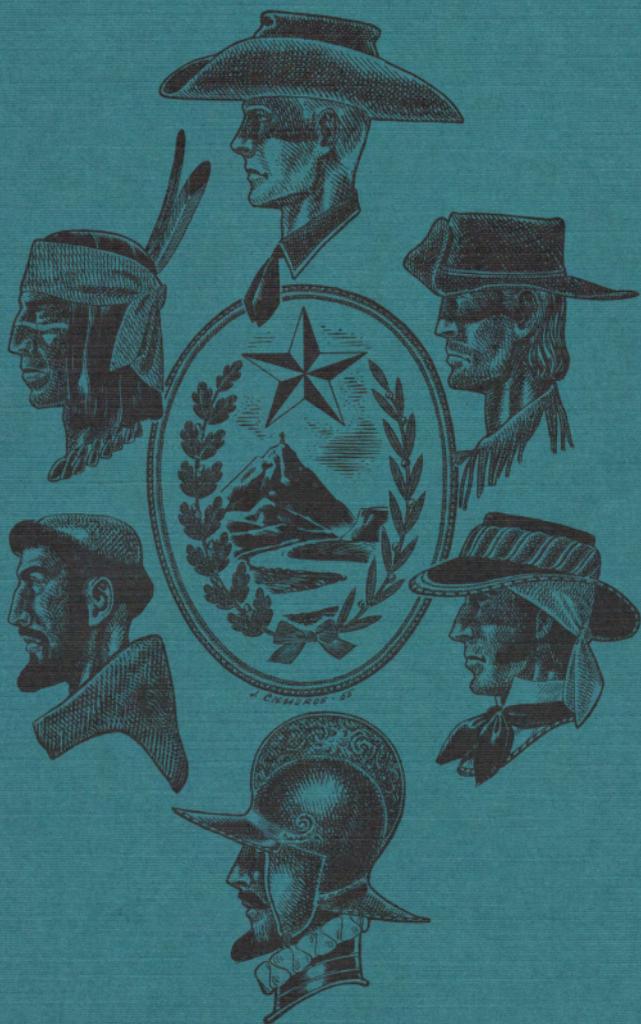


PASSWORD



THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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PASSWORD

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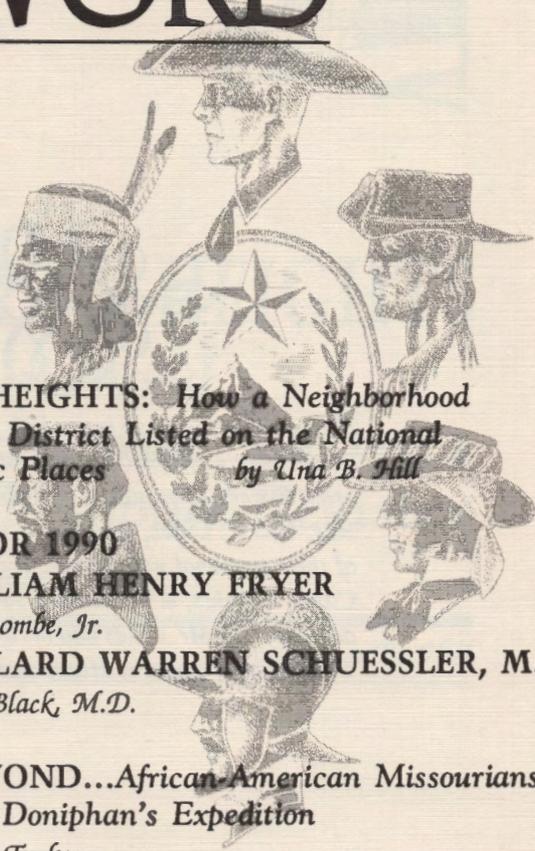
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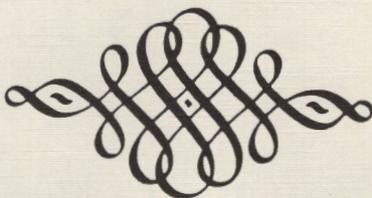
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VOL. XXXV, NO. 3
EL PASO, TEXAS
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CONTENTS

- 
- 107 **MANHATTAN HEIGHTS: How a Neighborhood Became a Historic District Listed on the National Register of Historic Places**
by Una B. Hill
- 121 **HALL OF HONOR 1990**
Tribute to WILLIAM HENRY FRYER
by John B. Luscombe, Jr.
Tribute to WILLARD WARREN SCHUESSLER, M.D.
by Gordon L. Black, M.D.
- 133 **ABOVE and BEYOND...African-American Missourians of Colonel Alexander Doniphan's Expedition**
by Phillip Thomas Tucker
- 138 **The Mugging and Murder of Newsmen HEATON and MacNEIL**
by Art Leibson
- 141 **THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS: The El Paso Tennis Club, 1921-1971**
by Robert W. Phillips
- 149 **The NEWS at the PASS - ONE CENTURY AGO**
by Damon Garbern
- 152 **BOOK REVIEWS**



This issue's title-page insignia is a reduced reproduction of a work created in 1926 by internationally recognized El Paso artist Eugene Thurston. The drawing was made for Mr. and Mrs. Otis C. Coles, who had it imprinted on the front fold of their personal note cards. It depicts the Coles' home in Castle Heights, a residential subdivision which had been developed by Mr. Coles and his brother, J. Frank Coles, and which now is a part of Manhattan Heights Historic District.

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MANHATTAN HEIGHTS

How a Neighborhood Became a Historic District Listed on the National Register of Historic Places

by Una B. Hill

FOR AS LONG AS ANYBODY COULD REMEMBER, Manhattan Heights had been a neighborhood of quiet dignity and serene beauty. Then, along in the early 1970s, the ambience of Manhattan Heights was threatened by unruly outside elements. The pool and fountain of national award-winning Hilltop Gardens suffered destruction by vandals. On weekends, low riders circled Memorial Park in such a steady stream that no one could enter Copper Avenue from either Copia Street or Piedras. Instead of family picnics under the trees, drunken brawls in the park were becoming commonplace.

The neighborhood residents were outraged at what was happening, many of them feeling completely helpless. One resident advised us to keep *quiet* so that no one would hear about our problem, sell our homes, and get out fast. Most of us, however, were reluctant to yield to the forces of mayhem and wanton destructiveness. We decided to organize in an

UNA B. HILL

effort to control the situation—and perhaps to solve the problem.

On a bright Sunday afternoon, October 3, 1976, we had a meeting at my home, 3134 Aurora Avenue. News of the meeting had spread by word of mouth, and my home was filled to overflowing with many standees outside and inside. The Reverend G. Taft Lyon of the Manhattan Presbyterian Church saw how cramped we were for space and offered us his church for our next meeting one week later. A board of directors was chosen, and at a subsequent meeting, the board elected its officers: Director, Professor Allen Baylor; Assistant Director, Miguel Cano; Publicity (Internal Communications), Una B. Hill, with Linda Popp and Mrs. Barcena as co-workers; Secretary-Treasurer, Virginia Baylor (Professor Baylor's wife, who happened also to be the stepdaughter and the adopted daughter of actor William Holden); Spokesmen, Richard Lovelace and James Maxfield, with Walt Weidner as co-spokesman.

All of us board members read articles about historic districts in other cities and how much they accomplished for their neighborhoods. Very soon, at one of our board meetings, someone introduced the idea that Manhattan Heights might become a historic district. Dr. Baylor appointed me as chairman to look into the matter, and I began my investigations with a visit to the Planning Department of the City of El Paso. Jonathan Cunningham, Director of the Planning Department at that time, said he considered Manhattan Heights to be a beautiful area that should be preserved. He encouraged us to take definite steps toward historic-district status.

We set to work at once. Our attention was drawn particularly to several pamphlets describing the restoration of Swiss Avenue in Dallas, Texas, and the process by which it came to be designated a Historic District and to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The author of the pamphlets stressed the importance of keeping the neighbors informed as to whatever steps would be taken toward the goal of historic-district designation, the approval of the residents being an important requirement. We decided on a newsletter as the means of keeping the area residents informed about our work, the newsletter to be published periodically by our organization, the Memorial Park Improvement Association.

Una B. Hill, a longtime resident of El Paso, has made many contributions to the preservation of historic buildings in the area. While serving as Chairman-Director of the Woman's Department of the El Paso Chamber of Commerce in 1964-65, she founded El Paso Landmarks, Inc., as a non-profit corporation in order to purchase and restore Los Portales, San Elizario, and pass it on to the citizens of San Elizario. She also served on the committee to establish the Landmark Commission of the City of El Paso and later served seven years on the Commission.

Then we tentatively defined our hoped-for Historic District: the area bounded by Copia Street on the east, Elm Street on the west, Aurora Avenue on the north, and Grant Avenue on the south.

We were told that the Department of Planning would require a history of all the houses within the area. A formidable requirement, but we rose to the challenge and soon we had committee chairmen: Mary Nell

Brown (Mrs. Elmer., Jr.) took on the job of research for Silver, Bronze, and Gold Avenues; Mary Bailey (Mrs. Kenneth K.) agreed to do Federal Avenue; Martha Strong (Mrs. Sheldon A.), Wheeling Avenue; Mary Wilson (Mrs. Joe), Copper Avenue; Maurine Basom (Mrs. Compere), Aurora Avenue; and Sandra Rodehaver Scoggins Davis (Mrs. Michael), Elm Street and all the avenues in the district west of Piedras. These women began studying and preparing histories of each house on their respective streets. They had to use city directories because the old building permits were missing. All of our knowledgeable advisors assured us that such documentation would be acceptable to the National Trust.

Early in 1978, Mr. Cunningham told us that the Planning Department had employed Louise Cantwell to work full time on historic preservation. At about the same time, Mr. de Teel Patterson Tiller, an architectural historian and historic resources planner from Washington, D. C., who had been hired by the West Texas Council of Governments, visited El Paso. His assignment was to assess the value of El Paso's older neighborhoods. He was conducted on a tour of Manhattan Heights, and we were accompanied by Louise Cantwell and by Emily Burgett, a member of the El Paso County Historical Society. Following the tour, Mr. Tiller expressed in writing his opinion that "Manhattan Heights is a charming and impressive area, which, without any doubt, is of National Register quality." Louise Cantwell enjoyed our neighborhood so much that she and her husband bought a home at 3112 Federal Avenue. Mrs. Burgett arranged for the Historical Society's annual Tour of Historic Homes to be held in Manhattan Heights that September. We felt that we were really making progress. Manhattan Heights was being recognized for its historic value.

Meantime we continued our research into the history of the area. We

TOUR OF HOMES 1990

The El Paso County Historical Society welcomes the Memorial Park-Manhattan Heights neighborhood organization as the co-sponsor of the 1990 Tour of Homes. The Tour will be held on Sunday afternoon, October 21, and will feature several beautiful homes in Manhattan Heights Historic District.

nently in 1907. On December 1, 1908, Parcel No. 1, together with what remained of the smelter and a stockpile of ores and slag, was sold to the highest bidder, Edward Gerard of Indianapolis, for \$26,000. The ruins of the smelter stood until 1912, when residential property was extending toward the area. In that year the machinery and equipment were sold to Darbyshire-Harvie Iron Works. On January 2, 1913, J. Frank Coles and Otis C. Coles of the Coles Building and Real Estate Company purchased Parcel No. 1 for \$32,000, and subdivided the land, which became Castle Heights subdivision and part of present-day Memorial Park. Leo C. Desar, who had purchased Parcels 2, 3, 4, and 5 from the Federal Copper Company at a sheriff's sale in 1907, helped organize Manhattan Heights company (which purchased tracts 2, 3, and 4), combined them into one tract, and then subdivided the property into blocks, lots, streets, and alleys.

The area was then designated Manhattan Heights Addition to the City of El Paso. On April 12, 1912, the property was sold for \$85,000 to Dr. James B. Brady, an El Paso dentist who was also the president of both a paving and construction company. Because of the original presence of the smelter, the developers named streets in the area appropriately as Federal, Copper, Silver, Bronze, and Gold. Dr. Brady placed no restrictions on the size or cost of the buildings to be constructed in Manhattan Heights. However, he banned all poultry, horses, goats, and other livestock.

The transformation of the old smelter area into one of El Paso's loveliest neighborhoods was about to begin. It is truly a Cinderella story. One reason for the success of the transformation was the location of the area on the east side of Mount Franklin. The long shadows cast by the mountain subdue the afternoon's dazzling sunlight and lower the temperature somewhat. In those days before air conditioning, a cool location was important. Another attraction was the view. Located on a hill above Five Points, the area offered (in those pre-air pollution times) splendid vistas of the river, "downtown," and Juárez. In fact, Aurora Avenue was once called River View Street.

Frank Coles, one of the developers of Castle Heights, undoubtedly had "view" in mind when he chose the site for his home at 3010 Gold Avenue. The Spanish-style home, designed by architect Otto H. Thorman and built by H. T. Ponsford & Sons, stands on the area's highest promontory, which had been a slag dump in the Federal Smelter years. Our research into the history of that house yielded an interesting footnote: Paul Harvey remembers that Mr. Coles came out with a plow and a mule to break up the bubbles in the slag before his home was built. Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Hatchett bought this home in 1957.

Otto H. Thorman played a significant role in the architectural beauty of the district. He designed 24 or more homes in Manhattan Heights and Castle Heights alone. One of these houses, located at 1407 Elm Street, was built in 1918 and purchased by Charles M. Harvey. It is on the list of 100 architectural gems chosen by the El Paso Chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

Among the other designers and architects active in the building of the district was Mabel C. Welch. A native of Mississippi, she came to El Paso in 1916. She became the city's first woman architect and builder, and she is credited with designing and/or building more than 800 homes and commercial buildings in West Texas, New Mexico, and northern Mexico. She estimated that she built 27 homes in the Manhattan Heights area—among them, her own home at 3147 Wheeling Avenue. She continually campaigned to maintain the traditional Spanish influence in El Paso's architecture and became known as the "Dean of Spanish Architecture" in El Paso. In 1959 she was named a Fellow in the National Society of Registered Architects in recognition of her long and distinguished career.

Trost and Trost was probably the best known firm of architects in El Paso during the early twentieth century. The firm was founded in El Paso in 1904 by two brothers, Henry C. and Gustavos A. Trost, and their nephew, George. Henry, the principal designer of the firm, is said to have worked with Frank Lloyd Wright in the Chicago firm of Adler and Sullivan, which pioneered modern architecture. Trost and Trost dominated the architecture of not only El Paso but also the entire Southwest until Henry's death in 1933. Among the better known of the numerous buildings designed by the firm are the Mills Building, the Ormdorff Hotel (later the Cortez Hotel and now the Cortez Building), Hotel Paso del Norte (now the Westin Paso del Norte), the Bassett Tower, the Turney home (now the El Paso Museum of Art), the first four buildings at the Texas School of Mines (now The University of Texas at El Paso), and the Franciscan Hotel in Albuquerque.

We found two homes in Manhattan Heights designed by Trost and Trost. One is the house known as "Windcrest," located at 3101 Federal Avenue and built in 1915 for Mr. and Mrs. Alfred F. Kerr. Mrs. Kerr had traveled throughout the South to observe famous southern homes before presenting her ideas to the architects. When the Kerrs left El Paso in 1923, "Windcrest" was purchased by Will T. and Margaret Dale Owen, who furnished it in the lavish style of the 1920s with art objects from around the world. The gracious Mrs. Owen threw open the doors to the cultural and social interests of El Paso. In 1928 she gave a party at "Windcrest"

MANHATTAN HEIGHTS

for the famous soprano Mary Garden. The Owens' son, Jerome Dale Owen, and his wife, Cornelia, became the owners of the splendid house by inheritance in 1937. The house was bought by Cornelia Owen's parents, Dr. and Mrs. J. D. Love, in 1941 and was converted into a duplex which was occupied by the two related families. In 1958 the house was sold to Dr. and Mrs. Wallace H. Black, who converted the duplex again into a one-family dwelling and added improvements. The present owners of "Windcrest" are Dr. and Mrs. Diego A. Aranda.

The other Trost house in Manhattan Heights was built for Flint McGregor at 3144 Wheeling Avenue in 1922. Mr. McGregor, a great admirer of Henry C. Trost, was himself a builder who constructed many small pueblo-style houses in Manhattan Heights. His daughter, Della Gilmer, and her husband made their home in this house and later added a master-bedroom suite to the back of the house. Mrs. Allen Baylor, a later owner of the house, enclosed the front entryway.

Flint McGregor's father, John Douglas McGregor, also owned a home in Manhattan Heights. It is located at 3025 Aurora Avenue, and it is



The Trost-designed home of Flint McGregor, 3144 Wheeling Avenue, as it appeared shortly after it was completed in 1922. The child sitting on the front steps is the daughter of Flint and Therese McGregor, Della McGregor (later Gilmer). (Photo courtesy El Paso Public Library and James W. Ward)

adorned with the McGregor crest on the center of the front gable. Three generations of McGregors have lived in this house, which was built in 1915 and originally owned by C. C. Henderson, president of the Security Trust and Savings Bank. John Douglas McGregor was a medical doctor, but he never practiced medicine. He and his three sons were ranchers with extensive holdings in New Mexico. At one time they owned the famous Corralitos Ranch, located between Las Cruces and Deming, New Mexico. The last ranch they owned, McGregor Range, is now part of White Sands Missile Range.

Another well-known El Paso architect, William G. Wuehrmann, designed two homes in Manhattan Heights. One of them, the house at 3147 Copper Avenue, was built in 1932 and is regarded as one of the best built and best designed homes in El Paso. The original owner was Lewis P. Walker. The other Wuehrmann-designed home is at 3000 Silver Avenue and was built in 1928 for Eugene Edwards, an attorney. Mr. Edwards sub-contracted the various phases of building, supervising every detail of construction himself. Mr. Wuehrmann was a German-born architect whose residential buildings often hinted at the Italian architecture he studied in Italy as a young man.

A particularly impressive structure in Manhattan Heights is Crockett School, which was referred to as Manhattan Heights School during the planning stage. Located at 3200 Wheeling Avenue, Crockett School was designed by Bradford Hardie of the architectural firm of Buell and Hardie and was built in 1920. It is in the Gothic style, and it suits its site perfectly. When viewed from a southern approach, its crenelated towers at the crest of the hill appear to rise above a drawbridge of a castle. Mr. Hardie told our researcher that Crockett School and the courthouse at Sierra Blanca, Texas, represented his best work. He added also that these two commissions meant a great deal to him because they made it possible for him to get married.

One of the few houses in Manhattan Heights which is still occupied by its original owner is the residence of Paul Harvey, Sr., located at 3100 Gold Avenue. It was built in 1928-29 for Mr. Harvey and his (now deceased) wife, Katherine White Harvey, the daughter of pioneer El Pasoan Zach White. The story of the architecture of this home, the materials used in construction, and some of the ways these materials were used make it one of the most interesting and best known homes in El Paso. The chief architect was Joe Joesler of Tucson, Arizona, who designed many of the famous Catalina foothills homes there. Originally from northern Europe, Mr. Joesler became fascinated with Spanish architecture,



An architectural drawing of Crockett School, located at 3200 Wheeling Avenue and built in 1920. The school, designed by Bradford Hardie, was labeled "Manhattan Heights School" during the planning stages. *(Photo courtesy El Paso Public Library and James W. Ward)*

studied in Spain, emigrated to Mexico, and from there to Tucson. Other architects who were authorities on Spanish-style homes acted as consultants with Mr. and Mrs. Harvey and included Percy McGhee of El Paso, Charlie Oliver of Houston, George Washington Smith of California, and contractor Mabel Welch of El Paso.

The principal features of this house were described by Harriot Howze Jones in an article entitled "The Harvey Hacienda," which appeared in the Fall 1975 *Password*. The article points out that the house "was built to look aged," and it goes on to describe the materials and the methods used to produce this aged appearance:

The walls of the building are of kiln-fired brick. The exterior walls are two feet thick, with a four-inch air space in the center. The interior walls are from 12 to 18 inches thick. The exterior walls had bricks laid in an irregular fashion, to appear patched, and in some places were patched with roofing tile. The walls were given a coat of white water paint, then rubbed with a rough-textured material which took the paint off in places, leaving a weathered and aged appearance. The interior walls were plastered, then an adobe finish was applied by hand.... The roof is of kiln-dried handmade tile. To give the aged and patched appearance, the tile is set in cement in thickness from three to five tiles, with each row of tiles crooked and irregular. To hold this great weight, the structural timber of the roof has three times the strength specifications of those for a regular roof. The ornamental iron and grill work was buried in strong wood ashes for three weeks to give the rusted-from-age appearance.

Moving on to a description of the interior of the house, Mrs. Jones' article describes the spacious living room "with walls measuring ten feet to the crowning course of the brick walls" and featuring exposed beams which "were used on the first vehicular bridge across the Rio Grande at the Santa Fe Street Crossing built by Zach T. White in 1892." It further points out that "All the wood in the house came from this old bridge," that "The heads of the two Harvey children are carved on the largest beam," and that "there are over 200 other designs, carved and subtly tinted, on all the beams"—this "work...done by Mexican artisans." Many other features of this residence are detailed in the article, even some of the furnishings—for example, the handcarved bed and the towering carved marble-top vanity in the master bedroom, which came to Mrs. Harvey from her mother, who had obtained the piece through the Magoffin family.

The house at 1401 Elm Street is probably the largest house in Manhattan Heights. It was begun before 1915 for Arthur Fullan, a pawnbroker, and it was being built as a showplace. One half of the upper story was designed as a skating rink. Mr. Fullan fell on hard times and could not afford to finish his house. He sold it to Winchester Cooley. According to William S. Cooley, it took his father nearly a year to remodel the house so as to make it suitable for his large family. As he remembers, the family was finally able to move to the house in about 1915. Years earlier, Winchester Cooley had come to El Paso to take a \$50-per-month job with El Paso's First National Bank, which later led to positions of vice-president of the City National Bank and president of the Rio Grande Valley Bank and Finance Company. At the time of his death, he was president of City Mortgage Company, which he had founded. Winchester Cooley School, in the Lower El Paso Valley, was named in his honor.

Manhattan Heights also boasts an excellent example of Prairie Style Architecture. Located at 2923 Silver Avenue, the house was designed by Gertrude Attaway and was built in 1916 for the Robert Landers family who moved from the lower valley to "town." The house, built from fired ceramic hollow tile, was designed to take full advantage of sun and prevailing breezes to make it easy to heat in winter and to cool in summer.

James R. Diaz, a partner in the San Francisco firm of Kaplan/McLaughlin/Diaz, Architects/Planners, with a B. S. in Civil Engineering from Princeton University and Master of Architecture from the Harvard Graduate School of Design, visited El Paso in the spring of 1979 and toured Manhattan Heights. He followed up his visit with a letter to me that reveals the quality of assistance we had from people who helped the Manhattan

Heights homeowners as they worked their way toward the goal of preserving the neighborhood. His letter was particularly meaningful because at that time we were trying to establish boundaries we could justify. He began his letter with a declaration of how much he enjoyed "touring Manhattan Heights...and learning that my old neighborhood has such an interesting history." He went on to offer two slight modifications to the boundaries we were considering; and he was also kind enough to spell out for us a route we might explore as regards our desire to include Memorial Park in our proposed Historic District:

If it can be shown that the hills in the park are man-made, they represent a unique example of land reclamation and rehabilitation. They represent the reverse of the destruction of a once viable community that occurred around the ASARCO Smelter when the highway was widened. Such reclamation is a hot topic as strip mining is proposed in many areas of the United States.... If the case were proven, the park would become the example for such recycling, further encouraging analysis, care and development.

We were unable to determine precisely the extent of "reclamation and rehabilitation" that Memorial Park may show, but we were fortunate to obtain from Theodore Harris a reliable history of Hilltop Gardens, which for several years graced a section of the Park.

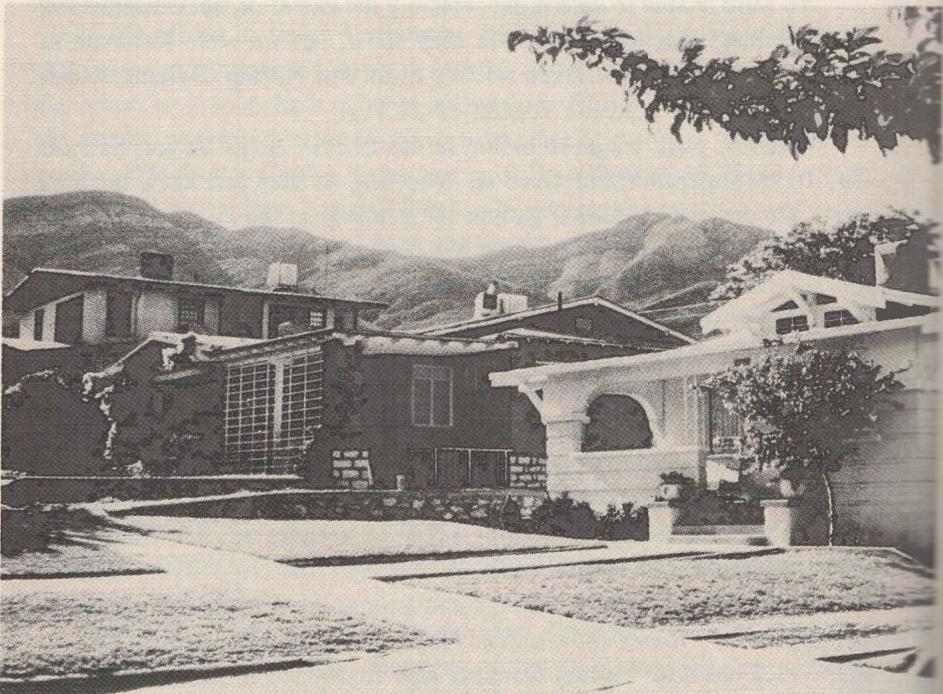
Memorial Park began to bloom in the 1920s. Hugo Meyer, El Paso City Parks Superintendent, lived on Wheeling Avenue and knew the area well. He designed a formal garden for a hilltop in the Park and put Mr. Harris in charge of implementing his design. Mr. Harris flattened the hilltop and brought in tons of rich valley soil. With the help of Mrs. J. B. Jones, the garden clubs helped with the planting. The area was divided into seven different gardens, each club having one area. Also, John Leasure put in a cactus garden. Then were added walks and paths of chat (gravel), a few brick walks, and decorative lights. Later, after the Works Progress Administration was founded, WPA workers built stone walls, stone garden benches, and the pool. One worker even made the figure at the fountain of a young boy holding a fish. Also there was a lookout point with benches where visitors could sit and view the city. Every Sunday many people came to walk through and admire the flowers and greenery. In 1937, *Better Homes and Gardens Magazine* sponsored a contest for city parks, and beautiful Hilltop Gardens won first place in the nation. The plaque is still embedded in a rock wall where once, all round about, Hilltop Gardens flourished.

On June 28, 1978, I became president of the Memorial Park Improvement Association (MPIA). Toward the end of that year, we completed the

histories of all the houses in our proposed Historic District and sent the material to Austin. In those days, Austin had to forward nominations to Washington, D.C., where the National Trust for Historic Preservation would act on the nomination. Finally we heard from Austin that our proposal had been passed over for two reasons: we hadn't sent enough information, and the boundaries of our district couldn't be justified.

Some rather tart letters were sent to Truett Lattimer, Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission, and to Joe R. Williams, Director of the National Register in Texas. They both replied that we had not been turned down, but that our proposal was being held for further study.

In early 1979, an event occurred in El Paso that resulted in a City Ordinance which may have influenced the Texas Historical Commission to look favorably on our proposal to include Memorial Park in our bid for a Historic District. A riot took place in Album Park in East El Paso. It became the catalyst that activated all El Paso residents living near City Parks. Many of us MPIA members had been writing and talking about



A section of the 2700 block of Silver Avenue, showing the kinds of attractive bungalows which may be found throughout the Manhattan Heights District.
(Photo courtesy El Paso Public Library and James W. Ward)

banning alcohol in the parks, but our pleading had fallen on deaf ears. Now, however, people were listening. At Mayor Tom Westfall's first council meeting (on May 28, 1979), the room was packed to overflowing. After representatives of all neighborhood groups, at least twelve, had spoken, the ordinance to ban liquor in City Parks was passed unanimously.

Not long after this, in the spring of 1979, the newspapers reported that the Texas Historical Commission and the Review Board were to meet in El Paso on June 9. Promptly we swept into action, writing and telephoning these organizations to ask whether we could be heard. We were politely brushed off. Undaunted, I called Joe Williams, Director, National Register Program in Texas, and invited him and all members of the Texas Historical Commission and the Review Board to be the luncheon guests of the MPIA Board in a shady garden of our district. Mr. Williams accepted graciously, and Mary Nell Brown of 2923 Silver Avenue volunteered her garden as the setting for the luncheon.

Apparently we had finally caught the attention of the Texas Historical Commission, for soon after my telephone call to Mr. Williams, the Commission sent Danny Hardy, an architectural historian, to El Paso. He toured the Manhattan Heights area; and then he set the boundaries for the district, enlarging considerably the area we had proposed. He used the boundaries established by the original developers of Manhattan Heights and Castle Heights except in those places where an original boundary had run along the middle of a street. (He explained that the Texas Historical Commission did not approve of boundaries in the middle of streets.) Thus, he set the district's northern boundary east of Piedras at the alley between Aurora and Lebanon Avenues (instead of along the middle of Aurora) and west of Piedras at the alley between Louisville and Richmond Avenues (instead of along the middle of Louisville). Also, he included all of Memorial Park in the district, even that part of it lying west of Copia Street.

We began to feel better about our chances and were looking forward to meeting the members of the Commission and the Review Board.

At the luncheon, we included the Chairman of the El Paso County Historical Commission, Richard Hart; the Chairman of the City of El Paso Landmark Commission, Margaret Fouts; and the president of the El Paso County Historical Society, Tom Westfall, who was also Mayor of El Paso. In all, nearly forty guests attended the luncheon, and they seemed impressed with Mrs. Brown's shady garden and with the attractive centerpiece we had fashioned out of slag from Mrs. Calvin Hatchett's yard and roses from the city Rose Garden on Copia Street—the slag perhaps some of the very pieces that Frank Coles' mule-driven plow had turned up in

those long-ago years when he was preparing his property for the construction of his home.

Following the luncheon, we went downtown to the El Paso Public Library, where the meeting took place. We saw many interested El Pasoans in the audience. We listened attentively to Danny Hardy's presentation of our area, which he described accurately and praised adequately. The Board voted on the proposal immediately and accepted it unanimously. Now the Texas Historical Commission would prepare a presentation and forward it to Washington, where acceptance to the National Register of Historic Places was considered routine.

We all breathed a sigh of relief, confident of clear sailing. But a couple of squalls came up. A month or so after the meeting in El Paso, we were asked to send some additional information—namely, the facts on the houses and other buildings which had been added to our original proposal by the modified boundaries. This time, however, we were required to send only a list of all such structures, specifying for each one the original owner and the present owner. We complied immediately, using the tax rolls to find the information. A short time later we were notified that our original inventory had been misplaced. We had been wise enough to keep copies—and these we mailed with dispatch. Then we waited...and waited, some of us wondering what would be the next development in this drama so fraught with disappointment and frustration.

Finally, on October 25, 1980, we were notified by Truett Latimer that the Texas Historical Commission had nominated the Manhattan Heights District of El Paso, El Paso County, Texas, for inclusion in The National Register of Historic Places. On September 29 of that same year, it was entered in the Register and is now afforded the privileges granted under the Historic Preservation Act of 1964.

In the December 1980 issue of *The Medallion*, the publication of the Texas Historical Commission, appears the following entry under the heading NATIONAL REGISTER ADDITIONS:

El Paso: Manhattan Heights Historic District is composed of two El Paso neighborhoods and a park. This well preserved concentration of houses represents the residential building styles popular during the early twentieth century.

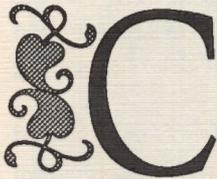
Four years of commitment and dedicated labor on the part of many El Pasoans had borne fruit at last. We had achieved our goal. We had contributed to the preservation of a beautiful panel in the tapestry of El Paso history. ☆



HALL OF HONOR
• 1990 •

Tribute to WILLIAM HENRY FRYER

by John B. Luscombe, Jr.



COME WITH ME TO THE UNITED STATES COURT-
house and view Tom Lea's mural and its inscription:

O Pass of the North
now the Old Giants are Gone
we Little Men Live
where Heroes once Walked
the Inviolable Earth

It is one of those Old Giants we honor at this time.

And come with me to El Paso. This year is 1904. The town has a population of 30,000. There are no paved streets. There are 94 gambling houses and 46 more across the river in Juarez. Mesa Street is known as Utah Street, and it features sumptuous pleasure palaces—one of which is Tillie Howard's. There are two newspapers. On July 8, the headline in the *El Paso Herald* reads: DEMOCRATS HAVE NO FINANCIAL POLICY. There is a picture of William Jennings Bryan. Porterhouse steak is advertised at 70 cents a pound; bananas are 25 cents a dozen.

On that day, the Galveston, Harrisburg & San Antonio Railway train

pulls into its depot. A critically ill young man is taken from the train. He has typhoid fever from drinking water in New Orleans. It is his 24th birthday, and his name is William Henry Fryer. From that day forward his life and that of the city of El Paso would never be the same.

William H. Fryer was born in Brooklyn, New York, on July 8, 1880, to the unlikely union of English and Irish parents, William H. and Loretta Flannagan Fryer, devout Catholics. He was educated by the Christian Brothers, graduating from St. James High School in 1897. His education included training in shorthand to the extent that on graduation he became the secretary to the President of the Southern Express Company. At night he attended the Christian Brothers Manhattan College from which he graduated in 1900.

In 1904, because he was eligible for railway passes, he decided to visit Yosemite National Park, the nation's newest; and it was on this trip that he fell ill. At El Paso he was taken to Hotel Dieu Hospital and treated by Dr. Frank Gallagher. When he was released from the hospital on Labor Day, he weighed 95 pounds. Dr. Gallagher entreated him to recuperate for one year before returning to New York.

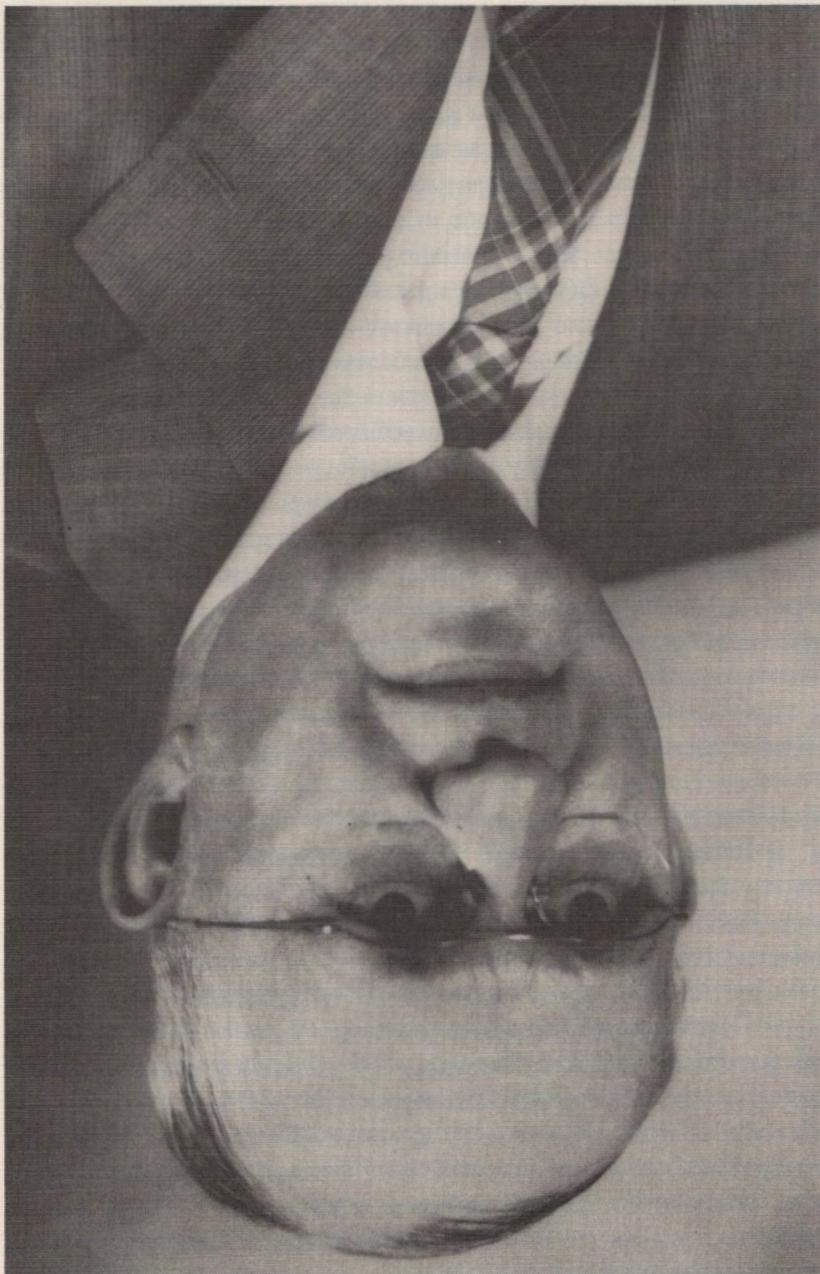
During his convalescence, Mr. Fryer reported cases for Judge J. M. Goggin's 41st District Court and also the National Irrigation Conference. When the year was up, he returned to New York, but the Southwest had its hooks into him. The New York winter was too cold, he said, and the water was tasteless. He longed for the El Paso brackish flavor. He returned to El Paso in 1905 to become secretary to the Chief of the Engineering Department of the El Paso Southwestern Railway.

Always interested in law, young Fryer resigned his job and entered the University of Texas Law School in January, 1906. After his graduation in 1908, he worked in the office of Patrick Henry Clarke, who was reputed to be the best lawyer west of the Pecos. Then, determined to do an internship, he took on the job as court reporter for Judge Dan Jackson's 34th District Court, where he observed the area's finest lawyers at the time—all of them his friends who had encouraged him to go to law school: Judge T. A. Falvey, Captain T. J. Beall, W. H. Burges, Waters Davis, Tom Lea (Sr.), and R. E. Thomason.

In 1913 he married Mary Alice Kelleher in Austin. They had six children: four girls—Elecia Fryer (Krumb), Rosemary Fryer, Helen Fryer

John B. Luscombe, Jr., a past President of the El Paso Bar Association, was a member of the firm Fryer, Milstead & Luscombe. This article is based upon his memories and those of his wife, Hallett, as well as those of Art Leibson, the Honorable Morris A. Galatzan, and the daughters of William H. Fryer.

WILLIAM HENRY FRYER
1880-1963



HALL OF HONOR 1990

(Chatfield Weeks), and Margaret Fryer (Hart)—and two sons (each of whom predeceased him)—William Henry, Jr., in a tragic accident and Austin Edward in the Battle of the Bulge.

William Henry Fryer was a handsome, friendly man—quick to smile and easily met. His eyes, a clear blue, sparkled with an inner spirit of some impish elf bent upon happy mischief. He was a lawyer in its truest and best sense. He was a citizen to his community, a servant to his church, and a steward to his faith. He was a spinner of yarns, an actor, a wit. He was a democrat, a good and loving father, a devoted husband.

In 1916 he defeated Charles G. Vowell for County Attorney and began earnest persecutions to “clean up the town.” He closed clubs, saloons, sporting and gaming houses with such tenacity and vigor that these establishments rallied together to defeat him at the next election. But law enforcement was not to suffer, for in 1918, with the help of R. E. Thomason, Fryer was appointed Assistant United States Attorney by Woodrow Wilson.

When Warren G. Harding became president, Mr. Fryer resigned his post and entered into partnership with Judge Dan Jackson and Judge S. J. Isaacks. In that same year, when Judge Jackson left the firm to become Assistant Attorney General in Washington, Mr. Fryer also left; and in 1922 he and R. E. Cunningham formed the firm Fryer and Cunningham. What a combination of talents and personalities that was!

In 1921 the specter of the Ku Klux Klan raised its head in the guise of the Good Government League. Apparently organized to fight “The Ring,” which had held a stranglehold on El Paso politics from the early ‘teens by voting aliens and headstones in local elections, it soon developed that the Good Government League was controlled by Frontier Klan Number 100. Strongly professing Americanism, Klan Number 100 was primarily anti-Catholic, anti-semitic, anti-Mexican. They met in secret at the Odd Fellows Hall and Masonic Lodges, the membership consisting of many prominent El Pasoans and some Protestant clergy. They controlled the school board and also many offices in both city and county. They were opposed by W. H. Burges and others; and most active of all was W. H. Fryer. On one occasion Mr. Fryer took the stage at the Odd Fellows Hall, recalling later that his knees shook as he pointed his finger at the hooded audience and said: “I know who you are and one day you will be unmasked before the public.”

He did just that in the fall of 1922. He filed an injunction to remove the names of four candidates from the ballot, alleging that they had foresworn allegiance to the Constitution and the laws of the State of Texas

by taking an oath of loyalty to a foreign power—the Invisible Empire. The case was filed in the 65th District Court before Judge Ballard Coldwell, who refused to abate the case until all parties were before the Court. Mr. Fryer then proceeded to subpoena the Klan roster and every prominent El Paso Klansman with the stated purpose of inquiring of them whether they had observed any candidate taking the secret Klan oath. Subpoenas and records were made public. He entered the courtroom packed with Klansmen who greeted him with hisses and boos. Undaunted, he spoke out: “In the oath of the Klansman you will notice the Invisible Empire is placed first and America comes second. Duty to the Klan comes first. That is why I can face the hisses, the jeers, the cowardice of those who think they can frighten the court by the thought that cowards in masks might visit you at night.”

His case was on shaky legal grounds. He dismissed it before the judge could rule, but he had done his job. He had exposed the Klan leadership to the public; and even though the Klan carried the elections in 1922, the exposure put it in decline, and it was on its way out in 1924.

Throughout all this conflict, W. H. Fryer was devoting himself to another worthy cause—the construction of a Community Center and the establishment of a Catholic school. The Center and the school were opened in 1923, the school under the supervision of the Sisters of Loretto. In 1925, when Loretto College and Academy was completed, the girls were moved to that building. Through the good offices of Mr Fryer, Brother Arsenius and Brother Joseph arrived that same year to take charge of the school for the Christian Brothers. So it was that Cathedral High School was established—with W. H. Fryer a member of its first board of directors and an honored member of its Hall of Fame.

Fryer & Cunningham tried many cases of all kinds and varieties: criminal, civil, probate, divorce; and sometimes they acted as special prosecutors. Coyne Milstead joined the firm in 1936. Mr. Cunningham formed his own firm with his nephew in 1939. I had the good fortune to join Fryer & Milstead in 1951.

Mr. Fryer was active in the Knights of Columbus and the Elks. He was President of the El Paso Chapter of the University of Texas Ex-Students Association and of the El Paso Bar Association. He was active in the Little Theatre in El Paso, appearing in several plays.

But it was in the law that Mr. Fryer starred. When he walked into a courtroom—nay, strode into a courtroom—there was no doubt in anyone’s mind who was in charge, who was the real star. The judge, the prosecutors, the bailiffs were all the supporting cast; the jury was the audience. Any

case in which he was involved played to a packed house.

In 1951, Mr. Fryer played his usual starring role in the trial of one Pearl Johnson, accused of murdering her infant at an unattended birth. His defense of Mrs. Johnson was brilliant, and she received a light sentence—a five-year term in the penitentiary. The case itself was not significant, but an incident that developed from it provides a splendid insight into the character and personality of W. H. Fryer. A local legislator who was an enemy of both District Attorney William Clayton and District Judge Roy Jackson visited Mrs. Johnson at the penitentiary. He suggested that he might be able to get her a parole if she would give an affidavit to the effect that during the course of the trial, at noon recesses and in the evening hours, a Deputy Sheriff took her to the Hilton Hotel where Judge Jackson, District Attorney Clayton and Mr. Fryer enjoyed her favors. She gave the affidavit, and—to say the least—its publication rocked the town. A special committee of the Legislature and the Texas Rangers was appointed to investigate the charges. Hearings were held in the Court of Appeals Courtroom. Clayton and Jackson were interviewed first, and each left the hearings long-faced. Then, Mr. Fryer was called. At the end of five minutes there were great gales of laughter coming from within, and soon out strode a smiling Mr. Fryer, swinging his cane. When the press asked what had happened, he said, “The committee wanted to know whether I denied the allegations and charges in Pearl Johnson’s affidavit, and I told them, ‘No, absolutely not! They are all true!’ I was not about to deny that I was the only sexually certified septuagenarian in Texas, not just by a committee of the Texas Legislature, but by the Texas Rangers.” The committee folded files and returned to Austin.

With the untimely death of his partner, Coyne Milstead, in 1961, W. H. Fryer retired from the active practice of law in November, 1962. The firm was dissolved and he remained counsel to the firm of Peticolas, Luscombe & Stephens. After celebrating his fiftieth wedding anniversary, he died on November 13, 1963.

In his eulogy to William H. Fryer, Monsignor Gaynor quoted from that great patriot of lawyers, Sir Thomas More, who walking to the scaffold turned to his daughter and said, “Meg, do not weep for me, for we shall all meet in Heaven and have a jolly good time!” I am certain that Thomas More is correct, and I am also certain that Mr. Fryer did not leave his advocacy back here on earth. He loved it too much, and I believe that he is somewhere near Heaven’s Entry Gates, pleading the cause for poor souls who might otherwise be lost. ☆



HALL OF HONOR
• 1990 •

Tribute to WILLARD WARREN SCHUESSLER, M.D.

by Gordon L. Black, M.D.

FOR THE THIRTIETH TIME, THE MEMBERS OF THE El Paso County Historical Society gather to inscribe upon its Hall of Honor the names of two El Pasoans. Our living honoree this year is Dr. Willard Warren Schuessler, a well-known plastic and maxillofacial surgeon and prominent El Paso civic leader.

Dr. Schuessler is from pioneer-Texan background, but he was born in Chicago while his teacher-father was working toward an advanced degree at Northwestern University. On the family's return to Dallas, young Willard began his educational pursuits. By the time he was a student at Southern Methodist University, he had already exhibited leadership and was elected president of his freshman class. At Baylor University School of Medicine he was selected as a member of Alpha Omega Alpha, the national honorary medical fraternity. Membership is accorded in recognition of outstanding academic achievement and is the highest award given by medical schools to their students. He was further honored at the time of his graduation by being the recipient of the Surgeon General's award

as the outstanding student of his medical-school class.

Dr. Schuessler remained with the Baylor University Hospital System for his internship and surgical residency. Following this, he spent four years in training under Dr. James Mills, Dallas' first plastic surgeon.

Part of the arrangement was that Dr. Schuessler would do all the night work. Therefore it was he who responded to a call regarding a victim of an automobile accident who had a badly injured nose. The nose in question belonged to a Southern Methodist University graduate who was also a beautiful model. She was accompanied by a very concerned mother. When Dr. Schuessler showed up on the scene, the mother rather testily told him that the plastic surgeon had already been called. Dr. Schuessler replied, "I am the plastic surgeon." The mother's reply: "You don't look old enough even to be an intern." But to Louise, the patient, the surgeon's youthfulness didn't seem to be a problem. During the weeks that followed, Dr. Schuessler's interest became something more than the usual physician-patient relationship, and by the time of her last scheduled visit, Dr. Schuessler mentioned some tickets that he had to a dance at the beautiful Adolphus Hotel ballroom. However he added that any girl who went with him to the dance would probably have to go home in a taxi. "Well, what's wrong with that?" replied Louise. In November of this year, Willard and Louise Schuessler will celebrate fifty years of marriage. On hand for the festivities will be their three children and their two grandchildren.

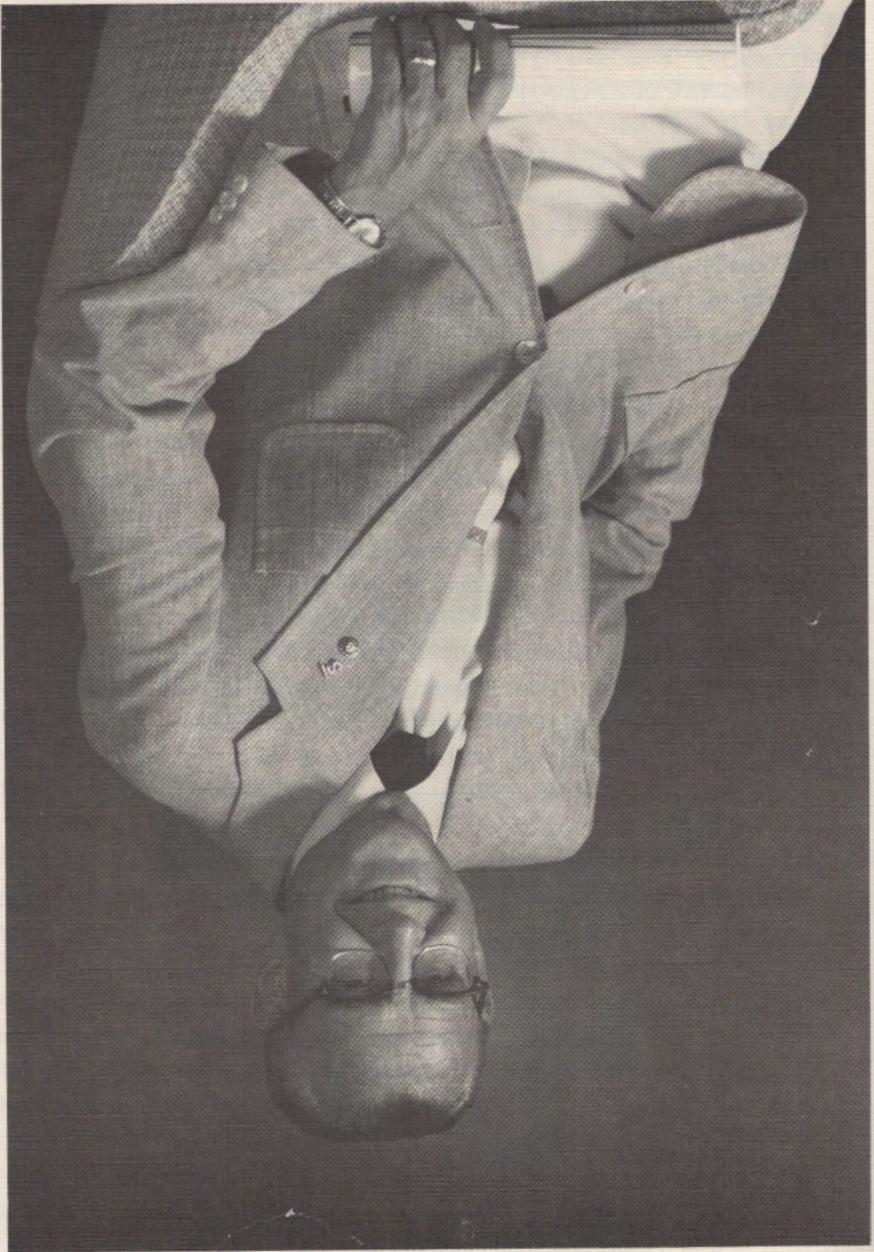
Dr. Schuessler's military career began just one week following his marriage to Louise. He was called into active service for one year to head up the Plastic Surgery Service at Brooke Army Hospital in San Antonio. He later became Chief of Plastic surgery at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, D. C., before he came to William Beaumont Medical Center as Chief of Plastic and Maxillofacial Surgery in 1944. When he left the Army in 1946 as a colonel, the one year for which he had originally been called had stretched into six years.

Dr. Schuessler's military experience in World War II was obviously quite satisfying because he continued to be involved with the military. He remained a consultant at William Beaumont Army Hospital for twelve years, and was a civilian aide to the Secretary of the Army. For these and many other services, he has received at least ten major awards including the Patriotic Service Award, bestowed by the Secretary of the Army.

In reviewing Dr. Schuessler's many activities, I have come to the

Gordon L. Black, M.D., has practiced medicine in El Paso since 1940. Currently he is Chief of the Radiology Department at Providence Memorial Hospital and also Medical Director at the El Paso Cancer Treatment Center.

WILLARD WARREN SCHUESSLER, M.D.
(Photograph by Elson-Alexandre
Los Angeles, California/Chicago/Honolulu/Tokyo)



conclusion that as a little boy, Willard probably really wanted to be a policeman. He has been an active member of at least seven groups related to law enforcement—including being an honorary Texas Ranger, a United States Deputy Marshal, and an officer of Crime Stoppers (this latter position being one he still holds).

Among the people I have talked to about Dr. Schuessler is John Phelan, longtime El Paso radio and television personality. John came as a patient to William Beaumont Army Hospital because he had been severely burned in Germany during World War II. Multiple surgical procedures requiring several months were necessary; and he and Dr. Schuessler became warm friends. John credits Dr. Schuessler with having been a significant factor in his life not only because of the successful surgery, but also because Willard encouraged him to get out into the community and go to college. John started off with a course in radio at Texas Western College of Mines and Metallurgy, and Willard let John use his dictaphone to practice "broadcasting." Then Willard critiqued the young man's technique. Before long John was working as night man at KTSM radio station.

One night, John included in his broadcast the announcement of Dr. Willard Schuessler's change from military to civilian status and that he was about to begin his practice in El Paso. Because of his gratitude and friendship, John spoke of Dr. Schuessler's outstanding surgical skills and encouraged everyone to support him in his new practice.

This was at a time when organized medicine took a very dim view of anything that even sounded like advertising and, of course, this did sound very much like advertising. The fathers of the El Paso County Medical Society were still pondering Willard's suitability for membership when some of Willard's friends gave the Schuesslers a party to celebrate their entrance into civilian life. The high point of the festivity was the release of a large number of helium-filled balloons. This was done with great fanfare, and only after the balloons were gaily floating skyward was Willard told that each balloon contained a coupon which entitled the bearer to one free facelift. This may not have been a factor, but we do know that Dr. Schuessler never did facelifts or any other type of cosmetic surgery.

In spite of all this "help," Willard was accepted into membership in the Medical Society, which he later served as its president. In 1985, the Medical Society instituted the S. T. Turner award, which is patterned after the Historical Society Hall of Honor. One deceased physician and one living physician are chosen annually to receive this award, the Society's highest honor. And who was the first living recipient of this award? Dr.

Willard W. Schuessler, of course.

His many activities in organized medicine included being Chief of Staff at Southwestern General Hospital. He has served also on the staff of twelve other Texas hospitals, including the Texas Crippled Children's Hospital; and he was cited by New Mexico Governor Garry E. Carruthers for his outstanding contributions to the crippled children of New Mexico. Further, Dr. Schuessler served twice as the president of District One Medical Society of the Texas Medical Association, and he was president of the Southwestern Medical Association and a founding member of the Southwest Surgical Society.

Dr. Schuessler's interests have not been confined to medicine. He has actively participated in community affairs. He was elected and served with distinction as Alderman of the City of El Paso. He has served on many committees devoted to improving the quality of life for the citizens of El Paso. As an example, he and René Mascareñas, a civic leader and industrialist in Juárez, formed the Inter-City Group composed of civic and business leaders of Juárez and El Paso. This group quietly oils the troubled waters to prevent small irritations from becoming large problems. The Cordova Bridge, as an example, could never have been built but for the work of this group. Dr. Schuessler has also been involved in the Rotary Club of El Paso, the Army YMCA, the Border Patrol Museum and Library, the El Paso Aviation Hall of Fame, and the Del Norte Club. Further, he has served as president of the Sun Carnival Association and as president of the El Paso Chamber of Commerce.

During his presidency of the Chamber of Commerce, his wife chaired the Woman's Department of the Chamber. The Schuesslers had been in El Paso only a few years, but already Louise had become fascinated with the history of the region. She decided that her project would be to establish an organization to preserve that history. This organization is now called the El Paso County Historical Society. In 1979, Louise was inducted into the Society's Hall of Honor; and now, with Willard's induction, they are the only couple to have been so honored.

Dr. Schuessler's contributions have not gone unnoticed or unrecognized. Among the many honors he has received for community service are the Conquistador Award, the highest award given by the City of El Paso, and the El Paso Chamber of Commerce Award of Merit. Recently he was honored by El Paso Senior Opportunities and Services as a recipient of the Mentor of Today Award. In 1956, when he was really just beginning his pursuit of service to others, Southern Methodist University conferred upon him its Outstanding Alumnus Award. He has also been honored as

HALL OF HONOR 1990

recipient of the Humanitarian Award of the National Jewish Hospital and Research Center in Denver.

The Historical Society's charge to the Selection Committee is to choose for induction into its Hall of Honor "Outstanding Men and Women of character, vision, courage, and creative spirit...who have made El Paso County better for their having lived in it...and who...by their singular achievements have brought honor and recognition to the El Paso community." A most welcome and deserving addition to the prestigious list of names which grace the El Paso County Historical Society Hall of Honor is that of Dr. Willard Warren Schuessler. ☆

HALL OF HONOR THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

1961	James Wiley Magoffin Lawrence Milton Lawson	1976	Mrs. Otto Norwald Fred Hervey
1962	Richard Fenner Burges Maud Durlin Sullivan Rev. B. M. G. Williams	1977	Cleofas Calleros Msgr. Henry Buchanan
1963	Eugenia Schuster Robert Ewing Thomason	1978	Robert R. Jones Edward W. Rheinheimer, M.D.
1964	Allen H. Hughey, Sr. Mrs. W. D. Howe	1979	Thornton Hardie Louise Johnson Schuessler
1965	Ernest Ulrich Krause Lucinda de Leftwich Templin	1980	Henry Thomas Ponsford J. M. Hanks
1966	Charles Robert Morehead Maurice Schwartz	1981	Henry C. Trost Abraham Chavez, Jr.
1967	Robert E. McKee Chris P. Fox	1982	William M. Yandell, M.D. Margaret Schuster Meyer
1968	Zachariah T. White Jack Caruthers Vowell	1983	Felix Martinez Elizabeth Hooks Kelly
1969	James Augustus Smith Jean Carl Hertzog	1984	Brigadier Gen. Anson Mills Manuel Gregorio Acosta
1970	Haymon Krupp Eugene O. Porter	1985	William H. Burges William I. Latham
1971	Hugh Spotswood White Charles Leland Sonnichsen	1986	Mrs. Guy Hallett Johnson Karl O. Wylar
1972	Olga Bernstein Kohlberg Joseph F. Friedkin	1987	Dorrance D. Roderick Gertrude Goodman
1973	Juan Siqueiros Hart Judson F. Williams	1988	Jeanie M. Frank Thomas J. Beall Millard G. McKinney
1974	Joseph Magoffin José Cisneros	1989	Brigadier Gen. S.L.A. Marshall D. Harold Wiggs, Sr.
1975	James Price Hague Tom Lea	1990	William Henry Fryer Willard W. Schuessler, M.D.



ABOVE and BEYOND...

African-American Missourians of Colonel Alexander Doniphan's Expedition

by Phillip Thomas Tucker

ONE OF THE MOST STIRRING EPISODES IN American military history can be found in the exploits of Colonel Alexander Doniphan's Missourians during the Mexican-American War. The fervor of Manifest Destiny inspired the members of the First Missouri Regiment of Mounted Volunteers to trek thousands of miles through enemy territory, to defeat each army encountered, and to set an unparalleled example of what "a relatively small group of determined men without specific orders, uniforms, pay or discipline" could accomplish.¹ The story of Doniphan's accomplishments has been well documented and publicized.

But the role of the African-Americans on Doniphan's Expedition has been ignored. No doubt the primary reason for this oversight is that the Missouri blacks who participated in Doniphan's march were slaves. Long before Missouri became a state (in 1821), the institution of slavery had been an integral part of its frontier communities. White settlers from primarily Tennessee, North Carolina, Kentucky, and Virginia had brought

slaves with them into the virgin lands along the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers.² There, the bondage system continued, but its harshness was less severe than in the deep South.³ Both white and black people worked side by side in taming the new land, clearing forests, and planting and harvesting crops.⁴ These crops were largely typical of those raised by yeoman farmers in the west: corn and pork.⁵

Missourians of both colors often socialized at such events as horse races and elections. Observing the relationship between the two peoples in Lafayette County (where Captain William P. Walton's Company B of Doniphan's Regiment was organized), a visitor to Lexington (the county seat) in 1846 recorded in his diary that the blacks in bondage "all have their own way and do very much as they please. So it is with all the families I saw - a slave calls his master's horse, his master's wagon, his wagon—and whatever he has charge of he denominates in intercourse with other[s] as mine. If you ask a slave when you meet, whose is that fine horse he is riding, he will say 'Mine, Sir.' I saw nothing while at L[exington] but comfort and happiness and perfect contentment among [the slaves]." Greater integration between the two races existed on the western frontier of Missouri than perhaps anywhere else in the nation.⁶

The call to arms swept the Boone's Lick region of central Missouri in the summer of 1846. Citizens of the Missouri River country responded enthusiastically to the challenge.⁷ Volunteer officers from the picturesque area of central Missouri brought their slaves with them into service. African-Americans who had helped transform a wilderness into a state were now off to a foreign war, and they were as excited about the prospects of engaging Mexican adversaries as their white counterparts.

Initially the duties of an officer's servants consisted of such chores as gathering firewood, cooking meals, and taking care of horses. These duties changed once the regiment was hundreds of miles distant from a racist society and deep in enemy country. One example can be seen in the fact that Colonel Doniphan utilized one of the slaves as his mounted orderly—a position of responsibility and some authority. Ever near the colonel's "mounted headquarters" on the journey into northern Mexico, the African-American relayed messages, carried orders, and functioned in the same capacity as junior officers of the colonel's staff.⁸

The real opportunity for slaves to prove that they were as competent as their masters came on Christmas Day, 1846. Doniphan's regiment had

Dr. Phillip Thomas Tucker recently received the Ph.D. in American History from St. Louis University. He is employed as a historian at Air Force Systems Command, Andrews Air Force Base.

advanced southward from Santa Fe, New Mexico, without support or adequate numbers for their invasion of northern Mexico. Even worse, the command was without discipline and was scattered for miles along the open road just north of Paso del Norte—a perfect set-up for disaster. The Missouri frontiersmen were celebrating the Yuletide on the march—laughing, joking, and firing muskets on the chilly day. The Mexican forces, however, were not equally negligent. A large army struck Doniphan's lead elements as the westerners set up bivouac near the Rio Grande River on December 25. Only a fraction of the American regiment had reached the encampment when the Mexicans attacked. The surprised Americans had to drop firewood, round up grazing horses, and grab firearms in the confusion, while the enemy's formations advanced. Every man was needed during the crisis to form a defensive line. Apparently in this life-or-death situation, black servants were handed weapons to bolster the ranks of the badly outnumbered Missourians. During the emergency, the African-Americans took their places in formation with the white soldiers. The Battle of Brazito resulted in an American victory after Doniphan's troops rallied to beat back the Mexican assault. This success insured the surrender of Paso del Norte to the Missourians in buckskin.⁹

Further evidence that the blacks probably participated in the Brazito action comes with the report that immediately after the contest they were "fired with military ardor." And the possibility that the black men had gained battle experience on December 25 also apparently caused them now to think of themselves as equals. After Brazito, the African-Americans felt "determined to form a company of their own." Doniphan's farm boys had seen "Negro Valor" at Brazito and evidently accepted their officers' "favorite servants" as comrades-in-arms during the year-long expedition.¹⁰ Hundreds of miles from the nearest American army and about to face another Mexican force in the days ahead, the Missourians no doubt welcomed the unexpected manpower source. For the time being, prejudice had disappeared in the desert reaches of Mexico. Much like during the early days on the Missouri frontier, both black and white were bonded by mutual dependence for survival in a hostile environment.

Twelve African-Americans banded together to form their own independent military company. No Caucasian officers would command them. Missouri's first all-black military unit had been born. Employing democratic traditions of the Boone's Lick frontier, the slaves elected their commander by popular vote. Joe, the servant of Lieutenant John B. Duncan of Company H, became the company's leader.¹¹ Doniphan, a free-thinking individualist, allowed the African-Americans to arm themselves

with swords and rifles—probably Mexican weapons captured at Brazito. Captain Joe was described by one soldier as “the blackest of the crowd, and sported a...small sabre, with an intensely bright brass hilt...”¹² Another one of Doniphan’s followers explained the black captain’s demeanor while on a review for the colonel at an encampment, when the slave company marched alongside the white troops: “Joe made his appearance on parade with cocked hat, feathers, epauletts [sic]...He was impatient [sic] for the foe.”¹³ Clearly the Missouri blacks had won increased status and had caught the feeling of Manifest Destiny with their baptismal fire.

Captain Joe would lead the slaves-turned-soldiers in the next engagement with the enemy. Like many other of Doniphan’s Missourians, the African-Americans donned Navajo Indian dress, buckskin and feathers after their homespun cotton garb had worn out from countless rains and a blistering sun. In addition, some of the slaves now wore parts of uniforms taken from the Mexican dead at Brazito.¹⁴

In late February of 1847, “Doniphan’s Thousand” continued farther southward into the heart of enemy territory, nearing the important trade center of Chihuahua. The isolated Americans faced large numbers of Mexicans positioned in extensive fortifications near the Sacramento River. But Captain Joe displayed eagerness for the fray. Years later one veteran recalled how, “when it was reported that the enemy was waiting [for] us at Sacramento [sic], Joe was exultant.” No doubt the other slaves felt the same, longing for another chance to prove their valor. Doniphan decided to carry the works by a frontal assault.¹⁵

The colonel’s troops fell into line for the seemingly suicidal charge across the flat lands. Tension mounted as the soldiers waited for the signal to attack, their confidence shaken by the projectiles whistling overhead and bouncing around them. Captain Joe appealed to his men, attempting to restore sagging morale that descended upon all of the Missourians on that February 28. With sword in hand, he called upon the patriotism of his men and implored them to stand firm for all they held dear in this world and the next.¹⁶ Amid the cannon fire, the black leader later told how he “stood dar [while] de balls begun to come so thicker and faster, and more of ‘em” plowed the ground around the slave company.¹⁷

The Battle of Sacramento resulted in an amazing American success. An entire Mexican army was routed, losing all its artillery, supplies and pride to the North Americanos. The conquerors, slaves and masters, from the Missouri frontier marched triumphantly into Chihuahua under the “Stars and Stripes” several days later. Captain Joe and its soldiers had fought in their last battle as the expedition neared its conclusion. Not

until the summer of 1847 would the heroes of Doniphan's Expedition return to their Missouri homes and a jubilant populace.¹⁸

The fates of Doniphan's orderly, Captain Joe and the eleven other slaves of his military company, and an unknown number of other African-Americans who had not joined the all-black unit have not been ascertained. Perhaps the performances in Mexico of the slaves from the Missouri River country earned them their freedom. But most likely the handful of African-Americans who had fought with Colonel Doniphan remained with their masters. Once these blacks had re-entered white society, the old prejudices probably resurfaced. If so, then, ironically, in struggling on behalf of American democracy, these African-American veterans of Brazito and Sacramento would be denied freedom themselves. Clearly, the little-known role that the Missouri blacks played in Doniphan's Expedition deserves recognition in Old West and Mexican-American War historiography. ☆

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3. Harrison Anthony Trexler, *Slavery in Missouri 1804-1865* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins Press, 1914), 19.
4. D. R. Hundley, *Social Relations in Our Southern States* (New York: Henry B. Price Publisher, 1860), 197.
5. United States Census Office, 8th Census, 1860 Population Schedules of the United States Census of 1860 for various Missouri counties.
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16. Frank S. Edwards, 127.
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The Mugging and Murder of Newsmen HEATON and MacNEIL

by Art Leibson

IN THE MORNING OF FEBRUARY 9, 1948, MAURICE Heaton, a 49-year-old Los Angeles newspaper advertising executive, arrived in El Paso on the Golden State Limited. He was to meet with local newsmen and have lunch with Dorrance D. Roderick, publisher of the *El Paso Times*, and Ed Lewis, an official of the Newspaper Printing Corporation. With a few hours to spare, he was being shown around the city by Rod MacNeil, 43, NPC advertising manager.

The tour led to the summit of Scenic Drive for a panoramic view of El Paso. Let MacNeil take up the story of what happened next:

Heaton and I were at the outlook when a man walked up and said, 'Get going! This is a hold-up!' He told us to follow directions and to drive out Mesa Road. When we reached a side road, beyond Coronado Inn, leading to the old target range, he told me to drive in. We came to a dead end.

He told us to hand back our wrist watches and pocketbooks. He took the money from Heaton's wallet, about \$100, and gave the wallet back to him. He took my money but kept the wallet after returning the identification cards. He told us to get out and march. We walked about 200 yards. While we were marching he told us that he was a three-time loser already.

MacNeil, believing the man intended to kill them both, saw a chance and made a desperate flying tackle. He grabbed the man, but missed the gun. The man fired, painfully injuring MacNeil. Then the bandit raised the gun and, taking aim, shot Heaton in the stomach. The man apparently took off after that, leaving the car where it was, although he had taken the keys from it. The keys were never found.

MacNeil blacked out momentarily. When he came to, the bandit was gone. MacNeil found he could stand and he tried to help Heaton, still conscious but so weak he couldn't help himself. MacNeil made Heaton as comfortable as possible and told the badly wounded newsman that he would be back with help as soon as he could.

Covered with blood and dirt, MacNeil walked back to the Mesa Road and the Coronado Inn, closed at that hour. He climbed a flight of stairs to an apartment only to find that the residents had no telephone. He then made his way back down the staircase and to a nearby home, which happened to be the residence of H. Arthur Brown, the symphony conductor. Brown's wife, Joteen, a reporter for the *Times*, was in the kitchen washing the luncheon dishes when MacNeil banged on her screen door.

MacNeil recognized Joteen and introduced himself, asking her to call for assistance and to notify Roderick. She immediately did so, and then administered first aid while they waited for the ambulance. By the time an ambulance reached Heaton, he was dead.

MacNeil seemed well on the road to recovery and was able to give the Sheriff's Department a good description of the bandit-killer. MacNeil described the man as an Anglo about six feet tall, weighing some 140 pounds, with brown hair and eyes, and a dark complexion. MacNeil added that the man was wearing a red bandana around his head and a brown battle jacket when he had approached the car on Scenic Drive. MacNeil also described the weapon: a nickel-plated .38 caliber revolver. Sheriff Allan Falby found no ejected cartridges at the spot where the shooting had taken place, nor any trace of the gun.

One immediate suspect was Lee Glass, a 41-year-old escapee from an East Texas prison farm. It had been reported that Glass was seen driving west. That lead petered out, as did the others run down by officers all over the Southwest. A tracking team from the Texas State Police followed the bandit's trail over the mountain and down to McKelligon Canyon, where it was lost.

In the meantime Dr. W. W. Waite performed the autopsy on Heaton and found bruises and scratches on the man's hands. There were no powder burns on his clothing, indicating the shot had been fired from some distance, as MacNeil had said.

Reward offers quickly mushroomed, led by a \$1,000 offer by Roderick and \$500 by a relative and business partner of Heaton. The total soon swelled to \$8,050, but was never claimed.

MacNeil's two brothers maintained a constant vigil at his bedside. In the early hours of Sunday following the shooting, brother John had taken over the watch from Dan, after MacNeil had sunk into delirium the night before. Death came an hour later. The eye witness was gone.

With MacNeil's death, the intensity of the search increased as more

Art Leibson, an attorney-turned-journalist, writes a weekly column for the El Paso Times, as well as this regular Password feature.

and more innocent men were dragged in for questioning. The sheriff's posse, led by Calvin C. Tucker as president and Jimmy Rogers as captain, spread out over a wide area of the west side of the mountain looking for some shred of evidence. Three-time losers living in the area were all suspect, the finger of suspicion strongly pointing at one time to a man who had been released a few days before from a New Mexico prison. The FBI came into the case but could add nothing to what was already known. They did make plaster casts of heel marks at the shooting spot, definitely not those of the two victims. Also, the bullets were sent to the FBI laboratory in Washington.

And there the case rests. ☆



The desert dreams

of drops
that soothe
like a cold cloth on sun-fevered skin
of creosote dappled
with liquid beads that gleam
like the white sands of a Tropical beach
of clean washed prickly pears
that roost
like gaudy purple birds on a cactus perch
the desert dreams
of drinking baptized air
spiced with moist earth and flowering sage
the desert dreams
of rising in steam to embrace
the first sun shaft that finds its way back home

-Renee Berta

Renee Berta holds a B.A. degree in English and an M.A. in Creative Writing from The University of Texas at El Paso. She is currently employed as Writing Room Coordinator at her alma mater. Her poems have appeared in The Centennial Review, The MacGuffin, Rio Grande Review, and Psychopoetica.



The FIRST FIFTY YEARS

The El Paso Tennis Club, 1921-1971

by Robert W. Phillips

AT LAST—IN 1921—THE DREAM CAME TRUE, the goal was achieved: the El Paso Tennis Club became a reality. There it was...proudly occupying a whole city block in a central, convenient location—the block bounded by Arizona and Nevada Streets and by Ange and St. Vrain. It had come about through the leadership of E. E. Mike Neff, F. Bailey, Winchester Cooley, C. N. Bassett, H. E. “Hal” Christie, and N. A. Ferguson. They were the nucleus of a group of forty men who had contributed twenty-five dollars each to the building fund for the Club. It consisted of four clay courts, surrounded by a twelve-foot poultry netting fence, and a clubhouse that would bring a King’s ransom today *as an antique*. The clubhouse had a toilet, two showers, a water heater, two wooden benches, a cold cement floor, ten or twelve second-hand lockers from the old Smelter Tennis Club, and a covered porch with a long wooden bench. The courts were finished just in time for the 1921 Southwestern Tournament, in which Walter Bowers beat Eddie Simmons, an El Paso banker, in the finals.

In 1922, N. A. Ferguson-Fergie, as he was known to his friends—won the men's singles; then from 1922 to 1930, Fergie won the singles (or the doubles with his son, Louie) a total of seven times. He had started his winning ways when he won the Southwestern in 1913, and between 1913 and 1918 Fergie Ferguson and Hal Christie had won twelve singles or doubles Southwestern titles between them.

In addition to their tennis prowess, both men were constant benefactors to the Club. At least four times, when the Club was low in operating funds, Hal Christie and Fergie Ferguson were the first to respond to the call for money. Others answering the call were C. N. Bassett, Winchester Cooley, Mike Neff, and F. B. Fletcher.

At first, the El Paso Tennis Club was strictly a men's organization. Neither youngsters nor women were accepted. That situation changed, however, in 1923 when Louie Ferguson, George and Willie Cound, Ed Chew, and Harry (Bugs) Vance were admitted to the Club as junior members. Shortly afterwards, women were welcomed. Among the early women members were Dorothy Crawford, Margie McBroom, Elsie Strickland, Helen Carroll, Katherine and Mary Virginia Seamon, Ruth Rawlings, Chella Phillips, Margaret Sutton, Norma Heffler, Bena Perz, Mrs. C. A. Mitchell, Elizabeth Loomis, Elizabeth Crowell, and May Belle Long.

Since the clubhouse had been designed for men only, the women found it convenient to accept Chella Phillips' offer to use her home, located directly across the street from the Club, as a dressing room and restroom during tournaments. Chella's mother was known to the women and girls as "Mama," and she fulfilled the name in every way, helping them with anything they might need or want.

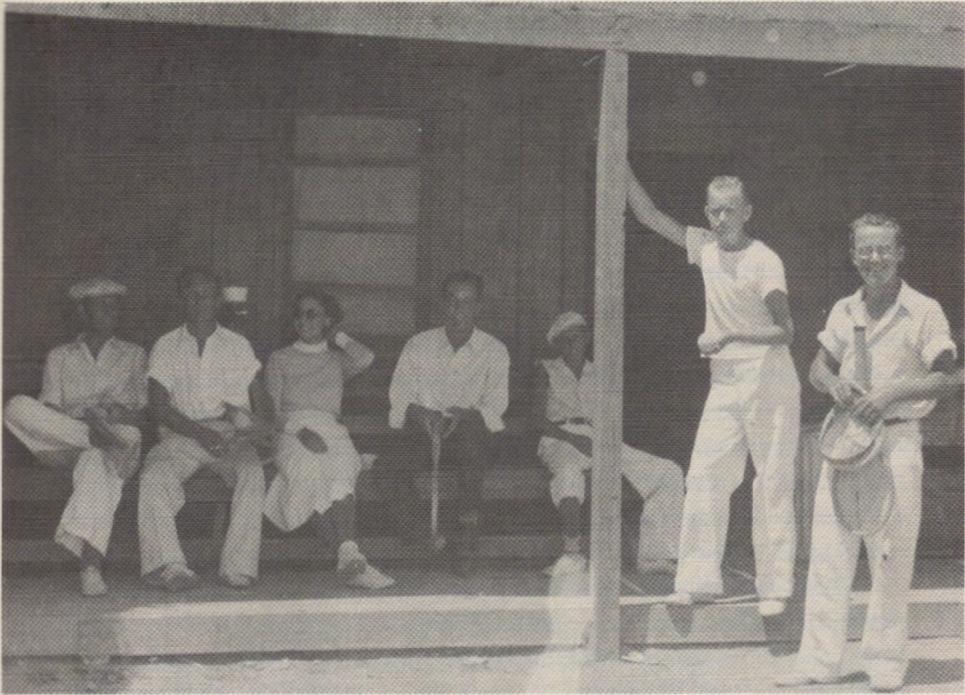
Hal Christie said that Fergie had won more titles than Geronimo had scalps, and he had quit counting at a hundred! But about 1926 Ed Chew came into the picture with his unorthodox form and Western grip. He dominated the El Paso men's singles event for eight years. The only other person to beat his record at that time was Chella Phillips, who won the City Women's singles title fourteen times, the doubles title twelve times, and the mixed doubles twice with George Cound and once with Russell Ball. Combining the City, Southwestern, and New Mexico State events, her total is over fifty titles in nineteen years. She retired from tennis in 1947 because of a disabling knee injury.

The quality of the clay courts impressed visiting players who played on them in tournaments or in exhibitions—Bill Tilden, Robert and Howard

Robert W. Phillips, who is retired from a long association with the Zork Hardware Company, is the great grandson of Ben Dowell, the first mayor of El Paso.

EL PASO TENNIS CLUB

Kinsey, J. Gilbert Hall, Fritz Mercur, Dick Savitt, and Mary Hardwick. All these players were national winners of Clay Court Championships, and without exception each one praised the Club's courts as being the best in the country. Ed Chew and George and Willie Cound were masters at keeping the clay courts in perfect condition.



Several members of the El Paso Tennis Club relax on the porch of the original clubhouse, 1934. L to R: Jack Bowen, Willie Schreffler, Celia Pinon Phillips, Pete Cosca, Phil O'Connell, Pinky Stanton, Marshall Finley. (Photo courtesy Robert W. Phillips)

In 1927, George Cound was runner-up in the Texas Interscholastic meet in Austin, and the next year he and his brother, Willie, won the doubles crown. This feat was not repeated until 1932, when George and Russell Ball became the second team of brothers to win the doubles title for El Paso High School. Then they did it again in 1933.

And thus began the meteoric rise of the Ball brothers—George and Russell. In the next several years they won numerous singles and doubles titles. As a tennis family, the Balls have no equal in El Paso. Counting all the titles won by the family members—the patriarch (W. H. Ball, who took up tennis at the age of 45 and became nationally ranked with his son

George in the father-son doubles), his sons (George, Russell, and Joe), and his grandchildren (Rusty, Beverly, Don, Bill, Joe, Jr., and Beau)—the total is an amazing *four-hundred-plus*.*

You have heard of opportunists—well, in 1934, George and Russell were attending Northwestern University, and I happened to be in the right place at the right time. With the Balls out of the way, I won the City singles title and was runner-up to George Judson in the Southwestern later that year. Other players who were active in the 1930s included Sol Franklin, Jr., Dr. Robert F. Thompson, Dr. O. J. Shaffer, Louie Kahn, Carl Hertzog, Dr. C. L. (“Doc”) Sonnichsen, Joe Pennies, Hugh Kilpatrick, Ed Chew, George and Willie Cound, Al Withholder, Mike Murff, Hal Christie, Fergie Ferguson, Manny Munoz, Burke Elfers, Dave Koortz, Frank Barger, F. B. Fletcher, Sag Shea, Marshall Finley, and—of course—the three Ball brothers. Louie Kahn won doubles titles with several different partners, proving himself to be an excellent doubles partner.

The late ‘30s were highlighted by men’s and ladies’ commercial leagues with all matches played at night on the first lighted courts in the Southwest. The lights were strung on wires that ran lengthwise over the middle of each court from fence to fence. It was a shot in the arm for the Club and a real treat for spectators who came from all parts of town to watch—at no admission charge. The leagues ran for about five years until halted by our entry into World War II.

The Ladies’ Pink League was played under the lights every Tuesday during the summer months. Chella Phillips won it three times—in 1935, 1937, and 1939—with a different partner each year. Other Pink League regulars were May Belle Long, Carmen Pinon (Phillips), Connie Rickard (White), Nena Coldwell (Shapleigh), Mary Elizabeth Schreffler (Smith), Jane Stanley (Thornton), Hazel Withholder, Eddie May Chew (Lyons), Rachel Bickley, Alice Phillips, Louise Momsen, Mary Cunningham (Hoover), and Frances Cordova.

Men’s league regulars included W. H. Ball, L. R. (“Sag”) Shea, Al Withholder, Mike Murff, Pete Cosca, Carl North, Hal Christie, Frank Barger, Walter Driver, Lloyd Stanley, F. B. Fletcher, E. B. Elfers, Burke Elfers, the Cotera brothers, Roger Brown, George and Willie Cound, Ed Chew, Carl Hertzog, “Doc” Sonnichsen, John Beaty, Bob Browne, Bob Phillips, Joe Ersinghaus, Dr. W. J. Pangman, Dave Zlabovsky, Hal Elder, Bill Woodul, Manny Munoz, Tino Munoz, Eric Munro, Frank and Ricky

**Editor’s Note:* George, Russell, and Joe Ball were inducted into the El Paso Tennis Club Hall of Honor in May 1989, as were also (posthumously) W. H. Ball, Hal Christie, and Fergie Ferguson.

Feuille, Guy and Marshall Finley, Joe and Mike Okies.

Throughout this time, El Paso newspaper readers were kept informed—and entertained—by W. H. Ball's regular column on the night league games. He had nicknames for everyone, and he employed his ready wit in his descriptions of the matches and the players.

Speaking of W. H. Ball reminds me that he and another longtime member of the El Paso Tennis Club often mentioned that they couldn't think of a *better way to go* than to die while playing tennis. As Fate had it, they both "died with their tennis shoes on"—Fergie Ferguson in 1942 and W. H. Ball in 1968.

The early '40s brought an influx of players from Fort Bliss, which was gaining in numbers of recruits almost daily as the United States armed for possible entry into the war that was raging in Europe. Among the most notable regulars from Fort Bliss were Dick Savitt, who went on to win Wimbledon a few years later; Captain Raymond Stone, Jr., later a General; Lieutenant Brooks Wilson; Sergeant Carl North; and several other good players who made a welcome addition to the Club's membership.

Margaret Varner (Bloss) started her winning ways in 1944, when she won the City singles and then the Texas Interscholastic League singles crown. In 1945, she won the City singles *and* doubles. From then on, it seemed as though everything she touched turned to love—*six love*, that is. During a ten-year period, she won the Southwestern singles and doubles, the Texas Open women's singles, five times, and countless other titles. She was nationally ranked in tennis for several years and was a playing member or captain of the United States Wightman Cup team from 1961 to 1966. She also won the Badminton World Championship twice in singles, once in doubles, as well as several national titles in the United States. Further, she was the National Women's Squash Champion for four years (1960-1963). Incomparable is the name for Margaret.

The El Paso Tennis Club has been extremely fortunate to have another Margaret as a member—Margaret Osborne duPont. Any club in the world would have welcomed her as an honorary member, but she chose El Paso for her home and the Club has been the richer for it. She has won numerous singles, doubles, and mixed doubles national and international titles, including the French Championship in 1946 and in 1949, although she declared, "I hate slow courts." She was a member of the Wightman Cup Team for ten years and captain for nine.

It was always a real treat to watch the "Margarets" play doubles or mixed doubles with or against Bobby Goldfarb and Walter Driver. It was "big time" tennis in our own backyard!

Coincidental with the end of World War II came a development that would bring a dramatic change to the El Paso Tennis Club. In 1945, the block bounded by Arizona, Nevada, Ange, and St. Vrain Streets was sold to the First Christian Church (which now occupies that site). This sale meant that the Club would have to find a new location. L. R. "Sag" Shea was president of the Club at the time, and he was exactly the right man to supervise the "project relocation." "Sag" had long cherished a dream of a larger Tennis Club with expanded facilities. Faced with the need to move by 1948, "Sag" enlisted the help of Ed Chew to find a suitable site and to bring about the move. Shares were offered in the new El Paso Towne and Tennis Club at \$100 each. Ruth Rawlings Mott, a longtime member, bought the first share. Her purchase was soon followed by that of W. H. Ball, whose \$400 check bought shares for himself and each of his three sons. The fund grew, and in 1948 the Club moved into its new quarters in Arroyo Park, its present location. It consisted of six asphalt courts and a modest clubhouse.



The two "Margarets" (Margaret Osborne duPont, extreme left, and Margaret Varner Bloss, front, give a tennis lesson in 1960 to (L. to R.) "Choo-Choo" Keith Chapman, Helen Driver, Beverly Ball, and Nancy McNiel. (Photo courtesy Robert W. Phillips)

The old players, plus a crop of young ones, soon crowded the six courts, and it became evident that, if the Club was to survive, additional courts were needed. Right at that time—in the early '50s, that is—the Club was experiencing serious financial difficulties. But not to worry. Once more, Hal Christie came to the rescue. He became Club manager, without pay, and ramrod for several improvements. By 1954 Hal's compelling leadership resulted in a number of needed and attractive features: a swimming pool was installed, and six plexi-pave courts were added, making a total of twelve courts. Also in 1954 Hal hired Chella Phillips as Club manager, a post she held for twelve years until she retired in 1966. Under Chella's eagle eye, the Club became a veritable children's care center where parents would leave their youngsters all day long, comfortable in the knowledge that the children were in safe hands.

There was another very important addition to the Tennis Club throughout this period of expansion—a group of fine players who had matured during the war years: Bobby Goldfarb, Walter Driver, Louis Kahn, Sam Kobren, Quillen Cottingham, Leighton Green, Rayburn Lovelady, George Yelderman, Eliot Shapleigh, Fred McKinstry, Sam Klink, Shibley, Phil, and Eddie Azar, Willie Farah, Linda Livingston, Kay Porter, Mary Jane Withholder, and Mary Ann Baer. Regulars during these years included Pete Cosca, Jim McNeil, Joe Pennies, Ralph Bentz, Joe Ersinghaus, Winston Farquhar, Ricky and Frank Feuille, Jimmy Given, Frank and Sara McKnight, "Skip" Broaddus, David Koortz, Sam Schneider, Bob Phillips, Bob and Joe Hoover, and Eric DeBruyn, who showed a lot of class in diving at the swimming pool!

Now came the late, '50s and the decade of the '60s—and again an infusion of young players, many of whom had watched or taken lessons from Leslie Berkes, the Club pro. Leslie's coaching and teaching not only brought new members, but also inspired some of the older members to become more active in the Club. The roster of regular players during those years included many of the oldtimers—like Marshall Finley, Louie Kahn, George Cound, and W. H. Ball and his three sons—as well as lots of newcomers and not-so-newcomers—like Joe Pennies, the two champion Margarets, Sam Schneider, Walter and Carolyn Driver, Bob Hoover, Joe Hoover, the Azars, the Feuilles, Hans Korf, Bob Watson, A. M. Derrick, Don Shapiro, Duffy Stanley, Colbert Coldwell, Sam Kobren, Helen Broaddus, Ann Ersinghaus, Celia Phillips, Sugar Goodman, Sam Klink, Sheldon Hall, Alice Crombie, Mary Heins, Rollin Russell, Eric DeBruyn, Charlie Acuna, Patty and George Janzen, Ann Crombie Reynaud, Bill Updike, Bill Goldfarb, Gene Stogner, Sam Young, Jr., Bob Browne, D. M. Merrick,

Peter DeWetter, Oren Ellis, Lewis Walker, Fowler Wiggington, "Uncle Roy" Chapman, and Scotty Irving.

Junior members who regularly used the courts in the late '50s and the '60s were Harold and Brent Turley, John Stone, Charley Sensiba, Henry Masterson, John Silverman, Leland Houseman, Linda Livingston, Nancy and Joan Pennies, Kay Porter, Andy, Gayle, and Ronnie Kahn (Ronnie voted Athlete of the Year for 1964), Nancy McKnight, Nancy McNeil, Margie Hughey, Choo Choo Chapman, Ateno Garcia, Walter Driver, Jr., Helen and Davis Driver, Margy Mayfield, Mary Mayfield, Pam, Phil, Jr., and Peggy Azar, Patty and Mary Jane Phillips, Patsy McNeil, Darlene Rose, Jackie Guadagnoli, Jeff Pine, Eliot, Ballard, and Colby Shapleigh, Steve McKnight, Steve Steen, Molly Hoover, and Sam Schneider, Jr.

In 1962 the Margie Hughey Memorial Tennis Fund and annual tournament were set up in memory of a very popular sixteen-year-old El Paso Tennis Club star who was killed in an automobile accident. Proceeds from the annual tournament and voluntary donations keep the fund alive. It has helped many promising youngsters in need of financial aid to develop their tennis game. George Yelderman and Ed Edmunds, Jr., were active in the operation of the fund for the first year. The Margie Hughey Tournament was a non-sanctioned event for its first twenty years and was supported almost wholly by the El Paso Tennis Club. In 1982 Don Ball sanctioned the event in order to draw more entrants. Margaret duPont Osborne serves as administrator and welcomes donations to this worthy cause.

Before retiring as manager in 1966, Chella Phillips supervised the installation of fences separating the courts, water fountains for each court, a drainage system for draining water off the courts after a rain, and the practice backboards.

In 1971, the present clubhouse was built. Actually it is an addition to the clubhouse built thirteen years earlier, in 1958. The new building includes the spacious clubroom with a large fireplace, the offices, pro-shop, kitchen, men's and women's locker rooms on the ground floor, while above them is the sitting room which now serves as the El Paso Tennis Club Hall of Honor Room. Also in 1971 the parking lot was expanded and paved.

Margaret Osborne duPont made it all worthwhile when she wrote, "Congratulations, El Paso Tennis Club on your steady growth and constant accomodations to tennis, family sport of a lifetime, in the great Southwest."☆



The NEWS at the PASS— ONE CENTURY AGO (July–September, 1890)

by Damon Garbern

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UMMER IN EL PASO A CENTURY AGO FOUND a bustling city enjoying a period of summer doldrums. The City Market on San Antonio street boasted the “largest refrigerator” in town, and one could get refreshments at Bacchus’s Saloon for five cents a glass, cold meals anytime, and a hot lunch for fifteen cents. Those of a Presbyterian bent could instead order ice cream delivered at reasonable prices from Proussally and Andros on El Paso Street from their “Fashion Ice Cream Parlor”; and the Fifth Infantry band provided “Music Under the Stars” by playing for weekly “Open Air Concerts.”

The big news in July was the July Fourth excursion train to “Orn’s Grove,” just a couple of hours away, sponsored for El Paso children by the town’s bachelors. The El Paso bachelors may not have planned to sponsor it, but with free rides promised for ladies, children, and parents, there were not many left to foot the bill. Bachelors would be charged one dollar a ticket, purchased in advance with a donation, or two dollars at the train. A total of \$117.15 was collected from donations, which paid for the train and musicians. The train left at 8:00 a. m. sharp, changed from

an earlier time of 7:30 to "allow the ladies time for necessary household chores." The train was available until 7:00 p. m., but people could return earlier if "the ladies" decided they needed some time for "attention to their toilette" for the grand concert and pyrotechnic display that evening. At the display, the Fifth Infantry Band came through with the William Tell Overture, a number of patriotic selections, and a cornet solo, "Rocked in the Cradle of the Deep." The pyrotechnic display included fifteen scenes, fourteen dozen Roman candles and fifty 4-pound skyrockets. To get people in a summery mood, Lightbody and James, men's clothiers, gave away summer straw hats to men only.

The young men of El Paso didn't need straw hats to get them in a pleasant mood. According to the *Times*, "The young men of El Paso have suddenly ceased to patronize the street letter boxes.... They prefer calling at the Post Office to mail their letters or collect their mail. CAUSE: A bevy of pretty young ladies comprise the clerical force."

The most important event to happen that summer occurred with little fanfare. Several citizens and the *Times* predicted wonderful results of the action, most people ignored its implications for El Paso's development. In July of 1890, a General Stanley (first name never given) came from San Antonio to find a new location for Fort Bliss. A group of citizens were charged to find a parcel of land to donate to the Army. Edgar B. Bronson, Joseph Magoffin, W. S. McCutcheon, B. H. Davis, and W. S. Hills, working for only two days, obtained a site and arranged purchasing conditions from a multitude of owners. They decided on a plot of 1,000 acres on a mesa about three miles east of the city. C. H. Morehead, Ben and Charles Davis, and T. J. Beall were among some of the landowners. The committee offered twenty-five dollars per acre Mr. Morehead's land down to five dollars an acre for some of the other property. The committee explained the difference by saying that Mr. Morehead's acreage was vital for the Fort's development but that the sale would block access to the rest of his land. So, for \$9,000 the 1,000 acres was available.

The owners of the land were also supposed to donate money to purchase the whole tract. This they were willing to do, and these far-sighted gentlemen and the committee members offered the land to General Stanley. The general is reported to have said, "This is the finest location we have for a military post in the United States." Even allowing for some hyperbole on the part of committee members, the general was pleased with the site. With an appropriation of \$150,000.00 (the projected total cost

Damon Garbern, the author of this regular Password feature, serves the El Paso Independent School District as Consultant, Vocal Music-Theatre Arts.

estimated at one million dollars) construction would begin if the \$9,000 could be raised. With the promise of housing six companies of infantry, five companies of cavalry, and three of artillery, plus "of course, a good band" at the Fort, El Pasoans could look forward to a handsome return on their \$9,000:

Of the benefits to accrue directly to every citizen whether workingman, merchant or real estate owner, it seems hardly necessary to speak—Besides the costs of construction, it means a monthly disbursement of \$50,000, the bulk of which will be expended right here among our business houses.

As Mr. Bronson noted, "this will be the most important post in Texas, and the boys will spend all their money in El Paso."

The *San Antonio Express* reported on the general's expedition:

General Stanley and Dr. Bailey returned yesterday from El Paso where they went to locate a site for the new Fort Bliss.... While the general was in El Paso, the thermometer climbed to 103 degrees in the shade, which goes to show San Antonio is a cooler place.

The *Times* took exception to the statements by the *Express*, declaring that "daily reports of the Signal Service office here show that the thermometer went as high as 100 only once this year."

In September the *Galveston News* wrote concerning El Paso:

It has grown from a sleepy Mexican village in 1880 to a thriving city of 11,000 with five trunk lines.... Through it must come nearly all the traffic from Mexico, Southern New Mexico, Arizona, and California. An excellent public free school system is in operation and all religious denominations are represented.... There is an elegant opera house and three banks with a capital of \$435,000.

Unfortunately, the citizens of El Paso were not able to keep up with the frenzied pace of a modern city. Under a heading IT SHOULD BE STOPPED, the *Times* brooded about an aspect of modernization which had major drawbacks:

In most cities bicycle riders are compelled to carry gongs and ring them regularly at all crossings on crowded thoroughfares.... But in El Paso the bicycle has full swing and frequently comes near causing serious runaways. Last Saturday afternoon a bicycle rider dashed by a horse and buggy on San Francisco Street, badly frightening the horse and causing him to break and run.... City Council should give some attention to the bicycle. It is fast becoming a nuisance.

Poor El Paso! A thriving railroad city and on the point of becoming a major metropolitan center with the enlargement of Fort Bliss—hampered by the advances of technology with which it seemed unable to cope! ☆



EL PAÑO: A BORDERLANDS HISTORY by W. H. Timmons. El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1990, \$30.00/\$20.00

In ten chapters and 387 pages, W. H. Timmons takes us through four centuries of El Paso history. Although not as detailed as C. L. Sonnichsen's two-volume work on El Paso, Timmons' *El Paso* depicts a broader historical landscape.

Many of the great figures of Southwestern history are here. Alvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca probably stumbled half-naked through the area in 1536. The explorers Agustín Rodríguez and Francisco Sánchez Chamuscado came in 1581. They were followed a year later by Antonio de Espejo. The colonizer Juan de Oñate pushed across the Chihuahua desert to reach the Pass where he celebrated high mass and took possession of the area near what is today San Elizario on April 30, 1598. As he crossed the river into what is now Texas, Oñate referred to the operation as "El Paso del Río del Norte." A mission was established in the area in 1659 and a permanent church followed in 1668.

James Magoffin, a Missouri trader who played a large role in the American conquest of the Southwest, came to the Pass. There was also Colonel Alexander Doniphan and his Missourians who routed a Mexican army under Captain Antonio Ponce de Leon at the Battle of Brazito some twenty-eight miles upriver. The less than admirable scalp hunter, James Kirker, was also at the Pass. Susan Magoffin, sister-in-law of James Magoffin, kept a record of her trek down the Rio Grande to El Paso. Some four thousand emigrants in fifteen hundred wagons traveled through the Pass en route to the gold fields of California in 1849. In fact, by the time of the California Gold Rush, five settlements founded by Anglo-Americans had emerged on the north bank of the great river. These included Frontera, founded by T. Frank White in 1848; El Molino, the flour mill of Simeon Hart; the mercantile store of Benjamin Franklin Coons, which was located

on property purchased from Juan María Ponce de Leon; Magoffinsville, where James Magoffin entertained a long list of western travelers in an elegant manner; and the property of Hugh Stephenson.

Army Topographical Engineers came to the Pass in 1849 in search of a route for a transcontinental railroad. Mail service arrived with the heavy-drinking frontiersman and Mexican War veteran Henry Skillman. George H. Giddings' "Jackass Line" brought a semi-monthly San Antonio-to-San Diego mail service in 1857.

Lieutenant Edward Fitzgerald and his camels arrived in 1857. John Butterfields's Overland Mail sped mail and passengers from Missouri to San Francisco through the area. The Mills brothers, William Wallace and Anson, came in 1858 and left excellent records of their activities. In 1861, the Civil War brought to the west the high-stepping and Indian-hating Lieutenant Colonel John Robert Baylor as well as the grandiose-dreaming Brigadier General Henry Hopkins Sibley. Although Sibley's Rebels defeated Colonel E. R. S. (not E. R. H., p. 147) Canby's Federals at Valverde, the Texans were turned back at Glorieta, and by the summer of 1862 were in full retreat out of the Mesilla Valley through El Paso and Fort Bliss for San Antonio. And there was also the little Zapotec Indian, Benito Juárez, who sought refuge at the Pass.

Dr. Timmons' 400-year panorama is highlighted with 24 pen-and-ink drawings by José Cisneros, who also provided the color sketch for the bookjacket. Its majestic sweep is additionally enhanced by Vicki Trego Hill, who has here designed one of the most attractive books yet produced by Texas Western Press. And mention must also be made of Cynthia Farah's outstanding photograph of the author on the back cover.

A veteran of sifting through the historical records of the Southwest, Dr. Timmons, Professor Emeritus of History at The University of Texas at El Paso, has completed a meticulously researched and very readable book. Four enthusiastic stars for *El Paso: A Borderlands History*.

JERRY THOMPSON

Department of History, Laredo State University



SONORA: A DESCRIPTION OF THE PROVINCE by Ignaz Pfefferkorn. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1989, \$9.95

Father Ignaz Pfefferkron, a German Jesuit, served as a missionary in northern Sonora from 1756 until 1767. His account of that experience was not translated into English until the 1940s, first published in 1949 by the University of New Mexico Press. Long out of print, it has been made the first volume in the new Southwest Center Series of the University of

BOOK REVIEWS

Arizona Press and the University of Arizona Southwest Center.

The translation is by Theodore E. Treutlein, whose Introduction gives extensive historical background on a period of missionary activity about which few accounts such as this have survived.

The distinguished University of Arizona historian, Bernard Fontana (a speaker for the April 1990 mission conference in El Paso), is editor of the new series, and he provided the Foreword for this book. "Since 1949," he points out, "we have learned much more about Father Pfefferkorn and the Sonora of his day. We now know, as Professor Treutlein did not, for example, that after Father Pfefferkorn finished a five-year stint as the missionary for the Pima Indians mission at Guevavi in what is now southern Arizona," he was reassigned "In 1763...to Cucurpe to work among the Endeve and Opata Indians...until his expulsion with other Jesuits from their mission posts in New Spain in 1767."

Father Pfefferkorn wrote with clarity and candor about the lifestyles of the people among whom he worked. He noted that they were not always responsive to his concerns: "Their insensibility made them completely indifferent to the business of the salvation of the soul and caused them to be unyielding to all the persuasions, pleadings, and admonitions of their spiritual guides." Further, Father Pfefferkorn described in detail the development of the missions of the Sonora region and the work of the Spaniards there.

After its original publication, this book came to be considered a classic for the period it describes. Thanks are due the University of Arizona Press for bringing it into print again for the pleasure of those interested in the history of the Southwest.

NANCY HAMILTON

Associate Director (retired), Texas Western Press



OIL FIELD CHILD by Estha Briscoe Stowe. Fort Worth: Texas Christian University Press, 1989, \$13.95

It was the Roaring Twenties. But for the child Estha, there was neither Roar nor Glitter nor Prodigal Living. She was the daughter of an itinerant oil field worker, and the years between her fifth birthday and her twelfth (1921-1928) were marked by poverty, discomfort, and repeated emotional upheavals. Drawing now on her own memories, on stories her parents shared with her, and on information from various Chambers of Commerce in the Permian Basin area and from petroleum museums, she has produced a vivid account of her childhood.

Jobs were scarce; and Estha's father, John Briscoe, began working in

oil fields because unskilled workers were being paid five dollars a day, high wages for that time. His goal was to save enough money to go into business for himself. A mobile oil field worker had to labor long hours under hazardous working conditions, he and his family often having to live in primitive housing and to contend with brutal weather conditions. However, the itinerant families were drawn together by the harsh conditions of their lives.

The author organizes her material geographically. Each chapter recounts the experiences of the family in a certain location and concludes with the family moving on to the next place. Some of Estha's most poignant memories are of the times when she had to leave friends knowing she would probably never see them again. Continued contact with relatives, though, gave her life a sense of stability.

In 1925 Estha's mother had to spend time in a tuberculosis sanatorium in San Angelo. John Briscoe moved near Big Lake and worked at the Santa Rita No. 1 Well, which had been drilled in 1923 and had triggered the Permian Basin oil boom. Estha and her father cleaned out an unused toolshed to live in, and they washed their clothes in the blowout box. Estha accompanied her father to work every day and stayed with him during the twelve-hour shift, whiling away the hours in the shadow of the derrick.

Many of the schools Estha attended were crowded, poorly equipped, and inadequately staffed. She recalls a few excellent, caring teachers, as well as many who seemed indifferent to the needs and problems of the itinerant workers' children.

By 1928 Estha's father had saved enough money to establish a business in Graford; and, at last, Estha had a home town and a school to call her own.

Oil Field Child adds a new dimension to heretofore published materials about the oil boom in its sensitive portrayal of how those families who accompanied the oil field workers lived and struggled.

ETHA COOPER
Odessa, Texas



THE PRESERVATION OF THE VILLAGE by Suzanne Forrest.
Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1989, revised,
\$35.00/\$17.50

Basically an examination of New Mexico since the mid-1800s, Dr. Forrest's book focuses on the small, isolated villages in northern New Mexico and on the New Deal's efforts in the 1930s and '40s to preserve native culture and community vitality in the face of overwhelming socio-

BOOK REVIEWS

logical change. Also included is a specific look at the Federal crafts revival and how that program expressed both "American nationalism and romantic thought."

In a barrage of information, the book leads the reader back to Frederick Jackson Turner's theory of the frontier's influence on American thought, to the Country Life Movement and midwestern universities, to John Dewey's educational influence, to the social reformers in Roosevelt's inner circle, to Fred Harvey and Mary Austin and John Collier, to political power struggles, Federal bureaucrats, big ranchers, the Forest Service, cultural clash, humanism and conservatism, intervention and capitalism, and to the somber effects of World War II.

The material is surely history; yet the telling of this story of New Mexico, while not exactly lyrical, has a rhythm and flow not always found in expository writing. Consider, for example, this description of the state:

...a diverse area of pine and aspen-clad mountains, deep canyons, intermountain river valleys, grassy plateaus, and flat-topped mesas..., commonly acknowledged to be one of the most picturesque regions in the United States..., "the Land of Enchantment."

Dr. Forrest concludes that the New Deal's efforts to preserve the Hispanic villages had both positive and negative results. She feels that today there is little evidence to show any strong improvement in the region's poverty or any real success in overcoming the loss of community. In fact, she blames the New Deal for the continued poverty and community fragmentation, only to state next that there was not enough time to continue the program because of the demands of World War II. Further, strong conservative resistance by Anglo ranchers and politicians undermined the strength of Federal efforts (there were actually charges that such efforts to help the poor were "un-American, even communistic"). Finally, Dr. Forrest states that the social effort went in the opposite direction of American economic history and was doomed from the start.

The book ends, however, with a list of at least nine solid accomplishments, a tribute to New Deal visionaries whose ideals were revived in the federal War on Poverty in the 1960s, and a conclusion that the village program, "for all its failings," was "a uniquely humanistic movement in the history of Hispanic-American relations in the American Southwest."

RICHARD C. CAMPBELL

Chaplain, Lydia Patterson Institute, El Paso



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