, at 800 feet below ground, he conducted the group in their performance of Hayden's *Creation*.

Up to this time, Margaret had experienced several dramatic changes in her life, but she had always remained in the world of music. Now, however, she was about to enter another and completely different world, the one to which her new husband, who was about 20 years her senior, had become accustomed: the world of archaeological research — at first hand.

For two years Margaret and Roscoe traveled by touring car along the entire route of the Butterfield Overland Mail from St. Louis to San Francisco's Portsmouth Square in a search for historical data which had never been assembled in a coherent manner. Margaret entered wholeheartedly into the project. She learned the language of wild animals calling in the night. She learned the names of the flora which grow in the diverse areas traversed by the Butterfield Trail. She learned to identify a building site from a pile of rocks or a crumbled wall.

With her husband she traveled more than 65,000 miles over farmlands, up hills, across deserts and mountains, through orchards and arroyos, and into caves inscribed with ancient Indian pictographs and petroglyphs. She wore serviceable khaki outfits, a slouch hat, sometimes high-top boots. She helped unearth parts of the trail, compiled information, kept books of pressed plants and flowers from former stage sites. She took all the notes, drew scale maps, talked to old-timers, recorded information from old graveyards,

helped take pictures of marks left by coach wheels which had scraped against boulders or trees. She waded rivers, cooked meals over an open fire, braved blizzards and the brutal heat. She was of valuable assistance in collecting the some 4,000 pictures which provided evidence of lost sites along the Trail — old forts such as Fort Phantom Hill and Fort Chadbourne; decayed stage stations in Missouri and Arkansas, Yoast's and Smith's and the Strickler Place; forgotten battlegrounds, bygone hamlets, onetime river crossings.

Margaret considered the Southwest her favorite section of the Trail. She said their best camping was along the Gila River from the bend to Yuma. As for the most dangerous part of the trip, she named their climb over Cook's Pass north of Deming. While her husband inched the car over rocks, or when the wheels began to slip and slide, it was Margaret who jammed a rock under the wheel. One day the Conklings hiked six miles off the Santa Fe Trail, through the *Jornado del Muerto* to satisfy their curiosity about the ruins of the town of Paraje. They found crumbling walls of a mission and adobe remnants of long-abandoned homes. On another special side trip, the Conklings drove along the California Emigrant Trail going from the Mimbres Valley to Agua Prieta, Mexico, where in pioneer times it had been necessary to lower wagons over the chalk bluffs.

Throughout the many months spent in search of the trail of the Butterfield Overland Mail, the Conklings made intermittent trips back to El Paso to rest and to play once again their beloved music. But they never lost sight of their goal: the gathering of their data and the writing of their ambitious history.

When their journey was completed, they began the long process of shaping their material and describing their findings. Margaret's toleration of tedious cataloging, tireless searching for chronological accuracy, and organizational know-how was the support Roscoe needed to insure the fulfillment of his long-time dream.

A few years after World War II, the Conklings moved to California, where their three-volume history, *The Butterfield Overland Mail, 1857-1869*, was published in Glendale by the Arthur H. Clark Company in 1947. The American Airlines celebrated the occasion by flying Roscoe and Margaret over the entire length of the Butterfield Trail.

Theirs was a monumental achievement. The volumes included copious descriptions of the slender remains or ruins of the old stage stops, precise identification of the location of the stops, pictures

A Music of Two Spheres

from private collections, new pictures taken by the authors, scale maps, old records, reports of conversations with old-timers, and lively accounts of the vegetation and the climatic changes along the route. This masterpiece of scholarship reflected the Conklings' unconditional dedication to their project and their never-ending pleasure in search and discovery. Neither effort nor distance was too great nor time too limited to seek and locate all possible information on their subject. Roscoe once said, "It's interesting to find out all you can about a thing and then write what you've found."

The Conklings' archaeological activities and their spirited report of their research focused national attention on El Paso. To scholars all over the country, *The Butterfield Overland Mail, 1857-1869* was an important contribution to the study of American history, awesome in its comprehensiveness, electrifying in its re-creation of details. To laypeople everywhere, it was (and is) a fascinating "symphony" of life in the Old West — along the Butterfield Trail.

To Margaret Conkling it was an exhilarating challenge to live in two worlds simultaneously and a joyous privilege to share in the production of a work so splendid and so useful — a work which, like her life, might well be called a Music of Two Spheres.★

SOURCES

Conversations with the following friends of the Conklings: Mrs. Romney Mellen, Dorothy Learmonth, Mrs. Walter Ponsford, Ruth Buchanon Sherwood, Robert Semon, Mrs. Leslie Davis

Recollections of the Conklings

Telephone Conversation with John Perkins of the Inglewood, California, Public Library

Conklin, Roscoe P. and Margaret B., *The Butterfield Overland Mail, 1857-1869* (Glendale: Arthur H. Clark Company, 1947)

Daily News, Inglewood, California, June 21, 1958; January 15, 1974

El Paso Herald-Post, May 4, 1935; November 22, 1935; April 24, 1937; August 11, 1938

Stevenson, Robert M., "Music in El Paso 1919-1939," Program Notes, McDowell Club, El Paso, Texas

★ ★ MARK YOUR CALENDAR ★ ★

The El Paso County Historical Society Hall of Honor Banquet will be held at the El Paso Country Club on November 3, 1985, instead of November 17, as originally announced.



HERITAGE COMMISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

by Francis L. Fugate

In 1980 a group of concerned retirees and members of the staff of The University of Texas at El Paso met to form a Heritage Commission for the purpose of preserving and perpetuating the history and traditions of the University. The commission delineated three long-range goals:

1. Collection of historical memorabilia and information about the institution.
2. Establishment of a "Heritage Room" for the preservation and display of institutional memorabilia on the campus.
3. Dissemination of information regarding the University's heritage, particularly within the University and the surrounding community.

The first matter to come before the commission was the fact that the University had no mace or chains of office, regalia customary at institutions of higher learning for use on formal occasions. The University usually borrowed from other institutions, such as Texas

Mr. Fugate, Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Texas at El Paso and a member of Western Writers of America, lists among his many publications *Frontier College: Texas Western at El Paso, The First Fifty Years* (El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1964).

Tech, or did without when borrowing was impractical as was frequently the case during graduation periods.

The mace, originally a weapon of combat, has been associated with civil and academic ceremony since at least the fourteenth century. Chains of office trace back to the ancient orders of knighthood. The designs of both must reflect the history and traditions of the offices or institutions they serve. The commission embarked on a fund-raising drive and commissioned local jeweler James Love to design and execute a mace and chains of office.

The completed University regalia was introduced at a convocation during the Four Centuries '81 celebration February 15-22, 1981. During University ceremonies, the mace is carried by the Grand Marshal and the chains of office are worn by the president and the Vice-President for Academic Affairs.

The commission's second project was the creation of a set of banners symbolic of the University and each of its colleges, also to be carried and displayed on ceremonial occasions. These banners were designed by Albert C. Ronke and Sally Bishop of the Art Department; they were made by Esther T. Cornell. Presently, when not in use they are displayed in the foyer of the University's new library.

The commission has also occupied itself with having "Old Main," the oldest building of the campus, designated by the Texas Historic Commission.

The commission is seeking memorabilia for display in the Heritage Commission Room on the sixth floor of the University library. So far the collection includes such items as early yearbooks, Gold Digger uniforms, and athletic memorabilia. It is hoped to assemble diplomas and class rings for each year the University has been in existence.

Dr. C. L. Etheridge was the first chairman of the Heritage Commission. Because of the press of academic duties, Dr. Etheridge found it necessary to resign after a short tenure, and leadership of the commission was taken over by Dr. James M. Day, Director of the Centennial Museum and former president of the El Paso County Historical Society. Dr. Day encourages individuals to donate memorabilia to the growing collection. "In addition to historical items of the obvious types, we would particularly like to develop a file of letters by early students describing their experiences and activities at the College of Mines and at Texas Western College," says Dr. Day.★

According to available records, the first Irishman to arrive in what is now Texas was one Hugo Oconor, "whom the Indians called 'The Red Captain' because of his flaming hair and beard. A native of Dublin, Oconor was forced to flee to Spain when his part in a revolutionary plot was exposed. He became an officer in the Spanish army and was sent to New Spain in 1763. Although he served as interim governor of Texas, Oconor grew weary of political life and requested a line command at San Saba Presidio in 1770. Two years later he was appointed *inspector commandante*, a coordinator for military activity in the interior provinces on the northern frontier from Texas to the Pacific."

—from *Texas Homes*, Vol. 5, No. 2
(March, 1981), 55

Old Fort Stanton . . . from page 134.

foremost landscape artists. The gracious lady who directed the O. T. Shop was Mrs. Philip Gensler, known to us children as Aunt Frances. From Fort Stanton she returned to her native New Orleans, where in later years she and I renewed our acquaintance when I studied at Tulane University.

Two other "courtesy aunts" were the Rice sisters, Aunt Charlotte and Aunt Helen, who lived in nearby Lincoln. Marion took piano lessons from Aunt Helen, and I was always ready and eager for the drive over to Lincoln to pick up Sister after her lesson. Sometimes we would all drive over to have Sunday dinner with the Rices. Their house is still there, one of the original homes of historic old Lincoln town. Our trips to Lincoln also included visits to the Penfield's store, presently operated by Edward Penfield and his sister Ruth Penfield.

Like the quiet shadows falling in the gloaming that "softly come and softly go," other memories of old Fort Stanton are much more imprecise. I wish I could remember more details about my fourth-year birthday party, when memory for me actually begins, and about the night the wood yard burned, and about Margarita, who came with us to Fort Stanton and cared lovingly for me until homesickness for Juarez-El Paso sent her back. But these and other dimmer memories are among the shades that offset the light in my chiaroscuro recollections of dear old Fort Stanton days.★



THE OTHER TEXAS FRONTIER by Harry Huntt Ransom. Ed. Hazel H. Ransom; foreword by John Graves. Austin: University of Texas Press, \$14.95

The Other Texas Frontier consists of six essays by Harry Ransom, held together by their central theme: Texas was not built only, or even primarily, by the sensational, flamboyant, whoop-it-up Texans who occupy the forefront of our histories (and our mythology), but also by quiet, decent, rock-steady citizens interested in education, culture, religion, and with a keenly speculative, penetrating eye on the future. These latter he calls "Texans without guns" and submits that our debt to them is perhaps even greater than to their more colorful contemporaries. A learned, dedicated, hard working judge will provide less rousing story material than a Roy Bean, but will inevitably contribute more to the development of the state's real values.

The first of three of the essays deal generally with the thesis: the latter three are illustratively biographical, presenting sketches of the lives of three 19th century Texans to whom we owe a great debt: Ashbel Smith (1805-86), Sherman Goodwin (1818-84), and Swante Palm (1815-99). The admiration Ransom has for these three shines through his lines and is infectious. For example, one shares his respect for Palm's achievement of building a personal library of some 10,000 volumes (in frontier Texas yet!) and giving them to the infant University of Texas, "thereby increasing its shelves more than sixty percent."

Dr. Ransom himself is an outstanding example of the kind of Texan he writes about, having dedicated 41 brilliant years of his life to the University of Texas System, from professor to chancellor. When he went into administration, the University lost a great classroom teacher. In the late 40's it was my privilege to take several graduate courses with him, and I was the first doctoral candidate he

shepherded through. I cannot imagine a finer teacher. At the same time, he did prove to be a great administrator — and there is something to be said for having university brass who are familiar with the inside of a classroom! Undoubtedly his most significant achievement was building the University's library into one of the world's truly great ones.

Upon his death in 1976, Mrs. Ransom began working with the literary materials he left, including the present essays. They constitute a physically (and appropriately) beautiful book. It is also fitting that perhaps Texas' best writer, John Graves, was chosen to write the Foreword, itself a fine, brief essay. And that Hazel Ransom did a competent piece of editing is apparent when you fail to note any trace of editing at all.

In sum, the appearance of this little book is one of recent years' fine publishing events in the state, and though the volume is slight in size it has much to say about the proper interpretation of Texas history.

RAY PAST

Professor Emeritus of Linguistics
The University of Texas at El Paso



UNLIKELY WARRIORS, GENERAL BENJAMIN GRIERSON AND HIS FAMILY by William R. Leckie and Shirley A. Leckie. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, \$19.95

This is the story of Benjamin Grierson, his wife, Alice Kirk Grierson, and their immediate families. By the age of thirty-five, Benjamin Grierson had been a music instructor, bandleader, and unsuccessful businessman. He also was distrustful of horses, having been kicked in the head as a child. He seemed, therefore, an unlikely candidate for distinction as a cavalry officer. Alice Kirk, strongly religious, well-educated, and twenty-six when she married Ben, shared with him an appreciation for poetry, literature, and music. She seemed an unlikely candidate for success as an officer's wife. Courage, strength of character, and love for each other allowed them to overcome hardships and family tragedies to find fulfillment and recognition in the frontier army.

Grierson's military career is well-documented by the authors. Early in the Civil War he served as an unpaid aide to Benjamin Prentiss, commanding officer of an Illinois infantry regiment. Grierson gained

national fame, however, in 1863 when he led a cavalry brigade of 1700 men in a raid through Mississippi, a feat that he repeated in 1864. Following the war he accepted command of the 10th Cavalry, a black regiment, which was sent West in 1867. Grierson spent the remainder of his military career on the western frontier, stationed first at Fort Sill, which he located and helped build, and later at Fort Concho, where in 1880 he directed a successful campaign against Victorio. During the next decade he served at Fort Davis, Fort Whipple, Santa Fe, and Los Angeles, ending his career in 1890 while commanding the Department of Arizona. A long-delayed promotion to brigadier-general came three months before his retirement, the delay caused, in part, the authors believe, by Grierson's unpopular views: he insisted upon humane treatment of blacks and preferred negotiation and fair play, rather than pitched battles, as solutions to the Indian problem.

While chronicling Grierson's military accomplishments, the authors give equal attention to domestic and family concerns. The result is a sensitive and moving biography of an American family forced to cope with frequent moves, separations, financial losses, unwanted pregnancies, the death of three children, and the mental illness of two others. Readers interested in military history, family history, and the history of women will want to obtain a copy of this well-written book.

DARLIS A. MILLER
Department of History
New Mexico State University



HASHKNIFE COWBOY: RECOLLECTIONS OF MACK HUGHES by
Stella Hughes. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, \$17.50

"Everyone loves cowboys and clowns," claims a popular Country-Western song. In today's world, it is often difficult to tell the difference between the two, especially in Hollywood and Nashville.

In Stella Hughes' telling of her husband's memories of life as a cowboy on the historic Hashknife Ranch of Arizona, there is no such difficulty. Mack Hughes was (and is) a cowboy. His story is the tale of his early life as a cowboy — of horses and men and cattle. There are no shoot-outs or bank holdups or wild chases after rustlers; just horses and men and cattle. In the words of the author, "This book is

not a history of the Hashknife outfit, but it is Hashknife history, at least a small part of it..."

Hughes, the son of a \$65 a month horse breaker, went to work for the Hashknife in 1922 at the age of 12, and was thrilled to be making \$30 a month (most of which went to "help out at home"). The book recalls his days with the Hashknife between 1922 and 1935, literally the end of an era. While he tells of the big ranchers going under during the Depression, it seems to have had little effect upon the Hughes family — they never had much anyway — and Prohibition was, if anything, a boon, enabling them to pick up a little extra cash helping the bootleggers and moonshiners.

It is mainly the story of the working cowboy and his work — of drought, mud holes and no grass; of bad horses and good horses; of lonely winter camps and cattle-killing dogs; of roundups, horse-breaking and dipping cattle; of the joy of working for an outfit with a good cook and the misery of working for one with a bad one.

This is a delightful book, lovingly and honestly told. While telling of roping and dragging cattle-killing dogs to death, Mrs. Hughes says that her husband stopped, "saying, 'If you write *that*, wimmin will say I'm a mean, cruel bastard.' Then he considered a moment, and went on, 'But that's what we *did*, and I ain't going to tell it no different.' I'm sure the reader wouldn't want him to."

This reviewer wouldn't. It's the kind of tale I grew up with.

BOB MILES
Park Superintendent
Hueco Tanks State Historical Park



RANCHERS, RAMBLERS AND RENEGADES: TRUE TALES OF TERRITORIAL NEW MEXICO by Marc Simmons. Santa Fe: Ancient City Press, \$5.95

The author of *Albuquerque* gives us now another impressive work: a collection of 29 of his historical columns which originally appeared in a number of New Mexico periodicals as well as in *The El Paso Times*. In content, the essays run the gamut from "Cock Fighting — New Mexico Style" to "First Airplanes on the Rio Grande"; from "An Early Glimpse of the Mesilla Valley" (Mamie Bernard Aguirre's Diary, 1863-64) to a look at "New Mexico's Most Famous Book" (*Ben Hur*, by New Mexico Governor Lew Wallace in 1880).

The observations, alone, that Mr. Simmons offers in the "Introduction" on why New Mexico was to remain a Territory longer than any other area in the nation are worth the price of the book. After quoting numerous sources — including a seventeenth-century Spanish friar, the territorial Governor Miguel Antonio Otero, a young Indian agent from Ohio, General William T. Sherman, and Governor Wallace — who were unanimous in their low opinion of the land, the people and the future, Simmons describes "the prolonged territorial period" as "actually an era of transition, a time filled with events heralding a new stability in more prosperous days." He asserts that "not all was unrelieved misery and tribulation. Hispanics and newly arrived Anglos found solace in social gatherings, sports, games and practical jokes. The small glimmers of humor that crept into the pages of our territorial history remind us of the resiliency of the human spirit." And furthermore he declares that "ages of turmoil, conflict and swift change may be exceedingly hard on the people who experience them, but they provide authors with bountiful material and readers with abundant opportunity to gain new insights about the human condition. In that lies both the job and the value of any study of history."

Ranchers, Ramblers and Renegades shows us how perceptively this master historian recognizes the "bountiful material" of his study-area and how exceedingly well he addresses his "job."

F. THOMAS STARKWEATHER
Chief of Data Sciences Division
White Sands Missile Range



Fiction Facts

It is certainly a fact that Silver City resident Fred Grove is a much-honored Western novelist. And it is also a fact that his recently published *A Far Trumpet* (New York: Doubleday, \$11.95) deals seriously with a genuine issue of historical significance.

Set in south central New Mexico in the late 1880s, the novel focuses on a character named Scott Dunham, recently discharged from the army for allegedly failing to escort safely through Indian Territory the son of a powerful United States senator. Dunham then becomes embroiled in the events surrounding the Apache campaigns which occurred after the surrender of Geronimo. The choices which Dunham must make in the course of the novel reveal the moral complexities that characterize any struggle

between two cultures, and they also raise specific questions of Right and Wrong in that territorial conflict which played an important part in the history of the El Paso Southwest.

It is a fact that the novel is not factual, but in the capable hands of Fred Grove that fact serves splendidly to embody a reliable vision of historical truth.



... And a Book of Verse

Password notes with pleasure the recent publication by Mangan Books of *Once Upon A Morning: Seven Decades of Versification* by Martha Patterson Peterson, a frequent contributor to this journal. It is a delightful collection — full of wit, verve, linguistic acrobatics, rueful observations, startling juxtapositions. It also offers bright, sharp images of the desert Southwest and even — on occasion — of local history, its author having composed the verses over a period of “Seven Decades” joyously spent in the region of the Pass. “one helluva sandstorm,” for example, “records” memorable March 19, 1954, when El Pasoans watched “our good earth/ Take off .../ And head for Fort Worth.” In “to Joe Wright,” we witness the outcome of a spelling match at El Paso High School on March 14, 1917. Other of the verses recapture life on a New Mexico homestead circa 1910. Particularly appealing is the image of a “homesteader’s wife” whose “planted petunias and cypress-vine”

... lingered on only to die.
While the desert in seeming
Atonement to her
Held out in its theory, green hand,
Flame-flow’ring cactus,
Showy — and wise
To the bluster of windstorm
And sand;
Stately white yucca blooms
Knowing well how
To laugh in a waterless land.

“... to be ignorant of history is to be, in a very fundamental way, intellectually defenseless.”

—from a speech by William Bennett, United States Secretary of Education, as quoted by Marc Simmons in “New Mexico Scrapbook,” *The El Paso Times*, June 2, 1985



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