

# PASSWORD



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# El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro through the Pass of the North, Part II

Part I appeared in *Password*, Volume 50, No. 4, Winter 2005

By George D. Torok

## The Samalayuca Route



Because it had been blocked by the Samalayuca sands, *Los Médanos*, the Oñate expedition headed east to the river while travelers with light cargo could make their way through the dunes during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. A second, more direct, route of the

Camino Real headed straight north, bypassed the mission settlements along the river, and arrived at the southern entrance to El Paso del Norte. The Samalayuca route was considered a *camino de la herradura*, or “horseshoe road,” rather than a *camino de rueda*, or “wheel road,”<sup>38</sup> and was used by Pedro de Rivera on his 1726 tour and by Bishop Tamarón in the 1760s. By the nineteenth century, a change in traffic along the trail made the Samalayuca route more attractive. Mission supply caravans were replaced by long-distance commercial trade. Pack animals took the place of *carreta* caravans and vast mule trains, or *atajos*, made their way along the trail. When wagons were used, they were dismantled and cargo was loaded onto mules in order to cross the dunes. With the development of the Chihuahua Trail, the Samalayuca route became more popular among the merchant traders traveling between Santa Fe and Chihuahua City who had little interest in visiting the small settlements along the river. By the 1830s, American wagons, especially the Pennsylvania-manufactured Conestogas, were drawn by mule teams and could pass through

much rougher terrain.<sup>39</sup> The Samalayuca route through Los Médanos became the preferred commercial route. It simply saved time and money and although that route became more commonly used, it did not replace the original path of the *Camino Real de Tierra Adentro*. Nineteenth century accounts continued to describe the Cantarrecio route as the main way into El Paso del Norte. Not until the grading and paving of Mexican Federal Highway 45 in the 1930s and 1940s did traffic regularly pass through the Samalayuca dunes.<sup>40</sup>

The two branches of the *Camino Real de Tierra Adentro* split at *Ojo Lucero*, near today's *El Lucero, Chihuahua*. The Samalayuca route continued north about fifteen miles to *El Bordo*, an unreliable spring, and then began to enter *Los Médanos*. Within five miles the trail passed through the worst of the sand dunes, but the next ten miles were torturous also and tried even the most experienced travelers. The Samalayuca route also lacked water so parties had to be well-provisioned for the journey. George F. Ruxton described his journey through the Samalayuca dunes during the Mexican War:

The huge rolling mass of sand is nearly destitute of vegetation . . . . Road there is none, but a track across is marked by the skeletons and dead bodies of oxen, and of mules and horses, which everywhere meet the eye. On one ridge the upper half of a human skeleton protruded from the sand, and bones of animals and carcasses in every stage of decay. The sand is knee-deep and constantly shifting, and pack-animals have great difficulty in passing.<sup>41</sup>

Others had similar experiences. Adolph Wislizenus described his night crossing of *Los Médanos* as "appalling" and "ghastly." He made a vow that "whenever I should undertake this trip again, I would rather go three days around, than travel once more over the sand hills with a wagon."<sup>42</sup> As late as the 1850s, Bartlett noted that only "persons on horseback, pack-mules, and light pleasure wagons alone attempt to cross the [sand] hills."<sup>43</sup>

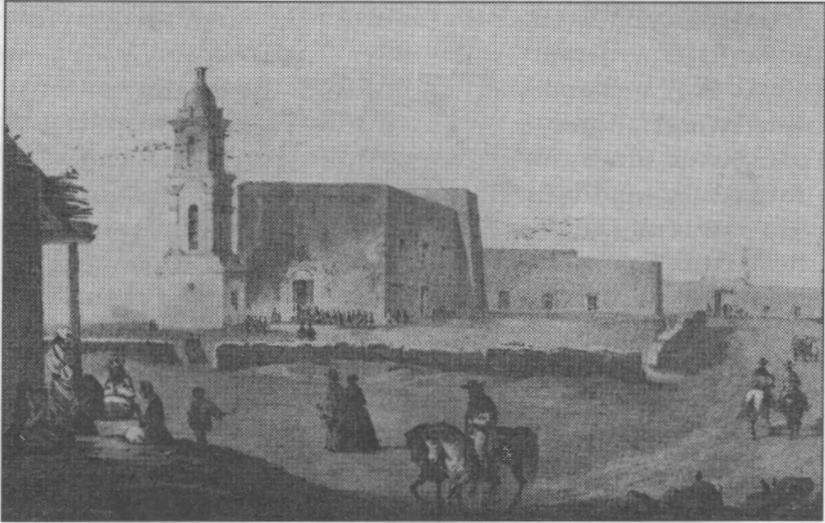
Those who made the crossing exited the dunes at *Ojo Samalayuca*, just southeast of today's village of *Samalayuca*.<sup>44</sup> From here, the trail continued approximately twenty-seven miles north to the center of El Paso del Norte. On this entire stretch of the *Camino Real*, from *Ojo Lucero* into El Paso del Norte, there were no settlements of any kind. Not one hacienda, presidio, mission, or village

is mentioned in the accounts of any traveler. Only occasional bandits, or small groups of Suma Indians, roamed the sand hills. The path of the Camino Real into the city followed today's Mexican Highway 45 and the Mexican National Railway.

The vast industrial and residential region south of today's Ciudad Juárez remained a barren stretch along the trail until fairly recently. The eighteenth and nineteenth century



city spread east along the river, but the lower edge of El Paso del Norte reached only a few miles south. The entrance to the city on the Samalayuca route of the Camino Real was probably through the San José district. *Antiguo Camino a San José* leads into Avenida Reforma which is sometimes called the *Camino Nacional*, another name for the Camino Real, on nineteenth century maps. Legend has it that a small church or shrine stood at the southern entrance to the city in the early nineteenth century, serving as a *paraje*, or place to rest, for weary travelers and a refuge from bandit and Indian attacks. San José was said to be the place where Benito Juárez's weary troops were first welcomed to El Paso del Norte during their exile in 1865. San José was also the home of Father Ramon Ortiz, a renowned and revered nineteenth century *cura* of El Paso del Norte and a frequent traveler on the trail. Ortiz lived in the Chamizal area until the 1870s when he moved to the Hacienda San José on the outskirts of the city. When he died in 1896, the elaborate funeral procession began at the Guadalupe Mission and traveled south to the "padre's old hacienda at San José," where he was interred.<sup>45</sup> Several other prominent Juarenses including Ynocente Ochoa and Mariano Samaniego lie buried in



*Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe from the archives of the  
El Paso County Historical Society.*

the San José cemetery next to today's San José Chapel, built by the Ochoa family in the late nineteenth century.<sup>46</sup> Today the San José chapel is located behind a major shopping center, surrounded by private homes. Avenida Reforma continues northwest to the Guadalupe mission, a little more than three miles away.<sup>47</sup>

### **Into El Paso del Norte**

Whether travelers came straight north through the dunes, or took the more common Mission Trail, they eventually arrived at the center of El Paso del Norte, the site of a mission, presidio, and villa in the colonial era. The *Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe* mission was established in 1659 for the local Manso population and a church was constructed during the 1660s. After the Pueblo Revolt of 1680, *Presidio de Nuestra Señora del Pilar del Paso del Rio del Norte* was built nearby to protect the northern frontier of New Mexico. The civil community that grew around the mission became a villa in 1683. El Paso del Norte was the largest settlement in the area, with a population of about 1200 in the mid-eighteenth century, and became an active center of commerce and trade. Caravans usually spent several days here before continuing the journey north. Today's plaza area, in front of the mission and modern cathedral, was a major *paraje* on the Camino Real, a sprawling site often filled with wagons, pack animals, and a lively exchange of goods. The Guadalupe mission church was the most

prominent building in El Paso during the colonial era. A path led up the hill from the campsite to the mission. The presidio remained in El Paso until the 1780s and usually had about fifty soldiers on duty.

Joseph de Urrutia, chief engineer of the Rubi inspection team, drew a map of El Paso del Norte in 1776 showing the mission, presidio, villa, irrigation system, and roads. The Urrutia map shows that the

area east of the presidio was lush farmland fed by two major irrigation ditches. Two main roads lead to the mission site, one headed south toward Carrizal and a second going east toward the missions. Eighty years later, George Gibson found the town to be “different from anything in New Mexico or the United States with its *acequias*, which are almost canals, its fruit trees and shrubbery, [and] its vineyards and orchards handsomely arranged.”<sup>48</sup> Travelers heading north on the trail enjoyed their time in El Paso del Norte because a long stretch of desert lands and harsh terrain lay ahead. Only small, scattered missions, haciendas, and watering holes were along the next 250 miles of the trail.<sup>49</sup>

From the Guadalupe mission, *El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro* followed present-day Calle Ugarte north toward the river. Calle Ugarte was once known as “The Road to the Dam and New Mexico.” It led from the grounds of the mission to the riverbed, near the intersection of today’s Boulevard Fronterizo and Calles Alumino and Platino. In the eighteenth century, a dam was located here, opposite today’s El Paso Water Treatment Plant, to divert water to the local acequia system. The Camino Real continued along the west bank for just less than a mile to a narrow and shallow point along the river where there was a hard, rocky surface.



The Oñate expedition forded the river here on May 4, 1598 with the help of area Indians and named the crossing "*Los Puertos*." It became the most common river ford along El Camino Real and was often referred to as "*El Paso*."<sup>50</sup> The ford was located near the now-closed La Hacienda Café, off Paisano Drive. The café is an adobe based structure, originally built in 1850 by Simeon Hart as a flour mill known as *El Molino*, or Hart's Mill. Today, Texas Historical Commission markers in a small park beside the building tell the story of the Oñate expedition and the Pass of the North.<sup>51</sup>

### North through the Pass

The Camino Real de Tierra Adentro National Historic Trail continues north along the east bank through El Paso Canyon, close to the roadway of Paisano Drive. In the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries much of this land was leveled and graded to make way for the railroad and for industrial development. Until then, this was a narrow river canyon and one of the more challenging segments of the trail. The Oñate expedition had a difficult time negotiating the east bank of the river, traveling a mere six miles in two days and allowing an entire day's rest for its animals. In 1851 Commissioner Bartlett described this segment of the trail as "difficult and tortuous" through "wild, rugged, and hilly country." He noted that there was "no bottom land for the entire distance nor sufficient space by the river's bank for even a road or mule path."<sup>52</sup> Until the 1850s, travelers moved up to the sand hills whenever possible, where the American Smelting and Refining Company complex and the Union Pacific tracks are today. Later, after the trail was developed as a stage route through American territory, improvements were attempted but this was still "one of the steepest and stoniest" passages on the road.<sup>53</sup> The trail continued north and exited the canyon. The old channel of the Rio Grande continued north rather than making a sharp bend to the west as it does today. The Camino Real followed the riverbank about one mile east of its present location, approximately along the path of Doniphan Drive.<sup>54</sup>

Some travelers avoided this entire stretch of the trail and continued along the west bank. In 1760 Bishop Tamarón described the "formidable" and "troublesome" nature of the river at the Pass, noting that it took several days to cross mules, horses, livestock, and supplies. Wagons had to be dismantled and floated across on rafts.<sup>55</sup> Sometimes it was impossible to cross the river.



*The Rio Grande, north of "Los Puertos,"  
courtesy of El Paso County Historical Society.*

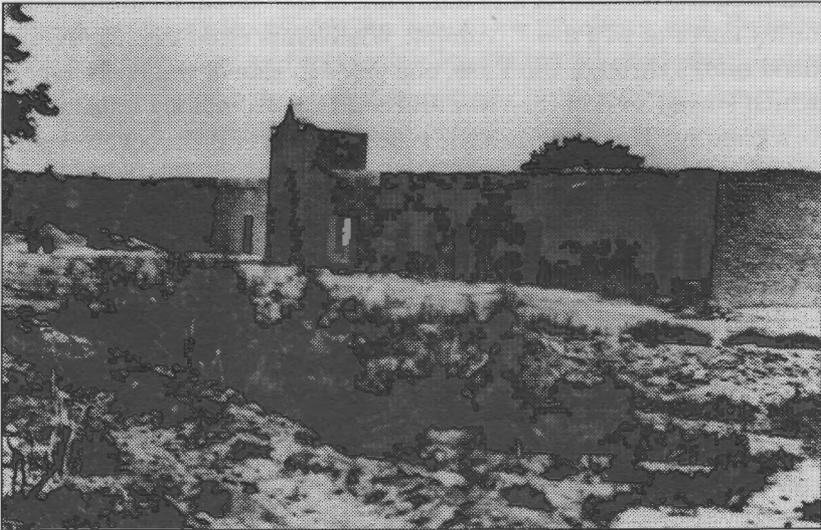
During a major flood, a 1665 mission supply caravan was delayed three months at El Paso del Norte.<sup>56</sup> Tamarón commented that "it would not be difficult to open a road on the west side of the river" and by the early nineteenth century this had apparently been done.<sup>57</sup> Josiah Gregg stated that travelers on the Chihuahua Trail followed the west bank and made use of the "usual ford" about six miles north of El Paso.<sup>58</sup> Adolph Wislizenus cited two commonly used routes through the Pass, one on each side of the river, one of which stayed west of the river and continued about six miles north to a crossing. He noted that the road "leads over hills, covered with deep sand, to the plain, on which the town lies."<sup>59</sup> Wislizenus was referring to the area of today's Anapra, Chihuahua, around the west side of Mount Cristo Rey.

There were also attempts to build bridges across the Rio Grande north of El Paso. At one site in 1797, massive cottonwood logs were floated down the river and used to build a bridge that spanned more than five hundred feet and was approximately seventeen feet wide. The bridge was supported by caissons and crosspoles but did not hold up well under the powerful currents of the Rio Grande. By the end of 1798 it had been washed away. Sometime after that it was rebuilt and used until 1815 when it was once again destroyed by flood waters.<sup>60</sup>

## Through the Mesilla Valley

The "upper crossing" of the Rio Grande was located near the intersection of Frontera Road and Doniphan Drive and became a commonly used ford on the Chihuahua Trail. At this point the river was wide and shallow, allowing mule trains and wagons to ford when the currents were swift, or the waters were high downstream. In 1848, following the Mexican War, T. Frank White established Frontera at the upper crossing, the first Anglo-American settlement and trading post on the east side of the river. With the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, White hoped that the Chihuahua City trade would boom once again. He soon found that his crossing was located along the route west to the California gold fields. During 1849 it was used by thousands of emigrants. But as American El Paso grew, White's Frontera was rivaled by four other settlements down river: Simeon Hart's Mill, James Magoffin's Magoffinsville, Hugh Stephenson's Concordia, and Benjamin Franklin Coon's Franklin. By 1850, White left El Paso and the site was abandoned a few years later. Today, Doniphan Drive and the railroad tracks run right through the Frontera site. The crossing was located about one-half mile west, near the Montoya Drain.<sup>61</sup>

Two sites, La Salineta and La Salinera, were located further north on the Camino Real. These two parajes were often confused as the names of both refer to salt deposits found in the marshes of



*Magoffinsville, courtesy of El Paso County Historical Society.*



*La Tuna, courtesy of El Paso County Historical Society.*

the Rio Grande. The exact locations of both are uncertain but La Salineta, north of Frontera, was the larger and better known *paraje* located at a popular seventeenth century river ford. In September 1680 Governor Antonio de Otermin and more than 1900 Spanish and Indian refugees fleeing the Pueblo Revolt gathered at La Salineta. As the refugees were setting camp, Father Francisco de Ayeta led a supply caravan of twenty-five wagons north from the Guadalupe mission to provide aid. The swollen waters of the Rio Grande prevented the caravan from crossing at El Paso so they traveled up the west bank, around Mt. Cristo Rey, and tried to ford the river at La Salineta. The powerful currents drew the wagons under, scattered frightened animals, and stranded Father Ayeta in the middle of the river. Ayeta almost drowned but was rescued at the last minute by Otermin's refugees. Later, after supplies were finally brought across to the camp, La Salineta functioned as a temporary site for the exiled government. The refugees stayed at La Salineta until October when the decision was made to settle the El Paso Valley south of the Guadalupe mission.<sup>62</sup> La Salineta remained a popular campsite, cited by Rivera, Pike, and Magoffin in the writings of their journeys.<sup>63</sup>

La Salinera was located further north along the trail, also near a popular river ford and that also served as an important campsite.<sup>64</sup> It also appears to have been the site where several efforts were made to build a bridge across the river in the late colonial period. Large numbers of Camino Real travelers often camped at La Salinera waiting out flood waters and making

rangements to cross the river. Field work conducted by Edward Staski and New Mexico State University graduate students may have located La Salinera in the village of Vinton, Texas. Although the exact location is still unknown, a New Mexico Highway Department Camino Real marker located along Doniphan Drive tells the story of La Salinera.<sup>65</sup>

The *Camino Real de Tierra Adentro* continued north along today's Texas Highway 20 to Canutillo, the largest and oldest townsite in the upper valley, settled on the Chihuahua Trail in 1824. It remained a small farming community near the river until the early 1830s when frequent Apache raids drove settlers away.

*In the 1850s, a stop on the Butterfield Overland Stage was also located here. In the late nineteenth century, the Canutillo area became known as a hideout for bandits and cattle rustlers who disappeared into the thick river bosque.*<sup>66</sup>

The river was wide and shallow and the vegetation lush in this area, and a large river bosque spread along its banks. In the 1850s, a stop on the Butterfield Overland Stage was also located here. In the late nineteenth century, the Canutillo area became known as a hideout for bandits and cattle rustlers who disappeared into the thick river bosque.<sup>66</sup> The *Camino Real de Tierra Adentro* continued north along Texas Highway 20 toward La Tuna, close to the path of the railroad tracks. Just north of the New Mexico state line, the trail veered west, close to the path of New Mexico Highway 478. From Anthony to Mesquite, the trail ran approximately one to two

miles east of the modern highway. It passed through the western edge of Berino, continued toward Vado, and returned to follow NM 478 and the railroad near Mesquite. Although the name has faded from memory today, during the early twentieth century the *Camino Real de Tierra Adentro* was still a commonly known route. In 1907, Doña Ana County Surveyor C.L. Post drew a map showing the trail's path through the county. In 1916 the *El Paso Herald* noted that work crews were finally spreading gravel along the old Camino Real between Berino and Anthony, New Mexico.<sup>67</sup>

At Vado, a New Mexico Highway Department Camino Real marker describes a small arm, or *brazito*, of the Rio Grande. The *brazito* formed a wooded area along the river with plentiful vegeta-



*Brazito Schoolhouse, courtesy of El Paso County Historical Society.*

tion that became a popular campsite on the trail. About two and one-half miles north of Vado, on the east side of New Mexico Highway 478, is the site of the Brazito battlefield. The Battle of Brazito took place on December 25, 1846 during the Mexican War as Colonel Alexander W. Doniphan's Missouri Volunteers advanced south and encountered Mexican troops under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Antonio Ponce de León. The Mexican army was readily defeated and suffered about one hundred casualties, while Doniphan's forces escaped without losing a single man. The Missouri Volunteers continued down the trail to Paso del Norte and eventually to Chihuahua City. There has been some debate about the site of the battlefield. Nineteenth century accounts placed it at several spots along the river, noting different distances from Doña Ana and Frontera. Today the river channel lies further to the west and the brazito no longer exists. Several studies have been conducted to locate the site but changes in the landscape over the past 150 years have made the process difficult. Flood control projects of the early twentieth century drained the remaining marshlands and leveled some of the surrounding terrain. Recent research has shown that the area around the Brazito schoolhouse, about one-half mile north of the *paraje*, is the most promising site of the battle.<sup>68</sup>

The Camino Real continued north from Brazito and east of the highway, about two miles to Fort Fillmore which was established in 1851 as a military post on the new United States-Mexico boundary, located just to the south. It was part of the 9th Military District of the New Mexico Territory and drew troops from garrisons at El Paso, Doña Ana, and San Elizario. Occasional attacks against area Apaches were launched from here during the 1850s. In 1854, when the Gadsden Purchase was ratified moving the international boundary further to the south, Fort Fillmore troops moved into the new territory and raised the American flag at Mesilla. In 1857 the Butterfield Overland built a station on the

*With the exception of a small site known as La Rancheria, mentioned in a few colonial documents, there were no settlements near Las Cruces until the 1850s and several branches of the trail were used through*

west side of the fort making this a regular stop on the route to California. Fort Fillmore was surrendered to Confederate troops in 1861, at the beginning of the Civil War. During the next two years both Confederate and Union troops occupied the site and by 1863 it was completely abandoned.<sup>69</sup>

The trail continued west of the fort then turned north for about four and one half miles toward Las Cruces, following today's South Main Street. The nineteenth century Rio Grande was located close to the modern path of the railroad. Mesilla, west of the river, was not settled until the early 1850s and did not lie on the Camino Real or the Chihuahua Trail. Near the Mesilla

Park station, a ferry carried coaches, wagons, and passengers across the river to Mesilla, about one and one half miles away. Here the Butterfield Overland route split away from the Camino Real and headed west toward California. Only after the 1853 Gadsden Purchase did Mesilla become part of New Mexico. The *Camino Real de Tierra Adentro* continued north near the tracks into Las Cruces.

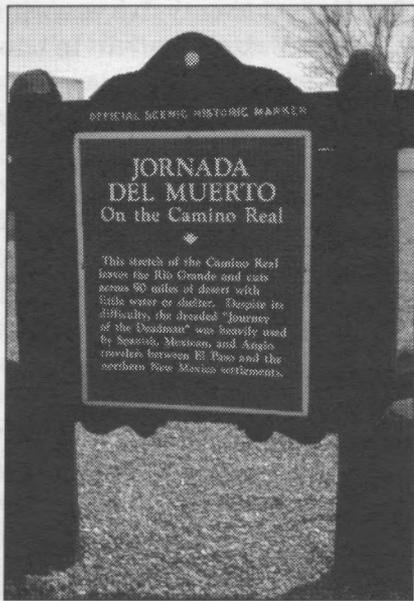
With the exception of a small site known as La Rancheria, mentioned in a few colonial documents, there were no settlements near Las Cruces until the 1850s and several branches of the trail were used through the area. One followed the river north, along today's Main Street. A second route of the trail was located on

higher ground and passed through today's New Mexico State University campus, possibly near Solano Drive. A third route of the trail ran far to the east, along the mesa, bypassing the modern city limits.<sup>70</sup>

Before Mesilla and Las Cruces were settled, the next town north was Doña Ana, established on the Chihuahua Trail in the late 1830s. Before the town existed, the Doña Ana site was a well-known *paraje* along the river. In 1846, Ruxton noted that it was a recent settlement of "ten or fifteen families, who. . . abandoned their farms in the valley of El Paso, and have here attempted to cultivate a small tract in the very midst of the Apaches."<sup>71</sup> He described it as a collection of log and mud huts on a bluff overlooking the river. Despite several attacks by local Indians, Gibson described it as "well stored with corn and other things" when he passed through here a month later.<sup>72</sup> The New Mexico Highway Department Camino Real marker on New Mexico route 320 tells the story of Doña Ana.

### Into the Jornada del Muerto

About nine miles further north was Robledo, located at the southern end of the Jornada del Muerto, where the trail left the Rio Grande. On May 21, 1598 Pedro Robledo, an elderly member of the Oñate expedition, died and was buried here. They called the site "*La Cruz de Robledo*," and for the rest of the colonial period it was known as *Paraje de Robledo* and remained an important stop along this segment of the trail.<sup>73</sup> Although the *paraje* was described as a "pretty place on the bank of the river with wood, water, and grass plentiful,"<sup>74</sup> it was also subject to Apache attacks and the Spanish considered building a fortress here in the eighteenth century.<sup>75</sup> None was ever established and Indian attacks remained a problem



A New Mexico Camino Real Highway Marker tells the story of the dreaded Jornada del Muerto.



*The ruins of Fort Selden along the Camino Real.*

well into the nineteenth century. When the American Civil War drew to a close, sites were scouted for a new military post that would provide protection to Mesilla Valley settlers and travelers on the trail. In April 1865 Fort Selden was established at Robledo and for the next twenty-five years it secured the trail and helped tame the New Mexico frontier. In late 1890 the fort was abandoned. In 1970 Fort Selden was placed on the National Register of Historic Places and a few years later it was opened to the public.<sup>76</sup> A New Mexico Highway Department Camino Real marker at the Fort Selden Museum tells the story of Robledo.

After Robledo, the *Camino Real de Tierra Adentro* veered away from the banks of the Rio Grande and left the Mesilla Valley on its way to northern New Mexico. North of Doña Ana, the river channel becomes increasingly steep, narrow, and rocky, making it a difficult pathway for pack animals and wagons. Even on foot or horseback, following the river added many miles to the journey as it bowed to the west. Instead, travelers cut north across the desert through an area known as the Jornada del Muerto. They rested at the last campsite before leaving the river, the *Paraje de San Diego*. About two and one-half miles north of Fort Selden the trail moved to the east crossing the interstate highway, today's I-25. About seven miles further it appears to have split, with one branch continuing north, and a second leading northwest about three miles to the *paraje*. Here travelers could gather water and rest

animals before entering the desert. Ahead, the trail would take them almost ninety miles before it joined the river once again. The *paraje* was probably not a specific site but a broad area between the river and the Jornada. Animals were taken down to the river for watering. Caravans often camped at San Diego and set out for the Jornada at night. The southern area of the *paraje* is near the rest stop on the west side of I-25 where a New Mexico Highway Department Camino Real marker tells the story of the Jornada.<sup>77</sup> The San Diego *paraje* became a common rest stop by the seventeenth century, cited by DeVargas, Rivera, Tamarón, and Lafora.

This study approximates the path of the *Camino Real de Tierra Adentro* through the Pass of the North and Mesilla Valley. Modern-day travelers who wish to follow the trail can use this routing as a guide and explore the many historic sites along the way. As noted, the Camino Real has only recently attracted scholarly and public attention and much work remains to be done. While the channeling of the river and establishment of an international boundary abruptly cut the flow of north-south traffic in the mid-nineteenth century and led to the development of alternate routes on both sides of the border, stage and overland mail routes used many portions of the trail. As railroads replaced pack animals and caravan tracks were often laid along the trail, as illustrated above, the trail became the base of many railroad lines, highways, and streets, especially after 1900. As a major transportation corridor, it continues to shape our world today.

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39. Mat Moorhead, *The Royal Road: Trade and Travel on the Chihuahua Trail* (Norman, OK University of Oklahoma Press, 1995), 86, 91.
40. Fushille, "Trail to El Paso," 8-11; Fushille provides a copy of a 1931 roadmap detailing the Chihuahua City to El Paso route. The Cantarrecio route appears as the main way into the region. For information on the development of the Chihuahua Highway through the Samalayuca dunes see Lansing B. Bloom, "The Chihuahua Highway," *New Mexico Historical Review* 12 (July 1937); *El Paso Times*, Aug. 11, 1935; Aug. 15, 1943.
41. George Ruxton, *Adventures in Mexico: From Vera Cruz to Chihuahua on Horseback During the Mexican War*, (Long Riders Press, 2001), 165.
42. Wislizenus, *Memoir of a Tour to Northern Mexico, Connected with Colonel Doniphan's Expedition in 1846 and 1847*, (Tippin and Streeper, 1848),
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48. Max Moorhead, *The Presidio: Bastion of the Spanish Borderlands*, (Norman, OK. University of Oklahoma Press, 1975) 148-49; Ralph B. Bieber, ed., *Journal of a Soldier Under Kearney and Doniphan, 1846-1847*, (Glendale, CA: Arthur H. Clark, 1935), 312.
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60. Scurlock, "Floods, Fords, and Shifting Sands," 50.
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62. Charles L. Sonnichsen, *Pass of the North: Four Centuries on the Rio Grande*, (2 vols., El Paso, TX), 1, 32; Timmons, *El Paso*, 18.
63. Michael P. Marshall, "El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro: An Archeological Investigation," manuscript on file, New Mexico Historic Preservation Office, (Santa Fe, NM 1990), 79-80.
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- (July 1997), 229-238. Several of Doniphan's soldiers gave slightly different descriptions of the site and scholars have identified locations as much as ten miles further away. For more detailed information see U.S. National Park Service, *Draft Management Plan*, 152-3.
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  71. Quoted in Bieber, ed., *Journal of a Soldier*, 298.
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*Maps courtesy of the author.*



# Tour of Homes 2005

By El Paso County Historical Society



*Mandy the Mule at Work*



he Tour of Homes, 2005, took place in the Magoffin Historic District, in central El Paso. Magoffin Avenue was El Paso's earliest fashionable street and the earliest fashionable residence, built one mile from downtown, was that of Joseph Magoffin built in 1875–1876. When the trolleys began to operate, the car ran to Magoffin Avenue giving early riders a good view of the Home and the orchards which were on the west side of the Magoffin Home. In a short time, both Magoffin Avenue and San Antonio Street expanded and other Victorian houses and businesses lined the streets. In 1887 a monumental flood which blanketed the city changed the complexion of the area. Because the floods had destroyed his orchard, Magoffin sold the land as homestead lots, selling some for as little as \$1.00 in order to encourage people to come to the area, build their homes, and settle families in the area.

In 1976, the Home was purchased by the state of Texas and the city of El Paso which gave life tenancy to Octavia Glasgow in the four rooms on the west side of the structure. Thus the Home was occupied by members of the family until the death of Octavia in 1986. It is operated today by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

The El Paso County Historical Society chose the Magoffin Home as the official starting place for the tour although people could join the Tour at any of its points of interest.

At the intersection of San Antonio and Magoffin Streets there is a triangle which has many points of interest. Remaining from El Paso's first public transportation endeavor is the fountain which provided drinking water for Mandy the Mule and any other



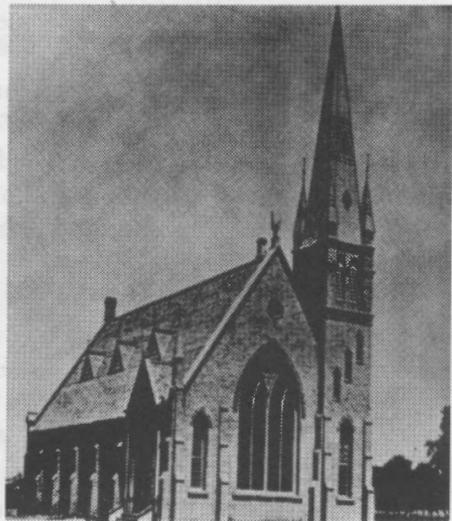
*Mandy's Drinking Fountain*

General John J. Pershing, Porfirio Diaz, and Francisco Madero. Its exclusivity was maintained by its high fees—\$100 for initiation and \$50 for annual membership.

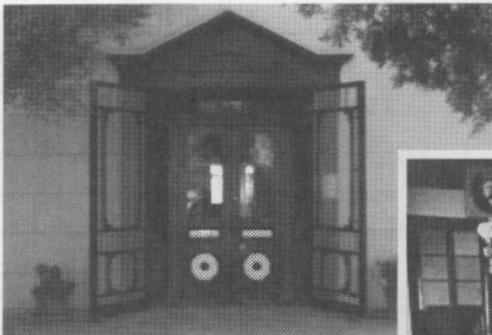
A much larger First Baptist Church was built at 801 Magoffin Avenue where it intersects with Virginia Street. Today it is owned by the Catholic Daughters of America. The Ira Bush House, located at 809 Magoffin Avenue, was the home of the “Gringo Doctor” who had his office on San Antonio Street and who once lived at the Orndorff Hotel. He spent time in Mexico where he served as the doctor at several mines and lumber locales, and was a friend of Francisco (Pancho) Villa. Dr. Bush served as the chief surgeon general of the insurrectionist army during the Mexican Revolution, establishing a hospital on Campbell Street for *insurrectos*. Dr. Bush was a member of all the El Paso and American medical societies and is noted also for helping to smuggle the McGinty cannon to Mexico where it was used in the Battle of Ojinaga

The house at 912 Magoffin Avenue is presently the law office of Marlene Gonzalez who rescued the residence from demolition. It was originally owned by Mr. D. T. Lane and is one of the best preserved and re-

four-legged creatures which would require a drink. An enormous Aleppo pine tree also stands at this intersection. The triangle was the site of the original First Baptist Church which was replaced by the exclusive Toltec Club. This club was founded in 1902 and entertained such notable personages as Theodore Roosevelt,



*Original First Baptist Church*



*Views of the  
Magoffin Home,  
1120 Magoffin Avenue*



stored examples of the Queen Anne style of architecture remaining in El Paso. When it was built, it was notable for introducing a new style of architecture as well as new construction materials and techniques. Not far away, at 916 Magoffin Avenue, is the law office of Ricardo Gonzalez, built in the very early 1900s. This area has been reclaimed by attorneys who wish to preserve the culture and heritage of Magoffin Avenue. Enrique Ramirez also has a law office on Magoffin Avenue at 1006 which was originally built for the Reverend R. B. Smith, the pastor of the First Baptist Church.

The Magoffin Homestead at 1120 Magoffin Avenue was built of adobe, a mud and straw material, and pine lumber brought from the Sacramento Mountains. Thought to have been erected on the site of an early blacksmith shop, Magoffin had his home built in Territorial style with seven large rooms. It was famed as *the* place to entertain all important people who came to the city. It was remodeled in the late 1920s by Joseph's daughter Josephine and it has recently undergone extensive restoration, returning it to its Victorian turn-of-the-century splendor. It now reflects the original decor. Samples of the old wallpaper were found under the woodwork and samples of the paint were found in, on, and under various elements in the Home. The exquisite hand-screened reproduction wallpaper was hung by Jim Yates whose expertise was used in the restoration of the Blue Room of the White House.

Near the Magoffin Home at 817 Olive Avenue, is a house built in 1885 by Thomas J. Beall, a founder of one of El Paso's oldest law firms Davis, Beall and Kemp. This home is one of the few remain-

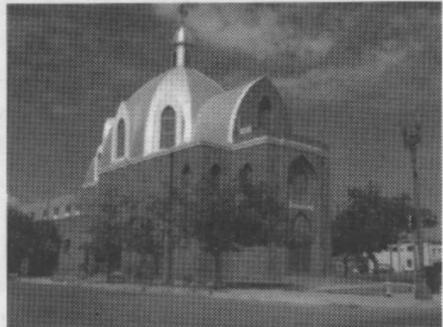


*817 Olive Avenue*

ing houses that contains redwood which must have been a prized building material at that time because it was "imported" from California. At 1109 San Antonio Avenue is a building which has remained in continued use—the Zion Lutheran Church was deconsecrated and converted into a home. At one

time the city had contracted with a private company for the construction of water wells and they built a pump station in art deco style which still exists on San Antonio Street. This endeavor resulted in today's Public Service Board. Number 1117 Magoffin Avenue was the home of an espionage agency—that of Enrique Llorente who was the consul for Madero during the Mexican Revolution. Llorente, who made his home here, employed more than 200 spies.

At the end of the Magoffin block are the Monastery of Perpetual Adoration and the Trolley Barn. The Monastery of Perpetual Adoration is located on the small V that is formed by the intersection of Cotton, Langtry streets and Magoffin Avenue. It was founded in 1925 and houses an order of cloistered nuns. Those who were on the Tour were invited to look into the church but could not tour the monastery itself. Diagonally across Cotton Street is the Trolley Barn which now houses some of the old trolleys that once served the city. They perhaps await the day when they will be refurbished and restored to service as a tourist attraction. The back of this building contains the Fireman's Mural which depicts the history of the Fire Department.



*Monastery of Perpetual Adoration*

Texas Street houses a trio of commercial enterprises that have brought new life to the street. The El Paso Chile Company at 909 Texas is the brain-child of Park Kerr and offers for sale



*The El Paso Chile Company,  
909 Texas, the Galleria San Ysidro,  
801 Texas and Cinco Puntos Press,  
701 Texas Avenue.*



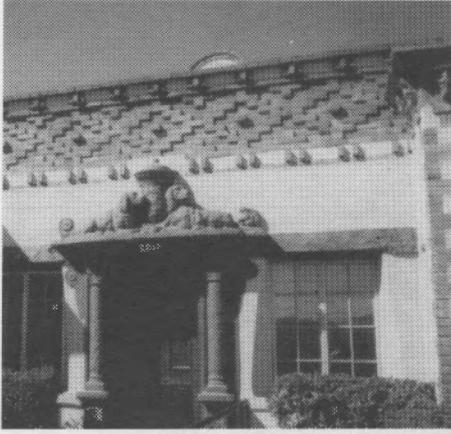
sauces, salsas, snacks, and specialty gifts as well as Kerr's popular cookbooks. The Galleria San Ysidro, at 801 Texas has an extensive array of antiques, furniture, lighting, and accent pieces from

around the world. The third of this trio, Cinco Puntos Press at 701 Texas Avenue, is an independent press that specializes in publishing literature from Mexico, the Texas-New Mexico border, and the American Southwest.

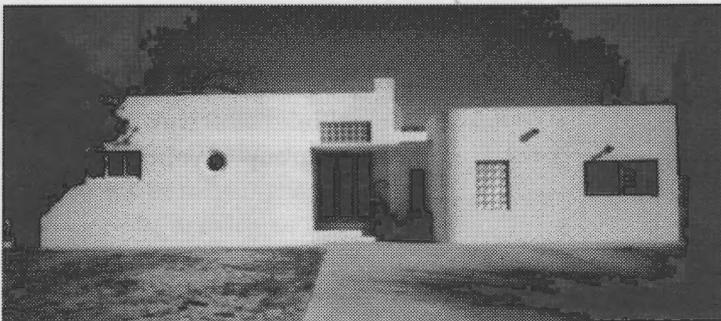
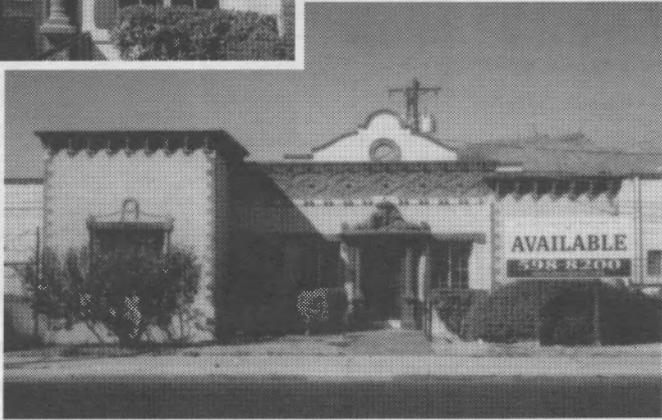
Some of the participants of the Tour walked from site to site, others drove their autos, while others took advantage of the trolley that was provided by Wells Fargo. The chairman of the Tour of Homes of 2005 was Jack Niland who was assisted by the president Mike Hutson and a large group of volunteers.

**This article is based on and drawn from the material written by Patricia Worthington for *El Conquistador*.**

*All pictures courtesy of El Conquistador,  
El Paso County Historical Society.*



*2017 Texas Street—  
inset shows detail of frieze  
depicting animal skulls and  
a matched pair of carved  
Mastiffs above the entrance.*



*Schreck family home at 1014 Blanchard.*



# A Treasure from the Closet

By Barbara Dent



chance to look into and through some old boxes that have been “stored” in a dark closet—the dream of most little girls—and of many older girls too!

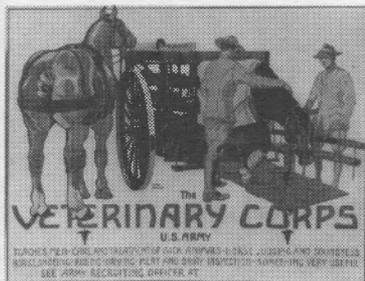
It is rewarding to investigate the contents of old boxes and the files in them. There is a closet in the Turner Home which held a small treasure. The Turner Home is now the home of the El Paso County Medical Society and contains many interesting and valuable artifacts which deal with medicine and the medical arts. In the many nooks and crannies and closets are odds and ends that haven't yet been accessioned and which need adequate display or archival space. It fell to me to look into some of those “storage spaces.”

Lifting out some old files that were there, I saw a piece of paper that had fallen to the floor. When unfolded, it proved to be most interesting, for it revealed a full-page article written by Mary Margaret Davis for the Kaleidoscope section of the *El Paso Times* on October 7, 1980. The article, entitled “Renaissance Legend—Late El Pasoan Leaves a Lasting Legacy” was an account, together with pictures, of the life of Dr. Horst Schreck. Thus was uncovered a small mystery.

Upon the death of Roberta Wilcox, the widow of Dr. Leigh Wilcox, a surgeon who died in 1987, a number of his documents and artifacts were donated to the El Paso County Medical Society.<sup>1</sup> There were a number of framed items, among which was a large oil painting of Dr. Wilcox, dressed in green surgical scrubs. It was stored together with the other materials in a closet in the “pharmacy” where all had languished for years. There was no

information accompanying any of the donated items, but most were self-explanatory, except for the portrait which had no signature which identified the painter. A newspaper article that fell to the floor while the closet was being examined resolved the mystery. The painter was Horst Schreck.

Dr. Horst Schreck, also known as Heire and Heinie, was born on February 1, 1885 in Horisau, Switzerland. He immigrated to the United States in 1906 and graduated from Indiana Veterinary College in 1916. He served in the United States Veterinary Corps from 1917 to 1920, during which time he was commissioned to produce recruitment posters for the Veterinary Corps during World War I. Reproductions of two of these posters are still available. His last military assignment was Ft. Bliss, and upon his discharge he elected to remain in El Paso. He and Emma Edge were married on June 29, 1920 and moved into a house in the Five Points area at 4110 Pershing Drive. He entered practice with Dr. Koll, an established veterinarian, on Alameda Street. At this time he also began his long association with Prices Creameries and took care of their extensive dairy herd.



In 1932 he purchased some unused stables on Texas Street. Using his design capabilities he reconstructed the building at 2017 Texas Street as his new office. It is a structure of stucco and red brick, built in the Mission Revival style, with a red stone frieze at the roof line. The frieze depicts animal skulls and a matched pair of carved Mastiffs above the entrance.<sup>2</sup> In later years he designed a more modern veterinary hospital at 2101 Texas Street which was occupied by the Small Animal Emergency Hospital.

In 1936 Dr. Schreck designed a "unique home."<sup>3</sup> The dwelling, located at 609 Mississippi Street, is a one-story six room house of brick and stucco built along modernistic lines. One outstanding feature of the house is that windows occupy the corners of the house, thus instead of a blank, bare corner, there are windows and light. The garage is near the entrance to the home and the kitchen is also at the front of the house. He later designed another home for his family at 1014 Blanchard in the avant-garde style typical of the Bauhaus movement.<sup>4</sup>

Dr. Schreck contributed his artistic talents to the various organizations to which he belonged. The cover for the invitation to the Barn Dance on Thursday, April 12, 1934 at the El Paso Country Club, given by the Rotary Club of El Paso was a beautiful pen and ink drawing of a medieval barn dance. For years the Southwestern Sun Carnival Parade was sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of El Paso and Heinie was responsible for many of the lavish and unique designs of a number of float entries. In 1946 when he retired from the practice of veterinary



*Cover for the invitation to the Barn Dance.*

medicine, the family moved to a 228 acre farm on North Loop Road southeast of Ysleta. He became a member of and was quite active in the El Paso Hudspeth Soil and Water Conservation District. Dr. Schreck designed and presented the District with a personal logo in 1958. Logos, emblems, and trademarks were not new to Dr. Schreck, for legend has it that on two different occasions he entered contests for national brands and his designs were chosen. He said that he was paid \$2.00 for the Dutch Cleanser emblem, the Little Dutch Girl and because he was not very good with faces, he just turned the girl around so that you could not see her face.



The other national brand competition that Dr. Schreck claimed, was the muscular arm with a hammer for the Arm & Hammer Baking Soda product. He said that his was chosen because it was "the most anatomically perfect."<sup>5</sup> Neither of these stories can be verified, but they sound plausible.



*Dr. Schreck's 1957 mural, "The Experiment."*

Dr. Schreck painted a mural for what was then the Citizens Bank in Ysleta. The newsletter, *Rotary Round-Up* for August 22, 1957 is almost entirely devoted to Dr. Schreck on the occasion of the completion and dedication of the mural he had painted.<sup>6</sup> This mural is entitled "The Experiment" and depicts solutions to old and new farming methods in the Rio Grande Valley. He persuaded some of his friends, B. Tom and Frank Holmsley, and H.B. McEndarfer to pose as models for this seven-character endeavor. In the 1961 Sun Carnival Art Exhibit, Dr. Schreck had the distinction of winning two of the awards. A retrospective of his work was presented by the president and trustees of the Museum Association on June 4, 1967. The show's catalog notes were written by artist Tom Lea, a close friend of Schreck's. The catalog lists forty-three of his works, some of the owners of which were artists William Kolliker and Tom Lea, El Paso Symphony Orchestra Conductor Orlando Barrera, local banks, architect Louis Daeuble, the R.B. Prices, Jr. and Sr., Gertrude Goodman, the Wallace Lowenfields, Mrs. Schreck, the T.P. Clendenins and Dr. and Mrs. Leigh Wilcox.<sup>7</sup> The El Paso Museum of Art has two of Dr. Schreck's paintings in its inventory and several of his paintings are on display in various offices throughout the area.

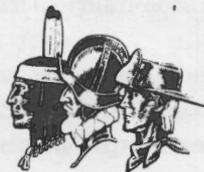
At some point Dr. Schreck wanted to paint a non-personal portrait of a surgeon and asked Dr. Wilcox to pose for him. When the portrait was completed the artist presented it to Dr. Wilcox. This portrait, entitled "The Surgeon," is now proudly displayed in the auditorium at the Turner Home. It is truly part of the legacy of a "Renaissance Legend."

*Unless so noted, images are courtesy of  
the El Paso County Medical Society.*

**BARBARA DENT** is a native of New Orleans, Louisiana, and moved to El Paso with her husband Dr. Tom Dent. She is the curator of the El Paso Medical Museum and writes the "Historical Vignette" for *The Physician Magazine*, the publication of the El Paso County Medical Society. She has served as vice-president of the El Paso County Historical Society as well as serving as a member of the Historical Society Board. She serves also as a commissioner on the El Paso County Historical Commission. Since the retirement of Dr. Dent, they have spent six months of each year in El Paso and the other six months in their home in Idaho.

#### FOOTNOTES

1. The Wilcox family and the Deter family were close friends. Dr. Leigh Wilcox (1909-1987), was an El Paso surgeon and past president of the EPCMS in 1952. Both Mrs. Roberta Wilcox (1914-1997) and Mrs. Virginia Deter were very active in the EPCMS and held the office of President.
2. Davis, Mary Margaret, *El Paso Times*, Kaleidoscope, Tues., October 7, 1980. "Renaissance Legend—Late El Pasoan Leaves a Lasting Legacy." *El Paso Times*, July 5, 1936, pg. 26, c. 1.
3. *El Paso Times*, July 5, 1936, pg. 26, c. 1.
4. Davis, *El Paso Times*.
5. Davis, *El Paso Times*.
6. Now the First National Bank located at 9121 Alameda Street; Davis, *El Paso Times*.
7. Davis, *El Paso Times*.





*"Wanda," self portrait.*

# Wanda de Turczynowicz- El Paso Artist



By Richard A. Dugan

*Horses in the house!!! On the beautiful estate!!! What an indignity! But one that could not be avoided: simply a case of the vanquishers and the vanquished—and a family trapped in their own home.*

*In 1915, in the immediate aftermath of the outbreak of World War I and the German invasion of Poland, the de Turczynowicz family mansion was looted and vandalized by invading German troops, who went so far as to stable their horses inside the house! Trapped there on the family estate in western Poland, in the ruins of her home, the Countess then faced the indignity of being forced to play hostess to German field grade officers including Field Marshal Paul Von Hindenburg. "His only pastime is two tumblers of brandy a day, and he has cruel, shifty eyes" the Countess later reported.*

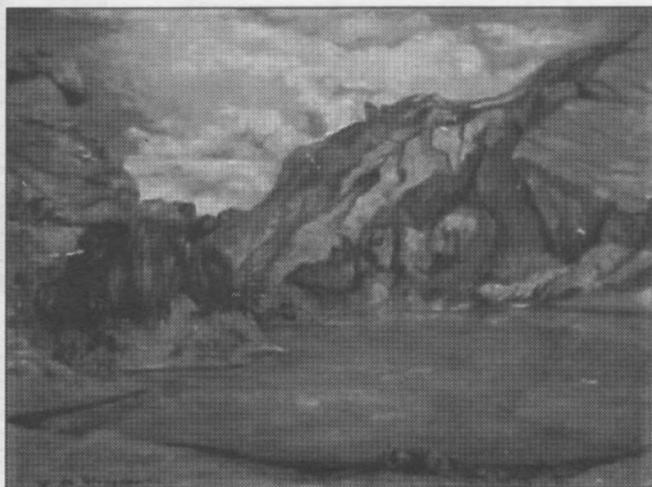
*A demure seven-year old watched it all.*



Wanda Jolanda Gozdawa de Turczynowicz was born in 1908 in Krakow, Poland, the daughter of Polish nobility. Her parents were Count Stanislaw de Turczynowicz and his wife, the American-born Countess Laura de Turczynowicz.

Because the Countess was an American citizen and at that point the United States was still neutral, the Germans, as a goodwill gesture, allowed her to leave the country in 1915 with her children, Wanda, and twins Peter and Paul. The family was the first permitted to leave German-occupied Poland during World War I.

Upon arrival in New York City, the refugee Countess threw herself into war work. She wrote a bestseller entitled *When the Prussians Came to Poland: The Experiences of an American Woman*



*"Hueco"*

during the German Invasion. She was also a popular speaker at recruitment rallies and rallies to promote the sale of war bonds. A true heroine, the Countess organized a Polish aid and restoration society and supported the work of the Red Cross. The Countess also returned to Europe briefly as emissary from Lithuania to the Pope.

When World War I ended, a family friend, newspaper editor William Allen White, advised the Countess to settle in California. There she returned to her career in the operatic theater, staging productions in San Diego and other locations in Southern California. She later moved Wanda and the twins to Toronto, Canada, where she continued to produce and direct operas and plays. The family wintered in southern California, at La Jolla, Redondo Beach, and in Santa Monica, throughout the 1920s and 1930s.

Wanda de Turczynowicz grew up around the theater and the arts, and even at a very young age was artistically inclined. She reportedly sold her first painting at age nine, and later designed sets and costumes for her mother's plays and operas. Wanda de Turczynowicz graduated from the Ontario College of Art in Toronto and also studied under the tutelage of her cousin, Prince Pierre Troubetskoy in New York, and in La Jolla with the English artist Hertherington.

By the mid-1930s Wanda de Turczynowicz's work had been exhibited in New York city; Washington D.C.; Toronto, Ontario; Vancouver and Victoria in British Columbia; and Seattle, Washington. In Winnipeg, the Hudson Bay Company featured the work of

this "truly great artist" in its annual exhibition of art. In Southern California, the Hollywood Athletic Club showed a small group of paintings, from which the Allied Clubs purchased nine canvasses. In 1936 the Los Angeles Library purchased fifteen of her paintings.

A 1930s Redondo Beach newspaper reported that:

The Redondo Beach Library presents an exhibition of unusual interest in showing thirty paintings executed in three mediums by Wanda de Turczynowicz, a gifted young Polish artist. These paintings, now on display, are attracting art lovers from all of Southern California; so many, in fact, that the time of the exhibition has been indefinitely extended . . . Oils, pastels, and water colors are included in the wide range of subjects and have caused considerable stir and interest in this talented young woman . . . Her work shows an amazing maturity of expression for one so young, and each of the mediums in which she works reveals the touch of a masterly hand.

In 1940 Wanda de Turczynowicz married El Paso banker Eliot Hermann, whom she met at a ping pong tournament in Santa Monica. The new Mrs. Hermann moved to the west Texas city of El Paso and made it her home. During World War II, Eliot served in the navy and their daughter Yadzia was born.

The 1940s, 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s were busy decades for Mrs. Hermann, who continued to paint under her maiden name, signing her paintings as "de Turczynowicz." She became a found-



*"The Looters"*

ing member of the El Paso Art Association, taught art to generations of eager students, and played an active role in various civic and community service groups. Her paintings of southwestern landscapes and her exquisite portraits brought her acclaim both locally and nationally. As Wanda de Turczynowicz she was regularly listed in *Who's Who in American Art*, and *Who's Who in the South and Southwest*. She became the first American woman to have her paintings in the art museum in Juárez, Mexico. Other exhibitions include: Sun Carnival Shows in El Paso, The El Paso Museum of Art, the Santa Fe Bicentennial, and many more.

A 1950s article in the El Paso Times reviewed an art exhibit by de Turczynowicz and commented "Mrs. Herman's collection is so varied, both in subject matter and treatment, that visitors must stay several hours in order to appreciate the style and beauty of her work." The art works of de Turczynowicz hang in museums, universities, galleries, libraries, and homes all over the country.

Wanda Hermann outlived her family, her husband, her brothers, and her daughter. She passed away in 2004, leaving us a legacy of a long and productive life, and, of course, her beautiful art that continues to speak for her now that she is no longer able.



The documentation for this article is in the possession of the author who purchased the entire estate—books, art, photos, and papers—upon the death of Wanda de Turczynowicz.



"Surf"

**RICHARD DUGAN** was born in Cheverly, Maryland. He graduated from Wagner High School, Clark Air Base, Republic of the Philippines. He holds a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from the University of Texas at El Paso, where he is currently a member of the staff.



# Let's Get Hispanas Into the Story Too

By Richard C. Campbell



he Hispanic story so frequently tells about men, but it is past the time to let Hispanas/Latinas (Hispanic women) get into that story too. Hispanic culture is heavy on the macho male, but women too can stand up and take their proper role in their own culture. One question, to be sure, is where to begin.

Do we begin with Malinche, the consort and advisor to Cortés in the conquest of Mexico? Or do we first mention Francisca de Hozes, or Maria Maldonado, or the wife of Lope Caballero, the three women who accompanied the Coronado expedition in 1540?<sup>1</sup> Perhaps we should begin with Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz, the Mexican poet born in 1651 who took convent vows, taught herself poetry, music, and painting, and cared for the ill during Mexico City's plague, but was refused admittance to enter the university?<sup>2</sup>

Let us begin at least with doña Josefa Ortiz de Domínguez, who was born in 1768 and was known as the heroine of Mexican Independence. The wife of the mayor of Mexico City, she allowed conspirators in the revolt for independence from Spain to meet in her house in Querétaro in 1810. Doña Josefa became aware through her husband of secret information—authorities had discovered the intended date of the revolt. She sent a servant to warn Father Hidalgo about the “leak.” That warning led to the sudden ringing of church bells and the “Grito” (shout) on September 16, 1810, which marked the beginning of an eleven-year, bloody effort of the Mexican people to have a free country. She spent much of her fortune supporting the revolution, the first phase of which was brief, and ended in death for the male leaders. Doña Josefa was arrested and for four years was forcibly cloistered in a strict monastery for women in the capital city.<sup>3</sup>

A somewhat unconventional personality entered the story in 1846 in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Doña Tules Barceló from the village of Tomé owned an ornate gambling hall at San Francisco Street and Burro Alley. Among her customers were the governor and many Anglo businessmen. After Santa Fe was occupied by General Stephen Watts Kearny and his troops in the United States–Mexico War, doña Tules reportedly lent the general \$1,000 to help him pay his men. Her political connections led to her strong influence in the town. Her reputation, however, for dealing cards and smoking cigarettes led many Anglos to spread slanderous reports of loose conduct, a slander that can possibly be discounted as being the result of the “puritanical” prejudice of that time. Her wealth became evident when she died in 1852; records show the burial fee was 1,600 pesos, something only the wealthy would be charged at that time.<sup>4</sup>

Moving forward a bit, we come to Loretta Jane Velásquez, the Cuban-born woman who dressed as a man and impersonated her dead husband then enlisted in the Confederate Army. She fought in battles at Bull Run, Ball’s Bluff, and Fort Donelson before her disguise was discovered. She was discharged but reenlisted and fought again—this time at Shiloh before being discovered and discharged a second time. She served as a Confederate spy for a time until, after the war, she went west to look for a new husband. After moving into some Nevada mining camps, she received a proposal from a sixty-year-old man but found a younger companion with whom she began a rest-of-her-life happy marriage.<sup>5</sup>

Moving ahead rapidly, we refer to doña Concha Ortiz y Pino de Kleven, born in 1910 and alive to this day in Santa Fe. She became the youngest woman ever elected to the New Mexico House of Representatives and became majority whip. She was recognized as one of the ten outstanding women in New Mexico history, and honored in 2004 by Governor Bill Richardson who had her name placed on Santa Fe’s Education Association Building.<sup>6</sup>

In modern America we find a veritable host of Hispanas/Latinas who contribute to the life and culture of the whole nation. Among them are Isabel Allende, the widely-read Chilean-born author of *The House of the Spirits* and *The Infinite Plan*; Christy Haubegger, a lawyer and publisher who, in 1996, launched the

magazine *Latina* and who was named among the "Women of the New Century" by *Newsweek*, and one of the "100 Most Influential Hispanics in the U.S." by *Hispanic Business Magazine* in 2000.

Still others are Sandra Cisneros, self-proclaimed "hell raiser" and well-known author of works like *House on Mango Street*, *Woman Hollering Creek*, and *Caramelo*; Julia Alvarez, reared in the Dominican Republic, who became a professor at Phillips Andover Academy, and at the Universities of Vermont and Illinois. She has also served as a visiting writer at George Washington University, and is currently teaching at Middlebury College. Alvarez is also the author of *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*, *In the Time of Butterflies*, and *Yo!*

There are many others: Sandra Benitez, Puerto Rican-born author of *A Place Where the Sea Remembers* which was given the Barnes & Noble Discover Award and the Minnesota Book Award, and was given the 1998 American Book Award; Laura Esquivel, Mexican-born author in the magical realism style of *Like Water for Chocolate*, an international best seller later made into a movie.

Antonia Novello, a pediatric medical doctor from Puerto Rico, became the first woman and first Latina appointed as United States Surgeon General and who today serves on the world level with UNICEF as Special Representative for Health and Nutrition.

The list would go on to include Anna Escobedo Cabral, treasurer of the United States; Joan Baez, folksinger and activist; Dolores Huerta, co-founder of the United Farm Workers Union; Aida Alvarez, first Hispanic woman in the president's cabinet and the first to head the Small Business Administration; Rosie Casals, inductee into the International Tennis Hall of Fame; France Anne Córdova, youngest person to become chief of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration; Caroline Herrera, Venezuelan-born fashion designer; Antonia Hernández, lawyer, civil rights activist, and head of the Mexican-American Legal Defense Fund, or MALDEF; Rebecca Lobo, member of the women's basketball "Dream Team" in the 1996 Olympics; Nancy López, inductee into the Women's Golf Hall of Fame; Ellen Ochoa, first female Hispanic American astronaut; Nydia Vellásquez, first Puerto Rican woman elected to the Congress of the United States; and Lydia Villa-Komaroff, molecular biologist, educator, and researcher in the field of cloning.<sup>7</sup>

There is also Rosa Sugrañes, chief executive officer of Iberia Tiles, the largest ceramic/stone distributor in the Southwest; Evelyn Cisneros, principal dancer with the San Francisco Ballet and Lourdes López, formerly the principal dancer with the New York City Ballet and now executive director of the Balanchine Foundation; Carolyn Curiel, United States Ambassador to Belize; Marta Istomin, President of the Manhattan School of Music; Margarita Comenares, first Latina elected to the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers; Julie Stav, stockbroker, financial planner, and television speaker; Linda Chavez-Thompson, executive vice president of AFL-CIO; Margarita Esquiroz, circuit judge in Miami.

To continue: Linda Chavez, a member of the White House staff in the Reagan administration, an author, and a television commentator; Marisol, a sculptor with works displayed in the world's largest art museums; Gloria Estefan, a singer, composer, dancer, and the Hispanic Person of the Century in 2000; Rita Moreno, an actress, dancer, singer; Sally Jessy Raphael, a radio and television personality; Ellen Ochoa, astronaut member of the crew of the Discovery shuttle; Vikki Carr, singer and television actress; and Linda Ronstadt, singer, well known for her album *Canciones de mi Padre*.

There are many others but space forbids listing of the large numbers of Latinas in politics, law, television and radio, theater, films, music, newspapers, modeling, and sports.<sup>8</sup>

This extended listing of Hispanic/Latina women makes the point of their huge presence in past history and contemporary life. Men are sometimes surprised that the achievements of Hispanas/Latinas is not restricted to that culture; that same "surprise" exists in Anglo-American culture also. Joseph Conrad (1857-1924) commented that "being a woman is a terribly difficult trade, since it consists principally of dealing with men." But Charlotte Whitton who was born in 1896 and died in 1975, extended this consolation:

*"Whatever women do they must do twice as well as men to be thought half as good. Luckily, this is not difficult."*

**RICHARD C. CAMPBELL** was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In 1950 he received the B.A. Degree cum laude from Wheaton College in Wheaton, Illinois and in 1954 was awarded the M.A. in biblical literature and theology from Wheaton Graduate School. In 1954, Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena California awarded him the M. Div. He attended the *Instituto de Lengua Espanola* in San José, Costa Rica. In addition he has attended workshops in transactional analysis and counseling. He ministered in the United Methodist Church for twenty-four years in Michigan and New Mexico and in 1978 he began service for fourteen years as chaplain and teacher of the Bible and religion at Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso, Texas. He has traveled throughout Latin America, the Middle East, and Europe, as well as the Mayan ruins in Quintana Roo in Mexico.

He published *Two Eagles in the Sun: A Guide to U.S. Hispanic Culture* which had two printings. Later a second edition appeared. Since 1995 he has written a monthly column on bilingual culture for *El Paso Scene*.

After retirement in 1992, he did volunteer work with the Houchen Community Center with a gang alternative program call "Los Duros" ("The Tough Ones") with boys from the barrio.

In 2004, he and his wife moved to Albuquerque.

#### FOOTNOTES

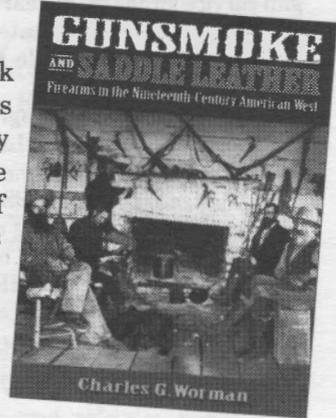
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## Book Review

**GUNSMOKE AND SADDLE LEATHER.** By Charles G. Worman. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 2005. Hardback \$65.00.

Charles G. Worman, in his new book *Gunsmoke and Saddle Leather*, has as his main interest “anecdotal accounts left by the men and women who lived on the frontier rather than on the evolution of firearms technology” (p. xii). He also seeks to “bring to life the role firearms played in the exploration and settlement” of the trans-Mississippi American west (p. xiii). In these goals the author is highly successful. Each chapter is filled with a plethora of quotes from a variety of individuals describing the guns used, which guns were preferred, and what they were used for. Hunting expeditions are described as are gunfights, new technologies (such as percussion cap guns replacing flintlocks), individual preferences (cap and ball revolvers as opposed to cartridge revolvers, for example), and military versus civilian guns (single-shot trapdoor Springfields as opposed to Henry or Winchester lever-action repeaters). Even though Worman does not necessarily emphasize firearms technology, that theme is present throughout the entire book as he begins with smoothbore muzzle loading flintlocks, and ends with the first semi-automatic pistols. There is even a chapter on artillery.



The quotes by Worman are one of the book’s strengths, and also a weakness. He quotes many famous people who are synonymous with the American west including George Custer, “Buffalo Bill” Cody, and Frank James. However, most of the quotes come from ordinary people as they explored and settled the west. The quotes describe what people thought of their guns; which they preferred; and how guns were used for hunting, protection against animals, humans, and law enforcement.

The quotes were a weakness in that, because of the sheer volume, they at times became a bit tedious as one quote after another

was used. Once in a while the quotes seemed almost random as sometimes two or more quotes were strung together without being properly connected to the subject being discussed. Twice I noticed quotes were repeated. For example, on page 134 Worman quotes a newspaper editor: "One Sharp's rifle and a hundred cartridges; a Colt's Navy [Model 1854] revolver and two pounds of balls; [and] a knife and sheath." This exact phrase, minus the bracketed words inserted by the author, is repeated on page 160. A Texas Ranger quote on page 242, describing how to rapid-fire a pistol, is repeated verbatim on page 246. I began to wonder how many repetitious quotes I might have missed.

There are some minor criticisms of the book having to do with names, locations, and accuracy. On page 17, Worman describes "a pair of .43 caliber pistols intended for Henry H. Sibley at Fort Snelling, Minnesota in 1837. . ." which included a gun case inscribed "H.H. Sibley." Later, on page 490, he mentions "Confederate forces under Gen. H.H. Sibley are victorious at Valverde, New Mexico. . ." Are these the same "H.H. Sibley"? A little research revealed they are not. The former is Henry Hastings Sibley while the latter is Henry Hopkins Sibley. Some clarification by Worman would have eliminated any confusion. With reference to locations, Worman is inconsistent in mentioning forts. Sometimes he will state a fort's location, such as "Fort Fillmore in New Mexico," but at other times he does not. The first time he wrote about Fort Union I did not know if it was the Fort Union in North Dakota or the Fort Union in New Mexico. Regarding accuracy, one item stood out to me. Worman writes, on page 236, about "one of Theodore Roosevelt's SOUTH [emphasis mine] Dakota neighbors." As a former resident of North Dakota, I know that the future president ranched in that state near the town of Medora, and not in the neighboring state to the south.

The book's greatest strength is the voluminous number of photos which grace nearly every page. The pictures are of guns, people, and places regarding the subject matter of each chapter with many of them being from the actual period. The photos add considerably to the quality and interest of the book.

If you are an enthusiast of guns, the Old West, and first-hand accounts, *Gunsmoke and Saddle Leather* will be a good addition to your collection.

Albert Burnham  
Department of History  
El Paso Community College

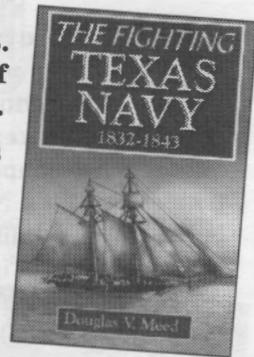
**THE FIGHTING TEXAS NAVY, 1832-1843.**  
**By Douglas V. Meed. Plano: Republic of**  
**Texas Press, 2001. 247 PP. Paper, \$18.95.**

Former El Pasoan Douglas V. Meed begins his groundbreaking study of the navy of the Texas Republic with a rather remarkable quote from Brigadier General Theodore Roosevelt, Jr. who stated that "It is no exaggeration to say that without [the Texas navy] there would probably have been no Lone Star Republic and possibly the state of Texas would still be a part of Mexico." What makes this remark so notable is that the role of naval warfare in the struggle for Texas's independence from Mexico has largely gone unnoticed by scholars on both sides of the Rio Grande.

Meed sets about correcting this historiographical oversight with swashbuckling verve. The tale of the fighting Texas navy is replete with those larger-than-life characters who typically people novels of adventure on the high seas, including a peg-leg lawyer named Robert M. "Three Legged Willie" Williamson and forgotten hero Commodore Edwin Ward Moore. There is also an unlikely villain, in the person of Sam Houston. Meed casts the Texas hero in very unflattering light, asserting that Houston had no grasp of naval strategy or the importance of maintaining control of the Gulf of Mexico. The evidence that Houston tried every way he could to eliminate the Texas navy seems convincing enough, but the author's ad hominem attacks are somewhat gratuitous. It is unfortunate too that Meed elected to eschew the standard scholarly apparatus. In such a pioneering work so clearly at odds with conventional treatments of the fight for Texas independence, it would have been very desirable to have specific citations to sources.

An early focal point of confrontation between the Texan colonists and the central government in Mexico City was the small community of Aanahuac on Galveston Bay. There Mexican customs officials set about trying to levy duties on a burgeoning water-borne commerce. The imposition of such taxes made the Texans fighting mad. Eventually, the Texans shelled the Mexican garrison from the schooner *Brazoria* in the initial battle of the nascent navy.

The Texans realized early in their struggle against the Mexican military that naval control of the Gulf of Mexico was vital for the survival of the republic. From 1832 to 1843 ships fighting for Texas held sway from New Orleans to the coast of Yucatan. In so doing, they managed to interrupt the maritime supply lines of the Mexican armies under the command of General Antonio López de Santa Anna. The powerful Mexican navy was unable to enforce



a blockade against Texas ports, and reinforcements could not reach Santa Anna by sea. This meant that his only option for bringing the rebel Texans to heel was to march overland, a task that ultimately proved undoable. In addition to the official navy, privateers also so served Texas's cause by harassing Mexican shipping at every turn.

One naval battle of this period stands out for its historical significance. In May 1843, the Mexican schooners Guadalupe and Montezuma confronted the Texan ships Austin and Wharton in the waters off the coast of Campeche. The Guadalupe was of British construction, "the first steam-driven, twin-paddle-wheeled, iron hulled warship ever built." The ship was armed with guns firing Paixhan explosive shells, which represented the latest technology. Despite the apparent advantages, the courageous Texans managed a draw, winning a considerable tactical victory.

This book should be of interest to anyone with a real interest in Texas history and to readers of naval history in general. It includes a number of rare photographs of Texas ships and many of the individuals involved in their story.

Rick Hendricks  
New Mexico State University

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## Book Notes

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*Book Notes* by Richard Baquera, Book Review Editor

**LEGENDARY WATERING HOLES: THE SALOONS THAT MADE TEXAS FAMOUS.** Compiled and Edited by Richard Selcer. Contributions by Nancy Hamilton, Richard Selcer, Byron Johnson, Sharon Peregrine Johnson, David Bowser, and Chuck Parsons. College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 2004. Cloth, \$29.95. 294 PP + Index + Notes at end of each chapter. ISBN 1-58544-366-0.

A frontier is the crucible where civilization meets the new—you must adapt or leave. The study of the frontier often involves investigating how institutions adapt to their new environment. Public houses, pubs, bars, saloons or "watering holes," are an excellent example.



This volume details how four Texas saloons served their communities in ways much more important than as “watering holes.”

“Set ‘Em Up”, the excellent introductory essay, sets the tone for the book. It provides a quick overview of what saloons meant to the United States frontier and to Texas in particular. This is followed by a short, but also significant, essay on “The Fine Art of Mixology.”

The four saloons discussed at length in this book are: Ben Dowell’s Saloon, the “Monte Carlo of the West,” in El Paso, written by Nancy Hamilton, one of El Paso’s noted authors and editors; Jack Harris’s Vaudeville and San Antonio’s “Fatal Corner” in San Antonio; the “Free-Hearted Fellows” of the Iron Front in Austin; and “The White Elephant” Fort Worth’s Saloon *par excellence*.

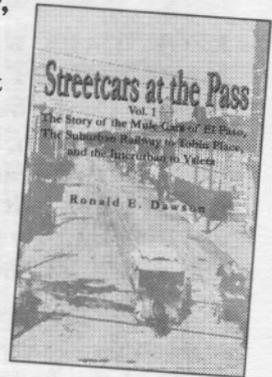
No one doubts the importance of “watering holes” to Western American towns and cities. As Nancy Hamilton—who better to write about Ben Dowell—writes in her essay, Dowell’s place was a watering hole/gambling center/voting spot/courtroom—and, yes, a place of prostitution.

Consequently, this book doesn’t necessarily aim to, or need to, convince as much as to remind. It is well-written, well-illustrated and it is indeed enjoyable reading.

**STREETCARS AT THE PASS, VOL. 1: THE STORY OF THE MULE CARS OF EL PASO, THE SUBURBAN RAILWAY TO TOBIN PLACE, AND THE INTERURBAN TO YSLETA.** By Ronald E. Dawson. *Journal of the Railroad & Transportation Museum of El Paso*, No. 1. 78 PP. + Illustrations. Lincoln, NE: iUniverse, Inc., 2003. Paper, \$11.95. ISBN 0-595-29623-8.

This the first part of a projected three part history which will “encompass the complete history of urban and suburban rail transit in El Paso County.”(Intro.) Less well-known than the account of the arrival of the national railroads to the area, this narrative is just as significant.

Having waded through the “often conflicting accounts in newspapers and historical documents,”(Intro.) the author, in what is clearly a labor of love, presents the story in a clear, understandable, and informative manner. The illustrations are often just as interesting as the account itself.



If the other two parts are as well documented and presented, the complete story will add to our knowledge of the development of transportation in El Paso.

**NEW ORLEANS AND THE TEXAS REVOLUTION.** By Edward L. Miller. College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 2004. Cloth, \$29.95. 209 PP + Notes + Bibliography + Index. ISBN 1-58544-358-1.

It makes perfect sense that New Orleans would play a role in Texas Independence. As a major Gulf entrée-port for trade and political intrigue and adjacent to Texas, businessmen and politicians would have had a vested interest in the events unfolding across the Sabine River.

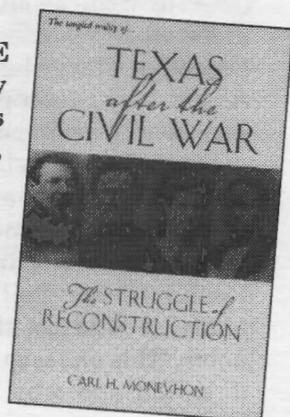
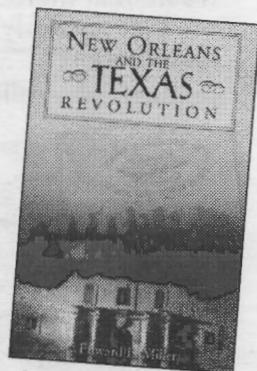
Edward L. Miller's work presents conclusive proof that New Orleans-based creole merchants helped finance the campaign against Santa Anna. In addition, two campaigns of volunteers, the New Orleans Grays (or Greys) supported the Texian military effort for independence. Finally, argues the author, New Orleans newspaper accounts of the events helped set the stage for annexation in 1845.

Although the Americans at New Orleans worked with Mexican federalists who hoped to remove Santa Anna's centralist rule with a new Mexican republic, Miller argues that the ultimate goal always was the forcible separation of Texas in order to add it eventually to the United States. In addition, it seems that profits from land sales in Texas also motivated the New Orleans financiers.

It is an intriguing and valuable story that should have been researched and written long ago.

**TEXAS AFTER THE CIVIL WAR: THE STRUGGLE OF RECONSTRUCTION.** By Carl H. Moneyhon. College Station: Texas A & M University Press, 2004. Paper, \$19.95. 205 PP + Notes + Annotated Bibliography + Index. ISBN 1-58544-362-X.

The Reconstruction Era is the "Dark Ages" of Texas History. Opinions of this period vary from the most critical to the more positive. It is a tangle of politics, race, and economics. Remember that our present



state constitution is a product of that age. Now imagine trying to help students understand the era—that should say it all.

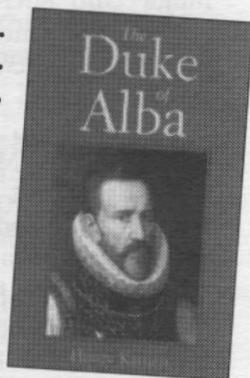
This short book is intended to “offer an interpretation of the Reconstruction era that takes into account the knowledge generated by the revisionist literature produced over the last three decades and an alternative picture to that of the traditional literature.”(pg. 5)

Consequently, although it offers little that is new, its usefulness is that it synthesizes the recent literature and helps to untangle the politics of that period.

**THE DUKE OF ALBA.** By Henry Kamen. New Haven, CT: Yale University Press, 2004. 172 PP. + Notes + Short Bibliography. Cloth, \$30.00. ISBN 0-300-10283-6.

The “Dutch Revolt” of the latter 16th Century was a long, violent, and bitter struggle for the combatants and their friends and allies—both religious and political.

Kamen’s Duke of Alba, actually the 3rd Duke, who lived from 1507-1582, was the general responsible for implementing Phillip II’s Netherlands policy. As such, “he became notorious as the bloodthirsty ‘Butcher of Flanders’, responsible for the massacre of thousands of innocent men, women, and children, a man who considered it better (in his own words) to lay waste a country than leave it in the hands of heretics.”(Preface) His portraits exhibit a glowering image which in later days of mass-market images could have easily become the icon for the stereotypical Spanish cruelty, the Black Legend.



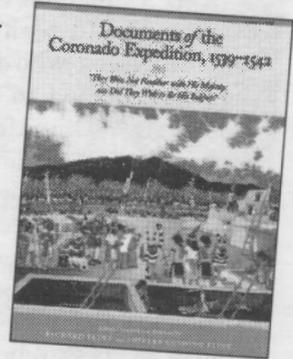
Why write about such a disreputable person? Don’t we already know what we need to know about this “Butcher of Flanders”? Possibly. Nevertheless it isn’t until the 20th Century that the Alba family began publishing their archives. We know about his actions. The published archives can allow us to read about what motivated and pushed this man to do what he did.

Recognizing that an early 1980s biography of the 3rd Duke of Alba is “reliable and authoritative,” Kamen—himself the author of several works in Spanish history, including biographies of Phillip II and Phillip V—nevertheless believes that a general audience study of the Duke of Alba is valuable. Essentially, he notes, “this one is quite simply an attempt to understand what the duke did and why he did it, set against the background of his

life, travels and military and political career, and related where possible in the words of his own correspondence.”(Preface)

**DOCUMENTS OF THE CORONADO EXPEDITION, 1639-1542.** Edited, Translated, and Annotated by Richard Flint and Shirley Flint. Dallas: Southern Methodist University Press, 2005. Illustrations + Maps + Notes + Bibliography + Glossary. Cloth, \$75.00. ISBN 0-87074-496-8.

As the first full-scale Spanish expedition into today’s Southwestern United States, the Francisco de Coronado Expedition deserves recognition. In a nutshell, its antecedents go back to a failed Gulf Coast venture of which only four men survived. Having survived among the natives in the Texas Gulf Coast, these four eventually returned to Spanish settlements in Central Mexico. But they brought reports of “wealthy and populous places far to the north . . .”(21)



Published compilations of the documents related to this expedition exist in both English and the original Spanish. Nevertheless, the editors assert that, “the rich documentary records of the Coronado expedition has been underexplored [sic] for decades.” (3) This is because, explain the Flints, the last English edition of Coronado expedition documents was published to coincide with the four hundredth anniversary of the event and Spanish-language editions are incomplete and suffer from “generally unreliable transcripts sprinkled with omissions and errors.”(6)

The Flints have assembled what they believe to be the most complete collection of Coronado Expedition-related documents to date. But, “because in the last 60 years . . . an extraordinary amount has been learned about the Coronado expedition, the early Spanish colonial period in general, and the protohistoric peoples of what has become the American Southwest and Northwest Mexico—information and paradigms that were unknown to [earlier editors]. Thus, the selection of documents published in 1896 and 1940 now seem narrow and impoverished.”(7) And earlier works omitted Spanish transcriptions “that would tend to compensate for any errors or oversights in translation.”(7)

This weighty volume consists of translations/transcriptions of thirty four documents with copious notes, four appendices, and a useful glossary.

**1491: NEW REVELATIONS OF THE AMERICAS BEFORE COLUMBUS.** By Charles C. Mann. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2005. 337 PP. + Appendices + Notes + Bibliography + Index. Cloth, \$30.00. ISBN 1-4000-4006-X.

What did the Americas look like before 1492 and Columbus? Not that long ago even United States History textbooks virtually ignored the Western Hemisphere prior to the arrival of the Europeans. Instead they usually began with the Europeans, who despite their faults, nevertheless managed to change the Americas for the better. Thankfully, today's texts do include descriptions of Meso-american cultures and, especially, more accurate depictions of the cultures in present-day United States.



As Mann explains it, the idea for this book came into focus through a series of articles in a 1992 quincentenary issue of the *Annals of the Association of American Geographers*. A number of geographers had spent years researching the question, "What was the New World like at the time of Columbus?" Their conclusions, Mann realized then, would make a "fascinating book . . . someone ought to put all this stuff together . . ." (x)

The author's attempt to "put all this stuff together" is "not a systematic, chronological account of the Western Hemisphere's cultural and social development before 1492 . . . nor is this book a full intellectual history of the recent changes in perspective among the anthropologists, archaeologists, ecologists, geographers and historians who study the first Americans." (x) Instead the author explores what he believes to be the three main centers of the new findings: Indian demographics, Indian origins, and Indian ecology. (xi)

*1491* is thought-provoking, challenging and intriguing reading. To cite just three examples of the material presented: 1) evidence shows that corn was domesticated in Mesoamerica about eight thousand years ago—but indications are that maize was the "outcome of a bold act of conscious biological manipulation—'arguably man's first, and perhaps greatest, feat of genetic engineering'" (196); 2) North and South American natives formed/shaped and farmed their forests; and 3) natives didn't just live with the land, in many cases, they transformed it to suit their purposes.

**ALEXANDER WATKINS TERRELL: CIVIL WAR SOLDIER, TEXAS LAWMAKER, AMERICAN DIPLOMAT.** By Lewis L. Gould. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2004. Cloth, \$29.95. 168 PP + Notes + Bibliography + Index. ISBN 0-292-70297-3.

History often provides us with people who, for whatever reason, never seem to live up to their potential. Prominent Reconstruction to Wilson-era Texas politician Alexander W. Terrell is one of these. What is important, however, is not that they might have under-achieved, but that they nevertheless impacted their times. "In education, election laws, railroad regulation, and legal history," notes the author, "he provided much of the structure for how his fellow citizens carried on their daily affairs." (xii-xiii)

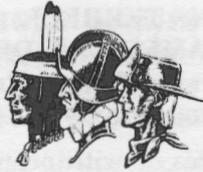


W. Terrell came to Texas in the decade before the Civil War and became involved with the Texas Democratic Party. A secessionist, as Colonel Terrell, he commanded a regiment in the Confederate army—even briefly joining those Confederates who fled to Mexico and joined Maximilian's forces.

During Reconstruction, as a prominent attorney and state senator, he wrote noteworthy legislation which included "the law that created the educational system after Reconstruction . . . the law that created the University of Texas with language that provided for co-education and the establishment of the Permanent University Fund . . ." (xi) After an unsuccessful campaign for the United States Senate, he returned to the legislature. There "he was a primary force in the law that established the Texas Railroad Commission . . ." (xi) This was followed by a four-year service as minister to Turkey—then back to the Texas Legislature where he was the "primary author of the Terrell Election Laws of 1903 and 1905." (xi)

Using what documents and personal papers are available today, Lewis Gould has written a short monograph notable for its objectivity and historical insight. Terrell's personal and political failings are exposed and discussed. I don't believe there is a more qualified person to write this biography. Terrell's qualities, shortcomings, and legacy are there for us to see.

Richard Baquera  
El Paso Community College



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