

PASSWORD



THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOLUME 39, NO. 2 • EL PASO, TEXAS • SUMMER, 1994

Clinton P. Hartmann
Editor

Lillian Collingwood
Associate Editor

Editorial Board

Richard Baquera, J. Morgan Broadus, Conrey Bryson, Nancy Hamilton,
Gonzalo G. LaFarelle, Mrs. John J. Middagh, Martha Patterson Peterson, Mary Ann Plaut

Honorary Board Members

Millard G. McKinney, Mrs. Eugene O. Porter

Special Consultants

El Paso Regional History: Leon Metz, Dr. W. H. Timmons

Art Director: Camille

Historical Society Logo: José Cisneros

Book Section Heading: Dr. Clarke H. Garnsey

Printing: Gateway Printing Co., El Paso

ARTICLES APPEARING IN THIS JOURNAL ARE ABSTRACTED AND INDEXED IN
HISTORICAL ABSTRACTS and **AMERICA: HISTORY AND LIFE**

Correspondence regarding articles for **PASSWORD** may be directed to the editor at
420 De Leon Drive, El Paso, Texas 79912

GUIDELINES FOR AUTHORS

PASSWORD requests writers to send a query letter and self-addressed stamped envelope before submitting material. Manuscripts should be double-spaced on 8½x11 inch paper, one side only, standard margins. Ideal maximum length is 20 pages including documentation. Shorter articles are welcome. For style and format consult recent issues of the **Quarterly**. Please attach a brief biographical sketch. Photographs and illustrations should be accompanied by identifying captions. There is no stipend for articles published. All articles or book reviews published become the property of the **Quarterly** and are copyrighted.

The per-copy price of **PASSWORD** is \$6.25 plus \$1.00 for postage and handling. Correspondence regarding back numbers or defective copies should be addressed to: Membership Secretary, El Paso County Historical Society, P.O. Box 28, El Paso, Texas 79940. Membership of \$25.00 per year includes a subscription to **PASSWORD**.

PASSWORD (ISSN 0031-2738) is published quarterly by
THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 603 W. Yandell, El Paso, Texas 79902.

Second-class postage paid at El Paso, Texas.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
Password

The El Paso County Historical Society
603 W. Yandell Drive
El Paso, Texas 79902

Password

VOLUME 39, NO. 2
EL PASO, TEXAS
SUMMER, 1994

CONTENTS

Valley Vineyards

A Rich Historical Heritage

by Herbert C. Morrow 55

BUMMING a Ride ON Mr. Eddy's Railroad

A Spirited Exchange of Letters

Introduction by Ann Buffington 65

Sociology and Academia

A History of the Sociology Department

by Paul W. Goodman, Ph.D. 73

Shady Ladies

The Abbott-Clark Ruckus

by Shirley Gillett Clement 84

How a "Catch-22"

Blocked Law and Order in the West

by Bob Cunningham 87

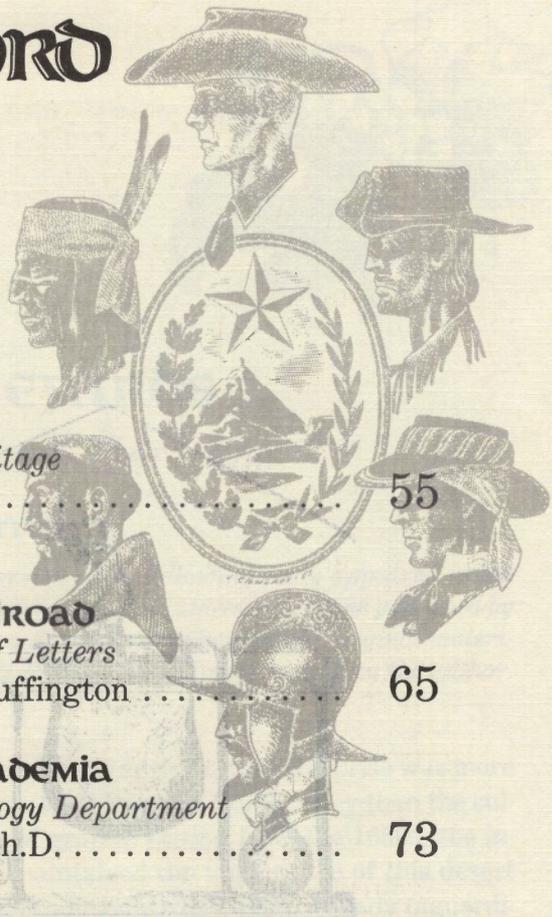
LENORE Dils

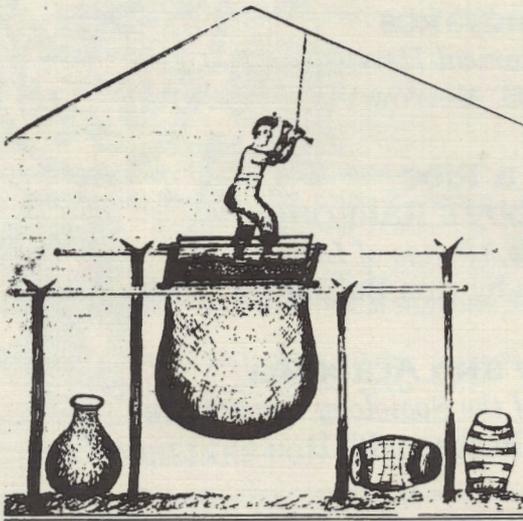
Personality at the Pass

by Tulia Winton 95

Editor's Notes

by Clinton P. Hartmann 99





Reporting from Paso del Norte in 1872, William M. Pierson, United States Vice-Consul, described the wine-making process in the Valley: "The tramping pan is now filled with grapes and a stalwart worker performs the office of wine pressing by virtue of vigorous tramps from a pair of remarkable brawny feet." He illustrated the process with the above sketch.

©The El Paso County Historical Society, El Paso, Texas 1994

The El Paso County Historical Society
disclaims responsibility for the statements and opinions of the contributors

Entered as Second Class Mail at El Paso, Texas



Valley Vineyards

A Rich Historical Heritage

by Herbert C. Morrow

Editor's Note: An earlier version of the following essay appeared in the Fall 1984 issue of Cactus Points, a general-interest magazine published by the El Paso Electric Company. Permission to reprint the original material has been granted by the El Paso Electric Company and by the author.

For over three centuries no single agricultural enterprise was more significant in the history of the Paso del Norte valley than the cultivation and processing of grapes. Dating from the 1650s, the industry established and maintained the importance of this desert oasis. Grapes and grape by-products, such as wine, brandy (aguardiente), vinegar, and raisins, made El Paso del Norte a well-known region along the Camino Real from Santa Fe in the north to Chihuahua in the south. The grapes and their products, especially "Pass Wine" and "Pass Brandy" were the items most reported in the writings of missionaries, government officials, explorers, soldiers, and colonists who visited the area.

Born from the need of the pioneer missionaries to have a dependable supply of sacramental wine, viticulture spread over the valley from the mother mission, Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de los Mansos del Paso del Norte located in what is now Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua. An observer at the dedication ceremonies in 1668, Fray Salvador de Guerra, described the mission and noted that "an irrigation ditch supplied water for the orchards and vineyards." Father García de San Francisco y Zuñiga, the mission's founder, and his small Indian flock had realized that "if the settlements were to . . . become permanent, the land had to be made to produce." As a result, among the "first crops planted was one directly related to the Mass." Cut-

tings of the fine grapevines that had been brought from Spain to Mexico City, and eventually to the northern frontier, provided the beginnings of local viticulture, believed to be the first in Texas.

Soon the vineyards became a nursery for grapevines exported to other settlements, and the valley became a processing center for grape products which were traded for durable goods not available locally. The industry was so important that in 1755 Don Pedro Veames prepared an inventory reporting some 250,000 vines, the names of their owners, and the number of vines each grower cultivated. On the basis of the inventory, taxes were calculated, and the revenues were collected by the church and the government administrators, albeit with much effort.

In Central Mexico, the viticulture industry had flourished for a time. However, the Court in Madrid feared the loss of its wine trade with the colonies, and in the 1590s the King of Spain forbade such plantings. During the following century and a half, Spanish viceroys in the New World were repeatedly warned not to grant requests to plant new vineyards. The authorities checked commercial plantings of grapes, and records were kept. This action tended to discourage commercial production, but it gave impetus to the mission enterprises. The church was powerful enough to resist the civil government, and the decrees did little to curb the expansion of grape production on the far northern frontier.

Less than a dozen years after the dedication of the mission "temple" in Paso del Norte, a wave of Spaniards and Indians from northern New Mexico entered the valley as refugees from the Pueblo Indian uprising in and around the Santa Fe area. Approximately 2000 Spaniards and Indians escaped and made their way south 300 miles to the El Paso del Norte valley. They re-settled southeast of the mission Guadalupe in several camps scattered two leagues apart, which eventually developed into the towns of Socorro, Ysleta, San Lorenzo, and Senecú.

At first agricultural development was limited to the area surrounding the mission, but with the influx of Spanish and Indian refugees from northern New Mexico, the matter of survival became critical. Lack of sufficient food and other necessities created dire circumstances, and the new settlers started to plant crops where they could, to dig irrigation ditches, and by 1684, to construct a small dam on the Rio Bravo. A major canal, or *acequia madre*, diverted water from the river, and small canals or ditches delivered the water to the fields. The alluvial plain along the banks of the river provided rich soil which in time produced an array of fruits, vegetables, and grains; some of



Wine barrel with company name and emblem, Bodega de la Frontera, S.A., a former winery and bottling plant southeast of Zaragosa, Chihuahua, Mexico. (Photo courtesy Herbert C. Morrow)

these were sold for cash or trade. Small *ranchos* and even a few *haciendas* developed on which were raised cattle, sheep, goats, and horses.

After several decades, the agricultural base became firmly established, and for the next two centuries the luscious "mission" grapes, noted by some observers to be "equal to those of Spain," flourished. The grapes were enormous, had a high sugar content, and the vines' hardiness and resistance to disease and adverse climate made it an ideal crop. The wines and brandies became the basis for a vigorous trade. Vineyards proliferated to such an extent that in the words of one authority, "the colonists were not raising enough food to feed themselves, but were depending on caravan supplies for many of their basic needs."

As the vineyards continued to expand outward from the Ysleta and Socorro areas, harvest festivals were celebrated, bringing the *paseños* together after the long season in the fields. Liquor fairs were held in September and October, alternating with the fairs of the grain harvest. The *paseños* enjoyed a virtual monopoly on agricultural products up and down the Camino Real, but as C. L. Sonnichsen states in *Pass of the North*, "Traders had difficulty in getting to the annual fair held at Paso del Norte, the route being 'infested with savages'." Even so, documents reveal that on July 10, 1789, 139 shippers sent six hundred barrels of wine, brandy, and vinegar down the Camino Real to Ciudad Chihuahua.

Throughout the 18th Century, numerous journals and reports of missionaries and government officials supported the existence of thriving vineyards. In his invaluable history of the El Paso del Norte region, *El Paso: A Borderlands History*, Professor W. H. Timmons cites several documents to prove the point. In May, 1726, Brigadier General Pedro de Rivera noted that the valley towns contained "a quantity of vineyards which yield fruit of superior quality to that of Parras [an irrigated district in Coahuila near Monterrey]." Two decades later, Fray Miguel de Menchero reported that the grapevines "yield abundantly and produce fruit of a good flavor and a rich wine in no way inferior to that of our Spain."

In 1752 the German scientist Baron Alexander von Humboldt passed through the area and declared that "the vineyards produce such excellent sweet wines that they are even preferred to the wines of Parras in New Biscay." Shortly thereafter Father Manuel de San Juan Nepomuceno y Trigo informed his readers that Guadalupe [mission] had "a vineyard which is cultivated and pruned by a horticulturist furnished each week by the Indians. . . ."

At times it appeared that the visitors might have read and copied from each other's reports. For instance, in the mid-1760s when Captain Nicolás de Lafora was traveling with the Marqués de Rubí in this region, he also reported that the "very good grapes . . . are in no way inferior to those of Spain," but added "the inhabitants make passable wine and better brandy."

By the turn of the 19th Century the Spanish empire in New Spain was on the decline. The United States acquired the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803, and Spain was unable to halt the encroachments on the northern frontier: Americans began to trickle into the territory. One of the first was Zebulon Montgomery Pike, who was apprehended by Spanish officials in northern New Mexico and was marched down the Rio Grande to the Paso del Norte settlements. When he recorded his exploits in 1810, he spoke of San Elizario and its vineyards "from which were produced the finest wine ever drank."

In the same year the movement for Mexican independence from Spain began and by 1821 had been accomplished. Two hundred and forty years of Spanish rule and influence in the Paso del Norte area ended, but customs and traditions continued – the social and economic structure, religion, and language. As Helen Orndorff so aptly states in her *Password* article "Agriculture in the El Paso Valley: 1821-1870," "Little disturbed by the political change that had taken place when Mexico won her independence from Spain, the farmers in the El Paso



*Stacked wine barrels under a shed roof.
(Photo courtesy Herbert C. Morrow)*

Valley . . . went about their business of tilling the soil as they had always done."

With the opening of the Santa Fe Trail between northern New Mexico and Missouri, Americans began to move into the Rio Grande valley. Among the first was Kentuckian Hugh Stephenson, a beaver trapper who later "went into business as a Santa Fe trader." Other merchants, including James Magoffin, followed. Although these traders "introduced Kentucky whiskey, rum, gin, and even champagne to the people of the Southwest," the burgeoning traffic boosted the sales of the farmers in the valley. No longer did they allow fruit to rot on the tree as they had done when the markets demanded less.

The Santa Fe trade became very lucrative, but as increasing numbers of Americans engaged in the business, resentment arose from the Mexican merchants and officials. Strong measures to control the trade were enacted; the customs duties imposed and the trade permits required created tensions. A few traders were imprisoned and bribery was common. Despite these drawbacks, the traders and travelers continued to stream over the Camino Real. In 1826 James O. Pattie, an American, visited El Paso and wrote that he "was struck with the magnificent vineyards of this place, from which are made great quantities of delicious wine." Fifteen years later, in 1841, George W. Kendall, historian of the ill-fated Texas Santa Fe Expedition, com-

mented on his stay in El Paso and noted that "the wine of the country was of a quality far from inferior and in the greatest profusion. The inhabitants drink it from tumblers of the largest size." At the close of the Mexican War in 1848, as Colonel Alexander Doniphan's troops triumphantly entered the Pass, they were heralded with "grapes, apples, pears, peaches, gourds of wine – all from the friendly townspeople." Doniphan also reported that no fewer than 200,000 gallons of wine were produced annually and sold for two dollars a gallon, making grape production a very profitable business.

Between the years 1829 and 1831, a flood changed the course of the Rio Grande in such a way that in 1848 the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo placed the valley towns of San Elizario, Socorro, and Ysleta in Texas. Military and wagon roads were blazed from San Antonio to far West Texas, and a procession of American soldiers and ordinary citizens followed their tracks. Argonauts seeking their fortunes in the goldfields of California swarmed through the valley. When they reached the first settlement, San Elizario, and had occasion or time to pen their thoughts either in letters back home or in government reports, they inevitably commented on the "paradise" they had found. Undoubtedly, the 600-mile trek across the almost treeless and waterless Trans-Pecos region contributed to the ardor of their descriptions.

One of these writers was a "botanizer" named Charles Wright, who walked the entire stretch from San Antonio in the company of Major Jefferson Van Horne's military train, which arrived in the valley in September, 1849. "We get plenty of fruit (I have foundered on it) peaches, pears, quinces, indifferent apples, melons, immense onions and the finest grapes I ever saw – I have counted 120 to the bunch & seen a plenty of such bunches and they are of excellent flavor. I helped to drink today a couple of bottles of *vino* the pure juice of the grape – 'a year old."

In his excellent book *San Elizario: A History*, Eugene O. Porter cites observations from several accounts made by visitors regarding the virtues of the valley grapes. The Argonaut Cornelius C. Cox felt as if he had been "transported to the bowers of Eden," and reported that "great care and attention is paid to the culture of the grape and considerable wine is manufactured." A father and son, Thomas B. and Joseph G. Eastland, noted that "the vineyards are loaded with grapes of the most delicious flavor." William H. C. Whiting, who headed a government survey team, had this to say: "Vineyards, neatly pruned and walled about, appeared side by side with fresh green wheat fields." In 1859, the Methodist bishop George Foster Pierce "tasted . . .

the wine and found it excellent – ‘far superior to my uncultivated taste to most of the European brands.’” And Albert D. Richardson, later a Civil War correspondent, described the “San Elizario male” as a “wine connoisseur.”

From 1871 to 1883, William M. Pierson, United States Consul in El Paso del Norte, included in his dispatches to the Secretary of State detailed accounts of valley vineyard production and wine-making in the traditional style. His reports indicate the presence of a strong cottage industry begun almost three hundred years before.

Pierson’s reports contained many details. The vines in the fields were neither staked nor tailed, and stood without a crutch and were ranked among the sturdy little trees of the world. The vines were trimmed back close to the main stalk and took root in the spring. During the winter, the vines were covered with straw (or dirt), which was removed after the danger of frost was over. When growth began, shoots came out from the stump, near which the fruit hung. Weeding was a tedious process involving much hand labor. During the early spring, the vines were inundated with irrigation water, and by late July, the grapes began to mature. They were not always harvested immediately – it was common for a vineyardist to allow the fruit to hang on the vine until October “when they attained a syrup-like sweetness.”

Pierson also described the traditional wine-making process in the valley. “The wine manufacturer,” he said, “provided himself with a sufficient quantity of rawhide sacks, formed by fastening the outer edge of a large “green” hide to a sack form. The sack was allowed to dry in the sun until it was of iron-like hardness. A set of tramping pans, eight inches deep and large enough to fit over the mouth of the rawhide sacks, was made. The leather “pans” were made by drawing a piece of “green” hide over a square box. The outer edge of the hide was lashed to a square frame made of round poles. After the tramping pan dried, it was removed from the box, and the bottom was perforated with holes to allow the juice of mashed grapes to drain into the main hide sack hanging below the tramping pan.”

Continuing, Pierson related that the wine house was constructed in a barn or any open space where the main hide wine sack could be suspended. “Four forked poles were placed upright and stuck in the ground. Across these, horizontal poles hung, forming a frame for suspension of the wine sack. The tramping pan was then placed over the mouth of the wine sack after it was filled with grapes.” To extract the juice from the grapes, a worker mashed the grapes with his “brawny” feet while holding on to a brace or rope.



Winery worker in vineyard with hand plow and horse. (Photo courtesy Herbert C. Morrow)

The juice, fresh from the press, was poured into barrels. It was allowed to remain ten days for "hot fermentation." After this step, the juice was drawn off, leaving the sediment in the bottom of the barrel. The next step was to allow the juice to remain in the barrels for sixty days. It was then drained again in "a cool state." Thirty days from the second draining, the wine was considered to be ready for use. The wine was made from pure wine juice with "no additives or other manipulation."

Eight years before the railroads arrived in El Paso, a pamphlet entitled "Notes on Texas and the Texas and Pacific Railway" described the El Paso Valley. "There is no country on the continent superior to this valley for fruit, especially grapes, which attain a perfection in flavor and prolific yield not to be excelled by the most famous of the wine districts of California." The pamphlet mentioned specifically "the delicious purple grape" and the "delicious white grape which grows in great profusion," and added that a "very good wine is made by the Mexican vine growers, which commands a ready sale at \$2.50 to \$3.00 per gallon."

Oral history accounts of the wine industry are not common, but Maury Kemp of El Paso remembered that when he "arrived (around the turn of the 20th Century) and for many years thereafter, there were principal agricultural products – wheat, corn, alfalfa and fruit. There were pears and the famous 'mission grapes,' which are now

almost extinct (if I may use the expression), but which then grew in abundance and made the most delicious wine, and which, I believe it is admitted generally, grew no where else except this valley. It is generally supposed that they were brought here from somewhere in Spain by the Franciscan Friars, though this is coarse conjecture."

Other reports, perhaps with some exaggerations, claimed that the mission grapevines produced grapes of the greatest perfection, free of blight diseases of every type. In 1886 one such report claimed that one acre of land with 1000 vines was worth \$1000, that over 10,000 baskets of grapes were shipped by train to eastern markets for table use, and that much wine of a superior quality was still produced. The report further stated that during the three-month harvest season at least three train carloads of grapes crossed daily from the El Paso del Norte valley for shipment to United States cities, including New Orleans and New York. Dr. E. W. Alexander, who by 1890 had moved from the Mexican side to the American side of the Rio Grande, is said to have owned 25,000 grapevines, was involved in the shipping of grapes, and produced large quantities of wine.

However, by the 1890s, it appeared that the agricultural system in the valley was in trouble. During the summer of 1895, the *El Paso Times* ran a series of articles concerning the need for a dam in El Paso. The series argued that irrigation in Colorado was lowering the local water level and that the depletion of water from the Rio Grande was doing great damage to agricultural commerce. Flooding in exceptionally wet years washed away entire crops on some of the most productive farms. Rising salinity in the soil and low prices gradually caused the final decline in vineyard production, and by 1914, a census of valley crops reported only eight acres planted in vineyards with a total value of \$3,624.

The construction of Elephant Butte Dam in 1916 assured water for irrigation, but rising salinity and seepage gradually destroyed many of the remaining vineyards and orchards, and by 1920 cotton and alfalfa had replaced most of the land under cultivation. Today, according to the the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, there are no commercial vineyards remaining in El Paso County, although relic vines of the ancient mission grape can be found in yards and gardens. Some old-timers still make a cottage wine, but most grapes are used as table fruit or are left to rot for the birds, and perhaps a coyote or two.

The decline of viticulture on the American side of the river was paralleled by a similar decline on the Mexican side, although in the

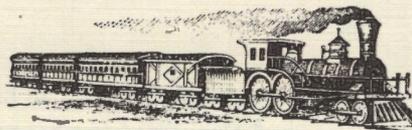
early 1970s there was still a small winery operating south of Zaragoza. However, in the Mesilla Valley, north of El Paso in New Mexico, there are two small vineyards and wineries in operation.

What at one time was the most flourishing agricultural enterprise in the El Paso del Norte area, that of growing grapes and processing them into alcoholic beverages, vinegar, and raisins, has disappeared. What endures, however, is a rich historical heritage.

HERBERT C. MORROW a member of the El Paso County Historical Commission, is currently performing history and architectural history projects at Fort Bliss. He received B.A. and M.A. degrees in history and anthropology from the University of Arizona, and studied architectural history and preservation technology at the University of Texas at Austin. He is a former instructor at the University of Texas at El Paso and at the El Paso Community College.

REFERENCES

- Adams, Eleanor B., Ed. and trans, *Bishop Tamaron's Visitation of New Mexico, 1760*, Vol. 15. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Publications in History, 1954.
- Bingham, Harvey, *Dispatches from United States Consul in Ciudad Juarez*. No. 64, February 21, 1886. Microfiche, El Paso Public Library.
- Castañeda, Carlos E., *Our Catholic Heritage in Texas*, Vol. I. Austin: Von Boeckman-Jones Co., 1936.
- Chavez, Fray Angelico, *Origins of New Mexico Families in the Spanish Colonial Period*, Albuquerque: University of Albuquerque, 1973.
- Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua Municipal Archives. Letter to José Gonzalez from Friar Lucas Arebalo, April 25, 1712. Unnumbered Frame; Don Pedro Veames, "Inventory of Grapevines;" Letter by Josef Antonio Arrieta, November 4, 178. UTEP, MF.
- Dispatches from the United States Consuls in Ciudad Juarez, 1871-1883*. UTEP Library, MF.
- Emory, William H., *Report - United States and Mexican Boundary Survey*, Washington, D.C., 1857.
- Fugate, Francis L. and Roberta B., "An 1890 View of El Paso's Business Prospects," *Password*, 38 (Spring 1992).
- Hackett, Charles W., Ed., *Historical Documents relating to New Mexico, Nueva Vizcaya, and Approaches thereto, to 1773*, Vol. 3. Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Institute, 1937.
- Jackson, Donald, Ed., *The Journal of Zebulon Montgomery Pike*, 2 Vols. Norman: University of Oklahoma, 1966.
- "Memoirs of Maury Kemp," Typescript. El Paso Public Library (n.d.).
- Means, Emilia G. G., "The Great Line," *Password*, 32, (Fall, 1987).
- Moorhead, Max L., *New Mexico's Royal Road*. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1958.
- Morrow, Herbert C., *The Mission Trail*. El Paso: West Texas Council of Governments, 1981.
- Orndorff, Helen, "History of the Development of Agriculture in the El Paso Valley." M.A. thesis, Texas Western College (UTEP), 1951.
- Pattie, James O., *The Personal Narrative of James O. Pattie of Kentucky*. Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott, 1962.
- Porter, Eugene O., *San Elizario: A History*. Austin: Jenkins Publishing Co., 1973.
- Simmons, Marc, "Folks produced their own spirits." *El Paso Times*, April 3, 1994.
- Sonnichsen, C. L., *Pass of the North*. Vol. I. El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1968.
- Timmons, W. H., *El Paso: A Borderlands History*. El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1990.
- Walz, Vina, "History of the El Paso Area, 1680-1692." Ph.D. diss., University of New Mexico, 1951.
- Wright, Charles, Letters to Asa Gray. September 13, 1849. Copy in possession of Clinton P. Hartmann.



BUMMING a Ride ON MR. EDDY'S RAILROAD

A Spirited Exchange of Letters

Introduction by Ann Buffington

In November, 1903, a group of patients at the Fort Stanton Marine Hospital wrote a letter to Charles B. Eddy, President of the El Paso and Northeastern Railway, requesting a free train ride from Capitan, New Mexico, to El Paso and back. The letter was a masterpiece of ready wit and persuasive argument. In his reply Mr. Eddy pronounced it a "most artistic holdup" and declared that "never before" had his "admiration for unmitigated gall" been "so . . . thoroughly exercised."

These two letters are presented not only for the reader's enjoyment, but also because they illustrate the human side of what has been called "The Golden Era of Invalidism" in New Mexico. Such documents are rare and thus historically significant.

"The Golden Era of Invalidism" in New Mexico lasted for approximately three decades – from about 1880 to 1912. During these years, invalids on a relentless quest for health sought a new kind of El Dorado in the magical properties of New Mexico and other parts of the Southwest, bringing yet another wave of settlers to the ancient land. It is a movement that has been largely ignored, perhaps lacking the mythic qualities of earlier quests but just as influential in the settlement of the West.

The majority of these health-seekers suffered from respiratory illnesses, particularly tuberculosis, the leading cause of death during

the nineteenth century. The high altitude, sunny skies, and the pure, dry air of New Mexico were believed to be eminently suited for those suffering from the "White Plague," as it was aptly called. There was no other known treatment. So by the 1880s, when the railroad had arrived and New Mexico's frontier had become relatively tame, an army of the weak-lunged came searching for health in "the salubrious El Dorado." They were dubbed "lungers" and sanitoriums to care for them soon sprang up all over the territory.

Fort Stanton, decommissioned by the United States Army in 1896 after the conquest and participation of the Mescalero Apaches, found new life as a Marine Hospital treating tubercular seamen. As such, it was the first federal hospital set aside exclusively for that purpose. Located in the foothills of the Sacramento Mountains in remote Lincoln County, it was considered to have the ideal climate for "lungers" – with mild winters, cool summers, and, at an elevation of 6,026 feet, the requisite high altitude.

Its remoteness, though, presented problems for the hospital administrators and medical staff. Fort Stanton was a long way off from the kind of port cities that seamen were accustomed to visit on periodic shore-leaves. As early as 1901, Dr. J. O. Cobb, the first direc-



The administration building of Fort Stanton, New Mexico, circa 1904. (Photo courtesy Museum of New Mexico and reproduced by James W. Ward)

tor of the new hospital, described some of the difficulties he was having: "To find means of diversion or amusement has been a hard problem, and will continue to be so. While [the patients] are running fever or otherwise doing badly, I have no trouble, but just as soon as they begin to get well they become restless. . . ."

In 1969 Carole Gorney, Public Relations Director of the New Mexico Department of Hospitals and Institutions, researched the hospital years at Fort Stanton and found that Dr. Cobb had been accurate in his prediction. Patient-morale continued to be a problem "with several hundred seamen confined to the Fort when previously they had been used to the freedom of the seas and world ports."

Clearly it was restlessness, boredom – and hunger for diversion – that prompted the patients' letter to Mr. Eddy. They were obviously a jaunty bunch, with high spirits not to be discouraged by a little thing like a life-threatening illness for which there was no real cure. And in Charles B. Eddy, they found their match. He was a world-class promoter. His many daring schemes, combined with a surfeit of imagination, energy and resourcefulness, resulted in projects that "changed the map of New Mexico," according to William A. Keleher. Among his enterprises, he built a railway spur to Capitan in order to ship coal the twenty miles from the Salado Coal Fields down to the main line in Carrizozo. Although the train ran only twice a week and was seven miles away from Fort Stanton, it offered the restless patients there a tantalizing prospect of bright lights and night life in El Paso, only a short railroad journey away.

The spirited exchange of letters between the Fort Stanton "lungers" and Mr. Eddy came to my attention while I was editing the memoirs of Dr. James W. Laws, a signer of the letter and a "duly qualified" member of the group who called themselves the Amalgamated Association of Consolidated Lungers. As a young doctor in Memphis, Tennessee, James Laws discovered that he had tuberculosis. He immediately decided to head West and soon obtained a position at Fort Stanton, where he could treat other tuberculosis patients – and perhaps find his own cure. His case had a happy ending. The climate theory worked for him and he recovered from the disease during his stint at the hospital. He married another health-seeker in New Mexico, Grace Austin, an asthmatic; and the couple opened their own private sanatorium for tuberculosis sufferers in nearby Lincoln in 1905. Then in 1917 Dr. Laws took over Dr. J. W. Hendricks' sanatorium in El Paso while Hendricks went off to serve in World War I.

After the War, Dr. Laws and Dr. Hendricks became partners and operated the Hendricks-Laws Sanitorium until 1940.

Dr. Laws' memoirs of his Fort Stanton and Lincoln years came to light through the courtesy of his son, Otis Laws, of Malibu, California, whom we can also thank for contributing this delightful exchange of correspondence.

AMALGAMATED ASSOCIATION OF CONSOLIDATED LUNGERS
OF FORT STANTON, NEW MEXICO

Fort Stanton, N. Mex.
Nov. 18, 1903

Mr. Charles B. Eddy, Esq.
President, El Paso & Northeastern Ry.
Alamogordo, N.M.

Honorable Sir:

We, the Amalgamated Association of Consolidated Lungers of New Mexico, Port of Fort Stanton, commonly known as the Officers' Mess, take our pen in hand to indite you these few lines, which you may use to hang clothes on or fish with, whichever you prefer.

*"Think of the great service
you . . . will be doing for
a band of one-lunged
semi-comatose, one-foot-
in-the-grave has beens."*

Each and every signer of this document is a lunger, duly qualified to hold membership in our short-lived, but gallant society, having met the requirements of cough, expectoration, hemorrhage, night sweats, etc., laid down by the rule of the order. Sad as it may seem to one living in the gay metropolis, before the limelight of civiliza-

tion, advancement and modern progress, no member of our association has experienced the joy of witnessing, hearing and absorbing a theatrical performance in the last twelve months, one year ago being the date upon which our youngest member foresook the delights of

society for the quest of health on the isolated plateau of New Mexico. But sadder yet, ah, much, much sadder, is the fact that some of us must, before many more moons are born to blush unseen, traverse the unknown path to that great beyond where all good lungers go.

Trusting that you have borne with us gently till now, we will hasten to tell you where you come in. We desire you to cause to be issued to each and every one of us, or to the society as a body, certain pasteboard credentials which will be honored by your train robbers – we should say conductors – for our travel from Capitan to El Paso and return. Our claim to the right to have this transportation is based solely and wholly on our blown-in-the-bottle, unadulterated, ninety-nine and forty-four hundredths percent pure nerve, gall, or crust, whichever you wish to call it. (It makes no difference to us as long as we get passes.)

Before acting on this modest request, we beg of you to consider. Think of the great service you, as the representative of a great and moneyed corporation, will be doing for a band of one-lunged, semi-comatose, one-foot-in-the-grave has beens. Think with what a clear conscience you can retire to your more or less downy couch if you grant us this little boon. Such an opportunity may not come to you again in a lifetime. Think, oh think, how, when the great day of reckoning comes, you can hold up your head among the elect and eloquently say, "I seen my duty and done it."

We desire to assure you that you need not hesitate for fear of attendant casualties. We number among us four doctors, an undertaker and a minister, all of whom will travel with us – being lungers also – in case anything should happen. An extra coffin or two shall go on the same train – in the baggage coach ahead – and our medical staff will be equipped with the Murphy apparatus for stopping hemorrhage. Each member will go armed, as usual, with two spit-cups.

We desire to go to El Paso on the 28th and return on the 1st, taking in while there the production *R.U.A. Mason*? If you can acquiesce in our little suggestion regarding the railroad fare, you will be elected to honorary membership in the association and fondly spoken of and remembered while we live. Such a service could not be forgotten; our esprit de "corpse" would not permit it. On the other hand – as the man said who changed his cuffs – if you refuse, we fear, very, very, very much fear, that when we present ourselves at the ticket office of your great pathway of commerce at Capitan and the agent asks for money, it will be the first time in our lives we were unable to "cough up."

Should you find it in your heart to cause said pasteboards to be issued, we assure you that each and every one of us, while breath

lasts, will do his utmost to cause all tourists leaving Capitan to travel over your line.

Hoping with all our lungs that you will do your modest share toward helping a little ray of sunshine to filter through the gloom into our dark and shadowy lives, we remain, Honorable Sir,

Breathlessly yours,
(signed)
J. Ross Thomas
Imperial Hard Cougher

Oliver R. Newman
Master Recorder of Hemorrhages

Members of the Association: H. G. Ebert, M.D., J. W. Laws, M.D.,
Thomas J. O'Reilly, M.D., J. Irgy
Buckner, Whitney N. Stevens, Glover
Wilcox, F. Beale Thompson, Chalmers
P. Dyke

Well, did Mr. Eddy contribute his "modest share"? Did he see fit to send "a little ray of sunshine" into the "dark and shadowy lives" of those Consolidated Lungers at the Port of Fort Stanton?

Read on - and find out.

EL PASO & NORTHEASTERN SYSTEM
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Alamogordo, New Mexico
Nov. 25, 1903

Mr. J. Ross Thomas
Imperial Hard Cougher, A.A. of C.L.
Fort Stanton, N.M.

Unfortunate Sir:

I have received your most "touching" petition, and my admiration for unmitigated gall has never before been so fully inspired or thoroughly exercised.

You appear to proceed upon the theory the mountaineer advanced when he refused fare to the conductor: "You've got steam up and you are going anyway."

Now there would have been nothing amiss in your asking a half rate, since, possessing but one lung, you would be entitled to such consideration by the rules of the road. But the E.P.&N.E. was built for your benefit. The stockholders in this scull-less corporation could expect no greater joy than to realize that at last an opportunity has arrived to move your admirable association. It is the climax of the philanthropic motives which first led us to lay our steel upon the New Mexican desert.

Damage suits may come and go, trains may be ditched and snowdrifts abound, but such trifles may easily be forgotten in the delight of acquiescing in your polite and most artistic holdup. We cough up - "not bugs, but cardboard." Ride and rest easy. Promise that if the train is wrecked, or you are sufficiently shaken by accident to change the good lung over to the bad side, you will each and all sue the road for not less than \$42,500 for personal damages.

Words are inadequate to express the pleasure we feel in complying with your request. We trust you will drink from the full cup of joy, and that mirth is the "only thing" with which you will be "filled" during the brief moment you loiter in the dazzle of city life.

For men who already feel the daisies growing over them you seem a cheerful association. Others could well emulate your example of calm, yet mirthful,

resignation to the long journey you expect to take soon after your pleasant, though free, ride on our road. You have so enthused us with admiration for the humane cause in which our road is operated that we regret we cannot extend our line to the Pearly Gates in time to give you passes by St. Peter's turnstile. However, we trust you will make the most of what opportunity you have for enabling corporations like ours to continue in their noble missions. Even a lunger may serve some purpose in life.

A man with one lung is an ideal deadhead. He possesses such talent for getting something for nothing that he ought to breathe easy - but he doesn't. He will be the first to awaken with the Great Horn toot on the final day. He will ask for something before the last echo

*"A man with one lung. . . .
possesses such talent for
getting something for
nothing that he ought to
breathe easy. . . ."*

dies away, and he will get it. All things come to the men with a cough; and when he forms himself into an association, he is invincible. He is the only person in existence who can draw interest on the overdraft at the bank. The world stands aghast when he coughs – especially when he coughs “in his cups.”

When grapes grow on thorn trees; when vinegar is sweet to a child; when water runs up hill; when the sun becomes an ice plant; when Russell Sage spends thirty cents, or when Bryan is elected President, then will a lunger meet with the first denial of a request.

With best wishes for a few days' prolongation of your lives, and hoping you may enjoy *R.U.A. Mason?* to the thirty-third degree of pleasure, I remain.

Faithfully yours,
(signed)
Charles B. Eddy
President

ANN BUFFINGTON, a former resident of Lincoln, New Mexico, and now living in Carizozo, is employed as a Historical Interpreter for the Lincoln County Heritage Trust in Lincoln. The editor of *Memoirs of a Country Doctor* by James W. Laws, M.D., she is also a frequent contributor of historical articles and book reviews to *Mountain Passages*.

REFERENCES

- Gorney, Carole, *Roots in Lincoln: A History of Fort Stanton Hospital*, Report to the New Mexico State Planning Office, 1969.
- Jones, Billy M., *Health-Seekers in the Southwest 1817-1900* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1967).
- Keleher, William A., *The Fabulous Frontier* (Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1967).
- Spidle, Jake, "An Army of Tubercular Invalids: New Mexico and the Birth of a Tuberculosis Industry," *New Mexico Historical Review*, July, 1986.
- Stanley, F., *Fort Stanton, New Mexico* (F. Stanley, 1964).



SOCIOLOGY AND ACADEMIA

A History of the Sociology Department

by Paul W. Goodman, Ph.D.

Like many of the scholarly disciplines which flourish in El Paso's grove of academe, Sociology began as a tiny seedling planted inconspicuously in the shade of an established tree. Mary Green Kelly was the institution's first teacher of Sociology. She came to the College of Mines and Metallurgy in 1925 as an Adjunct Professor of History. She had graduated from Wellesley College in 1922, and from 1922 to 1925 she had taught at El Paso High School. The College yearbook of 1928, *The Flowsheet*, indicates that she had also taken graduate work at Columbia University. On June 12, 1928, she married Adjunct Professor of Geology Howard E. Quinn, and the 1929 *Flowsheet* lists her as Mary Kelly Quinn, Adjunct Professor of Social Science.

The yearbooks for 1930 and 1931 have no information on either of the Quinns, and with good reason. They were busy pursuing their respective degrees in Boston. Howard Quinn was awarded a Ph.D. in Geology in 1931 from Harvard University, and Mary K. Quinn was awarded an M.A. degree from Boston University in 1930. In 1932, the same year that the College granted its first B.A. degree, they resumed their work in El Paso — Dr. Quinn as Curator of the Museum and Professor of Geology, and Mrs. Quinn as Adjunct Professor of Sociology.

Mrs. Quinn came from a distinguished pioneer El Paso family. There were four girls in the Kelly household — Elizabeth, Mary, Anne, and Charlee — and each one of them achieved distinction in her chosen profession. Their father, C. E. Kelly, was mayor of El Paso from 1910 to 1915, and he was also the first El Pasoan to serve on the University of Texas Board of Regents (1917-1925). Kelly Hall on the local campus is named for him.

It is not clear when Mrs. Quinn became a full-time Sociology professor. In 1940, her title was Assistant Professor of Sociology, but as late as 1950 she was still teaching history courses. Dr. Lola B. Dawkins, Professor Emerita of Marketing at The University of Texas at El Paso, recalls that when she attended Texas Western College she had a choice of studying American history from a sociological standpoint, a military standpoint, or an economic standpoint. She chose to study it under Professor Quinn, who gave it a sociological twist.



Mary Kelly Quinn

*(Photo courtesy Nancy Hamilton
and James W. Ward)*

Evidently by the academic year 1956-1957, Sociology was really taking hold at Texas Western College.

A fulltime sociologist, in addition to Mrs. Quinn, was hired that year. However, the appointment didn't work out. The newly-hired sociologist refused to sign a declaration which all employees were required to sign, indicating that they had never belonged to any of several listed subversive organizations. Dr. Rex Strickland, who was head of the Department of History, Political Science, and Sociology, asked me to fill in as a part-time instructor. Then, in the spring of 1958 I applied for and received a full-time instructorship in Sociology at Texas Western College.

I am not sure exactly where the Department was housed at that time, but my office was in a Quonset Hut that was somewhere in back of Magoffin Auditorium where the Fox Fine Arts Center is now located. I shared the Quonset Hut with two instructors of English, one of whom was Roberta Walker. In 1961, we all moved into the new Liberal Arts Building, where we had spacious offices and lots of room. But shortly, as the faculty increased, the offices were partitioned and shared so that the sense of roominess disappeared.

The 1957-1958 Texas Western College Bulletin lists eleven Sociology courses. I am not sure how many were actually taught in

each given semester, but I had determined to teach everything Mrs. Quinn taught so that we could spell each other and broaden the number of courses offered. During that year and the next two, I taught the Introductory and Social Problems courses and also courses labeled The Family, Population Problems and Immigration (Demography), and Juvenile Delinquency. In the summer of 1960, I started to work toward the Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Colorado, and I was thus not able to teach the other Sociology offerings, which included Community, Marriage and the Family, Fields of Social Work, Comparative Cultures, Criminology, and Child Welfare Programs. In the year 1962-1963, two Anthropology courses were added to the growing number of courses offered under the aegis of the History (et al) Department: Southwest Archaeology and Southwest Ethnology.

In 1962, Dr. Clark Knowlton was hired as a Professor of Sociology. The Bulletin for 1963-1964 lists Dr. Knowlton and seven new courses in Sociology, including Social Theory. In 1964, the Sociology Department was formed, and in 1965 Mrs. Quinn retired. She had done her job well. Under her careful nurturing, the little seedling had taken root and had grown into a fine young tree.

I returned to Texas Western College in September, 1966, with a note from the University of Colorado indicating that I had completed all the work for my Ph.D. in Sociology; the degree was formally awarded in January, 1967. The Sociology Department, according to the 1966-1967 Bulletin, consisted of Dr. Knowlton, Head; Dr. Julian R. Roebuck, Professor; Dr. Ellwyn R. Stoddard, Associate Professor; Dr. Jose Dasilva, Associate Professor; Mr. Rex Gerald (Anthropology), Assistant Professor; Dr. Ralph Segalman, Assistant Professor; and Paul Goodman, Instructor. Thirty-four undergraduate Sociology courses, five undergraduate Anthropology courses, and five graduate courses in Sociology appear in that year's Bulletin.

The 1960s and '70s were boom times for academia. In response to President Kennedy's dictum "Ask not what your country can do for you, but rather what you can do for your country," many young people sought higher education as the way to a better future and a better country. College enrollments soared, bringing an increased demand for teachers. Out in far West Texas, the little college on the rocky hill felt an impact from the boom — and in 1967 it became The University of Texas at El Paso.

When I left Colorado, I was told that 170 colleges throughout the nation could not find qualified teachers to place on their respective

Sociology Department faculties. I was therefore pleasantly surprised that Texas Western College had been able to recruit enough teachers to start a Department of Sociology and to offer a respectable variety of courses. Where did all these faculty members come from, and what kind of people were they?

Space does not permit a full treatment of every academic who joined the Sociology Department during the luxuriant growing season of the '60s and '70s. However mention must be made of those who significantly strengthened the department through their scholarship, their teaching effectiveness, their administrative skills – or any combination of these aptitudes.

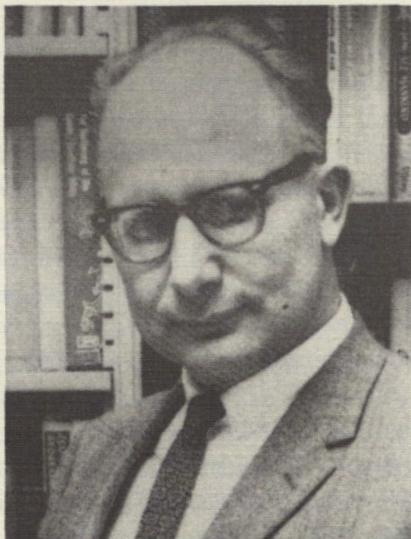
Dr. Clark Shumway Knowlton, the department's first head, had taken his B.A. and M.A. degrees at Brigham Young University and had then enrolled in the doctoral program at Vanderbilt University. His studies there led to a Cordell Hull Scholarship, which enabled him to go to São Paulo, Brazil, to gather data for his dissertation and to teach at the University of São Paulo. In due course he earned his Ph.D. from Vanderbilt. A combat veteran of World War II, Dr. Knowlton was an extremely kind and gracious man and a true gentleman-scholar. A devout Mormon, he had served on a mission to Argentina and Brazil and was fluent in Spanish and Portuguese. He came to Texas Western College from Highlands University in Las Vegas, New Mexico, where he had been a one-man Sociology Department and had written many papers on the agricultural situation in that part of New Mexico.

Dr. Knowlton made excellent contributions to the Sociology Department at the El Paso institution of higher learning, but unfortunately those contributions got lost in a flurry of disagreement between Town and Gown. Nancy Hamilton describes the flurry in her book *UTEP: A Pictorial History of The University of Texas at El Paso* (Texas Western Press, 1988):

[A] professor who became the subject of community controversy was the head of the Sociology Department, Clark Knowlton. Reies Tijerina, a militant New Mexican, in 1966 attempted the violent take-over of former Spanish land grant areas of northern New Mexico, claiming his Hispanic followers had been defrauded of their rights to these lands in past years. The movement erupted into violence at Tierra Amarilla, where federal officials were wounded and the courthouse was seized. Tijerina and his followers then went into hiding. Because of Knowlton's research interest in the matters

of concern to Tijerina, a New Mexico official felt the professor might be the only person who could persuade the leader to surrender. Dr. Knowlton did so, but many El Pasoans complained that his activities were damaging to the college. [President of the college] Dr. [Joseph] Ray and officials of the UT System agreed that "he had done nothing to warrant any change in his status . . .," but the community continued to be riled about the man. . . .

There is not much to add to this account. This was a big story and headlines appeared about it in both the local and the Austin papers, and news about it traveled throughout the country. Dr. Ray and the Board of Regents received letters of commendation from the American Association of University Professors applauding the way they had handled the affair. Such applause, however, did nothing to soothe the community. Dr. Knowlton took a leave of absence from The University of Texas at El Paso for the year 1968-1969, resigned his position in April, 1969, and became Director of the Center for the Study of Social Problems at the University of Utah, where he stayed until his death in 1990.



Dr. Clark Shumway Knowlton

*(Photo courtesy Nancy Hamilton
and James W. Ward)*

Dr. Julian Baker Roebuck joined the Sociology faculty in 1965 as Professor of Criminology. He had obtained his B.A. from Atlantic Christian College, his M.A. from Duke University, and his Ph.D. from the University of Maryland. Though he stayed only until 1971, his scholarship in his specialized field of sociological studies expanded and enriched the department's curriculum. His book on Criminal Typology was published during his years at the El Paso institution, and he would co-author another book after he left the local campus to take a position at Georgia State University and, later, at Mississippi State University.

Dr. Jose Fabia Barbosa Dasilva was appointed in 1964 as the Sociology Department's specialist in demography. He had received both his B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of São Paulo, Brazil, had subsequently emigrated to the United States, and had

earned the Ph.D. from the University of Florida. A quiet, scholarly gentleman, he, like Dr. Roebuck, stayed only a short time, but contributed greatly to the department's ever-expanding course offerings. In 1967, the bells of Notre Dame University called to him, and in 1968 he resigned his post in El Paso to take a position there.

Dr. Ralph Segalman was associated with the Sociology Department from 1965 to 1967. He had earlier come to El Paso as the head of the Jewish Community Center, subsequently earning his Ph.D. in Sociology from New York University. A trained social worker, he was responsible for writing proposals for Upward Bound, BRAVO, and other government programs that were instituted by President Johnson in his War Against Poverty and that soon became a part of the El Paso scene. He was the first head of the Upward Bound Program which was housed on the campus of Texas Western College. Although his membership in the Sociology Department took the prize for brevity in those years, his practical experience coupled with his academic knowledge was a unique contribution to the growing department. He left the local institution to take a position at the University of Texas at Austin as Associate Director of Social Work, later becoming a Professor at the University of California in Northridge.

All of these comings and goings show clearly that the Sociology Department was making a vigorous effort to broaden its curriculum. They also show that it was experiencing growing pains, pains which were greatly alleviated by several newcomers who found an academic home at the El Paso institution of higher learning. One such professor was Dr. Ellwyn Reed Stoddard, who was appointed in 1964 and is still a member of the department. He had taken his B.A. degree at Utah State University, his M.A. at Brigham Young University, and his Ph.D. at Michigan State University, where he had worked under the famous sociologist Dr. Charles P. Loomis. Dr. Stoddard, who is fluent in Spanish, devotes himself to Border Sociological Studies and is recognized as a leader in that field.

Another long-term faculty member was Rex Gerald, an anthropologist attached to the Department of Sociology. He came to Texas Western College in January, 1958, from Arizona, where he had been engaged in archaeological research. He was hired as an Assistant Professor to direct the Centennial Museum and to teach one course in anthropology each long semester. He began working toward his Ph.D. in Anthropology in 1963 at the University of Chicago, spending part of his time during the next several years at that University and part of

his time at the El Paso institution. He received his Ph.D. in 1975 and continued his dual appointment as Director of the Centennial Museum and as a part-time Assistant Professor of Anthropology in the Sociology Department until 1979, when he became a full-time Associate Professor. He was a very active anthropologist and wrote many monographs on his archaeological work.* During the months immediately preceding his death from cancer in May, 1990, he was excavating on the old Socorro Mission site.

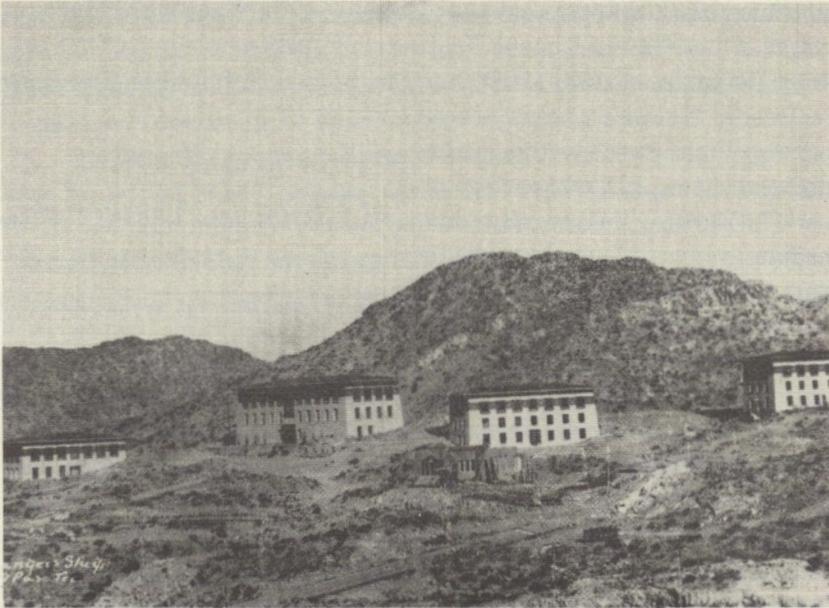
"This was the time of Chicano Awakening, student activism, and challenges to authority..."

Dr. William G. Steglich came to The University of Texas at El Paso in 1968 from Texas Tech in Lubbock, where he had been head of that institution's Sociology Department for many years. He succeeded Dr. Knowlton as the department head in 1969 and remained in that position until 1973. Dr. Steglich was a real Texan. He had grown up near Fredericksburg and had earned his degrees at the University of Texas at Austin. A strong administrator, he was instrumental in building a large and sound Sociology Department. Many of the people he hired are still with the department – for example, Dr. Howard C. Daudistel, the present departmental chair, and Dr. Sarah Watley-Beal, an extremely strong teacher and student-counselor who – incidentally – took a leave of absence during the years 1990-1992 to teach Army personnel in Japan.

Two of the most memorable things that happened in Dr. Steglich's chairmanship was the start of the department's Master's Degree program and the hiring of Dr. Carl Frederick Krenzel as a Benedict Fellow for the years 1969-1974. Benedict Fellows were outstanding professors in their respective academic fields and were hired to stimulate both students and faculty toward academic excellence. Needless to say, Dr. Krenzel's presence had the desired effect. The Sociology Department's first Master's Degree was awarded in 1969 to Patrick Lee Lauderdale. Since that year, more than one hundred such degrees have been awarded.

Dr. Steglich's tenure as departmental chair was also marked by controversy – largely because of the changing times. This was the period of Chicano Awakening, student activism, and challenges to

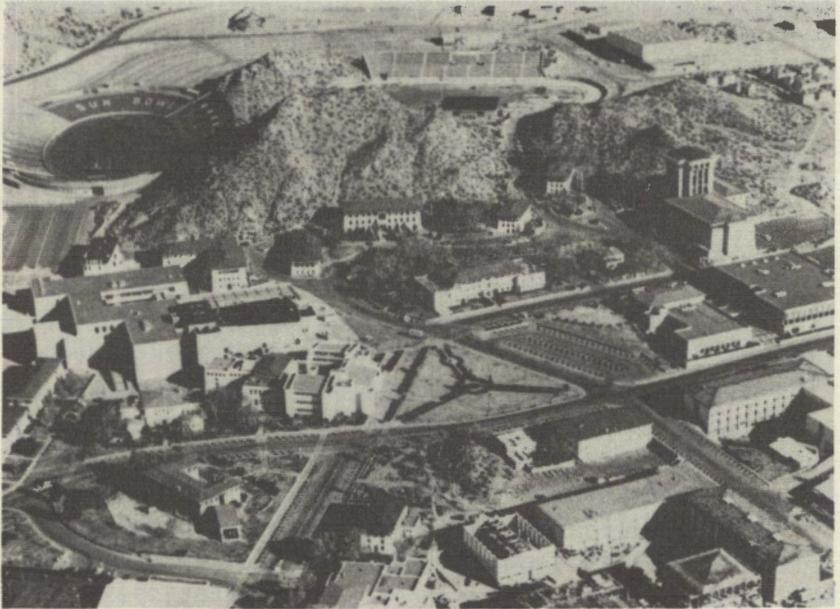
*Editor's note: Dr. Gerald received the 1988 **Eugene O. Porter Memorial Award** for his article "BRAVO 1975: An Inventory of the Missions of Senecú, Ysleta, and Socorro by Fray José Bravo in the Year 1975," which appeared in the Spring 1988 *Password*.



Two views of Academe at El Paso. Top, Texas College of Mines as it was pictured in the Flowsheet of 1925, the year that Mary G. Kelly (later, Quinn) became the first teacher of Sociology. Opposite page, a partial view of The University of Texas at El Paso in 1975. (Photos courtesy Texas Western Press, the Heritage Commission of The University of Texas at El Paso, and James W. Ward)

authority. Dr. Steglich moved through these times with a firmness and strength that often brought criticism to him and the department but that allowed the maturing tree to weather the stormy winds of change.

One of the very interesting scholars in the department during the Knowlton-Steglich era was Dr. Thomas P. Carter, whose stay included the years 1967-1971. A graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, he had enjoyed a distinguished career as a Director of the United States Information Agency in Arequipo, Peru, and as an Assistant Professor at the University of California, Riverside. He was the author of *Mexican Americans in School* and an authority on Peruvian education. At The University of Texas at El Paso he had an unusual dual appointment to the Sociology Department and to the Curriculum and Education Department of the School of Education, an



appointment that came about because of a grant given to the University by HEW under Title V of the Higher Education Act. In the Sociology Department he was the first to teach a course in Sociology of Education.

In 1973 Dr. Julius Rivera came from the University of Houston to assume the chairmanship of the Sociology Department. He is a distinguished scholar and sociological theorist who was born in Columbia and who holds the Ph.D. from Michigan State University. He had also taught at the University of Arizona and at Texas Tech when Dr. Steglich was chairman of that institution's Department of Sociology. And he had authored a book entitled *Latin America: A Social-Cultural Interpretation*, which was used as a textbook in many universities. In a sense Dr. Rivera was the answer to the student demand for more Chicano professors since he was a native Spanish speaker and had been affiliated with Chicano students in Houston. He resigned from the departmental chair at The University of Texas at El Paso in 1974, but remained as a productive and respected member of the department until his retirement in 1989.

When Dr. Rivera came to the University in El Paso, the Sociology Department was housed in Benedict Hall, but was soon moved into former dormitory rooms, each one equipped with a sink. At the time, one member of the department declared that "We have the cleanest

Sociology Department in the country!" He might also have called it one of the most peripatetic departments in the country. Its first home was in the Liberal Arts Building. From there, during Dr. Steglich's chairmanship, it was moved to a small stone building (originally built as a Unitarian Church) on Hawthorne Street about where the Physical Science Building is now located. From the stone building it was moved to Benedict Hall, then back to Liberal Arts for a time, and later to Old Main, its present abode.

Dr. Rivera was succeeded in the chairmanship in May, 1974, by Dr. David Eyde, an anthropologist who had joined the department in 1970 with a Ph.D. from Yale University in his pocket. He had meanwhile deservedly earned the reputation in the department as an excellent teacher very mindful of his students' welfare. He remained in the chair for four years, and the department was fortunate to retain his services until 1991.

The next chairman was Dr. Irving Brown, who had entered the department in 1969 – and not as a newcomer to the campus. He had been an undergraduate at Texas Western College, later earning a Master's degree at New Mexico State University and a Ph.D. at the University of Missouri. He left the chair in 1982 and remained with the department until his retirement in 1991.

Dr. Howard C. Daudistel assumed the chairmanship of the department in 1982 and has held it ever since with the exception of the year 1987-1988, when he became an Assistant to the University President and relinquished the chair temporarily to Dr. John Hedderson. In 1986 the division of Criminal Justice was added to the Department of Sociology for administrative purposes. The department also includes Social Work and, of course, Anthropology. In fact, its official name now is the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

Dr. Daudistel had come to The University of Texas at El Paso as a graduate of the University of California at Santa Barbara. He had studied under one of the foremost criminologists in the country, Dr. Donald R. Cressy, and had collaborated on a popular introductory Criminology text. In addition to carrying out his administrative duties, he continues his vigorous research and his ongoing production of scholarly books and articles.

In 1984 I retired from the University. At that time the Sociology Department had eight faculty members (including myself). Within a few years, two other professors retired, and two departed. However, only one person was hired to fill these vacancies – for reasons related to the financial crunch of the '80s and also to the University's

budget priorities. Meanwhile, student enrollments in Sociology courses were increasing every year, and classes became very large, the introductory courses running to as many as five hundred students in each section. Now, in the '90s, these stresses seem to be easing. Although the size of the classes has not noticeably diminished, the number of faculty is slightly on the rise. At the present time (1993-1994), the department has nine tenured or tenure-track professors.

This brief history of the Sociology Department is incomplete, to be sure. Omitted, for example, is the record of the critical (and sometimes painful) decisions regarding personnel and curriculum, as well as any mention of the not-infrequent collisions between the department and higher administration. Such aspects of the history have been omitted in the interest of presenting an unobstructed view of the department's general course of development and a proper emphasis upon the contributions of the scholar-educators. The broad view reveals these academics as no ivory-tower dwellers, but rather as industrious laborers helping to transform a rocky hill into a well-tended Grove of Academe.

PAUL W. GOODMAN, a native of New York City, earned his B.A. and M.S. degrees at Syracuse University and his Ph.D. in Sociology at the University of Colorado. Now retired from The University of Texas at El Paso, he holds the title Associate Professor Emeritus of Sociology. He continues to serve the University as the volunteer Curriculum Chairperson of the Center for Lifelong Learning, the institution's adult-education program.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The author expresses his thanks to **Helen J. Ring**, Administrative Secretary of the Department of Sociology, for making available the departmental records; to the **Special Collection Librarians** for providing University bulletins, catalogues, and other research materials; to **Valerie McKinley** for permitting use of some personnel files; and to **Dr. Howard C. Daudistel**, Chair of the Sociology and Anthropology Department, for his help in the gathering of data.



Shady Ladies

*The Abbott-Clark Ruckus, El Paso, 1886**

(with apologies to Robert W. Service)

by Shirley Gillett Clement

*Documented accounts of the confrontation between Madams Abbott and Clark are found in the "The Shooting of Big Alice Abbott" by Kenneth A. Goldblatt and James M. Russell, *Password*, XVI, 2 (Summer, 1971) and in H. Gordon Frost, *The Gentlemen's Club*. (El Paso: Mangan Books, 1983), 36-42. Photos of the pair courtesy Frank Mangan, Mangan Books.

Big Alice Abbott confronted Miss Bessie,
 accusing she'd pocketed cash.
 Glamorous Bessie decried it; denied it.
 The cheater was Alice. Eyes flashed.
 No trapped spider, Bess faced and defied her;
 crossed over to Etta's domain.
 Etta, delighted, invited in Bessie;
 glad to employ her for gain.
 Resolute Alice, now burning with malice,
 hurried to deal Etta pain.
 Storming the entry where Etta was sentry,
 she entered while Et stayed her place.
 Big Alice, looming; voice booming insults,
 slapped little Etta's taut face.
 Etta defended; her safety depended
 on reaching her seldom-used gun.
 Pointing, told Alice to head for her "palace."
 Etta went straight to the judge;
 Told of her foe's rude intrusion
 and how the gal fought; wouldn't budge.
 She told of her plight and her fright in the fight.
 Using the gun, she admitted.
 The jury agreed; she'd had obvious need
 to defend. She was quickly acquitted.
 Etta, I venture, a scrupulous "wencher,"
 aided by Bessie and more
 Went right on perking, faithfully working,
 minding her now famous "store."
 Big Alice lay grounded, and now she was hounded
 by worries she hadn't foreseen.



Entitled "The Beautiful Alice Abbott," the above left tintype was made circa 1885 during the madam's heyday in El Paso. Etta Clark, right, the rival madam who shot Alice Abbott in the "public arch."

The newspaper stories stripped her of glories
 and tarnished her image as "Queen."
 The doc said the spot where she was shot
 was not over her "public arch bone."
 It was "pubic arch" – the kind of glitch
 to which newspapers are prone.
 Her "public tissue" was not the issue;
 it gave her but little pause.
 The writer who signed called her "elephantine."
 Revenge became her cause.
 The frightened young writer chose not to fight her.
 He never was heard from again. . . .
 So ends the story of pain and glory,
 told by men's words and by pen
 Of Small Etta Clark and Big Alice Abbott,
 real women, part of the chain
 Of Madams, not Misses, soliciting kisses,
 out on the West Texas plain.

SHIRLEY GILLET CLEMENT is an active member of the Poetry Society of Texas and a retired educator. The former owner/director of Crestline Learning Systems, Inc., El Paso, she also served the Ysleta Independent School District as a teacher, The University of Texas at El Paso as the director of tutorials for its sports teams, and Park College at Fort Bliss as an instructor in American literature.

Business / Corporate Members

THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Accugraph Corporation
5822 Cromo

Advanced Consulting Group
5939 Gateway West

American Finance & Investment
Company, Inc.
1202 E. Yandell

Art's Photographic Suppliers Inc.
800 Montana

Bank of the West
330 North Mesa

Books at the Pass of the North
(Out-of-Print, Scarce and Rare Books
on Texas and the Southwest)
Box 4904, 79914

Buck Rogers Travel Service, Inc.
1760 Airway, No. 106

Charlotte's Inc.
5411 North Mesa

Connecticut Mutual Office of El Paso
4855 North Mesa, No. 102

Currey, Adkins, Cook & Co.
6633 North Mesa, Suite 605

Dave's Loan Company
216 South El Paso

DeBruyn, Cooper, Maldonado Advertising
4487 North Mesa, No. 200

Diamond, Rash, Gordon & Jackson, P.C.
300 E. Main, 7th Floor

Discover El Paso Association, Inc.
3503 Volcanic

Douglass, Chew & Chew, Attorneys LLP
604 Myrtle

El Paso Natural Gas Company
304 Texas

Faught & Associates, Inc.
433 Executive Center Boulevard

Futrell (Kaster-Maxon & Futrell)
Funeral Home
201 E. Yandell

Gail Darling Temporaries
4150 Rio Bravo, No. 105

Gardner Hotel/El Paso International
Youth Hostel
311 E. Franklin

Jaxon's Restaurants
6927 North Mesa, Suite C

Jim Davis Appraisal Service
9713 Montwood

Lawyers Title of El Paso
301 E. Yandell

Leo Schuster, Jr.
501 Executive Center Blvd., No. 200

Lift Truck Services
206 Raynolds

Manpower Temporary Services
6006 N. Mesa, No. 515

Martin Funeral Home, Inc.
Box 3895, El Paso, TX 79903

Mervin Moore Architect, Inc.
1301 North Mesa, Suite 100

Mithoff Advertising, Inc.
4105 Rio Bravo

Phelps Dodge Refining Corporation
Box 20001, El Paso, TX 79998

PZH Contract Design, Inc.
1301 North Oregon

State National Bank
Box 1072, El Paso, TX 79958

Sun Travel, Inc.
3100 North Mesa, Suite B

Sunwest Bank
416 North Stanton

Temp Force of El Paso
1533 N. Lee Trevino, Suite B-2

Tri-State Media Company, Inc.
801 North Oregon



How a “Catch-22” Blocked Law AND ORDER in the West

by Bob Cunningham

On May 2, 1854, Doña Ana County had not yet sent its quarterly report to the government of New Mexico Territory. That day, James A. Lucas, *ex-officio* county Treasurer, wrote from Mesilla to the territorial Auditor in the capitol at Santa Fe. The cause of the delay, Lucas explained, was that the Sheriff had “run off to California,” forging blank vouchers to assemble marketable goods along the way.¹ The explanation was brief, but adequate. The Auditor would understand that the Sheriff could be away for several months before being missed. And, given the fact that Official Dispatches took ten to twelve days to go from Mesilla to Santa Fe, the Auditor would also understand that the forged voucher claims sent from the western section of the county (which stretched to the California line) would take even longer to reach the county seat at Mesilla.

Samuel G. Bean, County Collector, took the absconder's post as Sheriff. On July 22, 1855, he wrote to Santa Fe about another overdue report. This time, it was merely an extended vacation, combined with snail-paced travel through the area, that was causing the delay. “J. A. Lucas,” wrote Bean, “has been gone about a month on a visit to El Paso. I presume he has got into conviviality with friends down there and partially forgot himself.”²

Absconding Sheriffs and convivial Treasurers made things difficult, to be sure. But it was the distances that effectively obstructed the smooth operation of central governmental authority. Indeed, the element of distance posed formidable barriers to the spread of law and order in the West—barriers that set up a no-win predicament, a “Catch-22.”

By the mid-1850s, the entire West nominally was covered by federal and state or territorial civil and criminal codes. But, except where enforced, law was not in effect. And order, general acceptance of due process, lagged further. "Lawlessness" prevailed for years, with demonstrable reason.

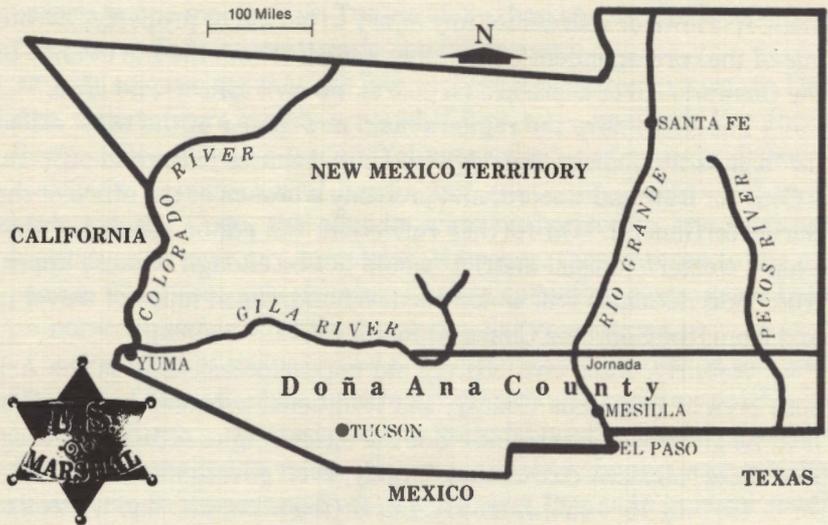
A representative district and period was Doña Ana County, New Mexico Territory, 1854-1864. Compared to other districts, its area was not exceptionally large; an official from the capitol in Santa Fe could reach the most distant community - Arizona City, now Yuma - within a month. In Dakota Territory, the major mining towns lay two months' travel from the capitol in Yankton. And the United States Court for Western Arkansas undertook to serve seventy-thousand square miles!

New Mexico Territory included nearly all of today's Arizona and New Mexico. Doña Ana was its southernmost county, stretching from Texas to California (as mentioned earlier). When Arizona Territory was organized in 1864, Doña Ana lost its western half and its suitability as our sample.

During the sample period, the county was briefly divided and given various names, reverting to Doña Ana. Its section west of the Rio Grande had been called "Arizona" since 1850, when the term was applied by Sonora.³ Mesilla, the county seat, lay on the lower Rio Grande, separated from the many northerly communities by the forbidding *Jornada del Muerto*, a desert astride the Camino Real, which followed the Rio Grande.

The court of the Second Judicial District of New Mexico Territory was expected to convene semi-annually at each county seat, as far south as Mesilla. "Terms of that court were regularly held at Albuquerque and, on special order of the court, at Socorro."⁴ Both of these county seats lay north of the Jornada. On June 19, 1859, Mesilla complained: "The failure . . . to hold courts south of the Jornada del Muerto for nearly three years is evidence of the [general] neglect we have suffered."⁵

The county seat itself indeed felt neglected by the territorial government, but the remainder of the county lying east of the Rio Grande was directed by the reigning *hacendados* in feudal fashion. These *hacendados* had no need for any governmental intrusion, least of all *Yanqui* intrusion. The western two-thirds of the county, however, was woven in a different pattern. Its ranchitos were not haciendas; they were worked by family croppers, not near-serfs. Other residents in the western area included such newcomers as immigrant miners who had stayed to follow veins of silver or to take up placer-



Map of Doña Ana County, New Mexico, c. 1855.

ing, disillusioned gold-seekers who had rebounded from California, and (beginning in 1857) easterners brought by stage lines. The latter, whether they turned to farming or freighting, lumbering or milling or store-keeping, were accustomed to effective government.

The mounting proportion of Anglos expected judicial procedure, not the family-style Mexican arbitration. To live equably and to conduct enterprises, they wanted civil process. To cope with the influx of bandits – reportedly driven across borders by California Vigilantes, Mexican Rurales, and Texas Rangers – the Anglos wanted criminal control and convenient courts, both responsible to the territorial government. However . . .

One study of legal process in the area concluded: “The Mexican government’s lacklustre attempt to maintain law and order was a noble effort compared to the United States’ negative treatment.”⁶ In 1856, a delegate to Congress from the section called “Arizona” wrote: “Here is no redress for crimes or civil injuries – no courts, no laws, no magistrates.”⁷ A mining engineer, on his return to the East, declared: “Public opinion was the only law and a citizen’s popularity the measure of his safety.”⁸ And a Postal Inspector visiting from Washington, D.C., stated: “The [Arizona] people are without law and officers.”⁹

As late as 1859 – the year when the county’s only lawyer, Sam Cozzens, ventured from Mesilla west to Tucson – the *New York Times* printed reports from two correspondents living in western Doña Ana County. “We have ‘tax gatherers’ but no court, no punish-

ment of crimes or redress for any injury to person or property," wrote one of the correspondents. The other added: "From the Rio Grande to the Colorado River there are no courts, no civil officers, no laws."¹⁰

The Arizonian, the region's main newspaper at the time, called for "a separate judicial district with United States judge and officers, a Court of Law and Record, and probably a branch of the office of the Surveyor General." On further reflection, the editor concluded that even a western judicial district "would not be enough because appeal from local decisions still would require hundreds of miles of travel to and from [the Supreme Court in] Santa Fe."¹¹

Actually, some civil officers did appear occasionally in the Arizona area of Doña Ana County, and traditional tribunals continued to hear neighborhood complaints. But the bitter Anglos refused to recognize these "Mexican courts" and, largely, even government officers.

On July 15, 1856, James A. Lucas (the same who had written to the territorial Auditor on May 2, 1854) appointed Doña Ana County's first Probate Court Clerk and Register. That civil officer was Charles D. Poston, passing through Mesilla on his way to manage a mining complex in Tubac, located a day's ride south of Tucson. He accepted the appointment on condition that a deputy sheriff be provided to help him. And so it came about that Sheriff Samuel G. Bean appointed the first deputy sheriff to be based west of Mesilla, in this case at Tucson. In their jurisdiction, some 45,000 square miles, the two officers would be as prominent as the haystack's needle.

A part of Poston's authority was welcomed by the former Mexicans. He performed weddings without charge, so many that he later said it cost him \$700 to have them and their offspring approved by visiting Vicar Machebeuf. However, his power to register landholdings entailed a fee and was not fruitful. Many land transfers (as evidenced by family records) and scores of properties lacked proving-up but Poston registered only eighteen. And, excepting an Arizona City lot sold by Poston himself, the few that he registered lay in or about Tubac – a dot in his jurisdiction.¹² That sorry record need not mean lack of trying. Reimbursed for travel costs, both Poston and the deputy sheriff may have sought to register land well away from Tubac. In fact, Poston later charged that "the 'rawhiders' refused to pay fees or licenses."¹³ His successor, Fred A. Neville, evidently scored no better.

Yet when Martial Law was applied in 1862 and the landholders knew that failure to register risked confiscation of their property, registrations soared. Army-appointed William S. Oury registered more

parcels in one month from Tucson alone than had the civil registers in five years. Enforcement made the difference.

It seems clear that the few civil officers posted in western Doña Ana County were widely ignored if fees were involved. For the officers lacked effective power. Yet every cluster of households had its *alcalde*, a combination of mayor and arbitrator. Recognized in the basic Kearny Code, the *alcaldes* were authorized by the territorial legislature to hear any complaint. However, they catered to the consensus. They routinely dismissed, while collecting costs, cases based on non-compliance with the never-popular regulations.

Parallels of the parochial protection existed widely in the West. Pockets of Secessionists, missionaries' enclaves, and groups of colonists from Europe, as examples, similarly favored local consensus. Not that they intended to refuse government; they simply chose which of its aspects to support and which to ignore. People in general sought government aid to solve critical problems, such as protection against Indians. Otherwise, they attacked their problems in their own ways.

Squatters on federal land clamored for government surveys, then subverted the accompanying requirements that surveyed land be sold to the highest bidder. They formed Claim Clubs, as early as 1840 in Iowa, whose Night Riders scared off bidding against members who occupied a given parcel of land. From the Mississippi to the far Northwest, scattered settlers refused to be constrained by law in fighting rustling. Some set up Horse Thief Associations whose members or agents disposed of suspected stock-takers. Cattlemen's Associations wanted no civil officers to interfere with private Range Detectives, such as Tom Horn. From Kansas to California, local Vigilantes even fought against civil officers. Among other incidents, they hanged Sheriff Henry Plummer.

Such selective rejection of governmental efforts, tantamount to local option, differs importantly from making-do in the absence of government. For lack of civil services in their camps, miners managed their own Claim Registries and formally adjudicated disputes; they did so from 1848 in California to Colorado in the 1890s. Deadwood had no government when Jack McCall assassinated Wild Bill Hickock; McCall was acquitted by an impromptu court on August 3, 1876. From 1885, when civil administration in West Texas was as scant as ice cream, Roy Bean (brother of Doña Ana County Sheriff Sam Bean) was "the law west of the Pecos."

On the other hand, where government services were accepted, courts still were flouted. W. W. H. Davis, United States Attorney for

New Mexico Territory, reported on a session of the District Court in 1854: "Two indictments for operating without a license were tried, in both of which the jury rendered a verdict of Not Guilty and voted to fine the District Attorney \$50 for prosecuting."¹⁴ In 1858, Kirby Benedict, Associate Justice of the territory, "issued a federal warrant for the arrest of the entire [Mesilla] Guard" – civilian irregulars. "Public sentiment was with the Guard; they were never convicted."¹⁵

Rejecting even requested government services took various forms. Take just one field: crime patrol. Some towns refused to provide a jail; others refused to feed prisoners unless pre-imbursed. In response to cries of "a budding insurrection," a United States Marshal was sent to the scene. But he was unable to raise a posse. *Alcaldes* regularly refused to penalize men who, although legally required to serve on call, would not do so. Mark A. Aldrich was elected judge of Tucson's self-established Criminal Court on August 18, 1860; some fourteen months later, on November 1, 1861, he resigned because no citizen would appear in the case of a widely-witnessed murder.¹⁶ Facing such caprice, in addition to the usual non-appreciation of civil services, how could law and order be extended?

In 1865, United States Attorney W. Claude Jones traveled with the 2nd District Court for a special session held in Mesilla. Jones was so impressed at the number of complaints raised by litigants from the reaches of what is now Arizona that he urged Governor Meriwether to assign more accessible tribunal and essential officers to the western section. Jones must have known that what he proposed was easier to advocate than to accomplish. Arizona's few substantial communities lay one to ten days apart, much more scattered than those along the Rio Grande drainage. No one of them would produce enough fee-income from a given service to support its officer, and that officer's cost of travel to other communities could exceed whatever income these communities might generate. Tax-gathering paid better and, given enough cases, a Court of Record might be supported if it met briefly and annually. But such an arrangement would have a "catch": the litigants' travel costs would preclude appeals (as the editor of *The Arizonian* had pointed out in the August 4, 1859, issue of that newspaper). New Mexico's Supreme Court at Santa Fe heard only eighty-two appeals in twenty-eight years, and virtually all of those stemmed from the Rio Grande drainage.

Equally vexing was the problem of delegating authority to the outback. The head of a territorial bureau, at any level down to the county seat, would not know more than a few reliable men residing in the remote communities (or willing to settle in one of them); and such

men wanted more than authority. How much support and income could be assured? And what incentive had the delegator to take how much risk? Lucas could not have preened over Poston's performance, and Bean's appointee apparently switched to tax-gathering.

Lucas and Bean must have realized that the power of a civil officer rested on his juridical support. A register of property or an Assessor/Collector of license had no force beyond threat of court action. Unless the people he was to serve could count on being fined or jailed for non-compliance, they were not apt to pay.

“ . . . in Doña Ana County . . . a court's effective range was little more than a day's travel east and west of the Rio Grande.”

Apart from the Town Marshal, responsible to his employers, the “lawmen” – United States Marshal, Sheriff, their Deputies, and the Constable – were “officers of the court.” They were paid to arrange facilities for their courts, to gather defendants and jurors and, on a schedule of fees, to serve the subpoenas, warrants, writs, and such issued by the courts. In theory they were to carry out those orders wherever the court had jurisdiction. In practice, however, these duties were limited to the relevant court's immediate area. Few witnesses or prospective jurors would give up the time to travel far to a court. Even prisoners were released when funds to escort them to a distant court were in question. Thus, in Doña Ana County during our sample decade, a court's effective range was little more than a day's travel east and west of the Rio Grande.

These conditions prevailed throughout much of the West and the frontier period. Federal, state or territorial, and county governments doubtless aimed to blanket their jurisdictions with lawful order. But their efforts to establish and maintain a judicial system which the far-flung citizenry would respect were confounded in an impasse: on the one hand, adequate traffic was necessary to produce the income to support a court and its officers; on the other, convenient and effective courts and their officers were needed to induce the necessary traffic.

In time, itinerant courts provided the solution. They primed the pay-as-you-go pump. Meanwhile, in our example, federal and territorial courts rarely reached even the county's headquarters. And when they did, the traffic failed to produce enough income to support the session. The shortfall was made good only ultimately and with difficulty by the respective treasuries.

Another stumbling block – linked to the funding-traffic impasse – was the lack of effective officers in the outback. Lawmen could not make a living where a full-fledged court met only briefly, infrequently, or not at all. And even in those cases where officers could be found to carry out non-judicial duties (such as those of a Town Marshal), problems abounded. In the same way that remote communities selectively rejected some forms of legal process, they also often refused to pay for local services which they found more costly than useful and which they could dodge.

All together, these assorted factors (the funding-traffic impasse, the near-impossibility of posting qualified officers in the outback, and the capricious response in the remote communities to the principle of law) posed one barrier after another to the spread of law and order in the West – adding up to the “Catch-22.” Only when and where a government gradually managed to finance respected courts and thus enforcement of law could it establish lawful order. Instead of wondering why that took so many years, one might marvel at how relatively quickly law and order did settle over the West.

BOB CUNNINGHAM, a retired archaeologist living in Tucson, is the author of many essays which have appeared in national and regional historical publications and scholarly journals. He belongs to the Western History Association, Western Writers of America, and two Corral of The Westerners.

NOTES

1. New Mexico Records Center and Archives, File 4400, Reel 47.
2. *Ibid.*
3. Adlai Feather, “Origin of the Name ‘Arizona,’” *New Mexico Historical Review*, Vol. 39, No. 2 (April, 1914), 90-91. See also Charles S. Poston in the *Florence (Arizona) Arizona Enterprise*, Sept. 8, 1891.
4. Arie W. Poldervaart, “Black-Robed Justice,” *Historical Society of New Mexico Publications*, Vol. XIII (Sept., 1948), 1.
5. *The Arizonian*, Tubac, June 30, 1859.
6. James M. Murphy, *Laws, Courts and Lawyers* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1970), 4.
7. Sylvester Mowry, *Memoir of the Proposed Territory of Arizona* (Washington: Henry Pelkinhorn, 1857), 20.
8. Raphael Pumpelly, in Andrew Wallace, ed., *Pumpelly's Arizona* (Tucson: Palo Verde Press, 1965), 62.
9. Washington, D.C., *Union*, Sept. 15, 1858, quoting *St. Louis Republican*, Sept. 10, 1858.
10. *New York Times*, March 25, 1859, and June 14, 1859.
11. *The Arizonian*, March 10 and August 4, 1859.
12. Records of the States of the United States, Film 88, Arizona D2, Unit 1.
13. *Arizona Citizen* (Tucson), April 12, 1884.
14. W. W. H. Davis, *El Gringo* (Santa Fe Rydal Press, 1938), 199.
15. Nona Barrick and Mary Taylor, *The Mesilla Guard* (El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1976), 32-33.
16. MS 10, Box 1, at Arizona Historical Society, Tucson.



LENORE Dils

Personality at the Pass

by **Tulia Winton**

If there were no reason for remembering Lenore Brown Dils other than for her book *Horny Toad Man*, a collection of "true stories" of the bygone era of "railroading" days here in the Southwest, that publication in itself would be reason enough. But there are others. Most significant was her organization in 1935 of the El Paso Writers League which is still active today. It was first known as the "Night Writers" because the members, mostly women, were able to attend meetings only in the evening. Closely associated with the club for more than three decades, Mrs. Dils became known as a "mentor" to these fledgling writers.

Lenore Dawn Brown was born on March 4, 1899, in Paragon, Kentucky. Her parents, John Milburn Brown and Mary Ellen Phillips Brown, were tobacco farmers there, but soon migrated by covered wagon to New Mexico where her father found work on the railroad. In a resume that Lenore compiled in 1962, she noted that she had graduated from high school, that in 1919 she was the secretary of the Baptist Convention in Albuquerque, and that in 1920 she was a clerk in the office of the superintendent of the Atchison-Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad in San Marcial, New Mexico. It was probably here that she met and in 1920 married Elmer Wesley Dils, a railroad engineer. To this couple were born two sons, E. Wesley Dils and John Milburn Dils. For the next several years the Dils family lived in various "railroad towns" served by the AT&SF RR.

It seems that even when she was very young, Lenore was an organizer. In later years, she recalled that as a child of six she and

five of her neighborhood playmates in Belen formed a club to help secretly anyone in need. They called themselves "The Little Blue Bows" and wore badges made of bows of blue ribbons. Sometimes, they made decisions that were brave for little girls – like the time that a farmer accused some Belen boys of raiding his watermelon patch. The girls took it upon themselves to let the farmer know that the real culprit had been his own son.

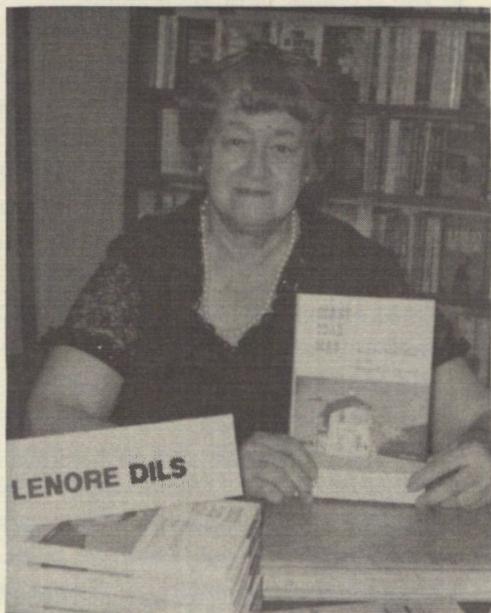
Just how and when Lenore became interested in writing is not certain, but at one point she enrolled in extension courses in creative writing. Her association with the Writers League and her own determination led her to submit what she called "literary tripe" to obscure magazines. She once said that "There's never anything quite like that first check." But the magazines that she wrote for paid off mostly with free copies of their magazines. "I couldn't buy the children shoes with copies of magazines," she recalled, chuckling. By now a single parent, Lenore wrote for detective magazines, various pulps, as well as for *Farm Life*, *Country Gentlemen*, and *Adventure*. She often used pen names including those of her mother and father.

In 1941 she became one of the founders and the editor of a short-lived publication called *Sponsor*. The first issue appeared in May of that year, containing articles on cooking and gardening, as well as some poetry. The magazine sponsored the El Paso Garden Club and its general chairman for the annual flower show held at the El Paso International Museum. After eleven months *Sponsor* folded because of the paper shortage during World War II. In 1951 Lenore began working at KROD radio station in El Paso and wrote continuity for various programs. Soon she was promoted to the head of that department. With the advent of television, she was given her own show called "Adventures in Homemaking," an hour-long program that ran five days a week. Chefs and bakers from local eateries were her guests. "When I first started," she recalled, "I prepared steaks, rolled roasts, turkeys, and other expensive entrees. Then the letters started to pour in. The ladies listening at 2:30 in the afternoon wrote that they had not been able to afford steak for months." After a session with the program director, Bernie Bracher, she did an about face. "I guess I cooked hamburger and stews in more different ways than any other cook who ever appeared before a television camera," she confessed. Stews turned into "meat pies" and hamburger into "molded steaks." And this was long before Julia Child and "Bon Appetit!"

Lenore continued, "I had not thought about the type viewer that was interested in making ends meet. The more affluent ladies were

either playing bridge, attending a committee meeting, getting prettied up for a cocktail dinner party, or taking a nap before the children came home from school."

Soon Lenore realized that there were pre-school children at home also interested in her show. So she showed them how to make instant puddings to surprise "Mommy and Daddy" when they came home from work. "I never suggested that they use a stove to really cook. I was afraid they might get burned. Some of them wrote letters to me . . . addressed to just 'Lenore' and some had trading stamps on the envelope in the stamp corner. . . . The remarkable thing was the Post Office got these letters through to me."



Lenore Dils

Another interest of Lenore's was that of entering contests. During the years of World War II, there were many women in El Paso whose husbands were away serving their country. Again, a group of these women formed a club to sharpen their skills at entering all kinds of contests, especially those sponsored by big-name appliance manufacturers. One of Lenore's biggest wins was a \$300 washing machine. One member even won a house with all the appliances, and another member won a trip to the moon (long before John Glenn stepped down on its surface), and the ladies had fun suggesting ideas for the winner's "moon voyage" wardrobe.

Although Lenore had published many stories and a book co-authored with Mrs. Tom Prothro entitled *Listen Lenore*, she began writing stories of true happenings, stories that she had collected over a lifetime from her long association with the people and places connected with the *Horny Toad Line* — the branch of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad that ran between El Paso and Albuquerque and all the little lines that extended into the mining areas of New Mexico. "I decided to record the tales of the Horny Toad Man," she said. "I took a look at the track ahead, heard the plaintive sound

the locomotive whistle – two long ones – and as the brakes were released, I proceeded.” She once remarked that as her husband came to the crossing near their house he would give a certain blow of the horn so that she could have the fishing gear ready when he got home. When the book came off the presses here in El Paso, a flyer dated December 1, 1966, heralded its publication: HORNEY [sic] TOAD MAN – ONLY One thousand copies – don’t miss out. Across the top was pictured a steam engine with the marking AT&SF RR pulling two passenger cars.

In 1976, ten years after its publication and four years after Lenore’s death, Conrey Bryson, then editor of *Password*, belatedly reviewed the book. “This book,” he wrote, “which somehow escaped *Password’s* attention when published a decade ago, is a loving memorial to all the ‘Horny Toad’ men, women, and children.” Mr. Bryson concluded the review by reminding the reader who might wish to obtain a copy that “The few [copies] that remain unsold are in the hands of book collectors and the Dils family. This should be an increasingly prized item of southwestern history and culture.”

Probably no one would be more surprised than Lenore Dils to learn that recently a copy of *Horny Toad Man* sold for \$150.

Lenore Brown Dils died on June 14, 1972. Shortly after her death the El Paso Writers’ League established the Lenore Dils Memorial Award which is presented to the winner of the League’s annual writing competition. It is indeed an appropriate memorial to a woman who enjoyed writing and devoted a great deal of her life encouraging fledgling writers to transform their thoughts, memories, dreams, and imaginings into written words.

TULIA WINTON of El Paso holds both B.A. and M.A. degrees and is a retired teacher. She is a member of the American Association of University Women, Delta Kappa Gamma, and, for many years, the El Paso Writers League.

Password congratulates the Doña Ana County Historical Society for launching a publication, **Southern New Mexico Historical Review**. Volume 1, No. 1 appeared in January, 1994. The editor is Paul T. Comeau, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of French at New Mexico State University. The *Review* is published for the members of the Society “and others interested in the history of the region.” Copies of the eighty-page initial issue may be ordered from Doña Ana County Historical Society, P.O. Box 4565, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88003. The per-copy price is \$5.00 plus a \$1.00 postage fee.

Editor's Notes

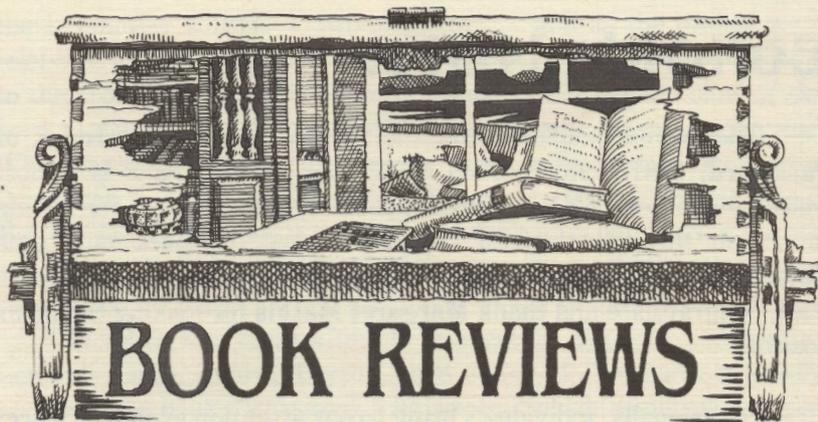
The newest publication of the Society, **Cumulative Index of Password, 1981-1993**, reached subscribers recently, and is a most welcome addition. We have already found it useful, no longer having to thumb through thirteen separate issues to check out some historical detail. Readers of *Password*, and especially the editorial staff, congratulate and thank **Margaret Mathis** for making the index possible.

Occasionally, individuals bring to our attention events or places that have special significance in El Paso history. William E. Silver reminds us that in 1894 President Grover Cleveland conveyed a parcel of land to the City of El Paso for "public use;" twelve years later the City of El Paso named it in his honor. The land, now occupied by the Main Library and the Golden Age Senior Center, was originally the site of a Fort Bliss cemetery, and later, band concerts, community religious services, and reviewing stands for parades, in particular the Taft-Diaz celebration in 1909. "Mandy" and the "Number One" street car are also on permanent display there. Carnegie Square, the location of the present Main Library, was also part of the land conveyed by Cleveland's executive order.

Another reader, Frank Jenkins, suggests that, should the new Main Library building to be located on Cleveland Square become a reality, a small area be set aside for a memorial to the Civil War events which occurred in the more distant El Paso area. Mr. Jenkins proposes that the "McRae Cannon," the "Patriotic Heroes" marker, and the monument on San Jacinto Plaza commemorating Civil War activities, be placed together near the new library as a memorial to the Civil War soldiers who served in the El Paso area.

The recipient of the fourth annual **Carl Hertzog Award for Excellence in Book Design** was Richard Eckersley of Lincoln, Nebraska, for his design of **O Pioneers!** by Willa Cather published by the University of Nebraska Press. *Password* had entered two issues of the 1992 Quarterly in the competition, which is sponsored by The Associates of the University of Texas at El Paso, who noted that "entries such as yours show that fine printing is alive and well."

- CLINTON P. HARTMANN



BELL RANCH: Cattle Ranching in the Southwest, 1834-1947 by David Remley. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, \$39.50

A 1916 photograph of Bell Ranch Headquarters shows long, low buildings surrounded by cottonwood trees in full leaf. Off in the hazy distance a bell-shaped mountain rises from the flat northeastern New Mexico plains.

At one time three-quarters of a million acres, the ranch serves as a fountainhead for David Remley, University of New Mexico professor emeritus, to bring to life an engrossing aspect of western history: the business of cattle ranching. As in any other market-driven enterprise, success required management by a dedicated individual who possessed vision, knowledge, and skill. These qualities needed to be fine-honed in an enterprise so dependent upon the forces of nature as well as upon economic fluctuations, ever-developing technologies, and the whims and quirks of humankind. With good reason, Remley handles the intricate flow of Bell Ranch history by focusing upon the characters and personalities of the managers and owners.

We see the testy, arrogant don Pablo Montoya, owner of the original Mexican land grant of 1824, and the clever, persistent lawyer, John S. Watts, who guides the complex grant title through the United States Congress in the 1850s. We see Wilson Waddingham, a conniving Dickensian character who schemes and dreams of colonizing and selling the property in irrigated parcels (meanwhile encouraging his manager, Mike Slattery, to overstock and overgraze the land) – “Waddy’s” preposterous plans driving him to borrow, mortgage, speculate, trade, and make questionable deals involving millions of dollars.

Debt-holding corporations replaced Slattery as manager in 1893 with the genteel, Ireland-born Arthur Tisdall, who began a slow but effective program to improve the property and implement a scientific

approach to cattle breeding. His successor, Charles O'Donel, also from Ireland, turned the ranch into a well-planned modern operation during the years 1898 to 1932 through expert use of such technological advances as the railroad, barbed wire, and windmills.

What has been termed the worst drought in recorded United States history (1934 and 1935) marked the tenure of the next manager, Cornell graduate Albert Mitchell. Hot winds blew day and night and the cattle became thin and gaunt. He made a daring proposal to feed the cattle in other states and even in Mexico. His strategy succeeded, and he was able to return the cattle to the Bell in 1937. However, the strain of the drought, the Great Depression, and assorted personal problems brought Mitchell to recommend that the corporate owners sell Bell Ranch. This was done in 1947 by dividing the huge acreage into six separate ranches.

Seventy-six page of notes attest to the thoroughness of Remley's research. But his book is no fussy academic treatise. His renditions of the people who guided the complex enterprise engage the reader in a lively historical account – additionally enhanced by twenty-six pages of superb photographs.

The Bell Ranch, though now a fraction of its original size, "is still there and much remains the same – the bawling of cattle, the mounted cowhand swinging his rope, the songs of thousands of meadowlarks in the spring." Its historical significance was recognized in 1970, when the headquarters buildings were placed on the National Register of Historic Places.

BEA BRAGG

Freelance Writer, Albuquerque

EL PASO CHRONICLES: A Record of Historical Events in El Paso, Texas by Leon C. Metz. El Paso: Mangan Books, \$24.95

Come stroll through time with Leon Metz as your guide by taking *El Paso Chronicles* in your hands and opening your copy to any page to begin reading. His narrative is a lengthy one, beginning 570 million B.C. and concluding A.D. 1993.

Personally, I opened to the year of my birth, which I felt was probably the most important date in the book. Then I turned to the year I first came to El Paso to attend the College of Mines. Thirdly, I flipped over to the year I returned to work for Newspaper Printing Corporation, a year that lives in my mind so vividly I could add several important items not included.

That is what makes Metz's *Chronicles* worthwhile. It jogs your memory with what it contains but also with what it omits, for it is like a conversation with a companion who remembers events one way and you remember them another.

The years vary in the number of entries; some are momentous and others trivial, but all combine to provide this trip through the past at the Pass of the North.

It does not pretend to be irrefutable in some of its assertions; nor does it pose as intractable history with footnotes to verify each statement. Rather, it grew, the author admits, from "thumbing idly through a stack of old newspapers." He learned how elusive an incident can be when one attempts to go back and find it in a daily newspaper, a city directory, or any other periodical.

Knowing this, Metz began to take information with annotated dates and names. These, inserted in today's computers, allowed a chronicle to grow and become a readable timetable.

Subtly, he seems to suggest that research need not be boring in these days of microfilm and microfiche. Readers can use his chronicle as a springboard for their own trips back into time. Whether a lifelong El Pasoan or a newcomer, perusers will discover that this area has existed with ups and downs for eons. Through it all, lofty Mount Franklin has managed to survive as the stately and silently surveyor of an everflowing river of water and mankind.

EVAN HAYWOOD ANTONE
Department of English
The University of Texas at El Paso

FOLKLORE AND CULTURE ON THE TEXAS-MEXICO BORDER
by Américo Paredes. Edited and with an Introduction by Richard Bauman. The University of Texas at Austin. Center for Mexican-American Studies. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1993, \$32.50

Many national, popular, or regional folklores – whether they be Appalachia, Bavaria, or the Ukraine – have long been subjects of scholarly study and research. In fact, to merit any serious consideration, investigations of contemporary or past cultures must include traditions and customs. Forty years ago, Américo Paredes, himself a native of the Texas-Mexico border along the Lower Rio Grande Valley, recognized the special character of the people, customs, and traditions of that region. He has spent his lifetime singing, collecting, and studying about one particular aspect of that folklore: folk ballads,

or *corridos*, *décimas*, and other forms of musical folklore. He is an acknowledged expert, one could almost say, sole expert, in this field.

Published by the Center for Mexican-American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin, the book is a collection of eleven of Professor Paredes' articles, which are presented, as Richard Bauman notes in his excellent Introduction, "in the interest of bringing together some of Américo Paredes' most significant scholarly writings in article form." A bibliography of scholarly writings at the end of the book is added for "those whose appetite is whetted . . . and wish to read further."

Anyone interested in the history, social development, music/poetry of the border – especially the Lower Rio Grande Valley – will find this an engrossing and entertaining work. It demonstrates not only the author's mastery of his subject, but also his affection for the people and the culture of the area. It is also a handsome volume, displaying great care and effort on the part of its designer, Richard Bauman.

All of the essays are worth reading, but two in particular speak for the quality of the rest of the collection. In "Folklore of Groups of Mexican Origin in the United States," the concept of border folklore and its uniqueness are defined – setting the stage for the other essays. In "The Mexican Corrido: Its Rise and Fall," the reader is treated to a lively discussion of the history and development of that most Mexican of folk ballads. Other essays explore *machismo*, folklorization of historical events, and *décimas* (a type of folk poetry with a formal structure).

Anyone familiar with the movie *The Ballad of Gregorio Cortez* or the classic *With His Pistol in His Hand*, the book from which the movie was made, is familiar with Américo Paredes. Here is an excellent opportunity to get to know more about the man and his work.

RICHARD BAQUERA
Department of History
The University of Texas at El Paso

LIFE ON THE KING RANCH by Frank Goodwyn. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, \$25/\$12.95

Frank Goodwyn was six months old when his father took over as ranch boss for the Norias section of the King Ranch in 1911. His father, Eppse Goodwyn, put twelve-year-old Frank to work with the men of Cow Camp No. 1. Here he learned to rope, castrate, brand, and round up what was considered the world's finest beef, beef descended from the legendary Longhorn.

Growing up isolated from the English-speaking world, Frank Goodwyn had as his companions the people of the land, the hardy *Kineños*, or people of the King Ranch, like Old Eeky and Euvence Garcia, who told their tales of superstition and morality in the Spanish language. And in this tongue, young Goodwyn learned the fine art of roping (everyone despised a bad roper), flanking, mugging, bulldogging, how to break a horse for the brush vs. flat land, or for specialty work like cutting.

With this rich and unusual background, Frank Goodwyn left the ranch to complete his education (a teaching certificate required only one year past high school), returning to instruct ranch-hand children in the very school he had hated as a youth. He left the Ranch again in 1935 to pursue his M.A. and Ph.D. with financial and mentoring help from his cousin, J. Frank Dobie. In 1950, Frank Goodwyn returned once again to the King Ranch, noting radical changes from his youth. Modernization, oil, roads, electricity, and the taming of the land had changed the way of ranching. The ranch hands now drove to work in Jeeps and Chevrolets and slept with their wives every night.

A hundred years prior, steamboat captain Richard King aspired to own the southern point of Texas. On his death, he left his widow with 500,000 acres and \$500,000 in debt. Mrs. King hired Robert Kleberg to manage the estate. It was Kleberg who turned the sprawling King Ranch into the world-famous success it is today. Spreading almost a million acres, the King Ranch dominates the cattle industry with its husbandry discoveries and inventions like the electric cattle prod which doesn't bruise the beef as roping and throwing would do; tick eradication via periodic dipping and vacating infected pastures beyond the lifespan of the pest; wildlife preservation and trial introduction of new species; and the breeding of Derby-winning horses. But the crowning achievement of the King Ranch, its highly-prized gift to the world, is the wine-colored Santa Gertrudis. This breed of beef can gain 20% more than any other cattle on the range or feed lot, and eats anything.

Frank Goodwyn writes a highly readable prose. His warm recollections of life on the range capture a world and way of life before mechanization and laboratories took over the industry.

CAMILLE TRAPP
El Paso

**OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 1994
THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

President	Robert Kelly
First Vice President	Joe Battle
Second Vice President	Samuel Smith
Third Vice President	William C. Collins
Treasurer	Margaret Mathis
Recording Secretary	Mrs. Wyndham White
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Ross Borrett
Membership	Al and Grace Adkins
Curator	William I. Latham
Historian	Mrs. Wyndham White

MEMBERS EX-OFFICIO

Immediate Past President	Richmond L. McCarty
Director, El Paso Museum of History	René Harris
Editor, PASSWORD	Clinton P. Hartmann
Editor, EL CONQUISTADOR	Douglas V. Meed
Chair, Burges House Commission	Lea Vail

DIRECTORS

1992-94	1993-95	1994-96
Bette Azar	Joe Bilodeau	Joann C. Blake
Janet Brockmoller	Margaret Varner Bloss	Barbara Dent
Dick deBruyn	Carolyn Breck	Kathleen Gilliland
Eugene Finke	Lillian Collingwood	Frank Gorman
Henry Lide	Margaret du Pont	Richmond L. McCarty
Mary Sarber	Ruth Graham	Douglas V. Meed
Lea Vail	Michael J. Hutson	Eddie Lou Miller

ALL PAST PRESIDENTS ARE HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Fred Hervey	Mrs. Willard W. Schuessler
Mrs. Ruth Rawlings Mott	Mrs. L. A. Velarde
Hon. Richard C. White	