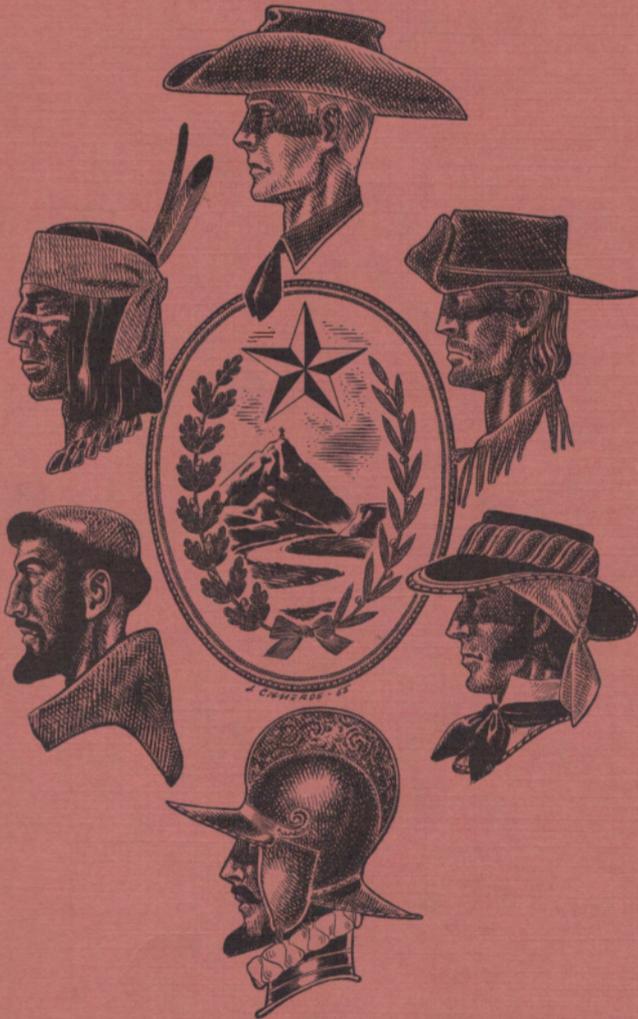


# PASSWORD



THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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## CONTENTS

**Drama in the Desert:**  
*The Hunt for Henry Skillman  
in the Trans-Pecos, 1862-1864*  
by Jerry D. Thompson ..... 107

**The House on Golden Hill Terrace**  
by Nora Henn ..... 127

**The Columbian Quincentenary**  
*The Spanish Census of Ysleta in 1790*  
by W. H. Timmons ..... 136

**Power at the Pass**  
by Shirley Gillett Clement ..... 141

**“A Better Fighter”:**  
*The Spirited Forays of Julia North Breck*  
by Judy Breck ..... 145

**Book Reviews** ..... 152



*This issue's "title-page insignia," a reduced reproduction of a pen-and-ink drawing by Ken Hosmer of Ruidoso, New Mexico, depicts the San Elizario Mission in the El Paso lower valley. Construction of the building began in 1877 near the site of the original chapel established about 1789 as part of the Presidio of San Elceario, a Spanish fortress, later occupied by Mexican troops and, still later, by United States troops. The drawing appears here with the permission of the artist, who is a member of the Southwestern Watercolor Society and an associate member of the American Watercolor Society.*

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# Drama in the Desert

*The Hunt for Henry Skillman  
in the Trans-Pecos, 1862-1864*

by Jerry D. Thompson

**W**illiam Wallace Mills, a forty-year resident of El Paso, remembered him as the Kit Carson of the Trans-Pecos – “highly esteemed, almost beloved” by the people of the area, describing him as “a man of magnificent physique, over six feet tall, wearing long, sandy hair and a beard flowing to his girdle” and also as a man who had one big fault: “He would get very drunk and become wild and ride his horse into stores . . . firing his pistol . . . as he desired to run the town himself. Then he would go home and sober up and come to town, pay the damages and apologize to every one and then go about his business.”<sup>1</sup> Waterman L. Ormsby, special correspondent for the *New York Herald* and the only through-passenger on the first westbound Butterfield stage in 1858, wrote that he resembled “the portraits of the Wandering Jew, with the exception that he carries several revolvers and bowie knives, dresses in buckskin, and . . . hates ‘Injuns.’”<sup>2</sup> The *Mesilla Times* said he was “one of the best Indian fighters in America.”<sup>3</sup> Union Brigadier General Joseph R. West wrote that he was “a crafty disseminatory of reports to perplex us” and threatened to hang him.<sup>4</sup> Another soldier in the

Column from California, Colonel George W. Bowie, called him simply a "noted rebel."<sup>6</sup> The New Mexico press referred to him as "the guerilla."<sup>6</sup> The hard-nosed General James H. Carleton, commanding the Union Department of New Mexico, feared his boldness and wanted him dead. Captain Albert H. French shot him dead at Spencer's Ranch near Presidio del Norte on April 15, 1864.<sup>7</sup>

His name was Henry S. Skillman. Born in New Jersey in the latter half of 1813 or the first part of 1814, he was undeniably one of the most exceptional individuals ever to tread the sun-baked expanses of the Southwest.<sup>8</sup> Exactly when Skillman came to the region is uncertain, although he was working as a courier on the Santa Fe Trail as early as 1839.<sup>9</sup> When war erupted between the United States and Mexico seven years later, Skillman signed on as a wagonmaster and later as a scout for Colonel Alexander W. Doniphan.<sup>10</sup> He was certain to have been at Brazito, just south of present Las Cruces, New Mexico, on Christmas Day, 1846, when Doniphan defeated a Mexican army. Later, during the march south toward Chihuahua, he was elected captain of a hastily-organized company of wagonmasters and teamsters (Company B of the Traders' Battalion); and he was at the Battle of Sacramento, north of Chihuahua, on February 28, 1847.<sup>11</sup> Returning across the desert to Presidio del Norte, Skillman's party was attacked by a roving band of Comanche. Only thirty-four at the time, he was described by a compatriot as "the old frontiersman who led the charge which drove off the Indians."<sup>12</sup> During General Sterling Price's belated intrusion into Chihuahua, Skillman served again as a scout and fought at the Battle of Santa Cruz de Rosales on March 16, 1848.<sup>13</sup>

After the war, Skillman settled at the village called Franklin (opposite El Paso del Norte), where he operated a freight line to San Antonio. In 1851, with a well-publicized three-year contract, he carried the first mail from Santa Fe through Franklin across the Trans-Pecos and the heart of Mescalero Apache country to San Antonio. His many adventures, especially his innumerable scrapes with the Comanche and Mescalero Apache of the area during the 1850s, became legendary.<sup>14</sup> Later he became a conductor for James Birch on the route from San Antonio to San Diego and one of the first employees of the Butterfield Overland Mail.<sup>15</sup>

In April, 1861, came the momentous event in South Carolina that reverberated even to this remote corner of the Southwest: the fall of Fort Sumter. As demoralized and disgruntled columns of bluecoats

scurried east, Texas plowboys in homespun butternut under Lieutenant Colonel John Robert Baylor marched west to occupy the isolated military posts on the Lower Military Road from San Antonio to Franklin. By July, 1861, Colonel Baylor, a high-stepping Texan, had struck north into the Mesilla Valley to seize Mesilla and capture the entire Fort Fillmore garrison at San Agustin Pass in the Organ Mountains.

Although Skillman did not profess strong secessionist sentiments, he nevertheless cast his future with the Stars and Bars of the frontier Confederacy. He was selected as sutler for the Rebels at Fort Fillmore,<sup>16</sup> and by October, 1861, he had become a conductor for Giddings, who had obtained the Confederate contract to carry mail from Mesilla to San Antonio.<sup>17</sup> The *Mesilla Times* reported in October that Skillman was raising a company for the Confederacy and would attack "Abe's men, Apaches, or what not." The men, all of Skillman's choosing, did not want pay, "only the property they can take from the Indians."<sup>18</sup>

*"...Skillman was as savage and wild as the land...and a 'man of all others that would be chosen as a spy,' for only he 'knows every inch of this country well.'"*

With the arrival of the Sibley Brigade in late 1861 and early 1862, the war in New Mexico Territory took on a renewed fury. Fierce fighting, first at Valverde on February 21, 1862, and then at Glorieta on March 28, settled the fate of the territory. But even as General Sibley's demoralized Rebels limped back to San Antonio during that discouraging summer of 1862, Colonel Baylor (who was soon to lose his commission because of a genocidal Indian policy) was laying plans to reconquer the area. By August, Baylor was back in San Antonio from Richmond with permission to raise a 6,000-man army. The scout and vanguard of Baylor's expedition was certain to be Henry Skillman, who had also gone to San Antonio in the wake of Sibley's defeat. Because of his considerable knowledge of West Texas, Skillman became vitally important to the Rebel plans and was now being referred to by Confederate authorities as "the Captain."<sup>19</sup> Meanwhile, at the Pass, a band of secessionists, probably numbering fewer than 100, had taken refuge across the Rio Grande at El Paso del Norte and were spurred by hopes of a renewed Confederate reoccupation of the area.

Through M. M. Kimmey, vice-consul in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, Federals in New Mexico Territory—now under the command of Brigadier General James H. Carleton—learned of Baylor's intentions.<sup>20</sup> Bracing for the impending attack, General Carleton promised to give the Texans "as warm a reception as we can." All grain and corn in the Mesilla Valley was to be seized and transported north, and anyone suspected of disloyalty was to be arrested and taken to Fort Craig, where "with a spade . . . they can defend the flag." Homes of secessionists would be "laid to ashes." Thomas Bull's mill at Mesilla and Grandjean's mill at Las Cruces were to be destroyed; all ferry boats on the Rio Grande were to be sunk. Baylor's Confederates "will have reason to remember the . . . Californians," Carleton swore.<sup>21</sup>

By November, 1862, Skillman had established a camp at Presidio del Norte from which he hurried upriver to El Paso, where his troops were "carefully concealed." Major Edward B. Willis of the California Column reported that Skillman was as savage and as wild as the land, a "noted desperado," and a "man of all others that would be chosen as a spy," for only he "knows every inch of this country well."<sup>22</sup> Henry J. Cunliffe, merchant and United States consul at El Paso, also confirmed the presence of Skillman: "Bad news; troublesome times again ahead. Skillman dropped from the clouds night before last, and his crowd were considerably excited all day.... He was met this morning tight as the devil, about 9 miles, going below, and of course sleeps to-night in Guadalupe."<sup>23</sup> From the village of Guadalupe, it was reported that Skillman continued downriver along the Mexican bank where he joined the remainder of his small company before preparing for a return trip upriver.

Fearing a Confederate advance, General Joseph R. West at Mesilla immediately ordered to Franklin Companies D and K of the California Column under Major William McMullen.<sup>24</sup> Ever since his arrival in December, 1862, McMullen had been hearing the same stories that had reached General West at Mesilla. "Skillman was certainly in El Paso and is said to have from 20 to 40 men at a place called Laraja," McMullen reported to General West, adding that Skillman "was later seen below San Elizario," "greatly elated" and promising "to be back in a few days."<sup>25</sup> Following Carleton's orders, McMullen was preparing to destroy anything of value at San Elizario, Ysleta, Socorro, Fort Bliss, Franklin, and Hart's Mill, should the Rebels advance. To McMullen, there was little doubt that one thousand Rebels were already at Horsehead Crossing on the Pecos and heading west.

The major was even fearful of an attack by the boisterous Southern sympathizers from across the river in El Paso.

Federal patrols were sent into the expanses of the Trans-Pecos to determine with certainty whether the confederates were indeed coming. Scouts too were dispatched from Fort Stanton, New Mexico, down the Pecos to Horsehead Crossing. Another party rushed east from Franklin along the old Butterfield Trail to Hueco Tanks and on to Pope's Crossing on the Pecos. From San Elizario, a third column was sent along the Lower Military Road through Quitman Canyon to Eagle Springs, Van Horne's Wells, and Fort Davis.

Although the Federals found only the tracks of a small party of Rebels on the Pecos, probably those of Skillman, they remained convinced that it was only a matter of time before gray-clad Texans would ride out of the mountains and deserts of the region. Always vigilant, General West told department headquarters in November, 1862, of yet "another story about Skillman," one that he felt had credence: Skillman was in the process of establishing a base on the Rio Grande below Franklin, his supposed purpose being to open communication with Chihuahua for the procurement of supplies while the main Confederate advance moved up the Pecos.<sup>26</sup>

At Franklin, Major McMullen decided to station pickets on the Mexican side of the Rio Grande at Loma Colorada and Loma Blanca opposite San Elizario. In response, the *prefect* of El Paso, José María Uranga, complained vigorously that the presence of Union soldiers on the soil of Mexico was a clear violation of international law.<sup>27</sup> On Christmas Day, 1862, only hours after receiving Uranga's protest, a courier splashed across the river with McMullen's response. Without mentioning Skillman by name, McMullen accused Uranga of "permitting the avowed enemies of the United States . . . to establish an outpost in the town of El Paso from which to send out Mexican and Indian spies to learn the strength and movements of U.S. troops in New Mexico and Texas."<sup>28</sup> McMullen furthermore criticized Uranga for allowing the Rebels to pass freely about on the right bank of the river with passes signed by the *prefect*. Shocked by McMullen's brashness and bad manners, Uranga responded four days later that he had the right to admit to El Paso "all inhabitants of the world without investigating their opinions regarding the conflict in the United States."<sup>29</sup> Two weeks later, McMullen warned General West that during the "middle of Nov[embe]r a notorious character named Skillman arrived in El Paso" bragging that a Rebel army was within ten days'

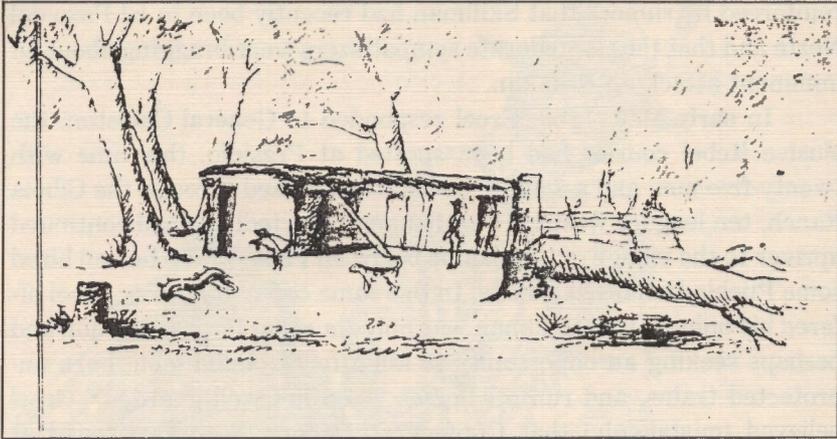
march of the Pass. "I expect the Rebels in El Paso to leave the town in small squads and unite at Guadalupe or San Ignacio; then to pass down the Mexican side of the Rio Grande and join Skillman."<sup>30</sup>

Realizing the tense situation on the border, especially at Franklin and El Paso del Norte, General West decided to send Colonel David Fergusson to Ciudad Chihuahua to consult with Governor Lufs Terrazas. Fergusson was to object to Skillman and his men using Mexican soil to spy on the Union army. Specifically, Fergusson was to tell Terrazas that Skillman had crossed from Texas into Mexico "as fully armed as when acting in the field against our troops"; that (General West was sure) Skillman had used the Chihuahuan village of Aguas Calientes, forty miles south of San Elizario, as a base of communications with the Rebel "gang of outlaws" at El Paso "without being in any manner noticed or hindered by the Mexican authorities"; and furthermore that the wily frontiersman had been at Presidio, where he had attempted to "capture and convey into Texas certain citizens temporarily sojourning in that town."<sup>31</sup>

Leaving Mesilla on January 5, 1863, Fergusson, with a small escort, rode south to Franklin and down the Camino Real through the heart of Apache country to Chihuahua, arriving on January 17. Four days later he "met, dined . . . and had considerable social intercourse" with the governor. To the colonel's surprise, Governor Terrazas knew all about Skillman, who had been telling the Mexican alcaldes that he had come for the purpose of trade and was armed "solely for self-defense against Indians." To Fergusson's delight, he learned that Terrazas had already issued orders "for the prevention of the like occurrence again." But Fergusson also learned that Terrazas had some complaints of his own - namely, that a "gang of Mexican and American desperadoes" was using Leaton's Fort on the Texas side of the river below Presidio to launch raids into Mexico and that Edward Hall, a Confederate agent and compatriot of Skillman, headed a gang which had carried off most of the public property at Fort Davis for sale in Chihuahua.<sup>32</sup>

After receiving Fergusson's report of his Chihuahua visit, General Carleton wrote Terrazas, thanking the governor for his cooperation and inviting Mexican soldiers to cross the Rio Grande "to seize the ruffians" at Leaton's Fort.<sup>33</sup>

Federal authorities at Mesilla and Franklin waited anxiously throughout the winter of 1862-1863 for Skillman to lead the Rebel invasion they thought imminent. By March, 1863, however, Reuben



*A sketch of Henry Skillman's ranch house near El Paso, drawn in 1858 by Phocion Way, a mining man. (Courtesy Journal of the Council of America's Military Past)*

W. Creel, a Kentucky-born Unionist merchant at Chihuahua who had been appointed a confidential agent, was suggesting that Skillman's activities in the Trans-Pecos were only to keep open the road between San Antonio and Chihuahua to assure the flow of flour and basic essentials. Nevertheless, Creel warned: "Look out for Skillman and Crowd."<sup>34</sup> One week later Creel wrote that he had received reliable information: the elusive Skillman was at Presidio "with a company of Rangers" and was spreading rumors that the advance guard of a large Confederate force would be arriving soon to garrison Fort Davis before pushing west to Fort Bliss for an eventual invasion of New Mexico. In this same letter, Creel reported that Skillman had appointed a custom house official at Spencer's Ranch (opposite Presidio) and was collecting duties on salt being taken into Mexico from the salt lakes near Fort Stockton.<sup>35</sup>

On April 11, 1863, Governor Terrazas informed General Carleton that "Esquilman" with twelve followers had arrived at the Chihuahuan village of Aldame, where they had given the appearance of "sojourners . . . going to California." According to the governor, the "clothing and manners" of Skillman and his men gave no reason to suspect them to be military men from the South . . .<sup>36</sup> General Carleton immediately wrote to Confidential Agent Creel in Chihuahua: "I pray you will procure through an eye-witness information as to Skillman's present whereabouts."<sup>37</sup> At Mesilla, General West was sure the Rebels were preparing to attack, his conviction

reinforced by rumors that Skillman had recently been in El Paso del Norte and that the Confederate sympathizers were bragging about an imminent attack on Franklin.

In early May, 1863, Creel responded to General Carleton: the elusive Rebel courier had been spotted at Presidio, this time with twenty-five men and a wagon; he had then passed through the Cibola Ranch, ten leagues west of Presidio; and reportedly he had continued upriver to the village of Guadalupe below El Paso, where he had hired some Pueblo Indians as guides. In this same communication, Creel offered his opinion that Skillman was only "hunting for information and perhaps seeking an opportunity to kill a few isolated men, burn unprotected trains, and run off horses when not well guarded." Creel believed (mistakenly) that Confederate troops were garrisoned at Fort Davis and were assigned only to keep open the Chihuahua Road to San Antonio. He also believed that if Confederate soldiers were anywhere near Presidio "women and whisky [sic] would have called them over" to the Mexican side and he would have learned of it.<sup>38</sup>

At department headquarters in Santa Fe, General Carleton remained concerned that Skillman would strike one of his isolated garrisons. From Franklin, unionist W. W. Mills wrote John Watts, congressional delegate for New Mexico Territory, expressing similar concerns. In turn, Watts wrote Carleton: "I fear a raid . . . before we are ready to meet him."<sup>39</sup> In Mesilla, General West became convinced that Mexican authorities were less than sincere in their offer of cooperation in apprehending Skillman. Determined to strike first, West declared: "If I catch a rebel in Mexican territory spying upon our movements, I will hang him . . . and apologize for it afterwards."<sup>40</sup>

To guard against any surprise, Union pickets were stationed downriver at Fort Quitman, as well as at Hueco Tanks. From there, scouts were sent deeper into Texas. One patrol rode east along the abandoned Butterfield Stage route to Pope's Crossing on the Pecos River, then downriver to Horsehead Crossing where they found an old Indian trail leading them to Fort Stockton at Comanche Springs. On the return, the Federals followed the Lower Military Road west through Limpia Pass to Fort Davis and finally to Fort Quitman. What the Union scouts found in the area "staggered belief," reported General West. Not only was Fort Davis vacant but the entire Lower Military Road was "overgrown with weeds."<sup>41</sup> No wagons or troops had passed over the route in six months. Nevertheless, West sent a spy to Presidio to see whether Skillman's whereabouts could be determined.

DRAMA IN THE DESERT



*This drawing by José Cisneros, taken from his book Riders Across the Centuries: Horsemen of the Spanish Borderlands (El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1984), is entitled "Buckskin, c. 1840." Such a man as it depicts was Henry S. Skillman, a Southwest frontiersman who in 1862 became a spy for the Confederacy and thus the object of a prolonged, widespread search by Union Army officials occupying New Mexico and the El Paso region. (Courtesy Texas Western Press and José Cisneros)*

While Federal patrols remained in the saddle, Creel was seriously questioning the rumors from Presidio. "They are trying to make us think that an army of Texans are coming to attack you," Creel told General West.<sup>42</sup> However, Creel intensified the search for Skillman. He made arrangements with José Marino, who owned a large hacienda west of Presidio, to have friendly Lipan Apache scout north to Fort Davis in an attempt to pick up Skillman's trail. From Marino, Creel learned that Skillman had gone to El Paso, but had apparently not returned to Presidio for supplies, as was his custom. Creel surmised that Skillman was "scouting about Gen'l West's line" or that he had returned to San Antonio via a route north of Fort Davis. "What has become of Skillman and where did he go to get supplies?" Creel anxiously queried.<sup>43</sup>

Creel's guess as to Skillman's destination was right on target. On June 8, 1863, General John Magruder, commanding the Confederate District of Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, reported that Skillman, "commanding our spy company," had arrived back at San Antonio with the vital information that "There were but 2,000 [Union] troops this side of California and that Federal commanders in New Mexico were "showing great fear of an invasion." Based on Skillman's information, Magruder was anxious to "take possession of New Mexico and Arizona."<sup>44</sup>

In the fall of 1863, Vice Consul Kimmey informed General West that Skillman had left San Antonio for El Paso, his intentions being "to watch your movements."<sup>45</sup> Rebel sympathizers in El Paso del Norte were bragging that Skillman was on his way with two hundred men prepared to launch a surprise attack on Fort Bliss. At Presidio, rumors were common that Skillman was raising a company of forty Mexicans and Indians with promises of food, powder and ammunition and plans of going "up to El Paso and steal horses from the U.S. troops."<sup>46</sup>

By December, 1863, Skillman was said to be riding upriver from Presidio with thirty men. With five of his men, he had reportedly gone ahead to the village of San Ygnacio below El Paso. Several letters had arrived on the right bank, displaying on the envelopes after the address, "por favor del Sr. Captain Skillman."<sup>47</sup>

Late in 1863, however, exciting news reached the Federal lines that would help to alter both Rebel and Union strategy in Texas. An express from Brazos Island near the mouth of the Rio Grande arrived at Franklin by way of Monterrey, Parras, and Chihuahua with word that the long-awaited Union occupation of the lower Rio Grande was

under way. General Nathaniel P. Banks, in command of the Rio Grande Expedition, had arrived in Texas with a 6,000-man army to cut the Texas cotton trade and show the Stars and Stripes to the French Imperialists in Mexico. Anxious for the two Union armies to cooperate in a movement toward San Antonio, General Banks wasted no time in writing General Carleton, who, faced with a serious Indian war in his rear, felt that such a move by his small army would be impossible.<sup>48</sup> Carleton was interested, however, in disrupting the extensive cotton traffic on the road from San Antonio to Eagle Pass and was seriously contemplating a "secret march" to establish a base of operation at Leaton's Fort below Presidio from which he could strike at Eagle Pass to destroy the cotton there.<sup>49</sup>

With two Union armies now on the Rio Grande, Rebel strategy reverted to a defensive posture with little hope of offensive operations to regain New Mexico, and Skillman's value to the Confederacy became even more crucial than before. Confederate Colonel John S. "Rip" Ford (who was recruiting men in San Antonio with the intention of driving the Federals out of the Lower Rio Grande Valley) wrote in February, 1864, "I would state that much may be expected from Captain Skillman, who will give reliable information of the intentions and movements of the enemy."<sup>50</sup> To speed dispatches from the upper Rio Grande, Ford was interested in helping Skillman establish a line of couriers on the Mexican side of the river all the way from Eagle Pass to El Paso. Even James Magoffin was of the opinion that he could best serve the Confederacy by placing himself at a point in Mexico "to ascertain the doings of the Yankees."<sup>51</sup>

But the grand schemes of Skillman and his allies were not to be. In early 1864, as Skillman swaggered into the barren expanses west of San Antonio on one of his daring courier missions, another Federal scouting party, this time under Captain Albert H. French, was sent east to find him. French was more than familiar with West Texas and New Mexico Territory, for in late 1862 he had escorted ninety-three Rebel prisoners through the region to Fort Clark. In July, 1863, he had fought Indians on the Rio Grande near Fort Thorn; and in February, 1864, while operating out of Fort West, he had been seriously wounded by Mimbres Apache on the Black River in Arizona.<sup>52</sup>

On April 3, 1864, Captain French, now fully recovered from his wounds, rode out of San Elizario. With twenty-five men of Company A of the California Column and twenty days' rations on pack mules,

French made his way downriver to Fort Quitman, now abandoned, before turning east along the Military Road through Quitman Canyon and beyond. Three weeks later, French arrived back at San Elizario after an exhausting 170-mile march from Presidio. With him were four prisoners and the news that he had killed Henry Skillman.

What follows are three letters, heretofore buried in the records of the Department of New Mexico – and for some reason not contained in the voluminous *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* – describing in dramatic detail the death of Henry Skillman and what amounted to a death knell for the Confederacy in the Trans-Pecos.<sup>53</sup>

*Headquarters, District of Arizona  
April 25, 1864*

*General:*

*Capt. A. H. French, 1st Cavalry, California volunteers, returned to San Elizario, Texas, yesterday from his expedition below with the most gratifying news. I send you herewith his interesting report. He found the noted rebel, Captain Skillman, and party near Presidio del Norte, at Spencer's Ranch; attacked them at one o'clock on the morning of the 15th inst., killed Skillman, mortally wounded two of his men, took four prisoners, and but two escaped, one of them badly wounded; also captured the mail for El Paso, which I forward you, four horses, five mules, and everything they had except a few animals which stampeded. Captain French has exhibited a vigor, energy and vigilance in this movement that reflects the highest credit upon him as an officer, and he awards his men the highest praise for their gallant conduct.*

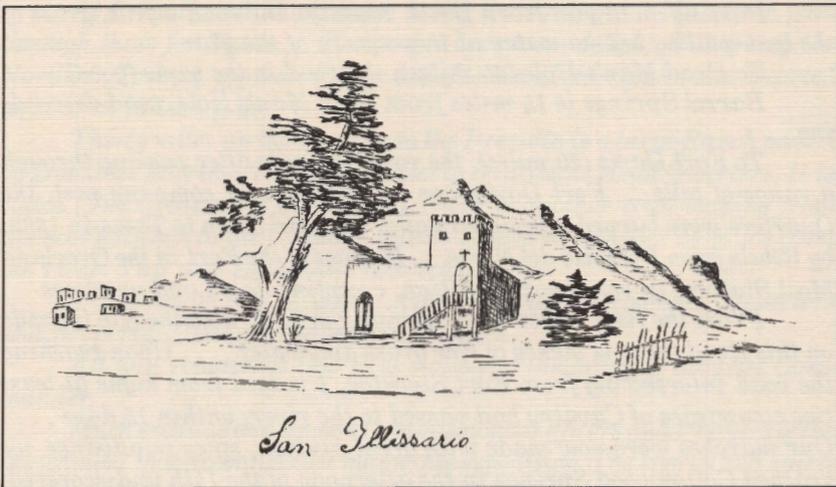
*The history of the war does not present a more daring, hazardous, and successful result than this expedition, and Captain French has well earned an enviable name.*

*The prisoners brought by him I will have at once sent to Fort Craig, and direct that the captured animals be turned over to the Quartermaster.*

*Very respectfully,  
Your obedient servant  
G. W. Bowie  
Col, 5th Inf. Cal Vols, Commanding*

*Head Quarters, Dept of New Mexico  
Santa Fe, N.M., May 3rd, 1864*

*Official: Cyrus H. DeForrest  
Aide-de-Camp*



Entitled "San Illisario" and copied by El Paso artist Winifred M. Middagh from a sketch made by a Union soldier in the early 1860s, this drawing depicts the chapel at the Presidio of San Elizario (Elceario). From this fortress on April 3, 1864, Captain Albert H. French led a scouting party which brought to a conclusion the long search by Union forces for Confederate spy Henry Skillman. (The original sketch from the C. C. Hill papers, University of Texas Archives, courtesy Dr. W. H. Timmons)

---

*Capt. Chas. A. Smith*  
*5th Inf. Cal Vols.*

*A. A. A. G., Franklin, Texas*  
*San Elizario, Texas*  
*April 24th, 1864*

*Captain*

*I have the honor to submit the following report.*

*Agreeable to instructions received from District Head Quarters, dated March 31st 1864, I proceeded on the 3rd of April 1864, with 25 men, 20 days rations and pack mules, down the Rio Grande.*

*From San Elizario, Texas, to the point below Fort Quitman where the road leaves the river (70 miles) there is but little grass . . . \* From Camp Farge [?] on the river to Eagle Springs (36) miles, the road is excellent, excepting the pass of 9 miles on first leaving the river . . .*

---

\*The editor has taken the liberty of omitting here, and in subsequent passages of this report, various details pertaining to the location of water and to the kinds of vegetation encountered along the route.

*Passing on to Van Horn Wells, 20 miles, the road is fine, grass of the best quality but no water at this season of the year . . . .*

*To Dead Man's Hole (35 miles), the road is the same (good) . . . .*

*Barrel Springs is 14 miles from Dead Man's Hole, road descending . . . .*

*To Fort Davis (20 miles), the road descends after passing through a range of hills.... Fort Davis was originally a six company post, the Quarters were burned a few hours after I passed down to Texas in 1862, by Rebels from Presidio del Norte.... In front of the Fort in the Overland Mail Station, in very good condition, excepting doors and windows.*

*From the first water after leaving Fort Davis to the Rio Grande on this Road there is plenty of fine grass and water . . . . Upon reaching the road intersecting from Fort Stockton, I judged from signs at least two companies of Cavalry had passed to the river, within 15 days . . . . Our marches were now made with great caution, spies in advance, we reached Cottonwood Springs in the afternoon of the 14th undiscovered. By an inscription on a tree, I learned that Capt Skillman and party arrived there on the 3rd inst. My intelligent guides were sent forward, and after dark returned to where I had unsaddled 6 miles from the river, reporting Skillman and party present in camp at Spencer's Ranch near the crossing. At 1/2 past 12 [on the] morning of the 15th we unsaddled and left our horses in charge of a guard at a deserted ranch one mile from the rebel camp. At 1/2 past one we had possession of it.*

*There was fighting for a few moments. Skillman and a few others though invited would not surrender, but replied to the demand with Carbine and Six shooter. Those that foolishly engaged in this fell dead or wounded, among the dead was Capt. Skillman. Of Ten in all, two escaped across the river in the dark, one of them wounded, two were killed, two mortally wounded, and four taken prisoners. The wounded could not be removed and were properly cared for. None of my men were injured.... Five horses 4 mules and all the arms, provisions, Forage and Camp Equipage fell into our hands, that which was useless and could not be transported was destroyed. Their intention was to leave for Eagle Spring in a few days to spy about El Paso, supposing us all asleep. (of this they informed me)*

*Seven deserters came into Camp, having arrived a few days before from some point on Red River where they deserted in January with fifty-nine others they have suffered much. Two I have brought with me, the others being worn out sick and unable to travel I allowed to remain there. As soon as possible they will report here.*

*I returned to Fort Quitman by the trail up the river, distance 170 miles, a very bad trail, yet this was Skillmans trail.... We were seven, and reached Fort Quitman the 22nd without provisions being obliged to destroy some on account of broken down animals.*

DRAMA IN THE DESERT

*At Presidio del Norte there is but little forage.... No trains pass through these for Texas.... The people here were delighted at seeing the Northern Troops, expressed their satisfaction at the results and escorted us several miles up the river....*

*Thirty miles up the river from the Presidio is a large Ranch owned by Don Jose Marino. This was formerly Skillmans Head Quarters. It is called (The Crossing of the stones.) There is another trail leading from Spencer's Ranch to the Cibolo, a pueblo of several families 24 miles from the river. This was Skillmans new trail....*

*I arrived at San Elizario April 24th with Prisoners, Deserters and property, Distance travelled 299 miles.*

*All will remain at this Post subject to the order of the Dist Commander.*

*Much credit is due the non Commissioned Officers and Privates of the detachment that accompanied me on this expedition. The energy and spirit displayed at Spencers Ranch, the toil, the privations suffered on the march without a murmur [sic] is but the cropping out of the rich deposit of patriotism within which now as the expiration of their enlistment draws near will hardly be uncovered. Much credit is due to Mr. George Kohlhaus the interpreter Miguel Garcia and Pedro Jupie the guides for the faithful manner in which they discharged their duties but for our experience among Indians, we might have been in this matter unsuccessful. Capt. Skillman was engaged in collecting customs on Salt and other articles at Spencers Ranch.*

*Accompanying this Report is the San Antonio Mail.*

*Respectfully,  
Your Obt. Servt  
A. H. French  
Capt 1st Cala. Cav.*

---

*San Elizario Texas*

*May 5th 1864*

*To Brig General James H. Carleton*

*Comg Dept of N.M.*

*Santa Fe, N.M.*

*General:*

*I have the honor to comply with the desire expressed in your official letter of thanks to myself and men of the 29th of April 1864 and received today.*

*As two parties were present, one of Californians and one of Texans, I will mention the names of both. Those who accompanied me were  
1st Sergt H[enry] C. Lawson  
Corpl James Botiford [Botsford]*

Corpl [Thomas] Allen  
 Corpl [William] Semmlerogge [Semmbrogge]  
 Corpl [Martin] Redely [Reddy]  
 Farrier [Harry A.] Burns  
 Trumpeter [Charles] Luce  
 Privates [Bowers] Blake [John J.] Kennedy  
 " [William] Boyland [Thomas] McGoldrick  
 " [William] Chatfield [James] Murray  
 " [Samuel] Dean [William A.] Mudgett  
 " [John] Drinan [Johnson W.] Neal  
 " [John S.] Dunlap [William] Reilly  
 " [Frank] Foley [John] Schur  
 " [Charles W.] Gill [George W.] Walker  
 " [Thomas] Jamieson [George] Youngsten [Youngson]

Miguel Garcia Guides  
 Pedro Juapie [Guipia]  
 George Kohlhaus [Kohlaus] Intpr

*Of the Texans there were*

Capt Henry Skillman  
 [Jarvis] Hubble Ford  
 Thimble Coburn  
 Clown [Garner] Hoover  
 Tom Riffe [Rife] Allen  
 McMullen

*The attack was made when the moon was about one hour high or rather before it went down, the men were moved some 200 yds on their hands and knees by file and with distance when within some twenty yards of their camp [illegible] cover of an old ditch we laid down and rested in silence; every man seemed to know his business. Garcia and myself being dressed in buckskin carefully crept into camp to dispose of the Sentinel (I could not say to kill him.) The sleepers were all around us and for the time we were as sleepers with them. The sentinel could not be discovered he was probably with the horses. As there was a man on post. The camp was in a "Monte" and the light of the moon did not reveal all.*

*As carefully returning to the men, I passed down the line and told each one this: do not shoot first, invite everyone to surrender, do not be foolish as at Picacho, if you shoot don't miss, I promise you success. I led them in, two men rose up at my feet. Do you surrender? Yes - leave that bed, sit down (Copl. Allen took charge of them). The others were busy. McMullen rose up from a bush and shot at one of my men*

then those that had not been found commenced from all quarters the same foolish act. At the first shot I passed through the camp to where the provisions were piled up thinking that Skillman was there. I [illegible] him my instructions mentioned his name in particular. I had scarcely reached the pile of provisions etc. when near me a large man rushed out of the bushes – and said in a loud voice, What the Hell is all this? Who says surrender? I stepped forward and told him, I did, he quickly raised a pistol and shot at me, a carbine discharged close to him must have diverted his aim, the ball missed me and hit a horse. He turned towards the flash of the carbine and instantly shot again; he dropped dead at the report without ever speaking.

All this happened in a few moments and soon after he fell all were under guard. A few of them were intent on fighting, the others gave up immediately and I think were glad to make the change. Ford who was on guard among the horses threw everything away and run into the river. Thimble was shot at both [illegible] seen him, he crawled into the brush and escaped. We immediately removed our horses from the old ranch to the rebel camp . . . that was well selected and would be considered unsafe to attack.

Skillmans men told me that the night of the attack before he (Skillman) retired he said I do not like this trip as well as the others I have taken, I feel bad, Something is wrong, etc. etc. retired with his shoes on and all his clothes. By the blessing of God I have accomplished this much for the Union cause. I thank you for each word of interest and satisfaction expressed towards my Co and myself, it is enough for me to know that my General is Satisfied with my labours: I have only done my duty and carried out instructions received to the best of my poor abilities.

I am with high regard  
Your Obedt Servt  
A. H. French  
Capt 1st Cala Cav.

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## Epilogue

A number of Skillman's men can be identified from various primary and secondary sources. Jarvis Hubbell (Hubble), who had been postmaster at Franklin in 1854, is listed on the 1860 El Paso County census as thirty-eight and a miller living at San Elizario. The Connecticut-born Hubbell was eventually killed by Apache in an ambush at Bass

Canyon near Van Horn Wells in January, 1868. George "Clown" Garner had earlier been a guard on the San Antonio-Franklin Mail. Tom Rife was one of the first drivers on the San Antonio-Franklin Mail and had been a friend of Skillman's since 1852. Rife had also driven for George Giddings in 1861-62. He is listed on the 1850 Bexar County census as single, twenty-five, born in Mississippi, and a "Ranger."

William (Bill) M. Ford, a friend of Ben Dowell, ran a saloon at Franklin before the war and was a sub-contractor for Giddings at San Elizario. He later became sheriff of El Paso County. Ford is listed on the 1860 El Paso County census as thirty-one and a New York-born merchant living at San Elizario. McMullen is probably James McMullen who is listed on the 1860 census at Gila City, age thirty-five and a Tennessee-born merchant. Thimble, Coburn, Hoover, and Allen cannot be identified with any certainty.

Captain French's guide, Pedro Guipia, later robbed and killed James L. Taylor near Hart's Mill in October, 1867. In turn, Guipia was killed by a deputy sheriff fifteen miles upriver from El Paso in 1868. French's interpreter, the German-born George Kohlhaus, was an ex-California columnist who had settled at San Elizario.

The Massachusetts-born French hoped to return to California to join a sweetheart after the war, but stayed on at El Paso, where he married Benancia "Nancy" Stephenson, daughter of Hugh Stephenson. French obtained contracts to supply corn and beef to the garrisons at Forts Bayard, Selden, and Sumner. With three partners, he located three copper mines in the Santa Rita area, staked out several gold claims, and helped to organize the Bay State Mining Company at Pinos Altos. He was also a shareholder in the Carrasco Mining Company with claims in the Organ Mountains. At El Paso, he purchased at public auction James Magoffin's property at old Fort Bliss and through his father-in-law obtained one-sixth of the Concordia Ranch. French became a staunch Republican and a business associate of W. W. Mills as well as a member of the State Police. On December 8, 1870, he killed B. F. Williams following a political feud in which the drunken Williams had seriously wounded Albert Fountain. French died on January 11, 1877, in the State Hospital in Austin - a hospital for the insane. He was forty-one years old.

One hundred years after French died in Austin, residents of Presidio were excavating a new grave in the Catholic Cemetery when they uncovered the remains of an earlier burial. The skeleton was

## DRAMA IN THE DESERT

huge with blond hair and a long blond beard. Locals were sure they had discovered the remains of Henry S. Skillman.

**DR. JERRY D. THOMPSON**, Professor of History at Laredo State University and an authority on Civil War operations in the Southwest, is the author of many articles and book reviews which have appeared in prestigious historical journals. A contributor of several entries to the *Handbook of Texas* and the *Encyclopedia of Southern History* and the editor of *From Canyon to Bayou: The Civil War Journal and Sketches of Morgan Wolfe Merrick* (Texas Western Press: 1991), he is also the author of a number of books, including *Sabers on the Rio Grande* (Austin: Presidial Press, 1974) and *Henry Hopkins Sibley: Confederate General of the West* (Natchitoches: Northwestern State University Press, 1987). His most recent book, *Desert Tiger: James "Paddy" Graydon and the Civil War in the Far Southwest*, is scheduled for release from Texas Western Press in the fall of 1992.

## NOTES

1. W. W. Mills, *Forty Years at El Paso, 1858-1898* edited with notes by Rex Strickland (El Paso: Carl Hertzog, 1962), 85-86. For brief sketches of Skillman, see: Jack D. Scannell, "Henry Skillman, Texas Frontiersman," *Permian Historical Annual* 18 (December, 1978), 19-32; Francis J. Johnston, "Henry Skillman, A Confederate Courier," *Journal of the Council of America's Military Past* (1961), 15-23; Wayne R. Austerman, *Sharps Rifles and Spanish Mules: The San Antonio-El Paso Mail, 1851-1881* (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 1985), 19-23, 42-62, 92-99, 314-320; and Roy L. Swift, *Three Roads to Chihuahua: The Great Wagon Roads that Opened the Southwest, 1823-1883* (Austin: Eakin Press, 1988), 96-99, 199-202.
2. Waterman L. Ormsby, *The Butterfield Overland Mail* (San Marino: Huntington Library, 1954), 68.
3. *Mesilla Times*, October 12, 1861, quoted in *Memphis Daily Appeal*, October 23, 1861.
4. J. R. West to Reuben W. Creel, May 26, 1863, *Official Records of the War of the Rebellion* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1889), series 1, volume 50, 458. These records will hereafter be referred to as *O.R.*
5. G. W. Bowie to [James Carleton], April 25, 1864, LR, Dept. of NM.
6. *Rio Abajo Weekly Press*, May 3, 1864.
7. A. H. French to Chas. A. Smith, April 24, 1864, LR, Dept. of NM.
8. Mills, 189-190.
9. Austerman, 19. For Skillman's later service as a wagon master on the Santa Fe Trail, see Louise Barry, *The Beginnings of the West: Annals of the Kansas Gateway to the American West* ed. Dale L. Morgan (Topeka: Kansas State Historical Society, 1972), 580, 639.
10. Mills, 189.
11. *Ibid.*
12. Clayton W. Williams, *Never Again*, vol. 2 (San Antonio: The Naylor Company, 1969), 160.
13. Mills, 189.
14. Austerman, 42-62. Of particular interest are the Zenas R. Bliss "Memoirs" at the Barker Texas History Center at the University of Texas, Austin.
15. Austerman, 92.

16. *Mesilla Times*, August 24, 1861. There is no record, however, of Skillman officially enrolling in the Confederate Army. He is listed on the 1860 El Paso County census at Concordia, age forty-five, a New Jersey-born contractor, with real estate and personal property of \$2,000. Living with him were Rufina Vigil, forty, Josefa Garcia, thirty-five, and Nicholas Garcia, twelve.
17. Austerman, 180.
18. *Mesilla Times*, October 12, 1861, quoted in *Memphis Daily Appeal*, October 23, 1861.
19. J. Bankhead Magruder to S. Cooper, June 8, 1863, *O.R.*, 1, 216, pt. 2: 62.
20. James H. Carleton to Lorenzo Thomas, November 16, 1862, *O.R.*, 1, 15: 597. Also, Joseph R. West to Edwin A. Rigg, November 11, 1862, *O.R.*, 1, 15: 598.
21. James H. Carleton to Joseph R. West, November 18, 1862, *O.R.*, 1, 15: 599-601.
22. Edward B. Willis to W. L. Rynerson, November 26, 1862, *O.R.*, 1, 15: 606-607.
23. H. J. Caniffe [sic] to P. R. Tully, November 26, 1862, *O.R.*, 1, 15: 606. The *Houston Tri-Weekly Telegraph* of February 13, 1863, reported that Skillman had "visited Arizona."
24. J. R. West to William McMullen, November 27, 1862, *O.R.*, 1, 50: 232.
25. William McMullen to J. R. West, December 1, 1862, Unregistered Letters Received, Dept. of NM.
26. J. R. West to Benj. C. Cutler, November 30, 1862, *O.R.*, 1, 15: 605-606.
27. Jose Ma. Uranga to [William McMullen], December 24, 1862. William Gillett Ritch Collection, Huntington Library, San Marino, California. The letters exchanged between Uranga and McMullen are quoted in their entirety in C. L. Sonnichsen, "Major McMullen's Invasion of Mexico," *Password*, II, 2 (May, 1957), 38-43. Two of the letters are in the *Official Records*.
28. Wm. McMullen to Jose Ma. Uranga, December 25, 1862, Ritch Collection.
29. Jose Ma. Uranga to [William McMullen], December 29, 1862, Ritch Collection.
30. Wm. McMullen to J. R. West, January 16, 1863, Ritch Collection.
31. J. R. West to David Fergusson, January 3, 1863, *O.R.*, 1, 15: 635.
32. D. Fergusson to Joseph R. West, February 13, 1863 (second letter), *O.R.*, 1, 15: 674. Edward Hall had married the widow of Ben Leaton in 1851 and had assumed control of the adobe fortress. Hall is listed on the 1860 Presidio County census as Scottish, thirty-nine, and a farmer at Presidio del Norte, along with Isabella and Santiago "Leighton," twenty-one and twelve respectively, and their mother, Juana, forty-three.
33. James H. Carleton to Luis Terrazas, February 20, 1863, Letters Sent, Dept. of NM.
34. Reuben W. Creel to James H. Carleton, March 23, 1863, LR, Dept. of NM.
35. Reuben W. Creel to Comg. Officer, Mesilla, March 31, 1863, *O.R.*, 1, 15: 701.
36. Luis Terrazas to James H. Carleton, April 11, 1863, *O.R.*, 1, 15: 701.
37. James H. Carleton to Reuben W. Creel, April 23, 1863, *O.R.*, 1, 15: 708-709.
38. Reuben W. Creel to James H. Carleton, May 3, 1863, LR, Dept. of NM.
39. John Watts to James H. Carleton, May 8, 1863, LR, Dept. of NM.
40. J. R. West to Ben C. Cutler, May 12, 1863, LR, Dept. of NM.
41. J. R. West to Ben C. Cutler, May 23, 1863, LR, Dept. of NM.
42. Reuben W. Creel to West, May 1, 1863, LR, Dept. of NM.
43. Reuben W. Creel to James H. Carleton, June 1, 1863, LR, Dept. of NM.
44. J. Bankhead Magruder to S. Cooper, June 8, 1863, *O.R.*, 1, 26, pt. 2: 62.
45. M. M. Kimmey to J. R. West, October 17, 1863, *O.R.*, 1, 26, pt. 2: 918.
46. William Hagehsiel[?] to Reuben Creel, October 2, 1863, ULR, Dept. of NM.
47. E. Angerstein to J. R. West, December 15, 1863, LR, Dept. of NM.
48. N. P. Banks to General Car[le]ton, November 5, 1863, LR, Dept. of NM.
49. James H. Carleton to H. W. Halleck, March 20, 1864, *O.R.*, 1, 34, pt. 2: 671.
50. John S. Ford to E. R. Turner, February 8, 1864, 1, 53, supplement: 968.
51. John S. Ford to Maj. Gen. Magruder, February 9, 1864, LR, District of New Mexico, Arizona, and Texas, Confederate War Department, RG 109.
52. Summary of Principal Events, February 24, 1864, 1, 15: 229.
53. The first letter and portions of the second were published in the *Santa Fe New Mexican*, May 7, 1864. Roy L. Swift, *Three Roads to Chihuahua: The Great Wagon Roads That Opened the Southwest, 1823-1883*, 355-356. Corrected names of all soldiers in Comapny A, 1st California Cavalry, are from the Compiled Military Service Records of the soldiers indicated. Corp. James Botsford had been wounded in the Battle of Picacho Pass in April, 1862, while Corp. William Semmbrogge was wounded in the Stanwix Station Affair the previous month. This helps to explain French's warning to his men "not to be foolish as at Picacho."



# THE HOUSE ON GOLDEN HILL TERRACE

by Nora Henn

*Editor's note: An earlier version of the following essay appeared in Mountain Passages (Summer, 1990).*

**F**or those who love old houses, the hungry eye almost involuntarily scans the landscape, rural or urban, for their disappearing forms and careful features. Whether it was the white-columned, two-storied portico gleaming against the red brick walls or the cypress-sentineled house silhouetted against the pale barren flank of Mount Franklin which caught our attention as we sped along Interstate 10 through El Paso is hard to say. But the sight was memorable and haunting. Whose was that Southern-style mansion located on a hill overlooking the Rio Grande?

Inquiry identified the house as the former home of Albert Bacon Fall and family. Ah, a mansion to match the prominence of the man, caught up in the Teapot Dome scandal of the 1920s. But, hadn't he been a prominent New Mexican? How had he come to build this home in El Paso, Texas?

Further inquiry and some research revealed the story.

A. B. Fall had arrived at one of those watershed years common to us all. The year was 1901. His marriage to Miss Emma Morgan of

Clarksville, Texas, in 1893 had been a love match. Their four bright, healthy children filled his heart with pride: a son and three daughters, ages sixteen, fourteen, eleven, and seven.<sup>1</sup>

Young Fall had worked in the mines of Mexico before he met and married Emma, and the following year he had left her with her parents while he set out with her brother to seek their fortunes at Kingston, a thriving gold-mining camp in southwestern New Mexico Territory. It was here that Fall met Edward L. Doheny, who would become his lifelong friend. Doheny failed to strike it rich at Kingston, but in 1892 he would discover oil near Los Angeles and become a multi-millionaire.<sup>2</sup>

Mainly self-taught, Fall had read a little law back home in Kentucky, and by 1887 had come to the conclusion that there was more gold to be had by practicing law than by digging at Kingston. Hence, he reunited his family at Las Cruces, New Mexico, some forty-odd miles upriver from El Paso. Within a dozen years he had a flourishing far-flung law practice and an impressive career in politics as a Democrat in this Republican Territory. But he was a dissatisfied Democrat, and his financial interests now lay in El Paso.<sup>3</sup>

So 1901 was Fall's year of decision. He resigned from the Democratic party, joined the Republican, and, though continuing to pursue his political career in New Mexico, moved with his family to El Paso, where he was already a member of the law firm of Clark, Fall, Hawkins, and Franklin. He purchased a new house on the corner of Ochoa and Wyoming, but three months later the family was living at 1801 Rio Grande.<sup>4</sup>

Fall soon became associated with "Colonel" William C. "Bill" Greene ("Copper King of Cananea") in Sonora, Mexico. By 1902 he had become general manager of Greene's extensive mining interests in Mexico, and by 1906 had acquired a modest fortune for his efforts. He could now afford some long-postponed aspirations: a model ranching operation for himself and a home for his Emma to match the vanished Southern era of gracious living.<sup>5</sup>

Emma Morgan Fall's father had been a Representative of Texas in Jefferson Davis' Congress. Albert Fall's grandparents had tilled Kentucky soil at Poplar Hill Farm near Frankfort for years before his father was born. (After Fall settled in Las Cruces, he himself actually experimented with the cultivation of Kentucky white burley tobacco.)<sup>6</sup>

In 1897 Fall had become attracted to the desirable and historic ranch at Three Rivers, New Mexico, when he had initiated mortgage foreclosure proceedings on it for some of his clients. A large ranching

operation had existed there for some time, originally managed by Pat Coghlan – merchant, cattleman, and “King of the Tularosa” who, in the early days, had trafficked in stolen stock rustled by Billy the Kid and his *compadres*; later it had belonged to Sue McSween Barber, “Cattle Queen of New Mexcio,” who had lost both her husband and her elegantly furnished home at Lincoln in the flaming climax of New Mexico’s Lincoln County War in 1878.<sup>7</sup> Now, almost twenty years later, Fall set his sights on owning the ranch and began buying out his clients’ interests one by one. On January 26, 1906, he at last received the final deed.<sup>8</sup> The long, roomy adobe ranch-headquarters house had been built by Sue McSween Barber and was considered luxurious in its day. But it was primitive by 1906 standards, and Fall would build a new and grander home nearby.

Success on all fronts also had Fall on the proverbial horns of dilemma. Although his political career and personal ties were irrevocably set in New Mexico, his financial interests demanded his presence in El Paso and continuing dual residency (a point not lost on his political opponents).

Thus it was, when the *El Paso Herald* of April 25, 1906, carried the announcement that “Judge A. B. Fall is one of the latest to complete plans for a residence [to be] located on a commanding terrace in Golden Hill Terrace [today’s 1725 Arizona Street].<sup>9</sup> The structure is to be elaborate in design [at an estimated cost of] about \$14,000.” The same edition also carried advertisements of “Government Hills [sic] suburb lots for sale from \$100 to \$150 per lot”; El Paso Dental Parlor’s “best set of teeth \$7.00, extracting, 50¢”; and the Lyric Theater’s nightly admissions of 15¢, 25¢, and 35¢. The headlines of the day were of the aftermath of the great San Francisco earthquake and fire of the previous week.

Emma Fall had selected the site for its commanding view and had sketched her floorplan requirements. Ernest Krause of El Paso designed the house, and Mitchell & Halbeck of Chicago drew up the architectural plans and specifications. But it was Albert Fall’s idea to use sand, six inches of it, between floors in order to soundproof his library downstairs from footsteps above – a wise decision, for eventually there were eleven grandchildren.

In the reception hall was an enormous fireplace, six feet wide by five feet high, and a handsome oaken stairway illuminated by a very large Tiffany-glass window, reportedly designed and installed by the same firm which did the great Tiffany dome in the Paso del Norte

Hotel.<sup>10</sup> There were fireplaces in the parlor, library, music room, and dining room on the lower floor and in each of the six bedrooms upstairs. Ceilings were thirteen feet high, and the downstairs floors were of parquet. There was a full basement beneath the two stories, and attic rooms above. Mrs. Fall turned over the job of furnishing the house to Robert Keith of Kansas City.<sup>11</sup>

The grounds – two adjoining lots atop a stone-walled terrace – were landscaped with a garden; Emma Fall was soon noted for raising exquisite peonies both here and at Three Rivers. Albert himself built a pergola in the garden as a surprise for Emma upon her return from a trip, “and spattered a fine vest with paint in the process,” she later recalled.<sup>12</sup>

According to their granddaughter Mary Alexina Chase Roberts, “Miss Emma loved living and entertaining there. They knew everybody and gave fabulous parties.”<sup>13</sup>

One of the first festive occasions at the house on Golden Hill Terrace was the wedding breakfast for their eldest daughter, Alexina, and Clarence C. Chase, Colonel Greene’s nephew, who were married in October of 1906.<sup>14</sup>

Three years later, for the December wedding of their second daughter, Carolyn, to Mahlon Thatcher Everhart of Pueblo, Colorado, and president of the Hatchet Cattle Company headquartered in the Tularosa Basin adjoining Three Rivers, the plans and preparations were lavish. But the dinner party at the Fall mansion on the eve of the wedding ended in tragedy when one of the bridesmaids, Margaret Bacon of Evansville, Indiana, presumably Fall’s niece, was stricken suddenly and died of a heart attack despite the efforts of five doctors. Some three weeks later the couple were married at a quiet ceremony in the Fall home.<sup>15</sup>

Eventually there were many other lavish parties for visiting dignitaries, celebrities, and eastern capitalists, the guests arriving as often as not via their private railroad cars en route to tour their mining investments in Mexico. The house on Golden Hill Terrace, states grandson Mahlon Thatcher Everhart, Jr., “Though always second to Three Rivers, . . . was much loved and lived in; Fall children often awaited there the arrival of an imminent grandchild.”<sup>16</sup>

Meanwhile, Fall’s political career was thriving. He had been one of four speakers at the celebration of President Taft’s visit to New Mexico in April of 1909, held at the Alvarado Hotel in Albuquerque. Fall, as last and featured speaker, created an uproar with his address

## THE HOUSE ON GOLDEN HILL



*A recent snapshot of the House on Golden Hill Terrace, the "much loved and lived-in" El Paso residence of Albert B. Fall and his family, 1906-1944. (Courtesy Nora Henn)*

in which he scolded the President of the United States! and a guest, to boot! for dilly-dallying on New Mexico's statehood issue.<sup>17</sup> Nevertheless, Taft signed the enabling act the following year; Fall was elected to the New Mexico Constitutional Convention the next; and was elected the next, in 1912, as one of New Mexico's first two state Senators.

While Senator Fall and his family were preparing for their sojourn in Washington, revolution was afoot in Mexico. Earlier, in 1908, Colonel Greene's company in Mexico had failed and had been bought out by the Sierra Mining Company of Duluth, Minnesota, which then retained Fall as its agent for Mexico with offices in El Paso. Now, the Sierra Mining Company, obeying the orders of President Taft, brought all its American employees out of Mexico; and Fall appointed his right-hand man in Mexico to take charge of the El Paso office.

That right-hand man was Henry Ossian Flipper. Born of slave parents at Thomasville, Georgia, in 1856, Flipper was in 1877 the first black man to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point; and in 1882 he was court-martialed and dishonorably discharged from the army at Fort Davis, Texas.<sup>18</sup> Unjustly humiliated and dishonored, a lesser man might have given in to bitterness. But Flipper, equipped with exceptional strength of character, education,

and talent, set about achieving a career perhaps more distinguished than might have been possible had he remained in the army.

Flipper left Fort Davis on July 1, 1882, and went to El Paso, where he found employment as clerk in a steam laundry. By the fall of 1883 he was surveying public lands in Chihuahua, Mexico, for American firms holding concessions there. By 1890, because of his proficiency in Spanish and his familiarity with Mexican land and mining laws, he was hired by the United States Justice Department as a special agent for the newly created Court of Private Land Claims, to deal with cases in the Gadsden Purchase area. According to Steve Wilson's study on Flipper, "From 1893 to 1901, Flipper researched the Mexican archives, translated thousands of Spanish documents, surveyed land grants over southern Arizona, prepared court cases, and testified as an expert on penmanship."<sup>19</sup> Small wonder that Fall placed such confidence in Flipper, whom he had met through Colonel Greene.

Flipper had first attracted Greene's attention because of their mutual interest in the legendary lost mine of Tayopa. While surveying in the Sierra Madres during 1889, Flipper had come across the oral history of the mine. It was said to have been in bonanza production with a huge store of bullion on hand awaiting shipment in the 1640s, when the mine was "lost," blown up or otherwise concealed, either by natives or Jesuits. Greene had grubstaked Flipper on several search expeditions, but without success. So sure was he of the mine's existence that he sent Flipper to Spain in 1911 to examine the colonial archives for new leads. Greene died before the year was out, cutting short Flipper's mission. But awaiting Flipper was a promotion: his appointment by Albert Fall to head the El Paso office of the Sierra Mining Company.

Flipper returned to El Paso and rented an apartment at 202 East Third Street. The building still stood in February of 1978, when the corner apartment was occupied by an Army Store fittingly named "El Soldado de Chocolate."<sup>20</sup>

When the Mexican Revolution intensified, Chihuahua's aging governor, General Luís Terrazas, and his wife fled to El Paso in 1913, reportedly with twenty wagonloads of retainers and possessions in tow including \$5,000,000 in gold. They made their home-in-exile at the Hotel Paso del Norte, renting an entire floor. It was of Terrazas, perhaps the greatest cattle baron ever, that a wonderful story was told: upon a dealer's query as to whether Terrazas could deliver 10,000 two-year-old steers, Terrazas responded with, "What color?"<sup>21</sup>

## THE HOUSE ON GOLDEN HILL

In 1915, the Fall family, in sympathy with Terrazas and his family, decided to rent the El Paso house to their friends and live at Three Rivers Ranch between sessions of Congress. Terrazas' twenty-six servants occupied the large basement and attic rooms. It was at the house on Golden Hill Terrace that Luís Terrazas, Jr., was reunited with his parents upon his arrival in El Paso on January 8, 1916, having escaped from Pancho Villa's penitentiary at Chihuahua City and two years' imprisonment.<sup>22</sup>

In 1918 Fall was victorious in his bid for re-election as New Mexico Senator. But the family suffered grievous personal losses that year: the flu epidemic claimed the lives of the Fall's only son, John, and their daughter Carolyn Everhart.<sup>23</sup>

Flipper's detailed reports on conditions in Mexico flowed to Fall, as chairman of the Senate subcommittee charged with assessing the impact of the Mexican Revolution on United States economic interests. The reports proved to be so insightful that Flipper was summoned to Washington to serve as interpreter for the committee. When Fall became President Harding's Secretary of Interior in 1921, he appointed Flipper as Assistant Secretary, an appointment which brought Fall high praise from the nation's Negro leaders. Fall also initiated proceedings to have Flipper's army record repudiated and his name cleared,<sup>24</sup> but Flipper was ill-starred in his champion.\* In 1923, Fall resigned as Secretary of Interior under a cloud of scandal for having leased two of the nation's oil reserves—Teapot Dome in Wyoming and Elk Hills in California—to oil magnates Harry F. Sinclair and to Edward L. Doheny, his old friend of Kingston days.

The Senate investigations between 1924-1928 and subsequent trials ended for Fall with a \$100,000 fine and a year's imprisonment, in 1931-1932. The trials of Sinclair, for having conspired with Fall to defraud the United States government, and of Doheny, for having paid Fall a \$100,000 bribe for the Elk Hills lease, both ended in acquittal.

Upon Fall's release from prison, the family resumed residency at Three Rivers and on Golden Hill Terrace. They celebrated their

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\*Author's note: Henry Ossian Flipper died on May 3, 1940, at his home in Atlanta, and was buried there, "unwept, unhonored, and unsung." But persistent efforts over the years by students of Flipper ended successfully in December, 1976, when the Department of the Army granted Flipper an honorable discharge dated June 30, 1882. See Steve Wilson, "A Black Lieutenant in the Ranks," *American History Illustrated*, December, 1983, 39.

fiftieth wedding anniversary in their El Paso home on May 6, 1933, when Mrs. Fall was interviewed by the local press. But more grief was in store for them, as related by C. L. Sonnichsen: "The case had cost Albert Fall seven years of his life. It had taken the last of his strength and all his money."<sup>25</sup>

Although the Three Rivers Ranch was valued at three quarters of a million, Fall had no way of raising the money to pay off his \$100,000 loan from Doheny, the renowned bribe, for which he had signed a mortgage against the ranch. As long as Doheny was alive, Fall could rely upon his friend's generosity in postponing retirement of the note. But in 1935 Doheny died, and Mrs. Doheny, who had disliked Emma Fall since their early days in Washington when she fancied herself snubbed by Emma, now held the whip.

An agent of Doheny's Petroleum Securities Company notified the Falls that the place had been sold and must be vacated.<sup>26</sup> Fall declared that he would not budge, that Doheny had promised to let him retain the ranch house and one hundred surrounding acres no matter what happened, and that, if the ranch were sold, Fall would receive all money from the sale in excess of his actual indebtedness. So Fall went to court again to save the property for his wife and family.

Fall won his battle to retain the ranch property, but the strain took its toll. He was hospitalized and nearly died of pneumonia in December of 1935 and was baptized in his hospital room into the Catholic faith by his old friend Father Albert Braun, of St. Joseph's Church on the Mescalero Apache Reservation, which adjoined Three Rivers Ranch.<sup>27</sup> Fall spent much of the rest of his life in hospitals, and eventually had to sell the Three Rivers property to apply against overdue legal fees, back taxes and fines, and accumulating medical bills and living expenses. After that, he and Emma lived in their house on Golden Hill Terrace until their deaths: Emma's on March 25, 1943; Albert's on November 30, 1944.

In 1947 the family sold the house. The Catholic Church owned it for a time; and private owners later rented rooms as apartments. Today it appears to be vacant.

Grandson Mahlon Thatcher Everhart, Jr., wrote in 1976, "In recent years I scarcely pause as I pass the house, preferring to recall it garden-girthed and kin-filled."<sup>28</sup>

**NORA HENN** is a writer-historian whose articles have appeared in *New Mexico Magazine* and in various historical journals. She and her artist husband, Walter, have lived in Lincoln, New Mexico, since 1965.

## THE HOUSE ON GOLDEN HILL

### NOTES

1. William A. Keleher, *The Fabulous Frontier: Twelve New Mexico Items* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1962), 209-210; *El Paso Times*, May 7, 1933; *El Paso Herald-Post*, March 25, 1943; Emma Fall's obituary, in El Paso vertical file, Pioneers folder, "Fall, A. B.," in El Paso Public Library; David H. Stratton, ed. and ann., "The Memoirs of Albert B. Fall," *Southwest Studies Monograph No. 15* (El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1966), 54, n. 17.
2. Keleher, 209-210; M. R. Werner and John Starr, *Teapot Dome* (New York: Viking Press, 1959), 4.
3. Keleher, 209, 211, 306.
4. *Ibid.*, 217; *El Paso Herald*, September 6, 1901, and January 4, 1902.
5. Stratton, 54, n. 19.
6. *Ibid.*, 13, 58; Keleher, 209; M. T. Everhart, letter of November 15, 1976, to writer; *El Paso Times*, May 7, 1933; *El Paso Herald-Post*, March 25, 1943.
7. Leon Metz, *Pat Garrett, The Story of a Western Lawman* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1974), 162-163; Robert N. Mullin, ed., Maurice Garland Fulton, *History of the Lincoln County War* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1968), 276-277, 383.
8. Stratton, 57, n 29; *El Paso Times*, May 28, 1956, one of a series of three articles on Three Rivers Ranch history by *Times* correspondent Virginia Campbell.
9. According to the late Robert N. Mullin, historian and former El Pasoan, in 1906 Arizona Street came to an end at the western foot of Golden Hill Terrace, and the approach to the Fall house was by way of Nevada Street, which curved south and resumed its identity on the east slope of the knob.
10. El Paso vertical file Pioneers folder "Tunnell Wingo," El Paso Public Library. Personal visit to former Fall home on Golden Hill Terrace by the writer, April 2, 1977.
11. *El Paso Times*, May 7, 1933; *El Paso Herald-Post*, August 17, 1935. Mary Alexina Chase Roberts stated in an interview of April 15, 1976, by Eve Ball, that there was a foot of sand between floors.
12. *El Paso Times*, May 7, 1933.
13. Interview of Mary Alexina Chase Roberts, April 15, 1976, by Eve Ball.
14. *El Paso Herald-Post*, October 27, 1906.
15. Keleher, 219-220, n 4; M. T. Everhart letter of January 24, 1977, to writer; *Society*, Vol. 1, No. 30 (El Paso: December 4, 1909), 1-2.
16. M. T. Everhart letter of January 24, 1977, to writer.
17. Keleher, 220-222.
18. Theodore D. Harris, ed., *Negro Frontiersman: The Western Memoirs of Henry O. Flipper, First Negro Graduate of West Point* (El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1963), vii-viii. *The Colored Cadet at West Point, Autobiography of Lieut. Henry Osian Flipper, First Graduate of Color from the U.S. Military Academy* (New York: Homer Lee & Co., 1878; reprint New York: Arno Press and *The New York Times*, 1969), Introduction to reprint by Sara Dunlap Jackson, National Archives, i-vi.
19. Steve Wilson, "A Black Lieutenant in the Ranks," *American History Illustrated*, December, 1983, 30-39.
20. *The El Paso Journal, Weekly News Magazine*, February 22, 1978, 1-5.
21. C. L. Sonnichsen, *Pass of the North* (El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1968), 400; *El Paso Herald*, December 2, 1913; M. T. Everhart letter of November 19, 1977, to writer.
22. *El Paso Times*, August 17, 1935, and January 8, 1916.
23. Stratton, 54, n 17; Keleher, 230.
24. Harris, 60, n 38.
25. C. L. Sonnichsen, *Tularosa, Last of the Frontier West* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1980), 269.
26. *Ibid.*, 269-270.
27. Keleher, 209; *El Paso Times*, December 13, 1935.
28. M. T. Everhart letter of November 15, 1976, to writer.

40. Maria Garcia, Española, de edad de 40 años, tiene que  
de 20: 11: 10: y 6 años, y dos hijos de 15: y 13 años.
43. Juana Vartaez, Mexicana, de edad de 48 años, tiene  
años, y dos hijos de 18: y 9 años.
42. Maria Juana Nerey, Mexicana, de edad de 47 años, tiene  
lo de 14 años, quatro hijos de 28: 16: 11: y 8 años; un hijo  
de 21 años, y dos truerfarras de 28: y 21 años.
- Indios Tiguas.
43. Rafael Gomez, Labrador, Indio, natural de la Ysleta, de  
50 años, Casado con Bernarda, Indica, de edad de 30 años,  
y un hijo de 18 años, y dos hijos de 3: y 1 años.
44. Juan Goxe, Labrador, Indio, natural de la Ysleta, de  
37 años, Casado con Francisca Casilda, Indica, de edad de 36  
años, y una hija de 6 años.
45. Juan Nicolas Marguer, Indio, natural de la Ysleta  
de 64 años, Casado con Maria Andrea, Indica, de edad  
tiene una hija de 2 años.
46. Juan Nptoral Marguer, Labrador, Indio, natural de  
de edad de 28 años, Casado con Maria Apurquina,  
edad de 20 años, tiene un hijo de 1 año, y una hija de 2 años.
47. Tomas Chruafa, Labrador, Indio, natural de la Ysleta

The page from the Ysleta census of 1790 on which the listing of the pueblo's Tigua residents begins. (Júarez Archives, M513, Reel 13)



• THE COLOMBIAN QUINCENTENARY •  
EL PASO DOCUMENTARY

# The Spanish Census of Ysleta in 1790 —

*With a List of the Tiguas*

by W. H. Timmons

*Editor's note: Dr. W. H. Timmons, Professor Emeritus of History at The University of Texas at El Paso and the author of the prize-winning book El Paso: A Borderlands History (Texas Western Press, 1990), has prepared this article as the fourth and final in a series in observance of the Columbian Quincentenary, marking the 500th anniversary of Columbus' discovery, which at length resulted in two and a half centuries of Spanish rule in the American Southwest.*

**T**he historic Tigua Indians of Ysleta first came to the El Paso area in 1680 as refugees from the Pueblo Revolt in New Mexico. After their arrival their numbers were perhaps doubled with the addition of 385 more Tiguas brought into the area in early 1682 by Antonio de Otermín following his unsuccessful attempt to restore Spanish rule in New Mexico. Then in 1684 came Indian wars, desertions, starvation, disease, reducing Tigua numbers in half. Moreover, many returned to their original home in New Mexico following its reconquest in 1693-1695 by Don Diego de Vargas, so that in all probability there were fewer than three hundred Tiguas in the El Paso area by the end of the seventeenth century.

Not until the middle of the eighteenth century did Spanish administrators record Tigua numbers, and not until the 1780s did they list Tigua names. According to a Spanish census of 1744, there were ninety Tigua families, or about four hundred persons; a census of 1750 recorded five hundred Tiguas; and a 1760 census gave a figure of eighty families, or 429 persons, suggesting that in the mid-eighteenth century there were five persons in the average-sized Tigua family.

Tigua names were listed for the first time in the El Paso area in the Spanish census of 1784, and again in the census of 1787. According to Professor Rick Hendricks' research, there were 63 Tigua families, or 195 persons, in the 1787 census, indicating a significant decline in the Tigua population and in the size of the Tigua family. Thus, H. H. Bancroft's reference in his *North Mexican States and Texas* (I:658, n. 42) to a terrible epidemic in 1784-1785 that took 1,200 lives in the El Paso area, most of which were probably Indians, is worthy of note.

In the Spanish census for Ysleta in 1790, 22 families, or 115 persons, are designated "español"; 18 families, or 87 persons, are labeled "mestizo"; and 55 families, or 191 persons, are listed as Tiguas, for a total of 95 families, or 391 persons, residing in the Ysleta pueblo. Heading the census list is Franciscan Atanacio Domínguez. With the exception of two blacksmiths (one of them a mulatto from Querétaro), two carpenters, and a foreman, all adult males were listed as "laborador," or farm worker; and all Tiguas listed had been born in Ysleta.

Published here for the first time are the names of the Tiguas of Ysleta in the Spanish census of 1790. It will be observed that the census is composed of two lists—the first giving the names of the male heads of households (together with each such marital status, age, number of children in the household, and each child's age) and the second giving the names of the widows (again with the widow's age, number of children in the house, and the age of each child.)

- Rafael Gomes, married, 50; 1 son, 18; 2 daughters, 3 and 1*  
*Juan Gorje, married, 36; 1 daughter, 6*  
*Juan Nicolas Marquez, married, 64; 1 daughter, 9*  
*Juan Uptoval(?) Marquez, married, 28; 1 son, 1; 1 daughter, 2*  
*Tomas Chuafa, married, 53; 1 daughter, 13*  
*Francisco Simenes, married, 55; 2 sons, 20 and ?*  
*Francisco Don Juan, married, 54; 1 orphan, 11*

SPANISH CENSUS OF YSLETA

*Francisco Equiret, married, 57; 1 son, 6; 1 daughter, 17*  
*Juan Domingo Chiquina, married, 25; 1 son, 4; 1 daughter, 2*  
*Juan Sebastian, married, 28*  
*Gregorio Agustin, widower, 50; 1 son, 15; 1 daughter, 14*  
*Lonjinos, married, 38; 3 sons, 14, 3, and 1*  
*Juan Tomas Marquez, married, 30; 2 daughters, 4 and 2*  
*Pedro Geronimo, married, 30*  
*Juan Julian, married, 18; 1 son, 1*  
*Mateo del Pino, married, 67*  
*Martin Pierote, married, 70; 2 sons, 9 and 7; 1 daughter, 8*  
*Antonio Alexo, married, 40; 5 sons, 15, 13, 9, 3, and 2; 1 daughter, 4*  
*Juan Martin Duran, married, 30; 3 daughters, 9, 3, and 1*  
*Francisco de Jesus, married, 30; 1 son, 1*  
*Juan Gabriel, married, 20; 1 orphan, 13*  
*Melchor de los Reyes, married, 70; 4 sons, 18, 13, 12 and 9*  
*Juan Anguel, married, 30; 1 son, 1*  
*Francisco, married, 20; 1 daughter, 1*  
*Diego Ramos, married, 30; 2 sons, 15 and 5; 2 daughters, 9 and 8*  
*Santiago, widower, 50; 1 son, 11*  
*Salvador Raton, married, 47; 1 son, 2; 1 daughter, 3*  
*Ascencio Casique, married, 30*  
*Tomas Gomes, married, 19*  
*Jose Maria Gomes, married, 16; 1 daughter, 1*  
*Alexo Baca, married, 18*  
*Bartolo Baca, married, 50; 2 sons, 11 and 5; 2 daughters, 13 and 8*  
*Pablo Liebre, married, 40; 1 son, 3; 1 daughter, 4*  
*Domingo de la Cruz, married, 37; 1 son, 13; 3 daughters, 9, 3, and 1*  
*Antonio Duran, widower, 40; 2 sons, 7 and 1; 2 daughters, 9 and 3;*  
     *1 orphan, 12*  
*Juan Gabriel, widower, 40; 2 sons, 10 and 4; 1 daughter, 3*  
*Pedro Sandia, single, 50*  
*Baltazar, widower, 20*  
*Juan Domingo Olguin, widower, 40; 1 son, 3*  
*Matias Nasario, married, 30; 3 daughters, 7, 3, and 1; 1 orphan, 9*  
*Juan Domingo, married, 45; 1 son, 3*  
*Toribio, married, 30; 1 daughter, 4*  
*Juan Lorenzo, married, 30; 1 son, 2; 1 daughter, 1*  
*Jose Miguel, married, 20; 1 daughter, 2*  
*Juan Ascencio, married, 20; 1 daughter, 2*  
*Jose Antonio Carrizaleno, married, 30; 1 son, 2*  
*Juan de Dio, married, 30*  
*Juan Luis Marquez, married, 60; 1 daughter, 3*  
*Clemente Francisco, married, 30; 1 daughter, 1*

## Widows

*Juana Catalina, 70*

*Guadalupe, 70*

*Antonia Juana, 71; 1 son, 30*

*Arregla, 40; 1 son, 9; 1 daughter, 7*

*Maria Sabirra, 60; 1 son, 13*

*Maria Josefa, 60; 1 daughter, 20*

*Lucia Dorotea, 40; 2 sons, 12 and 10; 1 daughter, 9; 1 orphan, 13*

During the nineteenth century the Tigua population increased gradually, a census of 1841 indicating 57 families and 275 persons, the average-sized family remaining at five. In spite of the trend toward Mexicanization in recent years, the Tigua determination to preserve language, customs, and traditions has remained strong. In the 1960s the proud Tiguas were accorded state and federal recognition of their tribal status. A recent count recorded a Tigua population of 654.

The EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY takes great pleasure in publishing the list of its BUSINESS/CORPORATE membership (as of July 31, 1992):

American Finance & Investment Co., Inc.  
 Charlotte's, Inc.  
 Currey, Adkins, Cook & Company  
 Dave's Loan Company  
 Faight & Associates, Inc.  
 Futrell (Kaster, Maxon & Futrell) Funeral Home  
 Gail Darling Temporaries  
 Gardner Hotel  
 Investors Holdings, Inc.  
 Lawyers Title of El Paso  
 Lift Truck Services  
 Manpower Temporary Services  
 Martin Funeral Home  
 PZH Contract Design, Inc.  
 State National Bank  
 Sun Travel, Inc.  
 Temp Force of El Paso



• HISTORICAL MEMORIES CONTEST •

1991

# Power at the Pass

by Shirley Gillett Clement

*Editor's note: Password is pleased to publish the following article, which was awarded first prize in the 1991 Historical Memories Contest. Sponsored annually by the Historical Society, the contest is open to people fifty-five years of age and up. Cash prizes are presented to the authors of the winning essays. Dr. Robert L. Tappan was the director of the 1991 contest.*

**Kathleen Gilliland** has been named director of the 1992 contest. She announces that the deadline for submission of manuscripts is December 1 and that they are to be addressed to her at 7735 Rosedale, El Paso, Texas 79915.

**E**l Paso's nighttime incandescence always hits me with an emotional impact. Riding along the freeway where it rises by Bassett Center, I thrill to the lighted panorama which spreads in all directions; the flashes of red, green, white; red, white, and blue; the small yellow suns; and, at various seasons, the star which guards and illuminates Mount Franklin.

Many years and many candlepowers ago, other lights here excited and inspired me, a sleepy five-year-old visitor. In the fall of 1931, the fields along Highway 80 between Las Cruces and El Paso were strewn with the scraps left by cotton pickers; and the sweet damp-earth fragrance of fresh-cut alfalfa wafted through the half-open windows of our Chevy sedan. My three-year-old brother dozed, murmuring sleepily.

I watched the stars appear and the moon rise above the dark silhouette of the mountains. Insects sounded in the night, bits of cotton

floated into and around the car, and the tires bumped steadily along the narrow highway which was no doubt a respectable engineering masterpiece at the time. Headlights and the whoosh! of widely-spaced passing cars kept me occupied and interested in the nighttime scene.

Mother, Daddy, Sonny, and I were on our way to Grandmother Mattice's for the weekend – no doubt to help her and to visit with Grandfather Mattice, who was gravely ill. Grandfather was a plumbing and heating contractor whose work had made many local public and private buildings both comfortable and healthful. One of these was William Beaumont General Hospital, a "campus" of one-story structures located several blocks beyond the northeast limits of the city. Grandmother Mattice had moved to El Paso from San Antonio after the untimely death of her first husband and had bought property directly across from the Magoffin home. Later she married George Mattice, and the couple built a large home about 1915 on Pershing Drive at Five Points.

As we entered Canutillo and the environs of the Gillett family farm, I said a mental "hello" and waved my hand to Pawpaw and Mimi, my dad's parents. Pawpaw was a lawyer and a dairy farmer who also raised cotton. The lights of the little town glittered welcome, but we quickly moved on through the undisturbed darkness. The roadside brush made shadowy shapes in the moonshine.

As we approached El Paso, a few more lights began to show. At the Crossroads, now Mesa Street and Doniphan Drive, several buildings and dwellings attested to its importance. I always yearned to take the mysterious, long and dark Mesa Road into town, but in those days Mesa harbored lonely stretches of uninhabited highway. The lower road was better traveled should we have car trouble along the way, a regular contingency at that time.

Making our way toward the big city along the lower road, I felt the surge of excitement that always flooded through me as I saw the glow in the distance. Another jog in the road and there it was! The array of beams and cables of steel and wire and what seemed like millions of lights signalled the El Paso Electric Company's Upper Valley installation. Dad had explained that in some marvelous way this station was connected with the dam at Elephant Butte and that this giant Erector set was responsible for lighting the valley from Hot Springs (now Truth or Consequences, New Mexico) to El Paso and Juárez, and beyond. It was truly a spectacle to behold.

At the top among the dazzle was a red-lettered sign. Mother had recently bought me a puzzle by which I fitted letters into other letters

## POWER AT THE PASS

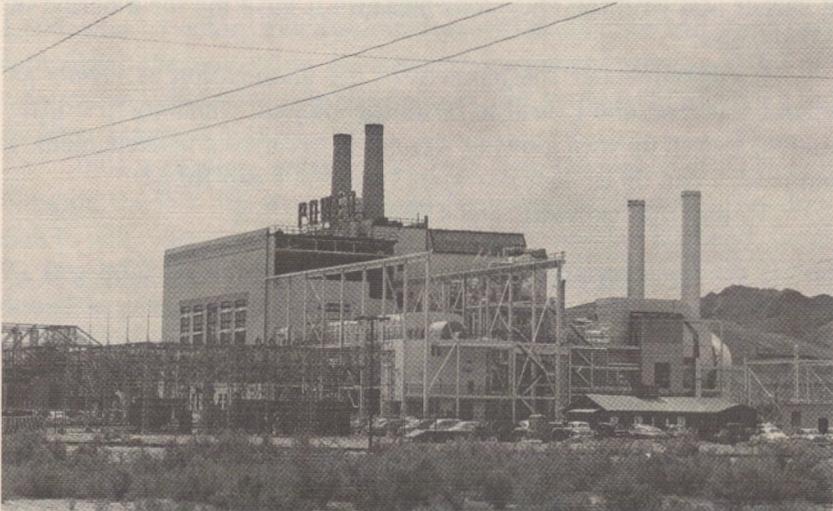
to make words, and I was proud of my growing skills. As I looked at the glittering lights, the moonshine glinting on the waters of the Rio Grande flowing beside us toward the Pass, I saw a word emerge at the center of my consciousness. I fitted it together.

P-O-W-E-R. "Power," it said. Power! Power! Oh! I couldn't believe it. I could read. I knew I could read!

"Mother! Daddy! Look! Stop the car! I can READ the word. It says "Power."

Dad slowed a bit and nodded. Mother was properly appreciative and elated. But it was getting late, and we had to hurry on to Grandmother's house. Soon Smelertown appeared on our right, thin lights flickering feebly from the windows of the squat little houses. On the left, molten slag poured in huge globs of bright orange fire-taffy, steaming down the hillside. A number of people were crossing the road from the village and climbing the heights—some of them apparently bound for the steeply-placed church on the near hill, others making their way to their work at the smelter father up. The scene stilled my contemplation of the miracle that had taken place only moments before, and I forgot all about it.

Years later, in 1957, I became a substitute teacher in the Ysleta Independent School District. I enjoyed the work, but found it somewhat frustrating in that it did not allow me any opportunities for sustained teaching and "follow through." I had watched two of my own



*The El Paso Electric Company's Rio Grande Power Plant, c. 1940s. (Photo courtesy El Paso Electric Company)*

children master the basics of reading, and I was waiting until the other two were ready to enter school so that I could teach full time.

In the late spring of 1960, while still employed as a substitute teacher, I was asked to take over a second-grade class at Parkland Elementary School for the remainder of the semester, the regular teacher having become ill. Here was my first real opportunity to see what I could do in the classroom. My goal was to get the pupils in my care through to the end of school with all the skills they could master. Reading was the key, and I spent every spare minute drilling on sounds, working with spelling and writing, and reading stories to my little charges.

One morning as we sounded our way through a word, a small child, her eyes shining brightly, looked up with awe and said, "I get it! I see! Oh, Mrs. Clement, I can read! I can READ!"

At once the scene at the old Electric Company installation flashed across my mind, its every detail as clear as though it had happened a moment ago. I do not know who was more excited – the little girl or I. We hugged, rejoiced, and danced around the reading circle as the whole class joined in our celebration.

That fall, I began teaching full time. Eventually I became a Reading Specialist, and with my husband founded a tutoring service and an accredited private high school. I am certain that the memorable instances in my past had a great deal to do with my choice of career and with the enormous pleasure it gave me for a period of thirty years.

I still remember the moment of my illumination as vividly as when I was five, and I thrill to recall the moment when my first little student looked up with glowing wonder in her eyes and exclaimed, "I can read! I can do it! Just see what I can do! I can READ!"

To me, that skill still spells "P-O-W-E-R."

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## “A Better Fighter”

*The Spirited Forays of Julia North Breck*

by Judy Breck

**I**n 1961, the late Julia Breck, a veteran of many political wars when she was leading vote drives for other candidates, broke ground for what eventually was to become commonplace in the nation. She launched a serious and effective campaign for mayor against six male opponents, made the run-off against the incumbent and came within 1,500 votes of victory and a political sensation . . . She had almost accomplished the impossible, defeating an incumbent running with a full aldermanic ticket while she stood alone.” So wrote Art Leibson in the *El Paso Times* of May 15, 1988.

Julia was a late entry in the 1961 race for mayor of El Paso,\* filing on the last day shortly before the midnight deadline. Her decision to enter came earlier that evening as she and her husband, Louis W. Breck, M.D., sat at dinner with other family members. A heated discussion of politics was taking place, dominated by Julia, who expressed her disapproval of all the current candidates for mayor. As the younger daughter, Sue, remembers it, “Everyone dared Mom into it. Bill offered the first \$25 (one fourth of the filing fee) if the others

\* Author's note: This article about my mother is based on oral reflections dictated by my father, Louis W. Breck, Sr., M.D., in 1991; my own memory; a letter written in 1991 by my sister, Sue Breck Webb, about the night Mother decided to run for mayor; conversations in 1990 and 1991 with my brothers, Alan and Bill, with Mother's brother, C. L. North, Jr., and with her niece Helen Barron; and my recent reading through the voluminous files Mother kept of her activities and writings.

would pitch in." (They did.) She went down literally at the eleventh hour (maybe 10:30 p.m.) She wore white gloves (still a custom for dressing up) and her favorite rose cologne. From then on she said that no matter what happened in any of the meetings or appearances she would "come out with clean hands and smelling like a rose."

During her race for mayor against the six men, someone said, "What the heck, vote for Breck." The slogan stuck. It was cute, but also speaks to those times – implying that the field of male candidates was considered rather weak and that (what the heck!) you might as well be frivolous and vote for the woman. Interestingly, Julia was not a cutting-edge feminist. She was an unwavering advocate of El Paso and of good government at every level.

Twenty-seven years later, in his May 15, 1988, *Times* article, Leibson stated that "no woman in local history had piled up such a record of community service, of civic and political activity, of stubborn independence in following her political beliefs." It was no exaggeration. A Breck campaign flyer had listed some of her achievements, which ranged from her election by local businessmen as First Lady of El Paso in 1947 through her service on the Steering Committee record-breaking poll tax drive in 1951, her work in 1953 as program chairman of the Woman's Division Chamber of Commerce, her election to the City Charter Commission in 1955, and her co-chairmanship of the Community Chest Drive in 1957 to her responsibilities as Councilwoman of the West Texas Medical Auxiliary in 1960.

When the votes in the run-off were counted, officially it appeared that if fewer than eight hundred voters had swung to Julia, she would have won. Truly, as Art Leibson would say later, she "had almost accomplished the impossible." Two years later, she ran for mayor again, losing by a wider margin.

In the years after the mayoral races, the list of Julia's activities and accomplishments continued to grow and included her membership in 1964-1970 on the El Paso Citizens Advisory Committee, Texas Highway Department, her leadership in El Paso Citizens for Goldwater, her membership in National Press Woman, and her active participation in many civic organizations.

It was just after World War II that Julia had begun in earnest her participation in civic service. Some two years later, when she was selected "First Lady of El Paso" by Beta Sigma Phi, the *El Paso Herald-Post* (November 8, 1947) said: "The choice, made from nomina-

## A BETTER FIGHTER

tions submitted to leading business men of the city, is based on leadership, character and outstanding contributions to civic advancement....”

Julia was also very active in national politics. She worked hard for the Presidential campaign of Wendell L. Willkie in 1940. After the defeat at the 1952 Republican Convention of Robert A. Taft, she supported Dwight Eisenhower and was a major help to him in Texas. Her greatest political regret was that Ted Andreas (an El Paso lawyer who had been Dr. Breck's best man at the Brecks' wedding) talked her into serving as West Texas Women's Chairman for Lyndon Johnson in 1948. She carried on a battling correspondence with LBJ for many years thereafter.

Julia was a quintessential El Pasoan. Her father's parents, George and Ida North, had moved to El Paso from Los Cerillos, New Mexico, in 1896 with their children – Alma (later Ferguson), Clarence Lupfer (who would become Julia's father), May (later the mother of El Paso's "Mr. History," Dr. W. H. "Bill" Timmons), and Florence (later Courtice). In 1904 Clarence brought Ruth Spaulding to El Paso as his bride. Their first child, Julia Spaulding North, was born in their home on Kansas Street on October 2, 1910; their second, Ruth Ceil ("Rucy") North, was born April 8, 1912.

Clarence was prominent in El Paso's important machinery supply businesses in the developing Southwest. When General Pershing chased Pancho Villa south of Deming, the Army's motor vehicles that had accompanied the horse cavalry crunched to a halt, wheel bearings filled with desert sand. Clarence brought to the site a railroad freight car loaded with machinery, repaired the vehicles, and got the general on the road. Some months later, Clarence received a colonel's commission in



*A photograph of Julia Breck taken in 1963 by Tony Canales Studio in preparation for her second candidacy for Mayor of El Paso. (Photo courtesy Judy Breck)*

the Army at Pershing's direction, and was called to Washington to head the conversion of the Army from horse to motor vehicle during World War I. Julia's mother was known by a great many El Pasoans over her long life. She headed the children's department at the First Presbyterian Church for years and worked in parents' organizations at El Paso High School.

After World War I, the Norths returned from Washington to El Paso, where Julia's brother, C. L. North, Jr., was born in 1920. Julia attended Lamar Grammar School and from there went to El Paso High, graduating in 1928. Her name remains on the honor roll listing inside the main entrance of the school. Her brother recalls Julia as "political, a social butterfly, glamorous and popular" during her high school years.

There is durable legend of Julia's first political campaign. It took place when she was in the running with one other contender for "Most Popular Girl" at El Paso High School. The voting was done by pennies, each penny placed in one of the girls' boxes counting as a vote. The head of the campaign for Julia's opposition was Fred Hervey (later he *did* become Mayor of El Paso). Julia's team watched from behind a pillar in the voting area and saw that each time a penny was placed in Julia's box, Fred would soon appear from behind another pillar to drop two pennies in his girlfriend's box. Julia's camp decided they could not win under the circumstances – but at least they could increase the amount that charity would receive. They polished some pennies to make them shine like gold coins (then in regular use). When they knew that Fred was at his watching post, they walked to Julia's box and proclaimed loudly that Julia was going to win because this gold would bring her to a handsome total. Fred was soon seen driving away and not much later returning to place more coins in the opponent's box. When the votes were counted, Julia's opponent won overwhelmingly, charity was benefited, and a political activist had taken her first step.

The front page of the Society section of the Sunday, August 25, 1929, *El Paso Times* headline announced: "El Pasoans Go East For College" above six-inch-high pictures of "Miss Ruth Ceil North" and "Miss Julia North." Both were going to college in Indiana, Julia returning for her sophomore year at Butler University in Indianapolis where she had gone to study art and writing.

At the end of the summer after her sophomore year at Butler, Julia and Louis William Breck agreed to become engaged. Louis, too,

## A BETTER FIGHTER

was a native of El Paso. Born on March 24, 1909, he was the son of pioneer El Paso dentist Louis Merrick Breck and his wife, Olive Jane Roblee Breck.\*\* The Brecks and the Norths both attended the First Presbyterian Church, but Louis and Julia did not get to know each other until ages 16 and 14 respectively, when they met at a Christian Endeavor party. Within a few days, Louis convinced Julia's mother to let her go out on her first date. The two young people dated for a few months, but then went on to separate activities – Julia to complete high school in El Paso and Louis to attend college in the Middlewest.

In the summer of 1930 a dance was held at the Woman's Club for El Paso High School graduates. Louis went stag and decided to cut-in when he saw Julia. They began dating and fell in love. That fall Louis made frequent trips from Northwestern Medical School in Chicago to Indianapolis in order to see Julia. During Christmas vacation, he gave her an engagement ring as they parked on Scenic Drive. After the holidays she transferred to the Northwestern University undergraduate campus in Evanston, Illinois, north of Chicago.

They both graduated in the spring of 1932 and returned to El Paso to prepare for their wedding, which took place at the First Presbyterian Church on June 11 of that year. Their first home was in San Francisco, where Dr. Breck served his internship. Soon after this training, he obtained a job as a prison doctor at San Quentin. Their first child, Louis William Breck, Jr. ("Bill"), was born during this period – on December 12, 1934. From San Quentin the young family moved to Rochester, Minnesota, for Dr. Breck's orthopaedic residency at the Mayo Clinic. Their second child, Julia Ann ("Judy"), was born in Rochester on September 10, 1936.

In 1937 the four Brecks moved back to El Paso, where Dr. Breck set up his orthopaedic practice. The pre-war years were active, fast-moving, and successful. Their second son, Alan North, was born on March 27, 1942. By then, Pearl Harbor had changed everything.

Medical doctors were seldom drafted in World War II. However, Dr. Breck volunteered, abandoning his promising practice. In the fall of 1942, the family followed Army orders to San Antonio. After training at Fort Sam Houston, Captain Breck was assigned to Camp Swift Army Hospital near Bastrop, Texas, where the Brecks lived for the next three years. Susan Merrick Breck was born on June

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\*\*Editor's note: For a treatment of Dr. Louis Merrick Breck and his family, see Louis W. Breck, M.D., "Four Generations in the Wild West: The Story of Dr. L. M. Breck and his Descendants," *Password*, XXXV, 2 (Summer, 1990), 83-90.

10, 1944, the same day that Dr. Breck's older brother Merrick Breck, also a medical doctor and a volunteer, was killed in the South Pacific.

Throughout the Bastrop years, Julia kept her eyes fixed firmly on the future. She turned her talents and her energy to designing a house to be built in El Paso when the war was over. It became in time the beautiful adobe hacienda at 2726 Richmond Avenue. Dr. Breck helped her build a scale model of the house surrounding an open patio. Julia trained herself in architectural drawing and executed detailed plans.

When the Breck family returned to El Paso from Bastrop, Julia built the house almost single-handedly. She hired a consultant to make sure her plans met the specifications of their veteran's loan. A lawyer friend served as the official "contractor" to comply with building laws. But Julia really built the house. She bought a truck and hired a boss carpenter. She met the payroll and oversaw all the work. The Brecks lived in the house for twenty-two years. Many El Pasoans remember parties given there for doctors, for civic and social organizations, for fraternities, high school groups, and family and friends.

Vitally important as community improvements and political activities were to Julia, her principal cause was her family. While the Richmond Avenue house was being built, she also began the design and supervised the renovations of the medical offices for her husband and his associates, Breck, Basom and Leonard, on Montana Avenue. Later, she planned and did the drawings for the El Paso Orthopaedic Group Offices on Stanton Street, three blocks north of Hotel Dieu Hospital. Also, her work in the medical societies was a major help to Dr. Breck in building his practice and professional contacts. Dr. Breck helped to found the Association of Bone and Joint Surgeons, and Julia wrote the published history of the association.

Julia's unbreakable rule was to be at home when her children arrived from school. She enjoyed cooking, and the evening meal with the family was the high point of her day. Night after night, stimulating conversations took place at the Breck dining table on assorted topics—science, automobile styles and mechanics, grammar, social issues, politics, travel. Yes, indeed, travel. All together the Brecks would plan their next vacation, and come summer the six family members would depart in a stationwagon for a tour of this or that section of the country. Perhaps the biggest family event was the annual Thanksgiving dinner on Richmond Avenue. Julia felt that traditions such as the Thanksgiving dinner were crucial to individual and family stability.

## A BETTER FIGHTER

On her sixty-fifth birthday Julia sent a letter to "Dear Ones All" with the explanation that "I'm too busy living to write each of you, so please consider this copy your very own letter from me on this big day." She underlined the words "I can promise you that life is what you make it, with God's help, and it can be fun!"

And fun it was. Her building projects continued, among them: remodeling a house at 1205 Kansas Street, renovating the Nevadale Hotel, designing various offices for Dr. Breck, and improving the family's vacation cabin located in Wills Canyon in the Sacramento Mountains. One of her major El Paso civic interests during her later years focused on saving the Plaza Theater. Although frustrated then and ahead of her time, Julia's efforts in the early 1970s preserved the theater until later developments led to its ownership by the City.

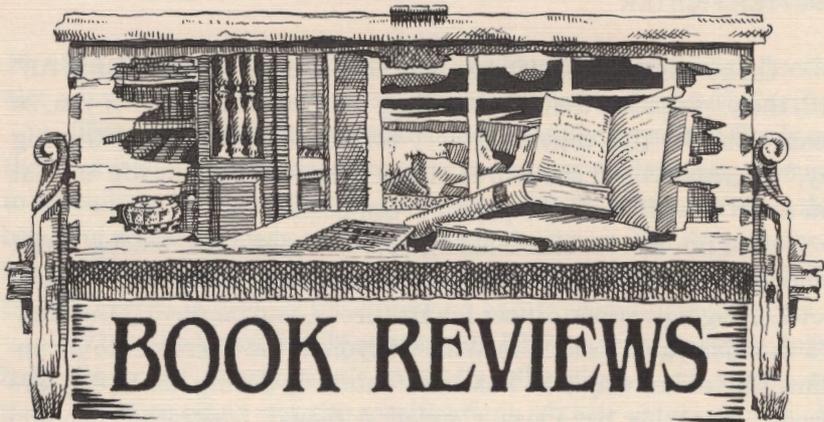
As the years passed, Julia had the time to do a good deal of writing. She was published many times in newspaper commentaries, travel magazines, and medical association publications.

Julia died on March 24, 1984, of complications from leukemia and asthma. A Presbyterian minister and a "Charismatic" preacher shared the funeral - appropriate for Julia's eclectic and enthusiastic Christian faith. Her response to differences of opinion on the subject within the ever-percolating milieu of her family's discourse was to quote: "There are many mansions." She took great pride in the strength and individuality of her children and her seven grandsons.

Julia's method of staying organized was to keep a looseleaf notebook for each of her various undertakings, such as "The Farm" (the cabin in Wills Canyon, where she and Dr. Breck lived after he retired), construction projects, and political campaigns. Her main personal notebook contained some quotations she liked. Perhaps her favorite, which she attributed to political writer and her friend Bryton Barron, was: "I may be wrong sometimes, but I'm never uncertain." The notebook frontispiece is a yellowed, brittle "Dennis the Menace" cartoon in which his mother is comforting Dennis as he explains, "I'm a better fighter, but he had a longer stick."

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**JUDY BRECK** grew up in El Paso and completed a degree in political science at Texas Western College (now The University of Texas at El Paso). In 1968 she joined the Nixon Presidential campaign as assistant to the candidate's law partner Thomas W. Evans. Since 1969 she has worked in New York City for Mr. Evans.



**NEW MEXICO'S BUFFALO SOLDIERS, 1866-1900** by **Monroe Lee Billington**. Niwot: University Press of Colorado, 1991, \$29.95

Dr. Monroe Billington, a professor of history at New Mexico State University and an authority on the post-Civil War era, helps to fill an enormous and shameful gap in our knowledge of the black "buffalo" soldier's contribution to the settlement of the West. Even though the author's scholarly canvas is New Mexico, that contribution looms as significant as the white soldier's when one considers that the black soldier had what Billington calls a "double dose of prejudice" – skin color and the low esteem in which the public held any peace-time soldier. When hostile Indians threatened, of course, prejudices disappeared.

During the last forty years of the nineteenth century, nearly four thousand black soldiers served in New Mexico Territory alone. They protected pioneer travelers from Indians as well as from common thieves; they built roads, bridges, and forts; hung telegraph lines and discouraged lawlessness among both Indians and unruly whites.

What Billington does for the black soldier is to relate in rich and graphic detail his daily life including his encounters with Indians, camp life, civil disturbances, work, and play. The author's understanding of life on the frontier derives obviously from years of careful research. Even more remarkable is his novelesque depiction of frontier characters: the white captain who rails against his fellow officers for allowing a black soldier to be buried without military honors and "even unwashed"; the white lieutenant who illegally detains a black soldier as his own private servant and cook; the alcoholic, quarrelsome and vain white officer who got along well with the black soldiers under his command; the Medal of Honor black sergeant who rescued his lieutenant (white) when surrounded by Indians after the lieutenant's horse was killed; the unprejudiced and worthy Colonel Edward Hatch; the highly prejudiced rancher who refused to lend a saddle to a black private

carrying a "dispatch on a wounded mule, bare back and alone, . . . a distance of over 70 miles, the Indians . . . all around him."

Billington also relates dramatic incidents with a playwright's skill: the raids of a clever and wily Chief Victorio; the wars in Lincoln and Colfax counties; a regimental band's appearance in Santa Fe.

Black soldiers were notoriously ill-equipped. Their shoes, their uniforms, their horses, their saddles frequently wore out long before being replaced. Yet these soldiers persevered in their duties, making it possible for pioneers to travel and settle throughout the territory safely.

Legend has it that the blacks were termed "buffalo soldiers" as a sign of respect by the Indians. At least one anthropologist disputes that theory. Since the buffalo was a tough, noble and resilient animal all but destroyed by the white hunter, perhaps we should let the symbolism lie.

BEA BRAGG  
Albuquerque, New Mexico

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**CORONADO'S LAND: Essays on Daily Life in Colonial New Mexico by Marc Simmons. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1991, \$19.95**

*Coronado's Land* is an entertaining and attractively illustrated collection of Marc Simmons' previously published short essays. In chapters on clothing, hairstyles, and makeup we literally meet the men and women of colonial New Mexico face to face. We sample their food, browse at their trade fairs, and share their fears of enemy attack; we even glimpse the most prosaic details of their daily lives in an essay on chamber pots. Simmons' careful descriptions enable us to appreciate the skill, ingenuity, and sheer tenacity required to eke out an existence on the northern frontier of New Spain. We observe cartwrights and muleteers, *ciboleros* (buffalo hunters) and *mayordomos de acequias* (irrigation bosses), shepherds and goatherds going about their routine tasks. An essay on card games – complete with illustrations of Spanish playing cards and Apache copies – reminds us that these hard-working people relished their moments of leisure as well.

A separate section of the book allows readers to sample the kinds of documents that historians use in reconstructing the daily life of past societies. Simmons translates and annotates three late colonial reports on conditions in New Mexico. The first, penned by Governor Pedro Fermín de Mendinueta in 1773 and directed to Viceroy Antonio Bucareli y Ursua in Mexico City, was highly critical of the Franciscan missionaries and their efforts to convert the Pueblo Indians to Catholic

dogma and practice. The second document is Father Augustin de Morfi's "Account of Disorders in New Mexico," written in 1778. Not surprisingly, the Franciscan Morfi was far more sympathetic to his fellow religious and blamed the colony's troubles on abuses committed by Spanish-Mexican settlers, local officials, and the rapacious merchants of Chihuahua who exercised a virtual strangle-hold on New Mexico's trade. The final document is a report on the state of the local economy prepared by Governor Fernando de Chacón in 1803.

Written for general audiences, the book lacks footnotes and offers only a very brief bibliographical essay for those who wish to learn more. Still, scholars will find fascinating tidbits of new information and a very useful discussion of the pens and ink used to produce colonial documents. Meanwhile, those unfamiliar with Southwestern history can savor this colorful and gracefully written introduction to the region.

CHERYL E. MARTIN

Associate Professor of History

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**GEORGE SCARBOROUGH: The Life and Death of a Lawman on the Closing Frontier by Robert K. DeArment. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1992, \$24.95**

To anyone interested in gunfighter history of the Southwest during the years of the late 1800s, this book is that history extraordinaire. It is the first in-depth treatment of a least-publicized gunfighter, George Scarborough, a dedicated and professional peace officer who held many titles in law enforcement—deputy sheriff, deputy United States marshal, range detective, and special officer, to name a few.

"The reason for the lack of publicity," states the author, "is [that] the family of George Scarborough refuse to divulge any information about their notorious relative." Undeterred by the absence of this information source, DeArment proceeded to an extensive research into county records and archival materials. The result is a compelling presentation of a man who played an important role in the exciting drama of his time—the presentation enhanced with many illustrations, two maps, notes, a bibliography, and an index.

As the story unfolds, a number of famous gunmen from both sides of the law cross trails with George Scarborough as he pursues his stormy career through Texas and New Mexico and Arizona Territories. One such character is the famous lawman Jeff Milton, who practically grew up with Scarborough and became "the best friend Scarborough

ever had." Also, there is a good deal of interesting material on John Wesley Hardin and George Selman, Selman being the killer of Hardin, and Scarborough eventually killing Selman. Even though Scarborough was often characterized as a gunfighter who gave no quarter, the author brings to light records which show that lawman Scarborough demonstrated great restraint on several occasions.

In the foreword to the book, Leon Metz writes that "DeArment has done something rare. He has taken a vague figure, raised him from the dust of ancient ledgers and journals, and given him form, flesh, blood, spirit, and significance." This is an accurate judgment of the book's thrust and accomplishment. DeArment's presentation not only brings the man to life but also helps us to understand that Scarborough, like other gunmen of that period, were products of those wild and lawless times "on the closing frontier."

GEORGE E. VIRGINES, Albuquerque  
Member, National Association of  
Outlaw and Lawmen History

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**LIFE IN THE PUEBLOS by Ruth Underhill. Santa Fe: Ancient City Press, 1992, \$12.95**

Roasted sunflower seeds were a novel food item of Pueblo tribes of the Southwest when Ruth Underhill was conducting anthropological research during the 1930s, '40s, and '50s. Her work with the Papagos continues to be cited in studies of Indian life, and her book on the Navajo has been reprinted many times.

Now Ancient City Press of Santa Fe, which specializes in New Mexico interests, has produced a revised version of Underhill's 1946 study, originally published by the Bureau of Indian Affairs as *Workaday Life of the Pueblos*. Mary Powell edited and designed the new version, changing language where necessary, as well as redoing some of the maps and adding a couple of paragraphs at the end on recent developments at the pueblos.

The 154-page softbound book, a scholarly introduction to Pueblo lifestyle aimed for the general public, explains the geography that the Pueblo people inhabit, the crops they cultivate, their meat supply, housing and furnishings, clothing styles, their recreations, and their family structure. This revised edition has numerous illustrations as well as sixty photographs, half of them from the original publication and the others from museums and other sources.

In Underhill's time, the squash blossom necklace was worn by Indian men, and moccasins were novel. The raising of corn in the Southwest was thought to date back fifteen hundred years; now the estimate is five thousand years.

The book is an interesting period piece and reveals in many ways just how far we have come in knowledge of the Pueblo tribes.

NANCY HAMILTON  
El Paso

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### Briefly Noted . . .

*Password* readers who are especially interested in historic preservation will enjoy Elaine Freed's *Preserving the Great Plains and Rocky Mountains*, a handsome, readable, and greatly informative volume recently published by the University of New Mexico Press and priced at \$50.00 (hardcover) and \$30.00 (softcover). The material is presented in two sections. Part One describes various kinds of vernacular architecture: Native American and Spanish dwellings that Anglo settlers found as they moved west and also the structures these settlers themselves built, such as trading posts, mills, forts, mining camps, ranches. Part Two focuses on historic preservation as an organized movement throughout the West and Southwest, various preservation successes presented as examples.

Devotees of the "Wild West" will find Frederick Nolan's *The Lincoln County War* (University of Oklahoma Press, \$49.95) an interestingly fresh treatment of that much-written-about conflict. Subtitled "A Documentary History," the book allows the participants and eye-witnesses to tell their respective stories of those bloody events, the author weaving these people's recorded accounts and opinions together with his own insightful commentary. Also from the University of Oklahoma Press comes now a first-time reprint (priced at \$22.95) of the 1902 publication *Early Days in Texas* by Jim McIntire, described as a "gentleman, reprobate, killer, lawman." Written in an unvarnished style, the book is a fascinating first-hand account of life on the rough edge of the Texas and New Mexico frontier.



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