

PASSWORD



THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Volume 46, No. 3 • El Paso, Texas • Fall, 2001

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The price of copies of **PASSWORD** for 1956 to 1979 is \$10.00.

Cost of postage and handling is \$2.00 for one issue, \$1.00 for each additional issue.

Correspondence regarding **back numbers, defective copies, and changes of address** should be addressed to:

Membership Secretary, El Paso County Historical Society, P.O. Box 28, El Paso, Texas 79940.

Society Membership of \$30.00 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

Periodicals Postage Paid at El Paso, Texas

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to

PASSWORD
The El Paso County Historical Society
P.O. Box 28
El Paso, Texas 79940

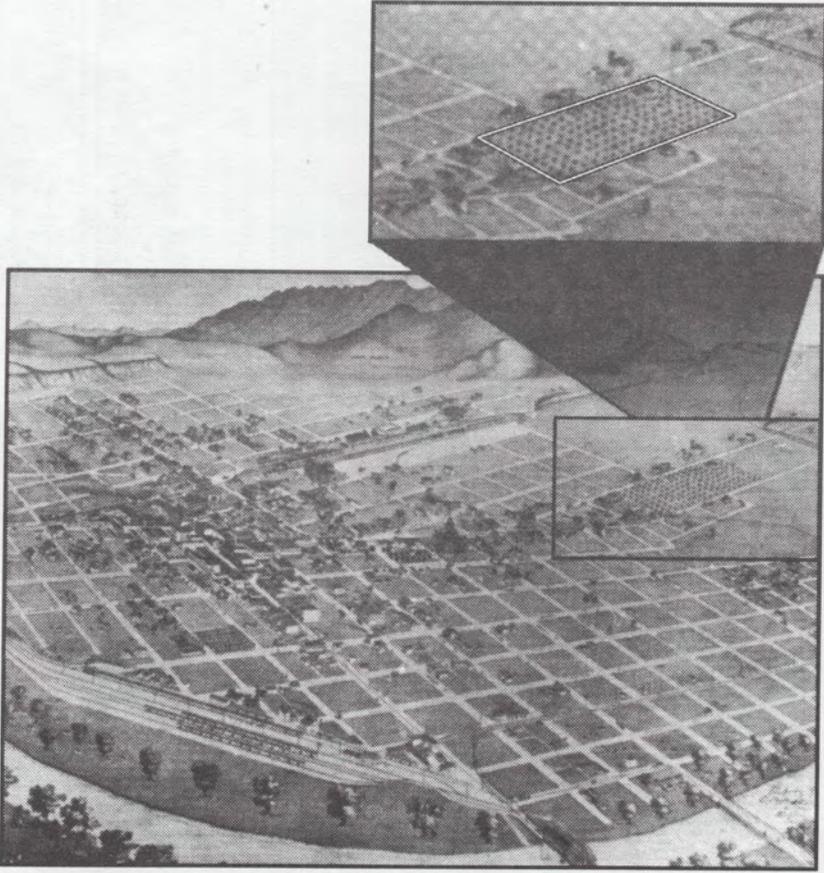
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FALL, 2001
EL PASO, TEXAS



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*Augustus Koch's perspective map of El Paso, Texas in the mid-1880's.
Inset is the Magoffin home and the orchard.
(Photo courtesy Otis C. Coles, Jr.) Password Vol. XXVIII (Spring, 1983) 34.*

In Memorium

MARGARET MATKIN JACKSON

June 1, 1930 – September 17, 2001

An Oasis in the Desert:

Landscaping at the Magoffin Home State Historic Site



By Patricia Haesly Worthington

Botanical Consultation by:
Richard D. Worthington, Ph.D.

When the Spaniards returned to El Paso del Norte after the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, they established their base of operations on the south side of the Rio Grande in what is today Ciudad Juárez, and they brought from their homes the European items that made life more pleasant in a remote frontier outpost. They introduced the mission grape, peach, pear, quince, fig, apple, and apricot, all of which flourished in the fields along the river. Also growing in these fields were onions, chilies, beans, cabbages, lettuce, cucumbers, and radishes, all introduced by the Spaniards.¹ Thus, when Colonel Alexander Doniphan's expedition crossed the area in 1846-1847, when the "Forty-Niners" used this route to the California gold fields, and when John Russell Bartlett and the boundary surveyors moved through this area in 1850, they found a delightful variety of food and wrote about it.²

These agricultural features and the water system supporting them were well established when James Wiley Magoffin built his homestead in 1849 on the north bank of the Rio Grande. Among the first things he did was to dig an *acequia* or irrigation canal which provided the means for the agricultural pursuits that made his home, and the newly relocated Fort Bliss, a welcoming stop for the many people coming through the area. The grounds also had shrubbery and flower gardens.³ However, all was lost in the flood of 1867. A Texas historic marker designates the site at what is now the corner of Magoffin and Willow Streets, approximately one mile east of the Magoffin Home State Historic Site.

It is not known exactly why James Wiley Magoffin selected that particular site for his homestead: perhaps he recognized the quality of the soil, perhaps he thought that the distance from his home to the river was sufficient to avoid flood damage but near enough to obtain water. Whatever the reason, both Magoffinsville and the Magoffin homestead are sited precisely on the main channel of the Rio Grande as it flowed in 1827.⁴ The soil was richer than that of the surrounding area and with the *acequia* it was able to support a wide variety of agricultural and gardening activity not available in the rest of the newly developing city of El Paso. When, after the Civil War, Joseph Magoffin chose another part of the property, now 1120 Magoffin Avenue, on which to build his home, he had a decided advantage when it came to landscaping. In fact, he benefitted more than his father because the El Paso Canal, the main *acequia* through town, went right through the middle of his property and immediately behind his house.⁵ It is this feature that allowed the development of the famed orchard and the beautiful grounds of the Magoffin Home.

Magoffin's home was begun in 1875 and finished by 1877. Interviews conducted by Richard F. Burges with Judge William M. Coldwell and Mrs. Mary M. Phillips disclosed the fact that Magoffin had constructed his house on the ruins of another home that had been built prior to the Civil War by an Irish immigrant named



The front of the Magoffin Home in 1902. The tall cottonwood trees and the Italian cypress trees still stand. Note the power pole and the unpaved street. From the Richard D. and Patricia H. Worthington collection.

William Skillcorn.⁶ The house faced Magoffin Avenue and was separated from the street by a fence. By 1876 apple trees for the orchard had been acquired from Illinois.⁷ They had come either with a military junket or by overland transport because the railroads had not yet arrived in El Paso. Other fruit trees were readily available and there were active nurseries providing trees as well as flowers to this area.⁸ In 1887 and 1888, articles appeared in the *El Paso Times* telling of the peach, apple, pear, apricot, and plum trees that were being grown. Magoffin leased the orchard area to Chinese to handle the cultivation and care for the trees. They also planted vegetables, lettuce and radishes, among others. According to Mrs. Hugh White, the Chinese sold the fruit and vegetables in the town.⁹ The 1885 "Bird's Eye View of El Paso" drawn by Augustus Koch, shows that the orchard surrounded Magoffin's house on the west, south, and east,¹⁰ leaving only a small area for other types of landscaping. The grounds closest to the house had the greatest variety of vegetation not devoted to agricultural purposes.

There were tall cottonwoods and Italian cypress trees nearest the front door. The cypress trees are tall and stately today. There were also shorter trees, probably elms, which succumbed to Dutch elm disease as did the elm trees throughout the country. The streets were unpaved and the trolley ran down the center of both Magoffin Avenue and San Antonio Street, but, most importantly, the streets were lined with cottonwood trees. These trees grow only in river areas and indicate the presence of the 1827 channel. Cottonwoods are big, shady trees, but people do not particularly like the excessive "cotton" produced during the flowering season. In addition, their roots are notorious for invading and clogging water pipes. Many cottonwoods have been removed; there are relatively few cottonwood trees in the neighborhood of the Magoffin Home today.

Within the gates, the grounds developed over a period of years. The Magoffin archives contain a picture that shows a large cottonwood tree beside the front walk, and the long, pinnate leaves of what appears to be a "Tree of Heaven" (*Ailanthus altissima* Swingle) enter the picture in the upper left corner. At this time the other trees at the front of the house are saplings, while some are still in pots. In the distance at the right of the picture is the beginning of the orchard, and grass does not exist. One can see an extensive collection of weeds.



Picture made about 1885. Note cypress, other young trees, and "Tree of Heaven" in left corner. Octvia stands in front of the front door. This picture shows the scoring on the walls. The house appears much as it does today. From the Magoffin Home archives

The home of the Magoffins at that time was an oasis, and desert inhabitants encroached into what was becoming most inviting surroundings. In 1878, Katherine Payne White, the mother of Owen P. White came to El Paso for the first time. In a biography of her he related the following account:

When my mother first saw the town, El Paso was, in reality, no town at all. Two small collections of adobe houses, separated from each other by a disagreeable and dangerous mile of sand hills and mesquite bushes, were all there was to it. One of these settlements was called Magoffinsville, in honor of one of the finest pioneer families that ever went into the West; the other was called Franklin, in honor of himself, by a perpetually inebriated postmaster, and in the two there resided a permanent population of about thirty Americans and three or four hundred Mexicans.

In advance of my mother's arrival my father had secured temporary quarters for her in the Magoffin home, and there, amid delightful surroundings, and even in comparative luxury, she remained for several weeks. During those weeks only one incident occurred which, through my mother's recital of it, has impressed itself particularly upon my memory.

One morning she was seated in her room when in rushed a highly excited Mexican girl pouring forth a torrent of entirely unintelligible Spanish in which the word *vibora* was

featured with emphatic frequency. Later my mother learned to speak Spanish fluently but at that time, as she understood not a single word, all she could do was follow the girl to the front door and find out about the trouble. The door was opened cautiously and the cause of the disturbance was at once visible. There, coiled up only a few feet away, and waving his head invitingly back and forth, was a large rattlesnake. The solution of this difficulty, which of course called for demolishing the snake, was quite simple. My mother merely asked for a pistol and when one was produced from the Magoffin arsenal she took it, aimed carelessly, and pulled the trigger. That was all; the rattler's head vanished with the report of the gun and the excitement was over. But not the wonder at the feat; everyone in the house marveled greatly, and an hour later they all marveled some more. A second snake appeared, probably the bereaved spouse of the deceased, and this time the Mexican girl made no disturbance. Instead she merely got the pistol, carried it to my mother and calmly announced that the rest of the *vibora* family was outside awaiting execution. The same thing happened; the second snake was decapitated as casually as the first had been, with a single shot, and my mother's reputation as a gun-woman of the first class was forever established.¹¹

Later many grasses had been planted or established in El Paso—including *Phleum pratense*, *Agrostis tenuis* and *Lolium perenne* mixed with *Cynodon dactylon* (Bermuda), *Sorghum halepense* and *Panicum sp.*—some or most of which had been planted and covered the grounds of the Magoffin Home.¹² No tame grasses were present in El Paso at that time.¹³ A rose garden was planted just inside the gate. There are even now tea roses in the garden, and it is thought that tea roses were among the original plantings. Tea roses were very popular at the end of the 19th century—at that time the hybrid varieties known today did not exist. The garden was centered with pampas grass that was also at the right side of the walk. Pampas grass came to El Paso from South America via California.

Photographs from the archives made at a later date show that the saplings have grown; however, gone are the cottonwood and the Tree of Heaven. The Italian cypress, chinaberry, and ash or elm and, possibly, arbor-vitae and mulberry trees developed. The orchard on the east side of the house was planted, and the west side of the house had been cleared close to the home. There was less water available at this time, and, most likely, the orchard took



The trees have grown considerably in this photo made in the middle 1890s. Note the rose garden just inside the gate. From the Magoffin Home State Historical Site Archives.

precedence over grass which appears less lush. The rose bushes developed, as did the orchard at the east side of the house which had grown considerably. A photograph which was taken in the early 1900s represents the front yard at its peak. Although many trees in this picture no longer exist, the Italian cypress trees at the front of the house have grown to considerable height, and the rose garden is full. Other trees have either died or been removed. At no time however does the front yard ever appear to have been over planted. It was a peaceful, refined place.

The grounds at the back of the Magoffin Home were covered by the orchard and the *acequia*. There was also a corral in which lived a horse and a cow and there were storerooms for a carriage and equipment. The storeroom area shows as a separate structure in Koch's "Bird's Eye View of El Paso." Magoffin's grandson, Joseph Magoffin Glasgow, remembered the back of the homestead:

In those days my grandfather had a horse which was used for the carriage, and a cow that furnished all the milk for the family. And they were kept in a small corral just back of what is now the storerooms. But the storeroom which is farthest from the living quarters, that's [what] the horse and the cow used as shelter when they weren't in the

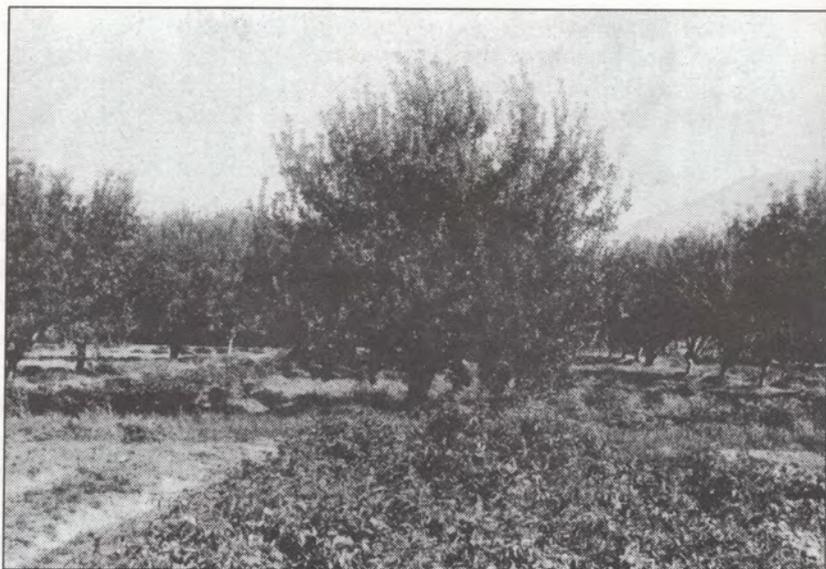
corral, because they had free access to it. They could go in or out of it whenever they wanted to. Occasionally, when I got thirsty and the idea appealed to me, I'd take my silver cup out of the dining room and go out to the corral and milk the cow and drink the warm milk.¹⁴

As far as he knew, the Magoffins were the only family in the neighborhood that had a horse and a cow. These storerooms were converted into bedrooms for the Glasgow's grandchildren when they came to live at the Magoffin Home.¹⁵ These rooms now serve as the office for the Casa Magoffin Compañeros and as the "Carriage House at the Magoffin Home," a gift shop.

The west side of the Magoffin Home has undergone the most change in the years since it was built. There were vegetable gardens and a flower garden between the patio and the orchard that in the 1890s stretched almost a mile, to the present County Court House on San Antonio Street. Some of the children had their own gardens.¹⁶ The driveway did not extend to Magoffin Street at the front but instead entered the grounds from the southwest, off San Antonio Street. At the driveway entrance there were also vegetable gardens tended by the Chinese. Midway along the drive was a hen house.¹⁷ No mention is made nor does any photograph yet seen show the location of a well. It would have been separate from the *acequia*. Joseph Glasgow stated that running hot water was not available in the house until after his mother redecorated in 1928.¹⁸ Food and ice were delivered to the house daily.¹⁹ El Paso Water Utilities does not have records available before 1930; however water lines were not laid on Magoffin Avenue before 1900.

There were vegetable gardens and a flower garden between the patio and the orchard that in the 1890s stretched almost a mile, to the present County Court House on San Antonio Street. Some of the children had their own gardens.

The Magoffin archives provide a photograph that shows the orchard in a west-facing view. The trees are mature trees and in the foreground there appears to be a vine-type vegetable growing. Plenty of weeds and local grass exist between the rows. One can see the depressions throughout the orchard where irrigation water had a directed flow around the trees and vegetables. A dike



The orchard with its mature trees. The vine-type vegetable and weeds and local grass can be seen. Also visible are the depressions through the orchard that direct irrigation water to the trees. From the Magoffin Home State Historical Site Archives.

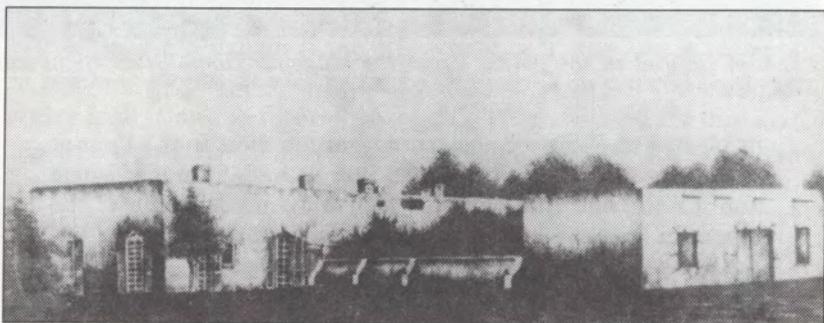
at the canal would be opened allowing the water to spread through the property.

Just at the edge of the house was a rail fence which separated the gardens from the house. The *El Paso Times* reported in 1887 that Mrs. Magoffin and her daughter, Josephine, grew beautiful flowers, among them were tuberose by the thousands, verbenas, lemon verbenas, geraniums, roses, and heliotrope. Crape myrtle was also mentioned but it is not visible in any picture and it is suspected that the plants were oleander and not crape myrtle. Also growing were honeysuckle and "a rare collection of Mexican plants."²⁰ Nothing in this list is rare; most are very common. Most likely, the Mexican plants were some not often seen in El Paso, but they were probably common in Mexico.

Under any circumstances, the garden was large enough to be beautiful but not large enough to provide flowers in numbers for social occasions. At those times flowers and greenery were imported, such as for the marriage of Josephine Magoffin to William J. Glasgow in 1896 when yellow chrysanthemums and greenery were brought from California. The home was decorated with flags and yellow flowers in honor of Glasgow's cavalry unit.²¹ Less grand arrangements were made for the wedding of James Wiley

Magoffin II in the spring of 1897.²² Daughters in homes of less social status had what one described as “greasewood weddings” because the branches of the greasewood were the only greenery available in this area.²³

The patio appears to have been the center of family outdoor activities. It offered shelter from wind and other extreme weather, and protection from the outside commercial operation of the orchard and vegetable gardens. A wooden gate allowed the patio to be blocked off entirely from the rest of the property. There were a few trees, what appears to be an arbor covering a bench and chair, a few bushes, and prolific oleander. There was a rope tied from a tree to the house that was probably a clothesline.²⁴ People commonly used a Chinese laundry, but some home laundry and certainly airing of household linens was probably done.



View of the Magoffin Home from the rear showing the north wall, the patio wall, and a full view of the first building on the grounds which served as the first home of the Joseph Magoffin family c. 1890s. From the Magoffin Home State Historical Archives.

The most prominent feature in the patio was not added to it until 1928. The angel that is called Gabriel actually has no name. Joseph Glasgow was newly married in Paris, and he and his wife arranged for the statue as follows:

... we spent several days in Tony Montgomery's country house, which was in a small suburb of Paris called Gevrolles. He had purchased an ancient house which he had completely restored and redecorated. It was in the form of a square so that it had a courtyard or a patio in the middle, and in the center of that was a statue, an ancient statue, of an angel. This statue was sufficiently well known to be known to the antique dealers and reproducers in Paris. And we—that is, our family—had commissioned a reproduction of the statue

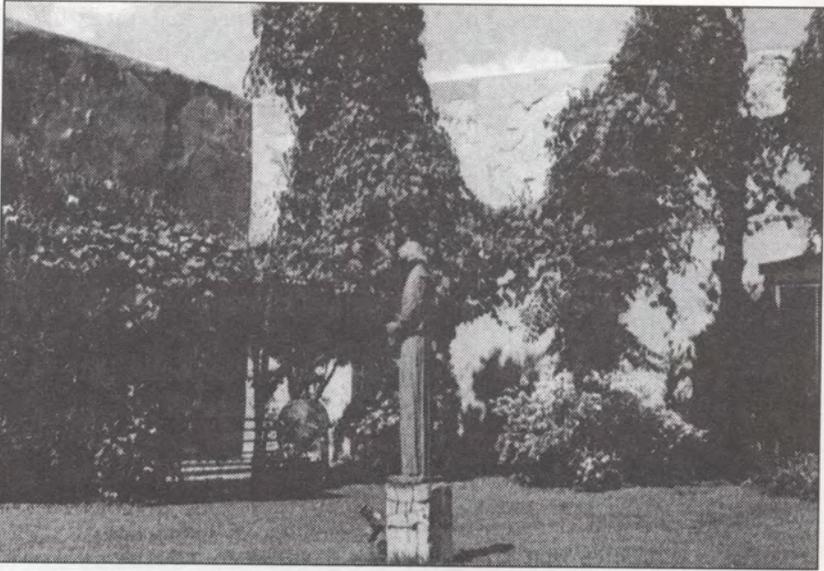


Photo of Gabriel in the patio. From the Magoffin Home State Historical Archives.

in plaster of Paris, or something harder than that. I'm not sure what the composition was. But we had it shipped home and it's the one that remains right now in the patio of the Magoffin Homestead downtown. It used to have wings, but the wings are rather heavy for the attachment, you might say, to the body, and so with the winds and weather of El Paso, they long since have been stored in the storeroom.²⁵

The statue is a nice item in the patio, and is featured on a postcard which also shows the deterioration in the exterior of the house, serviceable grass, some flowering bushes and the growth of vines over long dead tree trunks. This arrangement, though, was probably in the 1930s or 1940s.

The grounds of the Magoffin Home were at their peak during the 1880s into the early 1890s. It can be compared with other pictures of El Paso to show what a luxuriant place it was. Photographs from the Charles B. Turrill Collection at The Center for American History at The University of Texas at Austin show that El Paso houses had some trees but very small yards, and a vast expanse of treeless area between Mesa Garden, the present Sunset Heights, and the river.

Joseph Magoffin was at his peak of power during this time also, serving as mayor, customs officer, and as a member of the board of most of El Paso's important businesses, including a water company. His estate was extensive, but all of Magoffin's efforts could not solve the problem of El Paso's water that ultimately determined the future of the land surrounding the homestead. Water and its availability or lack of it governed!

The *acequia* provided water for Magoffin as well as for the other prominent El Paso families who settled along Magoffin Avenue, the most fashionable residential street in the city. While some drinking water was imported from Deming, New Mexico, water for washing clothes and everything else came from wells. Mrs. Hugh White, a member of the Kemp family, grew up across the street from the Magoffin Home and reported that the water from the well was hard and had "wiggly" things in it. Well-water was also used for drinking in her household. She said that her father used a Mexican filter. "It was in a frame and it was made of volcanic stone. It was triangle shaped. You poured that awful water into it and it filtered through. This we used for our drinking water then. . . . Those were primitive days."²⁶ An anonymous report found in the Burges and Perrenot Family Manuscripts Collection states:

. . . water for drinking purposes was very scarce. I believe it is Frances Brown who tells the story of her grandmother's care in conserving the dish water. The dishes had to be washed in one water, rinsed in two; and the second rinse water always had to be saved to start the next dish washing. Water was brought in from Deming and was sold on the streets. There was also some sort of system for getting drinking water from the river. The remains of it may still be seen near our river bank. Water for irrigation must have been fairly scarce too, for Jane [Burges Perrenot] tells me of her grandmother telling her about dressing her five little girls, putting them on the car for Juárez to see the Juárez Plaza so that they wouldn't forget what grass looked like.²⁷

According to Roger Sperka, a geologist with El Paso Water Utilities, the wells dug at that time ranged between 11½ feet to 28½ feet in depth.²⁸

The *acequia* began at the El Paso dam near the Asarco smelter and was joined by a few branches as it flowed through town before it went through the Magoffin property and on to Fort Bliss.²⁹

In the area of San Antonio Street it was boarded over to form a sidewalk.

The water was terribly hard. Soap curdled in it until it looked like buttermilk. For drinking purposes the water was sometimes filtered, sometimes settled with mustard. Many of the early inhabitants had cisterns in which they caught rain water and stored it for future use.³⁰

The *acequia* operated according to the Spanish method of irrigation that had existed for several hundred years. Those who utilized the system were required to help keep the *acequia* in good repair. The user could use water amounts in direct relation to how much work he put in on the upkeep of the canal. As El Paso and Ciudad Juárez grew, the system became too small. Farmers on both sides of the river began to complain about not having enough water. Even before 1890, meetings had been held to determine the amount of water each country could have, but the arrangements were not satisfactory. In the early 1890s, however, matters be-

came much worse because water in the river was becoming more and more scarce. It was proved that the farmers of Colorado and New Mexico were draining the Rio Grande before it ever got to El Paso.³¹ Joseph Magoffin testified before a government hearing about earlier losses and represented the city as its mayor in talking about the falling values of land because of the lack of water.³²

Floods occurred over the years, but after 1867 none had been too serious. South El Paso, right along the river, was generally the most affected area of the city. In 1897, however, heavy spring rains fell in northern New Mexico causing the river to rise. Only two months after the wedding of James Wiley Magoffin II, the Rio Grande rose two feet in Albuquerque and continued its rise downstream. People were urged to build up the sides of the canal, but not many wanted to do the work. Thus the canal broke when the flood reached El Paso and swept through the southern part of the city as far north as

As El Paso and Ciudad Juárez grew, the system became too small. Farmers on both sides of the river began to complain about not having enough water. Even before 1890, meetings had been held to determine the amount of water each country could have, but the arrangements were not satisfactory.

San Antonio Street. It stopped at Magoffin Avenue because a dike held there.³³ The result was disastrous for Joseph Magoffin, however.

The El Paso Canal was destroyed and with it went the irrigation for the orchard and the grounds. According to Joseph Glasgow:

Because when the canal was re-routed (its now way down south, you know), that really killed the orchard, because it couldn't be irrigated. So the orchard was eliminated. That's when my grandfather cut all that land from the Homestead to where the City Hall is into lots, and sold them off.³⁴

Deed records indeed show that a flurry of sales by Joseph Magoffin occurred at this time.³⁵ A satisfactory water system was not yet established to replace the loss of irrigation. The International Boundary and Water Commission conducted a major study of this flood which ultimately led to the creation of the Franklin Canal and Elephant Butte Dam, thereby assuring both cities of river water. A map from the Boundary and Water Commission report dated September 1897 shows the path of the El Paso Canal and that it had been abandoned.

The flood of 1897 changed what had once been a thriving orchard to a scene of desolation. Still visible in the picture are the corrals that existed at the back of the house and some of the bigger trees, but there was a stark open area between the back of the house and the distant line of trees beyond which are railroad tracks and the Franklin Canal. Today, that is densely occupied by buildings, streets, and railroad tracks. The Magoffin Home, which occupied one and one-half acres, still looked like any typical farmhouse at the turn of the century before automobiles changed the "backyards." The area was just beginning to develop; it was not long, however, before the Magoffin Home and downtown El Paso had grown together.

Joseph Magoffin and a child look over the aftermath of the flood of 1897. From the Magoffin Home State Historical Site Archives.





**LIST OF PLANTS FOUND
AT THE MAGOFFIN HOME
STATE HISTORIC SITE**



October 14, 1999

SCIENTIFIC NAME	COMMON NAME
<i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i> L.	Black Locust
<i>Prosopis glandulosa</i> Torr.	Honey Mesquite
<i>Geranium</i> sp.	Geranium
<i>Agave americana</i> L.	Century Plant
<i>Yuccajaxoniana</i> Sarg.	Faxon Yucca
<i>Chilopsis linearis</i> (Cav.) Sweet	Desert Willow
<i>Yucca torrei</i> Shafer	"Torrey Yucca"
<i>Ulmuspumila</i> L.	Siberian Elm
<i>Photinia serrulata</i> Lindl.	None
<i>Leucophyllumfrutescens</i> (Berl.)	Purple Sage
<i>Fraxinus velutina</i> Torr.	Arizona Ash
<i>Tamarix ramosissima</i> Ledebour.	Salt Cedar
<i>Nerium oleander</i> L.	Common Oleander
<i>Morus alba</i> L.	White Mulberry
<i>Elaeagnus angustifolia</i> L.	Russian Olive
<i>Cupressus sempervirens</i> L.	Italian Cypress
<i>Rosa</i> sp.	Rose
<i>Vitex angus-castus</i> L.	Chaste Tree
<i>Populus</i> sp.	Cottonwood
<i>Yucca baccata</i> Torr.	Banana Yucca
<i>Juniperus</i> sp.	Juniper
<i>Thuja orientalis</i> L.	Oriental Arbor-vitae
<i>Aloe barbadensis</i> Mill.	Aloe
<i>Arundo donax</i> L.	Giant Reed (grass)
<i>Dasyilirionn wheeleri</i> Wats.	Wheeler Sotol
<i>Sambucus mexicana</i> Presl.	Mexican Elder
<i>Campsis radicans</i> Seem	Trumpet-vine
<i>Iris</i> , sp.	Iris
<i>Lilium</i> , sp.	Easter Lily
<i>Cortaderia selloana</i>	Pampas Grass
(J. A. & J. H. Schult.) Ascher & Graebn.	
<i>Cynodon dactylon</i> Pers.	Bermuda Grass

Fewer than half the plants growing on the grounds now were there between 1890 and 1900. One of the most serious problems is the presence of salt cedar. It is a water-guzzling, invasive plant that grows in disturbed, wet areas—the long ago river channel—and it did not arrive in the El Paso area until after 1911.³⁷ There have never been very many native plants on the grounds. Dr. Victor Macias-González then in the Oral History Program at the University of Texas at El Paso whose research includes Spanish gardens, stated that no respectable Spanish-influenced garden would have had any cactus or cactus-related specimens in it.

Items such as *yucca*, *agave*, *aloe*, *mescal*, and *sotol* were used only by the lower classes.³⁸ *Mescal*, *aloe*, and *agave* could have been imported but are not common to El Paso; thus, they do not even represent the 1890s well. No picture actually shows cactus or succulents as having been on the Magoffin grounds during its peak. The Mexican elder is considered to be a native plant, not a tree, in Mexico.

Verbena, roses, geranium, honeysuckle, and tuberose all provided flowers and color and appeared to have grown well. Bulbs were available at the nearest nursery. No flower garden is visible in available pictures; the garden on the west side of the house is most probably its original location. There were also some flowers in the patio, but they were primarily bush flowers. The photo of the angel in the patio appears to have a rose in front of it. Also, there were no flowers around the bases of any of the trees in the front yard. There was only the rose garden near the street. Based on the pictures it is apparent that native plants and flowers were not a part of the landscaping at the Magoffin Home. The grounds that developed prior to 1897 took advantage of the natural conditions—primarily the presence of water. When that ceased to be available, the original orchard failed and the areas immediately around the house became static, eventually declining.

Also, there were no flowers around the bases of any of the trees in the front yard. There was only the rose garden near the street. Based on the pictures it is apparent that native plants and flowers were not a part of the landscaping at the Magoffin Home.

The grounds had remained pleasant and gracious during the first part of the twentieth century, but began to deteriorate as the home's occupants aged. Mrs. White said in 1968:

The Magoffin's house is still there but the grounds have all gone down. Miss Josie is past 90. There is nobody there now but her and her daughter, Octavia, and you don't get servants like you used to. They had a retinue of servants."³⁹

The result of this neglect and the land's location on what had been a natural river path allowed the growth of some undesirable plants and a general run-down look prevailed. With the acquisition in 1976 of the Magoffin Home as a State Historic Site the effort began to reverse this trend and the restoration work done in the past few years is returning the grounds to their former glory.

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Fifty Years of Architecture: Carroll and Daeuble

By Patrick Rand

World War II had concluded in August of 1945, and the postwar construction boom was just beginning in October, when two young El Paso architects, Ed Carroll and Louis Daeuble, decided it was a good time to merge their talents and start a new architectural firm. The firm known as Carroll and Daeuble, Architects, would continue for fifty years, until 1995, longer than any other El Paso architectural firm.

Edwin W. Carroll, who was born on March 6, 1912 in Elizabeth, Louisiana, received his bachelor of architecture degree in 1936 from the University of Texas, Austin. He then worked as a designer and architect for the long-time El Paso architectural firm of Trost and Trost for five years before becoming the superintendent of buildings for the El Paso Public Schools.

Leavenworth, Kansas was the birthplace of Louis Daeuble, Jr. who was born on June 7, 1912. Having received his bachelor of science degree in architecture from Texas A & M in 1936, he worked with El Paso architect Percy McGhee as a designer and draftsman before entering the Army in 1941 and serving as post engineer at Biggs Army Air Field.

The first office of Carroll and Daeuble was located on the third floor of the First National Bank Building in downtown El Paso. A staff was assembled that included Charles E. Waterhouse, an architect who had worked at Biggs Field with Daeuble; Emil Graves, a structural engineer; and draftsmen Stanley Bryant, Jay Chapman, E.A. Hudnall, and Ross Walker. Shirley Lait served as the first secretary for the firm.

The photos and architects renderings that accompany this article were provided by the author.

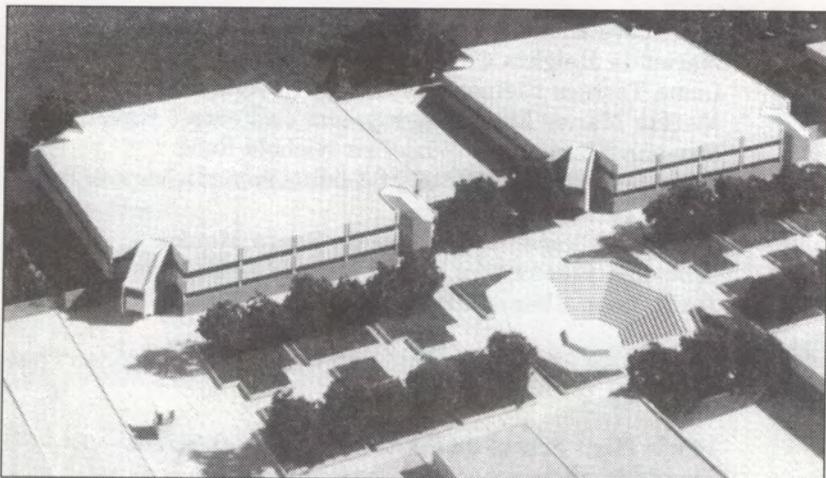


The firm in 1946 (left to right): Shirley Lait, C. E. Waterhouse, Ross Walker, Stanley Bryant, Emil Graves, Jay Chapman, Louis Daeuble, Ed Carroll

Over the fifty years of the firm's existence, 179 people were associated with it, either as principals or as employees. Some stayed for just a matter of days, while others spent a good part of their lives there. The persons with the greatest firm longevity include the original partners, Louis Daeuble who had thirty-two years with the firm from 1945 until his resignation in 1977, and Ed Carroll, who served for thirty-seven years from 1945 until his retirement in 1982. George DuSang was with the firm for thirty-nine years from 1956 until the firm was sold in 1995, and Patrick Rand devoted forty-two years with the firm from 1950 until his retirement in 1992.

Carroll and Daeuble proved to be a good spawning ground for architectural firms. Many former employees founded their own architectural companies after leaving Carroll and Daeuble:

- David Alvidrez: Alvidrez and Associates
- Robert Garland and Gilbert Sawtelle: Garland and Hilles
- Charles Henry: Foster, Henry, Henry, and Thorpe
- James Langford: Fouts, Langford, Gomez, and Moore
- Clinton McCombs: Kuykendall and McCombs
- H.L. "Bert" Mijares: Booth, Kiersey, and Mijares
- Gus Pellati, Jr.: Pellati and Herrera
- Sam Middleton: Architect
- John Ring: Architect
- Jim Skelton: Architect
- Duffy Stanley: Architect
- George Staten, Jr.: Architect



Bowie High School, Classroom Buildings

Altogether, the firm had 738 commissions to design projects over the fifty years of its existence. The Ysleta School District was the firm's most consistent client, with commissions for ninety-nine projects over a thirty-eight year period. Those commissions included:

- Bel Air High School on North Yarborough Drive
- Eastwood High School on McRae Boulevard
- Parkland High School on Quail Avenue
- District Administration Offices on Valdespino, now the Student Entrepreneur Center
- Bel Air Junior High School now the Ysleta Pre-Kindergarten Center
- Valley View Junior High School on North Loop Drive
- Cedar Grove Elementary School on Barker Road
- Dolphin Terrace Elementary School on Pickerel Drive
- Eastwood Knolls Elementary School on Buckwood Avenue



Bassett Middle School

Glen Cove Elementary School on Sam Snead Drive
 Hacienda Heights Elementary School on Acapulco Avenue
 Loma Terrace Elementary School on Ryland Court
 Marian Manor Elementary School on Forrest Haven Court
 Ramona Elementary School on Nichols Road
 Ranchland Hills Elementary School on Yuma Drive, now Ranch-
 land Hills Middle School
 Sageland Elementary School on Santa Monica
 Scotsdale Elementary School on McRae Boulevard
 South Loop Elementary School on Southside Road

The El Paso School District provided fifty-nine commissions. These include:

Bowie High School on South San Marcial Street
 Coronado High School on Champions Place
 Telles Academy on South Campbell Street
 Bassett Middle School on Elm Street
 Magoffin Middle School on Hercules Avenue
 Clendenin Elementary School on Harrison Avenue
 Douglas Elementary School on South Eucalyptus Street
 Hughey Elementary School on Hughey Circle
 Robert E. Lee Elementary School on Hercules Avenue which
 later became Magoffin-Lee
 Mesita Elementary School on Alethea Park Drive
 Milam Elementary School on Luke Street
 Roosevelt Elementary School on East Father Rahm Avenue
 Wainwright Elementary School on Lawrence Avenue which
 had begun as a county school.

Fourteen other school projects, also designed by the firm, included a middle school in Brownsville, Texas; schools in Dell City and Fort Hancock; the remodeling of Radford School; schools in San Elizario and Sierra Blanca; and seven projects for the Socorro School District, including two new middle schools.

Church projects made up a significant part of the firm's commissions. The firm was ecumenical, and designed projects for almost every faith and denomination. Forty-one projects were designed for the Catholic Diocese of El Paso, including a residence for Bishop Metzger, and work at:

Cathedral High School,
 Heart of Jesus School,
 Loretto Academy,
 St. Charles Borromeo Seminary,

St. Margaret's Children's Home,
Socorro Mission,
Ysleta Mission,
Holy Cross Retreat in Mesilla.

Projects were also designed for twenty different parishes throughout the diocese:

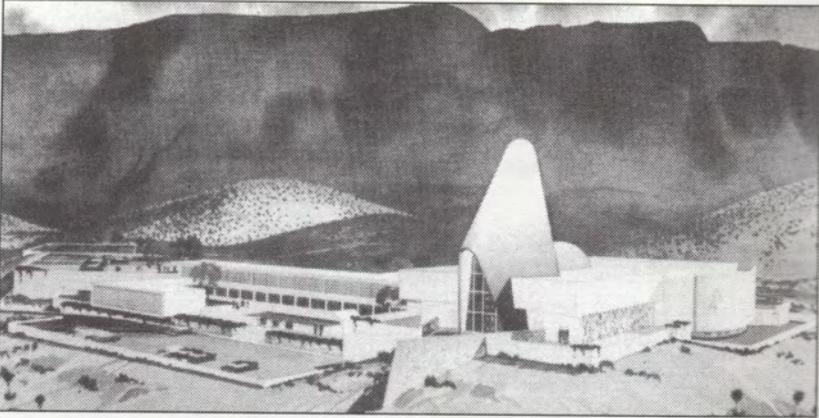
Immaculate Heart of Mary in Las Cruces, New Mexico;
St. Anthony's in Anthony, New Mexico;
St. Catherine's in Pecos, Texas;
St. Genevieve's in Las Cruces, New Mexico;
San Jose in La Mesa, New Mexico.

And in El Paso:

Holy Trinity Catholic Church on Pheasant Street
Our Lady of Assumption on Byron Street
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church on Alabama Street
Our Lady of the Light Church on Delta Drive
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel on South Zaragoza
Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church on Winchester Road
Queen of Peace Catholic Church on Belvidere
Sacred Heart Church on South Oregon
St. Joseph's Church on Travis Street
St. Luke's Catholic Church on East Redd Road
St. Patrick's Cathedral on North Mesa Street
St. Pius X on North Clark Drive
St. Raphael Parish on Zanzibar Drive
San Antonio de Padua Catholic Church at North Loop
and Hunter
San Jose Catholic Church on San Jose Road



First Presbyterian Church

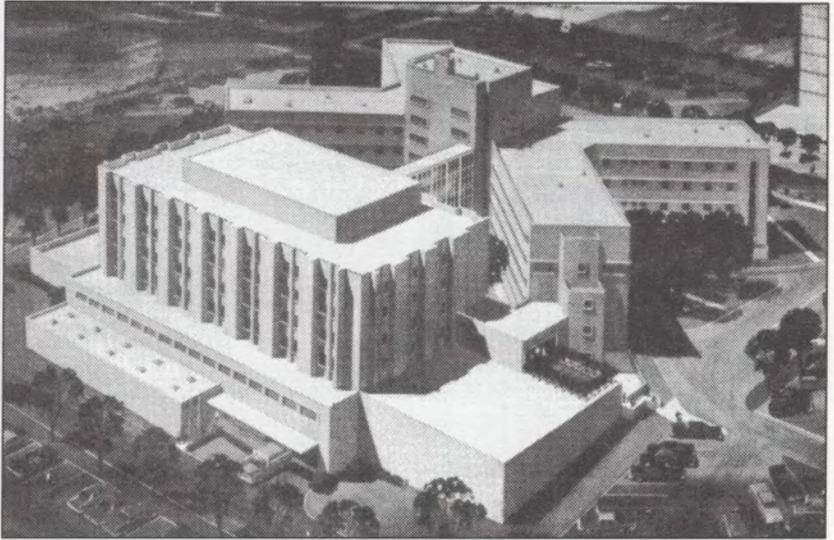


Temple Mount Sinai

Forty-seven church projects for other faiths and denominations include work for:

Asbury Methodist Church, 3500 Pershing Drive
 Church of Christ at 3101 Montana Avenue
 Congregation B'nai Zion at 805 Cherry Hills Lane
 Coronado Baptist Church at 501 Thunderbird Drive
 First Christian Church at 901 Arizona Avenue
 First Presbyterian Church at 1340 Murchison Street
 Grace Methodist Church, at 400 North Carolina Drive
 Jesus Chapel at 10555 Edgemere Boulevard
 Northgate Christian Church at 5430 Yvette Avenue
 St. Christopher's Episcopal Church at 300 Riverside Drive
 St. Clement's Episcopal Church at 810 North Campbell Street
 St. James' Methodist Church at 1128 Lomaland Drive
 St. Mark's United Methodist Church at 5005 Love Road
 St. Paul's Lutheran Church at 1000 Montana Avenue
 Santa Teresa Presbyterian Church at 5400 McNutt
 Temple Mount Sinai at 4408 North Stanton Street
 Trinity Methodist Church at 810 North Oregon Street
 Ysleta Methodist Church, Davis Drive, now the Vista Ysleta
 United Methodist, on Rojas Drive
 St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Midland, Texas.

The firm designed thirty-nine projects for Providence Memorial Hospital over a forty year period. These included the original hospital building in 1948, the Border Children's Health Center and the Hilton-Young Tower, and numerous additions and renovations over the years.



Providence Memorial Hospital

The City of El Paso had the firm design thirty-one projects over forty-five years, including: five recreation centers; the central fire station and ten other fire stations; the downtown library and five branch libraries; El Paso Civic Center, a joint venture with Garland & Hilles; the El Paso Museum of Art, now the International Museum of Art; improvements to Liberty Hall which no longer exists; a laboratory building for the Public Service Board; and two enclosed swimming pools in the Lower Valley.

Thirty-one projects were designed for the Mountain Bell Telephone Company over twenty-two years, which included the Bell System Credit Union Building, the downtown state headquarters building at the corner of Texas and Campbell streets, the additions to the Hacienda Equipment Building, and Westside Bell System Credit Union Building.



El Paso Civic Center



El Paso Museum of Art, now the International Museum of Art

Twenty projects for the county of El Paso were designed by the firm over a forty-four year period, including: improvements to the Coliseum; the Sun Bowl Stadium, which was also a joint venture with Garland & Hilles; the Texas Tech Clinic Building at Thomason Hospital; and the renovations to Thomason General Hospital.

Over twenty-two years, the Carroll and Daeuble designed twenty projects for the El Paso Natural Gas Company including: the downtown El Paso home office building, the Blue Flame Building; the El Paso Computer Center; the R&D Laboratory Building; and as well as other projects in the city; projects in Farmington and Jal, New Mexico; and projects in Safford, Topock, and Tucson, Arizona.



Mountain Bell Telephone Company

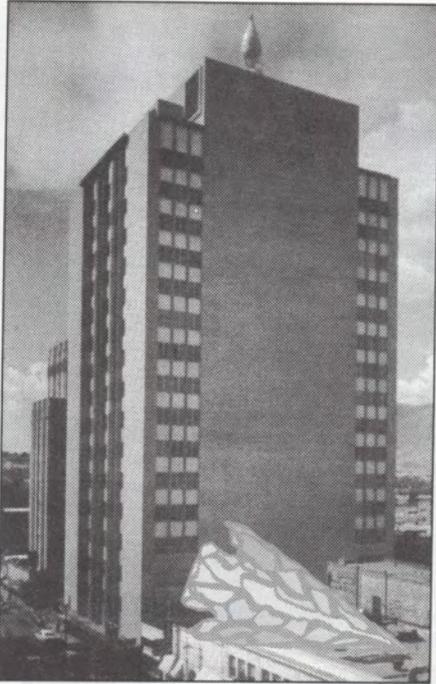


Sun Bowl Stadium

Over forty-one years the firm designed seventeen projects at Texas Western College which became The University of Texas at El Paso. These included:

- the central energy plant;
- the remodeling of the Cotton Memorial Building;
- the addition to the Engineering Building;
- the Engineering Science Complex, which was another joint project with Garland and Hilles;
- renovations to the Hoover House, the home of the president of the University of Texas at El Paso;
- the liberal arts classroom building;
- the library building addition and remodeling;
- the dormitory complex and dining hall, Kelly Hall, and the El Paso Natural Gas Company Conference Center;
- renovations at the physical science building;
- the remodeling of the original library which converted it to the geology building;
- and the Sun Bowl Stadium expansion, another joint project with Garland and Hilles.

The El Paso Electric Company and its subsidiary, Franklin Land and Resources, had the firm design twelve projects over a twenty-nine year span, including alterations to El Paso Electric home office building, Cortez Building renovations and tenant



*El Paso Natural Gas Company
Blue Flame Building*

work, Mills Building remodeling, and the Santa Fe Power Station remodeling and additions.

Twelve projects were designed for the federal government, including Hinman Hall, the Artillery and Guided Missile Center, and five other projects at Fort Bliss, Biggs, Kirtland, and the Walker Air Force Base POL (Petroleum, Oil and Lubricant) Facilities, a facility for storing petroleum products; the Chamizal National Memorial; and two projects at White Sands Proving Grounds now White Sands Missile Range.

The State of Texas had the firm design three projects, including Big Spring State Hospital dormitory and cafeteria buildings, and the Texas A & M Research Center and the greenhouses in El Paso.

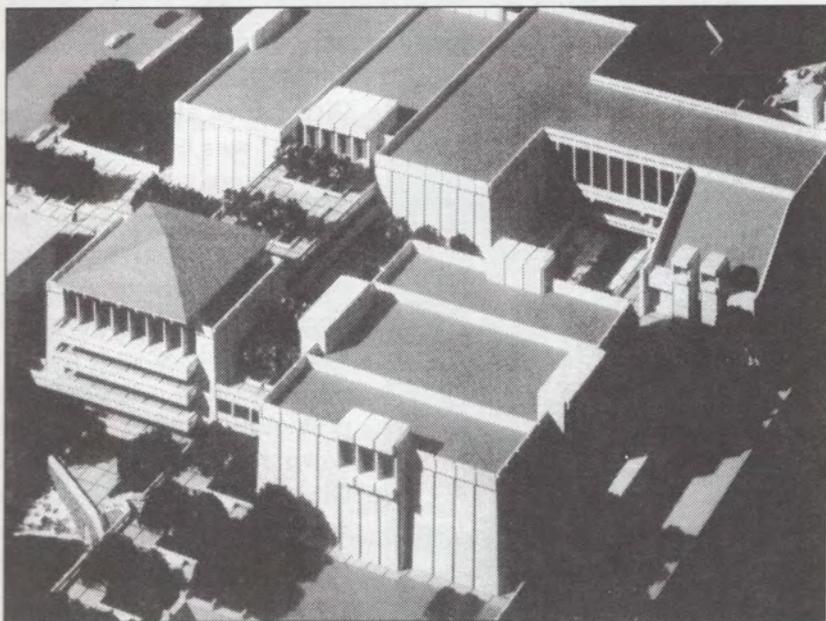
Other major projects concluded over the life of the firm include:

- Banco Mercantil de Chihuahua in Juarez, Mexico,
- Chelmont Shopping Center,
- El Paso Chamber of Commerce building at the Civic Center,
- renovations at the El Paso Country Club,
- El Paso Holocaust Museum,
- El Paso National Bank downtown office building which is now the Chase building,
- Hanley Paint manufacturing plant,
- Hicks Ponder manufacturing plant,
- Hotel Dieu Hospital additions and renovations,
- The University of Texas at El Paso School of Nursing,
- Hudspeth County Courthouse remodeling in Sierra Blanca, Texas,
- International Mineral and the Chemical Company office building in Carlsbad, New Mexico.

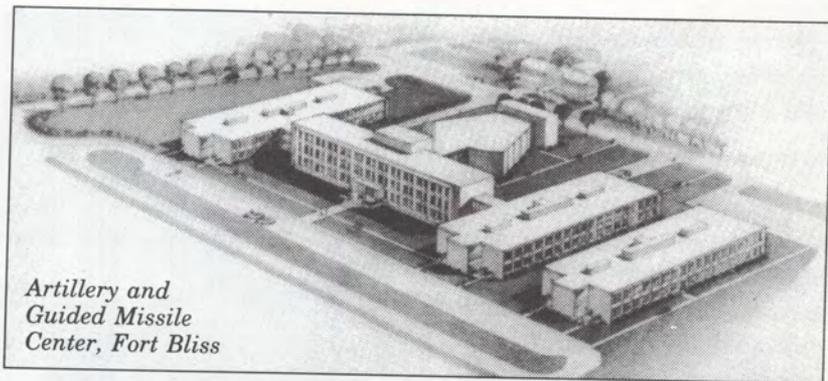
In El Paso again, other projects were:

La Villita Shopping Center;
Lee and Beulah Moor Children's Home;
Martin Funeral Home on Montana Street;
Mutual Federal Savings and Loan Association,
the downtown main building and four branch buildings—
a company which no longer exists;
the Rescue Mission Building; and
Sun Towers Hospital, which is now Las Palmas
Medical Center.

In 1948, the partnership built its own office building at 1001 East Yandell Boulevard, which was the home of the firm for the next fourteen years. Eight years later, in 1956, Carroll and Daeuble named four key employees as associates in the firm—Hugh English, who started with the firm in 1951; Patrick Rand, who began in 1950; Charles E. Waterhouse, one of the original employees from 1945; and Carl Young, whose employment began in 1948. The firm name then became Carroll and Daeuble and Associates. After construction of the IBM building at 2501 North Mesa Avenue, which was designed by the firm and owned by Ed Carroll and Louis Daeuble, was completed in 1962, the firm's offices were moved to Suite 303 in the new building.



University of Texas at El Paso Engineering-Science Complex



*Artillery and
Guided Missile
Center, Fort Bliss*

In April of 1967, Ed Carroll and Louis Daeuble named George DuSang and Patrick Rand as partners in the firm, and the name was changed to Carroll, Daeuble, DuSang and Rand. DuSang had received his degree in architecture from Texas Tech in 1956, joined the firm at that time, and become the primary architectural designer. Rand obtained his degree in architectural engineering from the University of Colorado in 1950, started with the firm that summer, and did most of the structural design.

In 1975, the firm, unfortunately, became involved in a major lawsuit associated with the El Paso Civic Center. The firm and Garland and Hilles were joint architects for the project. The problem involved the "ring girder" roof framing of the theater building.

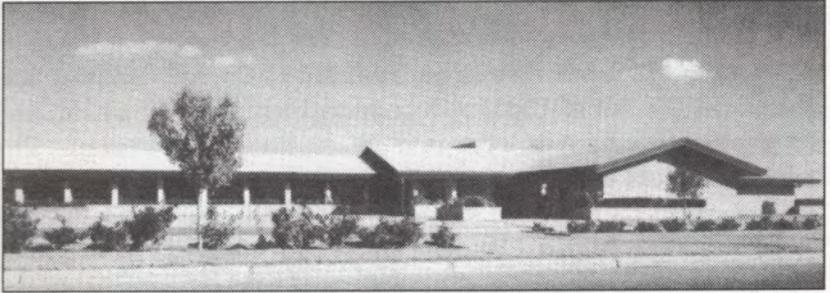
The structural engineering firm that had designed Madison Square Garden in New York City, which also had a "ring girder," was hired for its design. There was cracking in the welded joints of the "ring girder" which had occurred during construction. There was a dispute as to whether this was a design problem or a construction problem. The contractor shut down the project, and the City of El Paso sued the contractor. Originally, the amount of money involved



*El Paso National Bank,
now Chase*

was about \$125,000. Suits and counter-suits evolved, until the total lawsuits ballooned to eleven million dollars. Finally, seventeen law firms were participating, representing all the parties involved. After much too long a time, the lawyers agreed that the suit should be settled. The end result was that everyone lost except the lawyers. Most of the participants had insurance which paid for the settlement, but the premiums then immediately skyrocketed. More importantly, the project itself was delayed by twenty-two months. That should not have happened.

Louis Daeuble had a serious heart attack in 1977 and, in April of that year, submitted his resignation from the firm. His interest was purchased by the other partners, and the name was then changed to Carroll, DuSang and Rand. Louis Daeuble passed away on October 5, 1992 at the age of eighty. In April of 1982, Ed Carroll retired from active participation in the firm, but agreed to have the



Lee and Beulah Moore Children's Home

name remain as Carroll, DuSang, and Rand. At its state convention held in San Antonio in 1983, Carroll, who was very active in the Texas Society of Architects and served as the state president in 1954, received the Llewellyn W. Pitts Award, the highest honor awarded by that organization. Edwin W. Carroll passed away on June 8, 2000, at the age of eighty-eight.

H.L. "Bert" Minjares, who had joined the firm in October of 1977, became a junior partner in 1982. About the same time, discussions were held with architect Richard Hart, regarding a possible merger of his firm with Carroll, DuSang and Rand. On December 1, 1982, an agreement was reached, and the name became Carroll, DuSang, Hart, and Rand.

In the fall of 1983, following the sale of the IBM Building by Ed Carroll and Louis Daeuble to the University Bank, the firm moved to its own new building, located one block off North Mesa at 122 Castellano Drive. This became the fourth and final location



Mutual Federal Savings and Loan, Downtown Building

of the firm. Unfortunately, disagreements developed and Mijares left the firm in November of 1984. Hart followed in January of 1985 after which the firm name reverted to Carroll, DuSang and Rand. In the fall of 1985, a forty-year celebration was held, and all the past employees were invited to attend the reunion. The party was held on Friday, October 25th, exactly forty years from the date that the firm had started. Ed Carroll and Louis Daeuble both attended, as did a number of former members of the firm. Many who couldn't attend wrote letters of congratulations, bringing everyone up-to-date on their activities.

On January 1, 1988, the firm became incorporated as Carroll, DuSang and Rand, Inc. Jeff Balliew and Jorge Mora, two young architects who were members of the firm, joined George DuSang



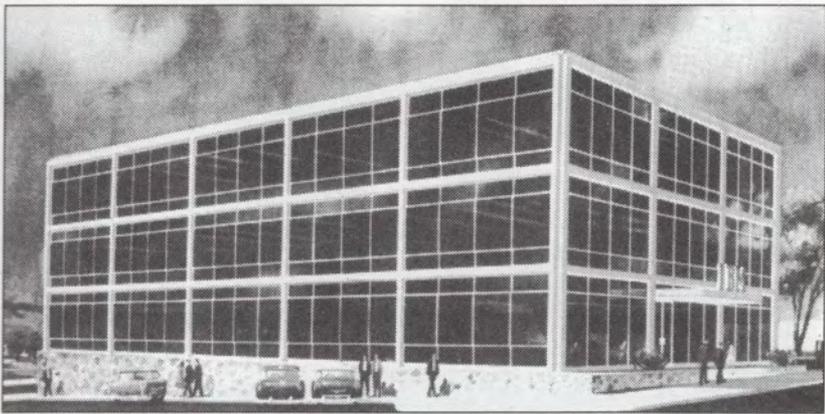
Office at 101 East Yandell, 1948-1962

and Patrick Rand as stockholders in the firm at that time. In 1991, construction documents for two hundred projects designed by the firm from 1945 through 1957 were donated to the archives in the Southwest Collection of the downtown Public Library, which would allow for future research on these projects.

Rand retired from the firm on October 25, 1992, and moved to Cloudcroft, New Mexico. Jeff Balliew and Jorge Mora bought his stock, but it was agreed that the firm name would remain unchanged. In 1993, Balliew resigned and moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico, leaving the firm in the hands of DuSang and Mora. In 1994, former employee and junior partner H.L. Mijares ended his relationship with his other two partners, and offered to buy the firm, taking over under the name "The Mijares Group." DuSang and Mora sold to Mijares, and then became members of the new firm. The sale became official on January 1, 1995, and the letters "Carroll, DuSang and Rand" were removed from the building.

Over the years, the firm had received many awards for design excellence:

- 1950 for Mesita Elementary School;
- 1954 for the downtown Public Library, later honored with an "Award for the Decade 1950–1960";
- 1955 for St. Patrick's School;
- 1956 for the El Paso Natural Gas Company Office building;
- 1957 for the Artillery and Guided Missile Center at Fort Bliss;
- 1961 for the Gunning, Casteel and Wiggs Shopping Center between Stanton and Mesa;
- 1963 for the Sun Bowl Stadium;
- 1971 for the Mountain States Telephone Company Headquarters building;



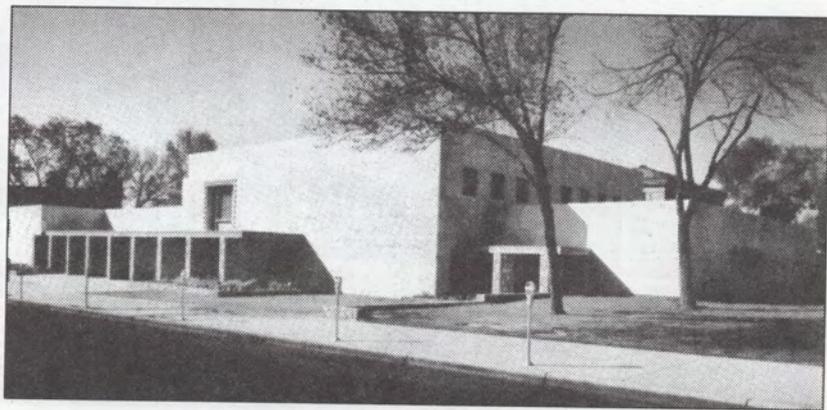
IBM Building, 2501 North Mesa, 1962–1983



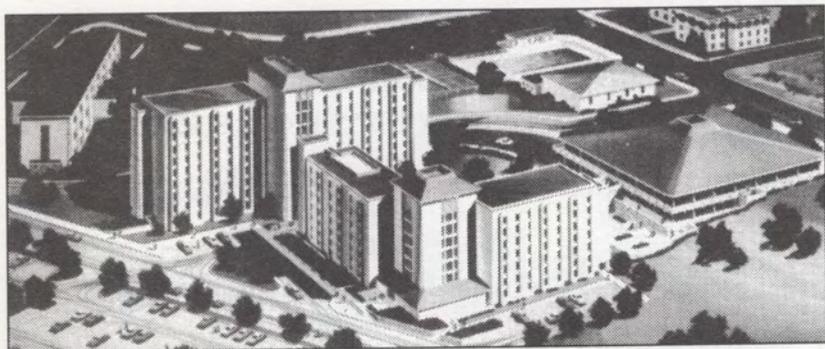
Office at 122 Castellano Drive, 1983-1995

- 1972 for the La Villita Shopping Center;
- 1974 for the Chamizal National Memorial;
- 1977 for Bowie High School;
- 1977 for the Civic Center Theater;
- 1979 for the El Paso Natural Gas Company Computer Center;
- 1980 for the interior remodeling of the Mills Building;
- 1982 for the Central Fire Station;
- 1982 for the Engineering Science Complex at the University of Texas at El Paso;
- 1986 for the Queen of Peace Catholic Church;
- 1988 for the Cortez Building restoration and renovation.

In 1995, the year the firm was sold, the El Paso Chapter of the American Institute of Architects presented it with a twenty-five year Award for Outstanding Service to the Profession. The firm had lasted for fifty years, from October of 1945 until January of 1995, longer than any other El Paso architectural firm. It had improved the appearance of El Paso and the surrounding region by its many architectural projects.



Downtown Public Library, El Paso



Dormitory and Dining Hall Complex, University of Texas at El Paso

PATRICK RAND, a retired architect and structural engineer, was the president of the El Paso County Historical Society in 1978. He has authored several articles in *Password*, among them "An Early Trip to Elephant Butte," Vol. XX, No. 3; "The Federal Smelter," Vol XXII, No 3; "The Bungalow and its place in El Paso," Vol XXXVI, No. 3; and "Concordia Cemetery," Vol 40, No 1. Now living in Cloudcroft, New Mexico, he is the president of the Sacramento Mountains Historical Society and curator of its museum, research center, and pioneer village.



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Frank Smith:

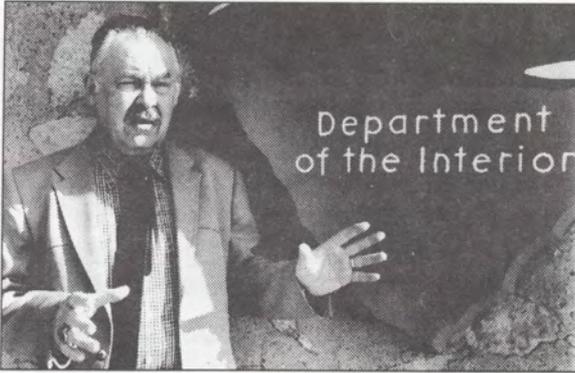
*The Force that Ensured
the Success of the Chamizal*

Born on a Spanish Land Grant on the Nepestele River in Pueblo, Colorado, Franklin Glenn Smith became an important figure on the El Paso stage. He made a difference in all the areas that he touched during his lifetime, and he brought cultural diversity to the city of El Paso. A member of the National Park Service, he came to El Paso to serve as superintendent of the Chamizal National Memorial.

It was Frank Smith who pushed, pulled, prodded, and cajoled everyone involved in the project that would transform the nearly barren piece of the Cordova Island into the Chamizal National Memorial. It was changed from a little-used area of scrub vegetation and goats, and occasionally smugglers, to a venue for picnics, concerts, dramatic productions, art exhibitions, dance presentations, the Border Folk Festival, the Zarzuela Festival, and the Siglo de Oro Drama Festival—all products of Frank Smith's energy, determination, and drive.

Frank Smith attended Pueblo Junior College and served in the United States Army from 1944 to 1946 after which he returned to his undergraduate studies in music. He earned an associate of music from Southern Colorado University, earned a bachelor's degree in archeology at the University of Arizona, and pursued graduate studies at the University of Arizona and at George Washington University.

In his forty-two years of service, he served first as a seasonal park archeologist for four summers at the Grand Canyon and Tumacacori National Monument, Arizona: his last assignment was at the Chamizal National Monument. Between these stations he had been assigned to Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico; he was an assistant to the chief of archeology, National Park Service in



*Franklin G. Smith.
Courtesy of Special
Collections, Library,
University of Texas
at El Paso.*

Washington D.C.; and in Santa Fe, New Mexico he served as a regional museum curator in the Southwest Regional Office. In August of 1965, on becoming the superintendent of the Fort Davis National Historic Site, Texas, he played a major role in the building of that site. Then, a year later, he was appointed to an interim position for the Chamizal project before becoming the official superintendent.

The development of Chamizal National Memorial was a task fraught with problems, set-backs, differences of opinion, delays, disappointments, and discussions. There were some facets of the project with which Frank disagreed but to which he had to concede. A history of the Chamizal prepared by the Intermountain Region of the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior, chronicles and documents the challenges and difficulties met and overcome by Smith in the chapter aptly entitled "Quiet Desperation: Planning and Constructing the National Memorial." According to Robbie Farley Villalobos, "He pushed the development of the park from fifty-five acres of barren desert near the Rio Grande that had changed course and caused the land dispute, to the oasis of performing arts and recreation that it had become known for as he retired in 1991."

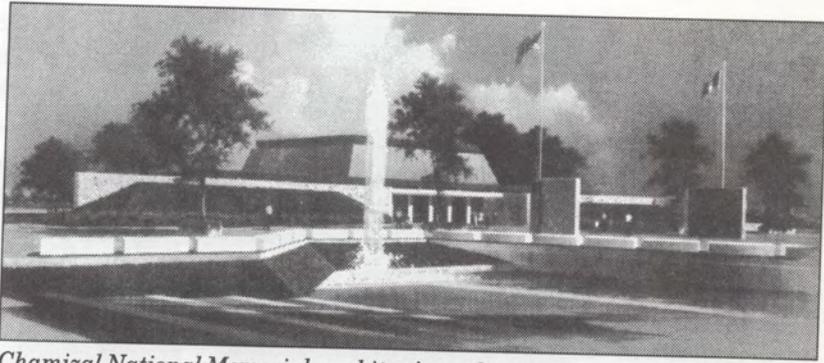
One of the first major activities at the Chamizal was the Border Folk Festival which was first presented in October 1973, and has evolved into the Chamizal Festival, a popular entertainment for the people of El Paso. When the five hundred-seat theater opened in 1974, the National Park Service had contracted with the Festival Association for the Performing Arts, which had booked some impressive performers and performances: among them were the Ballet Atzlan, the national dance company of Mexico; the Julliard String Quartet; Antonio Triana's Ballet Español; the Norman Luboff

Choir; the New Mexico State University Playmakers; the Children's Performing Arts Repertory Company of New York; the Brazilian guitarists Los Indios Trabajaros; and the Luis Rivera Spanish Dance Company. From the University of Texas at El Paso came the El Paso Symphonic Band and Chorale, The University-Civic Opera production of "La Boheme," and the University-Civic Ballet. To round out the season, there were also presentations by the pianist Augustine Anievas, a Mexican-American concert artist; the noted organist Alfonso Vega Nunez; and Martin Best with his "Art of the Minstrel" show.

To Frank's credit also are Zarzuela and Siglo do Oro. The Zarzuela Festival, which was begun at the Chamizal in 1986, presents musical productions. By 1997, Zarzuela was being presented at the University of Texas at El Paso, but it returned to the Chamizal in 2001. The Siglo de Oro drama festival brings drama groups from the Americas and Europe and usually plays to a full house as do the Zarzuela presentations. Music Under the Stars and the First Thanksgiving pageant are also productions which find their home at the Chamizal National Memorial.

Frank Smith, whose major fields of interest were museums and military music, was a popular speaker for many groups and a member of many prestigious organizations. Among those organizations were the American Association of Museums on whose council he served for eight years, and with whose accreditation program he was associated for twenty years. He also served on the council of America's Abandoned Military Posts for five years. He was a fellow of the Company of Military Historians and a member of the Order of St. Barbara, the patron saint of field artillerymen. He also held membership in the El Paso County Historical Society and in the El Paso Corral of the Westerners for whom he was a frequent and popular speaker.

He was awarded the Department of Interior Distinguished Service Award for forty years of service and a distinguished service award from the El Paso County Historical Society. Frank Smith was a respected military historian and a musician who rejoiced in the opportunity to interpret and perform military music. He had more than one "major field" of research, one of which was the life and exploits of Juan Bautista de Anza, another was military folk music and the songs of the soldiers. His extensive collection of military music will reside now in The National Museum in Washington, D.C. Frank Smith also played a major role in the production



Chamizal National Memorial, architect's rendering. Courtesy of Patrick Rand.

of the video film *The Pass of the North: Crossroads of History*. He was in the process of writing a history of the Chamizal National Memorial; a "long paper, possibly a book" about DeAnza; and various projects for the city of El Paso.

When Frank Smith passed away on Wednesday, March 14, 2001, he left behind his wife, Mary Pauline Smith, his daughter, Alison Diane Olson and granddaughter, Amber Marie Olson.

Information from the Chamizal regarding Frank Smith carries this sentence which is a most fitting tribute:

"Mr. Smith possessed a true love of nature, culture and history, and devoted the majority of his life to the preservation of our heritage and education of others on our country's attributes."

— EDITORIAL STAFF

Thanks are expressed to Robbie Farley Villalobos, Lifestyle Editor for *El Paso Inc.*; Cordell Roy, Superintendent of the Chamizal National Memorial; to Marta Estrada of the El Paso Public Library; to Sam Hoyle, retired chief of Museums at Fort Bliss and currently an exhibit services consultant; and to Ann Allis and Samuel Sisneros, Special Collections at the University of Texas at El Paso, all of whom so generously assisted in gathering material for this article.

SOURCES:

Chamizal Administrative History, Chapter Four, United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service, Intermountain Region.

Villalobos, Robbie Myrick, "Smith's Legacy Lives on at the Chamizal," *El Paso Inc.*, March 25-31 2001. 9b.

"Chamizal Booked For Busy Season," *El Paso Times*, November 2, 1973.

As this article was being readied for publication, Mary Pauline Smith passed away on August 7th, 2001. A memorial service was held at Harding Orr and McDaniel Funeral Home. Her daughter, Alison Diane Olson, and granddaughter, Amber Marie Olson, reside in Eatontown, New Jersey.



The Golden Year of High School Athletics in El Paso

By Bill Squires

When El Paso High School kicked off to Las Cruces High School on a balmy September evening in 1940, no one could have imagined it was the beginning of the most remarkable year in the history of high school athletics in El Paso. Expectations were not high for this team. The 1939 Tigers had won the district but lost the bi-district game to Sweetwater 40 to 7. Many of the fine players on that team had been seniors, thus creating a low level of experience for the 1940 squad.

They played like a mediocre team during the first part of the season. They beat Las Cruces and Roswell, but were tied by Carlsbad and then unexpectedly lost to Pecos. There was a lack of spirit among the players and they were now scheduled to meet one of the best teams in the state, the Pampa Harvesters, at Pampa, a four-hundred seventy mile mindless bus ride into what was certain to be a devastating defeat.

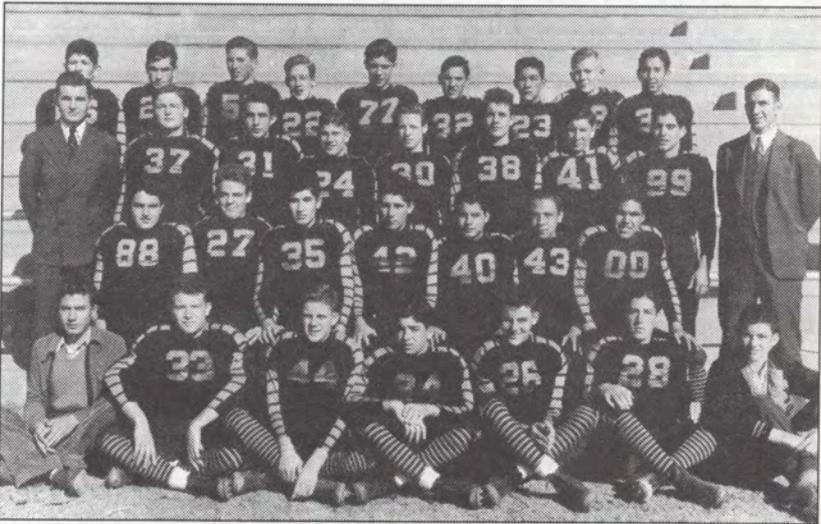
The "Football Gods" must have been behind them. The players cannot remember the details and newspaper articles are not very illuminating. The facts are that with two minutes to play they were behind 13 to 0. What happened in those two minutes changed the whole season for the team and had an influence on events that happened later.

No one can remember how they got the ball twice in those two minutes nor what really started the offense. Passing the ball was very unusual. Most schools relied on strong running games, thereby making it difficult to overcome such a deficit as they faced. There were no two minute drills like those that every team operates today. Ten passes in a single game was excessive. The papers report that they completed ten passes in those two minutes with the last one, the one that tied the score—coming just as time ran out—13 to 13!

The long bus trip back to El Paso was thrilling—lots of singing, yelling, and scuffling by some of the happiest guys in the country. Now, with new confidence in their offense they took on the district race, defeating Ysleta, Bowie, and Austin to qualify for the bi-district game.

The El Paso High team did not realize the odds against them would be so long in the 1940 bi-district game against Big Spring. It was a beautiful day for football and it was an exciting game. The score was tied—27 to 27, but because El Paso High had more penetrations than Big Spring, they were the bi-district champions. Now the "Football Gods" turned the other way.

Having lost the coin flip, they again had to travel that four hundred miles to Amarillo. It was Thanksgiving time in El Paso and we had one of our wonderful clear and cool afternoons. In Amarillo, however, they were having the worst ice storm in history. The most memorable events of that day were watching the officials chop out the lines in the field with a hoe and the building of fires



1940 Varsity Football Squad (left to right)—Fourth Row: Mario Palafox, James "Buddy" Allen, Milton Chernov, Rod Fraser, Ray "Buddy" Ward, Dick Skidmore, Yvan Rechy, Edward Fager, Mike Izquierdo.

Third Row: Coach Jewel Wallace, Frank Wadlington, Kenneth Black, Frank Gorman, George Weiland, Bill Hartsfield, Eugene Smith, Ralph Marmolejo, Coach Harry Bivins.

Second Row: Arthur Abraham, Ralph Calderon, Fernando Palafox, Steve Minas, Mike Quijano, Efren Flores, Ruben Corral.

First Row: Francisco Salas Porras, Kenneth Browne, Bill Squires, Joe Hoover, George Carameros, Manuel Ponce, Ed Andre, manager.

in two old oil drums where they could try to keep their hands warm. They didn't have a chance to win and lost 27 to 0. But they lost to the team that would become the state champions. The return trip was not sorrowful but it was not like the victorious return from Pampa. Nonetheless, they were pleased with the wonderful season they had experienced. If only they could have played the game in El Paso!

El Paso teams began playing for a state championship in football in 1931. Between the years from 1931 to 2000, there have been one hundred games between El Paso district winners and those from outside the city in the competition to play in the state quarter-final game. Because of the increase in the number of schools, these games are now called regional contests and as many as three El Paso teams have an opportunity to advance—although not a very realistic one. Of the one hundred opportunities since 1931, only ten have been won by El Paso teams. The last victory was in 1990: seldom has the score been even close and none of the ten teams has ever won the state quarter final game.

This is only half of the story of that remarkable year. It was very unusual, even then, but their head football coach, Jewel Wallace, was also their basketball coach. The minute the bus arrived in El Paso, Coach Wallace took eleven of the football players to the gym and began basketball practice. Already two weeks behind the other schools because of the length of the football season, these wonderful athletes were soon able to overcome this handicap.

They expected to have a good basketball season. The 1940 team had lost in the finals and even though they had lost some valuable seniors, there were some fine experienced players remaining. Coach Wallace soon molded this group of eleven former football players plus one additional individual into a powerful team—winning the district, regional, and going once again to Austin for the state finals where they played against an Abilene team. This time they were not to be denied and returned as the first state champion from El Paso. Once again looking backward from 2000, only three El Paso teams have ever won a basketball championship—this was the first!

In the same year, with the same coach, Jewel Wallace, and the same players, El Paso High School produced a state quarter-finalist football team and a state champion basketball team! Nothing like this had ever been done before nor has it been done since. Was this not truly the golden year for high school athletics in El Paso?



1941 State Champion Basketball Team (from left to right)—Top Row: Ray “Buddy” Ward, Milton Chernov, Coach Jewel Wallace, James “Buddy” Allen, Gordon Brandon

Middle Row: Kenneth Black, Mario Palafox, Steve Minos, Fernando Salas Porras, Joe Hoover, Luis Alvarez

First Row: Fernando Palafox, Ralph Marmolejo, Ruben Corral, Yvon Rechy, Mike Izquierdo

Who were these young athletes and what became of them? As with any high school group, some members just disappeared. Of the thirty athletes involved there are seven with whom they have lost contact. Of the remaining twenty-three, sixteen remained in El Paso—a very high percentage compared with today’s students. Among the eleven basketball players—those who were great enough to participate in both of these events, all but one remained in El Paso. Mario Palafox became a leading orthopedic surgeon. Mike Izquierdo played basketball for the University of Texas at El Paso, taught at the same institution, and later founded a technology company. Milton Chernov, Ray Ward, and Francisco Salas Porras increased the prosperity of family businesses. Yvan Rechy worked with Popular Dry Goods and became an excellent softball player and basketball official. Joe Hoover operated one of the largest farms in the lower valley. Steve Minas and Ralph Marmolejo joined law enforcement agencies, Fernando Palafox still operates

his own pharmacy in Anthony, Texas, and Buddy Allen left El Paso for San Francisco. Gordon Brandon, the only member of the basketball team who did not also play football, retired from the El Paso Police Department.

Of the eleven other football players, Kenneth Browne, George Carameros, Ruben Corral, Bill Hartsfield, Dick Skidmore, and Frank Wadlington left El Paso. Arthur Abraham is practicing law and Rod Fraser retired from El Paso Natural Gas. Frank Gorman joined a family business and became very active in local and state civic affairs. Ralph Calderon also joined a family business. Bill Squires was with El Paso National Bank and became a founder of Continental National Bank. Ed Fager died early in El Paso as did Assistant Coach Harry Bivins. Team manager, Ed Andre, became a commercial airline pilot. Coach Jewel Wallace, who died a few years ago at the age of ninety-two, had left El Paso to lead a San Angelo team to the state football championship and later became the first football coach for the University of Houston.

It was evident in the spring of 1941 that the United States would soon be involved in a large war. Nearly every one of the players participated in one way or another in military service. Dick Skidmore was at Pearl Harbor and Bill Hartsfield was killed in a service related air crash.

A marvelous group. Wonderful gentlemen and solid public citizens. They always knew they were participants in something very special that Golden Year.

BILL SQUIRES, born in Dallas, Texas, moved to El Paso at the age of four. He attended Crockett Elementary and El Paso High School. He served in the United States Navy, after which he graduated from Southern Methodist University. He was with El Paso National Bank and was one of the founders of the Continental National Bank. He has been active in many civic organizations and served as chairman of the Airport Board, the Parks & Recreation Board and the Civic Center Board. He also served on the board of directors of the YMCA and of the El Paso Country Club. He currently serves as treasurer for the El Paso County Historical Society. Following his retirement he enrolled in law school, graduating from the University of San Diego. He and his wife, Kathleen, have seven children, thirteen grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.



Book Reviews

EVERYDAY LIFE AND POLITICS IN NINETEENTH CENTURY MEXICO: MEN, WOMEN, AND WAR. By Mark Wasserman. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2000. 232 PP. + Selected Bibliography + Index. Cloth, \$39.95, Paper, \$19.95.

Anyone who has read about or attempted to study the history of nineteenth century Mexico knows what a daunting undertaking it is to unravel the many threads of what that new-born nation was like in the 1800s. When Mexico won its independence in 1821 its liberty seemed to be all she had accomplished. This new nation faced severe problems in almost every sector, not the least of which was the question of just what type of government would be established. For the remainder of the century politicians, the military, the clergy, social elites, regional *caudillos*, or political bosses, and others would all contend for the opportunity to dictate Mexico's development.

Rutgers University professor, Mark Wasserman, more known for his excellent studies of the Chihuahua elites at the end of the *pofiriato*, for example, his 1984 work, *Capitalists, Caciques, and Revolution*, attempts here to write a work of synthesis, "an attempt to make sense of the century."⁽³⁾ He believes that three watershed events— independence in 1821, the Reform in 1855-60, and the Revolution of 1910; and three themes—the struggle of the common people to retain control over their everyday lives, external wars, and the demographic and social aspects of war dominate the Mexican nation of that era. External wars were such a constant in 19th century Mexico that the author asserts—not without some merit—that it may be **the** dominant factor in Mexican economic development and crucial to its politics. Following this basic format or organization, each section in the book revolves around the central figure of each era: Santa Anna, Juarez, and Diaz.

This is a well-written, engaging, and thought-provoking work of synthesis. Based on his own knowledge, Wasserman weaves



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significant recent research into his narrative which adds texture to the story. Not only are his depictions of the three major figures well-rounded, but the inclusion of the experiences of hacienda laborers, women's role in war, etc., makes it truly a work which deals with the struggles of the common people. Consequently, while the chapters which discuss the political maneuverings are important, I believe the three chapters which examine everyday life for each of the three periods are the heart of this book. It is here that one sees the impact that wars, partisan politics, regional antagonisms, clerical excesses, etc. have on the lives of the common people of Mexico.

As this work is meant as a text for students, it does not include extensive notes or an extensive bibliography. Instead, various historians and researchers are mentioned within the text and the reader can find their works in the selected bibliography. So, be aware of the fact that the bibliography is barely six pages long and I could see only one or two works in Spanish.

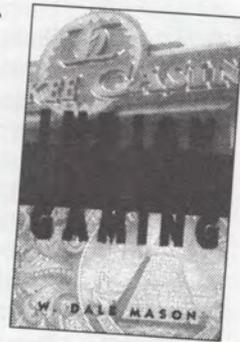
In sum this is a book whose value lies not in its detail—notes and bibliography—but in its ability to synthesize and encapsulate in an orderly and clear way what for many is a most difficult period of Mexican history. You might disagree with some of his conclusions or statements. You might think his conclusions too general. But think of it as a starting point from which you can dig deeper. I would recommend it to any one interested in Mexican history. It will pique your interest and you'll find yourself flipping back to the bibliography for those other works which will lead you to further reading and, hopefully, a better understanding of 19th century Mexico.

Richard Baquera, History
El Paso Community College

INDIAN GAMING: TRIBAL SOVEREIGNTY AND AMERICAN POLITICS by W. Dale Mason. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2000. Hardcover, \$29.95; paper, \$19.95.

Gambling in Indian country may be succeeding where the Battle of Little Big Horn failed.

The ding-ding of coins dropping into tribal slot machines is solidifying Native American sovereignty and voting strength in state and national political arenas contends the author of this examination of casinos and state houses. Dale Mason has undertaken the exploration of an emerging issue—casino-style gambling—that is redefining the political landscape in many states—New Mexico prominent among them—and re-establishing the self-determination of indigenous people in a society seemingly long-intent on denying that privilege.



Mason's work is clearly a doctoral dissertation—it won a national best dissertation award in 1997—and most shortcomings of the work originate from that characteristic. A political scientist, Mason writes in a stilted, academic style that can make the meaty topics of Indian gaming, tribalism, states' rights, and federalism seem bulkier than necessary. Regrettably, Mason's examination of an unexplored territory also comes off dated; regular perusal of daily newspapers continues to signal that gambling in Indian country is in continual flux, changing as often as the sun rises over the Sangre de Cristos. Consequently, Mason's effort was outdated when it came off the press.

An axiom is that we can be too close in real time to many topics, making it difficult to record accurately the history of those topics until time and resources allow better analysis from a distance. Indian gaming appears to be such a topic, although Mason's work provides a significant and commendable starting point upon which others may eventually build.

Mason's work lays the foundation for the principle that gambling on Indian lands has empowered tribes politically more than ever before—more than any previous method has achieved. Gambling has strengthened Indian autonomy and intertribal relations, established tribal weight as a voting bloc, and perked the ears and attention of state and federal legislators and litigators. It has also promoted the concept of state-like sovereignty for tribes, and confirmed the ability of contemporary Native Americans to lobby and promote special interests while protecting self-governance.

Missing from Mason's work, which focuses primarily on Indian gaming in New Mexico and Oklahoma, is examination of the human side of the issue. Perhaps predictably as a political scientist, Mason concentrates on the political, largely overlooking the impact, good or bad, that this emerging power has brought to social aspects of tribal and non-tribal life. Special interest politicians are the primary sources of reference in Mason's work, contributing to the absence of the average-person element, and leaving numerous questions unanswered. Addressing tribal politics in the state context is important, but should this political clout overshadow what often is the most cherished in the Native American—his ageless tribal cultural and societal values? Is tribal empowerment in the state house via the casino diminishing or enhancing traditional tribal strengths?

Also noticeably absent is examination of the Indian gaming issue in states other than New Mexico and Oklahoma, again creating a foundation for later historical investigation.

Regardless, the time has come to pursue this historical topic and Mason has blazed the trail. For several centuries, Indians have sought to reclaim a place of prominence and influence in the greater society, and, as Mason illustrates, gambling in Indian country may be that means.

John Moore
Wetumpka, AL

THE UTE INDIANS OF UTAH, COLORADO AND NEW MEXICO
by Virginia McConnell Simmons. Boulder: University Press of
Colorado, 2000. \$29.95.

If asked to list the significant modern Native American tribes of the Southwest and West, many would correctly identify Pueblo, Navajo, Apache, Hopi, Comanche, Kiowa, Sioux, and Cheyenne. Certainly, the Blackfeet and Crow would be there. The Arapaho, Pawnee, and the so-called "civilized" tribes relocated to Indian Territory likely would find places on some lists, as would possibly the Modoc of the Pacific Northwest. All were indigenous people with significant chapters in North American history.

But many preparing that list—particularly if focusing on the Southwest—might overlook one Native American tribe that has left its imprint on significant geography of at least three western states—New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado: the Utes.

A dark moment in their emerging relationship with westward Anglo-American expansion, the 1879 Meeker Massacre often gets historical attention, usually in the context of the Indian wars, yet the Utes seldom find themselves the topic of a comprehensive and exclusive ethnic and chronological history.

Virginia McConnell Simmons, who has accumulated a notable resume of writings centered on Colorado, has corrected this oversight, devoting substantial effort to documenting the legacy of these people; these inhabitants of Utah's Great Basin, of the Colorado Plateau and Rocky Mountains, and of northernmost New Mexico. It's interesting that Utes receive so relatively little historical attention, particularly considering the massive and varied geographic and geological area where roots of their heritage can be traced rearward for more than a thousand years.

Yet Simmons' work is but another less than dramatic attempt to accumulate and dispense the idea that history is dull, without emotion, an academic commodity sought by university presses but usually lacking in commercial appeal and reader attraction. While acknowledging the contribution this work makes in filling a gap and producing a useful compilation of references, it's difficult not to question why the interests of the greater mass audience can not be considered when presenting history. Recognized historians have accomplished such a feat; Stephen Ambrose and Robert Utley come to mind. These two authors, among notable others, have succeeded in the purest form of historical presentation, yet made major best-seller lists as well by taking history beyond the sequence of events and bringing the dead past to contemporary life.

Simmons, like so many writers of history, makes an effort to insert vitality a must for the greater audience, the non-academic reader into her book. She attempts, meagerly, to maintain reader

attention by weaving a connecting thread of the Ute's bear mythology and the spirit of perseverance inherent in the Bear Dance through her book, but the thread is thin, even frayed in places. Better accounts of the Meeker incident and of the strength and influence of Chief Ouray can be found elsewhere. President Grant's Peace Policy, its far-reaching impact, and successive attempts at Native American accommodation and assimilation are more dramatically portrayed by others. Consequently, Simmons' attempt at portraying the humanistic, spiritual, and cultural identity of a native people the Utes seems contrived and shallow, leaving readers thirsting for more than a mere chronology of people most of whom are nameless and without character, places, and events. Albeit it is an effort she succeeds in accomplishing.

Nonetheless, the dedicated student of the West and its indigenous people will find wealth in *The Ute Indians of Utah, Colorado and New Mexico*. Regrettably, those bewildered by stodginess will place lesser value on it.

John R. Moore
Wetumpka, AL

EDITOR'S NOTE:

In the article "Mexicans of the Better Class: the Exile of the Chihuahuan Upper Classes in El Paso, 1913-1930," in *Password*, Vol 45, No 4, there are erroneous statements.

On page 180 the sentence "By 1921 the Hilton towered over the city with its seventeen stories" is not correct. Unfortunately the error in the original source of the information, *South El Paso Street: Historic American Buildings Survey*, National Architectural and Engineering Record. National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. That sentence, according to Conrad Hilton in his book *Be My Guest*, **should be** "By 1931 the Hilton towered over the city with its nineteen stories."

On page 181 it is stated that "... the Terrazas-Creel family arrived in El Paso in early 1914, they worshiped on Sundays at St. Patrick's Cathedral." According to the author, that date comes from family memoirs and is probably an editorial error. The cornerstone for St. Patrick's Cathedral was laid on November 12, 1916, but there were many places where the Mexican people worshiped before that date.

It is hoped that these errors did not cause major difficulty to anyone using this article as a reference. My apologies to all readers.

— Marilyn C. Gross, editor

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Carlie Pine
Sue Ramsey
Edward Schwartz
Jackie Williams

2001-2003

Francis "Skip" Broaddus
Wilma Hudson
Dee Hunsicker
Dorr Miller
Carolyn Ponsford
Nancy Wyler
Mike Torres

ALL PAST PRESIDENTS ARE HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS