

PASSWORD



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CONTENTS



- The Texas Two Step:
The Incorporation and
Dispossession of the
Tigua of Ysleta Del Sur,
1848-1889** 55

SCOTT COMAR

- The Taft-Díaz Visit
A Centennial Remembrance** 73

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM MOODY

- El Paso's Bohemian Artist**..... 103

CITA F. SCHUSTER and BECKY DUVAL REESE

- In Memoriam** 113

- Lecturas** 114

- Editor's Message**..... 115

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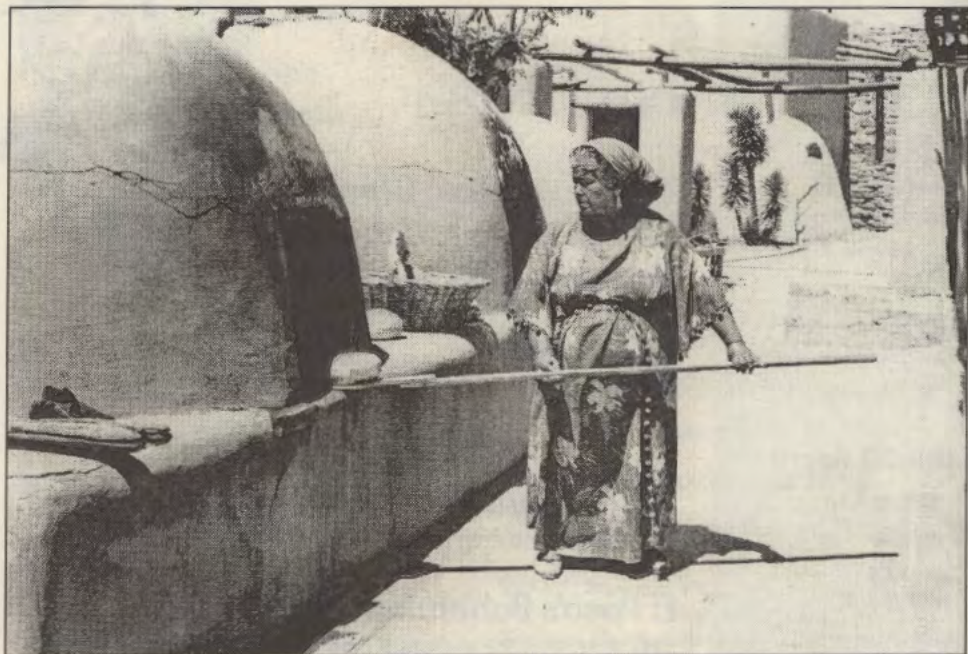
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Baking bread at the Tigua Pueblo

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The Texas Two Step: The Incorporation and Dispossession of the Tigua of Ysleta Del Sur, 1848-1889

By Scott Comar



The history of El Paso's lower valley community of Ysleta often reflects the story of its Franciscan Mission as part of the acclaimed Mission Trail. Yet within the narrative of European expansion and colonization is another story waiting to be told. This is the story of the region's indigenous peoples and the dispossession of their land. The Tigua arrived to Ysleta del Sur in the aftermath of the Pueblo Revolt of 1680. In 1692 Don Diego de Vargas Zapata Ponce de Leon, governor of Nueva Mexico, journeyed to Ysleta and granted to Fray Joachin de Hinojosa, Franciscan jurisdictional president, the "possession of the church missions at Senecu, Socorro, and Ysleta" (i.e. "actual church property"). Subsequently, de Vargas granted the "adjacent tillable land sufficient for the raising of wheat, corn, and vegetables, 'with preference over all other neighbors or natives.'" This gave the Tigua of Ysleta del Sur legal possession of the adjacent land under the Spanish crown. Don Diego de Vargas then did the same for the missions at Socorro and Senecu. This grant gave Tigua, Piro, and Suma Indians lands in Ysleta, Socorro, and Senecu. Hinojosa, unsatisfied with only immediate Church land, pushed de Vargas to grant these adjacent lands directly to the Church, intending to incorporate Native Americans into the "mission system." However, de Vargas refused, stating that they lived "in mutual enjoyment of their lands without legal complications."¹

Known as the Hinojosa Grant, Vargas's act validly recognized Indians as the primary occupants of the Paso del Norte region.

The above information stems from a 1971 *El Paso Times* article entitled, "Ysleta Mission Land Grant May Be First One Recorded In N. America"² The *Times* further stated that

the document is significant in indicating that the Indians of El Paso area had their own lands and were not subject to the Franciscan mission congregation. Although somewhat ancient history, the question of who had control affects present Indian legal rights and Tigua claims to the 36-square mile Ysleta grant and lands in El Paso, Hudspeth, Culberson, Jeff Davis, and Presidio Counties.³

More recently, a 2008 *Express News* article noted that a U.S. Report backs up the Tigua claim to the thirty-six-square mile, 1751 Ysleta Grant.⁴ Yet historically, published literature has often marginalized Native Americans. For example, W.W. Newcomb Jr.'s 1961 volume of *The Indians of Texas: From Prehistoric to Modern Times* reduced the Tigua to "Pueblan fragments... thoroughly Mexicanized by the beginning of the twentieth century, and... presumably extinct in a cultural sense."⁵ Considering that Newcomb's only source on the Tigua was a 1902 article written by J. Walter Fewkes, a more intensive evaluation of Fewkes's research is in order. Fewkes used language and religious assimilation to rationalize the cultural diminishment of the Tigua. However, Fewkes's writing also recognized various indigenous cultural attributes, such as dance and folklore, which actually validate the existence of the Tigua. Ironically, Fewkes's work also contradicts Newcomb's assessment, which was made a half-century later.⁶

This essay's objective is to evaluate the Tigua land dispossession and expose it as a two-part process. This process occurred as a result of the marginalization of the Tigua of Ysleta del Sur within the overlapping power dynamics of Spanish, Mexican, and American tenets of land tenure, which collided in the Texas-New Mexico-Mexico borderlands. Examining the overlap, this essay contends that the Tigua land dispossession involved a two part process that was facilitated by the State of Texas.⁷

The Tigua were initially inducted into the colonial paradigm after Juan de Oñate's 1598 arrival, when they were members of the Tiwa Pueblo of Isleta New Mexico. Agents of Spanish church and state began a policy of proselytization in which oppression and atrocities under the mission system eventually led to the

Pueblo Revolt of 1680. The Pueblo Indians forced the Spanish colonizers to retreat twice, causing two waves of migration, which occurred during 1680 and 1682. Within this transition, New Mexican Governor Don Antonio Otermín and Fray Francisco de Ayeta brought approximately 695 Tiwa and Piro Pueblo with them from Isleta to El Paso. The Piro settled in Socorro and Senecu, while the Tigua settled in Ysleta. Together in El Paso, the Tigua, Piro, and Manso tribes began a process of "tribal synthesis" through intermarriage and the amalgamation of "identities, lifeways, and cultural spaces."⁸ Howard Campbell describes "tribal synthesis" as the combination of survival strategies used by Native Americans, which resulted from the European arrival into the Americas. He wrote that

Indigenous identities, lifeways, and cultural spaces have been reshaped and reformulated, often as a result of power imposed upon them through colonialism and neocolonialism...The concept of 'tribal synthesis' emphasizes process, interdependency, agency, and changing cultural and political repertoires as native people sought survival amidst political economic domination and internal conflict.⁹

Campbell's evaluation reveals that the Tigua adapted to the region and developed positive relations with those around them. The 1692 Hinojosa Grant reflects this in that Hinojosa's attempt to incorporate them into the forced labor of the mission system met resistance by Governor Don Diego de Vargas, who viewed the Tigua as living in harmony with the land.¹⁰ In this sense, the Tigua developed positive relationships with the Spanish, Suma, and Manso inhabitants of the region.

As the Tigua adapted to the colonial economy they became exempted from the rigors of the traditional mission system and set an exemplary model for sedentary agriculture. In 1751, King Ferdinand VI granted the Tigua (i.e. "inhabitants of the Pueblo de Ysleta") "a league of land." This Ysleta Grant was noted by J.J. Bowden as being "a 4-league tract... [because] grants were usually measured one league in each direction from the church entrance."¹¹ Under the auspices of the 1692 Hinojosa Grant and the 1751 Ysleta Grant, the Tigua, and the other indigenous inhabitants of El Paso's lower valley mission communities held the land in common, or practiced a system of communal land tenure.



The Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo, a painting

Aside from some encroachment of migrants from New Spain and Mexico, Apache and Comanche raids, and heavy flooding, which eventually caused a shift in the Rio Grande, no major changes occurred for the Tigua until the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo redefined the border and enveloped everything and everyone north and east of the river into United States territory.¹² The Treaty obscured the Tigua in that, although they were recognized as legitimate landholders due to the Ysleta Grant and the Mexican Plan of Iguala of 1821, which considered Indians as citizens, they did not retain the same political legitimacy under the American power structure. They weren't considered Mexican as defined in Article VIII, yet they did not quite fit the profile of the "savage tribes," as defined in Article XI. Consequently, they became trapped within a political space of non-existence as non-Indian, non-Mexican, and non-citizen. This became compounded by the event of Texas sovereignty not allowing a full implementation of federal Indian policy. Although the U.S. government was responsible for Indian policy, federal jurisdiction was limited because upon annexation into the Union, "Texas retained exclusive jurisdiction over its public domain."¹³ Thus, during the 1850s, the Tigua became legally obscured between shifting borders and domains of state and federal control.

This geo-political power shift and spatial metamorphosis obscured the existence of the Tigua as Native American land

holders. The Organic Act of 1850 isolated the Tigua further by creating the current Texas border at the newly established territory of New Mexico. This "jurisdictionally" divided the Tigua from their northern Pueblo counterparts and made them ineligible for full federal protection.¹⁴ Also, a shift in the river between 1832 and 1849 changed the international boundary and placed Ysleta, Socorro, and San Elizario fully on the American side. The sporadic nature of the river shift placed some Tigua land in Senecu, Mexico, and some Senecu land in Ysleta. This caused Texas to grant to Ysleta the land that had shifted east from the Mexican community of Senecu in 1854. This 1854 "Act to relinquish to the inhabitants of Ysleta, in El Paso county, a certain tract of land now held and owned by said inhabitants" was significant because it recognized the Ysleta Grant of 1751 as a legal premise, or precedent, for the facilitation of public land policy.¹⁵ This also reveals the implications of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo as Tigua land in Ysleta was divided and redistributed by the United States federal and state governments.

As westward expansion and Euro-American civilization reached Ysleta, the first step in the Tigua land dispossession bureaucratically actualized itself. Nicholas P. Houser, an anthropologist dedicated to Tigua history, notes that during the 1850s, Texas "incorporated" myriad railroads that envisioned El Paso as part of a rail line to the West coast. Between 1850 and 1858, Texas superficially attempted to accommodate Spanish and Mexican land title recognitions per stipulations in the Treaty of 1848. Texas formed two commissions: the Bourland Miller Commission in 1850, and the Rio Grande Commission in 1854. However, the former totally overlooked El Paso County, while the latter totally overlooked the Ysleta Grant. The Rio Grande Commission attempted to have various El Paso county titles recognized by the State, but on August 23, 1856 Governor E.M. Pease vetoed the bill because it contained too many land claims. Interestingly, the veto occurred two days before the Texas legislature's incorporation of the Memphis, El Paso and Pacific Railroad Company; and, moreover, documentation of the Rio Grande Commission's recommendations subsequently vanished just before the approval of "An Act to provide for the Incorporation of Towns and Cities," (1858) which allowed for the first Ysleta incorporation in 1859. Also interesting is the approval of a reduced version of the Rio Grande Commission's land title recommendations for El Paso County, which still

excluded Ysleta, being passed soon after the loss of the Commission's initial findings.¹⁶

The 1859 incorporation of the town of Ysleta was a generic incorporation, justified upon conformity to the stipulations within the 1858 "Act to provide for the Incorporation of Towns and Cities." This incorporation was ambiguous and contradictory; some of its particulars reveal the ulterior motive of legitimizing access to Tigua land. First, there is no official documentation of this incorporation outside of the parameters listed in the 1858 Act. Second, Section 5 excluded the Tigua from voting. Third, Section 43 states that "the act of incorporation under the provisions of this act, shall not be so construed as in any manner to affect the titles to land heretofore granted by the Government to the inhabitants of any said town, but the lands so granted shall continue to be held... for the purposes for which they were originally granted."¹⁷ And, fourth, the local elites behind the incorporation all knew about the railroad and its arrival. Henry Dexter, the first mayor under the nonspecific incorporation, wrote in 1877, "[o]ur Pacific Railroad is progressing finely and will doubtless reach El Paso in time." Could he by any chance have been writing about the Memphis, El Paso, and Pacific Railroad that was approved by the Texas Legislature just two days after the Rio Grande Commission's proposed Spanish and Mexican title recognitions were vetoed?

Considering Section 43 of the first incorporation, it was fraudulent because it violated the stipulations of the Treaty of 1848 by not recognizing the Ysleta Grant of 1751, which evidenced the Tigua as the rightful holders of the land. This in itself should invalidate any titles that became established under the auspices of the 1859 incorporation. However, newly arrived Euro-Americans anxiously sought to establish a "title chain," which would legitimately dispossess the Tigua of their land.¹⁸ Regardless of these speculative ambitions, this step in the privatization of Tigua communal land in Ysleta was temporarily put on hold with the arrival of the American Civil War.

The second step in the Euro-American land dispossession of the Tigua occurred during the 1870s. As the socio-political disruptions caused by the War created a power vacuum in El Paso, it became filled with capitalist land speculators, carpetbaggers, and competing political factions. New Euro-Americans arrived in El Paso and conflicted with former Confederate landholders, Mexicans, and Indians. The ascendancy of W.W. Mills and A.J.

Fountain exemplified this trend. As these local political ringleaders supported economic development and westward expansion, they bureaucratically dispossessed the Tigua of their land. This shift moved into play the second phase of incorporation, which picked up and accelerated where the dispossession processes of the 1850's had left off.¹⁹

Setting the stage for the dispossession, the shifting geo-political borders of the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, and the 1854-58 Relinquishment Acts, were never resolved for the Piro Pueblo of Senecu, Mexico. Subsequently, they challenged the 1854 "Act to relinquish to the inhabitants of Ysleta" in *Pueblo of Senecu v. United States* (1870). The Pueblo of Senecu argued that the four leagues of land that had shifted to the east in 1832, due to a change in course of the river, was originally theirs and should be honored as such per the Treaty. This shift in the Rio Grande affected both Ysleta and Senecu because each was adjacent to the other on the border. Hence, as the river shifted course, it meandered disparately and both entities gained, as well as lost segments of land. Despite the shifting river, the Indians of Senecu had always occupied the land in question and were its rightful occupants upon the signing of the 1848 Treaty. This being the case, Texas had no right to grant the shifted lands to the "inhabitants of Ysleta" in 1854. Yet because the issue involved international boundaries, it was a matter for the U.S.-Mexico Joint Boundary Commission, which was created in 1868 to judge U.S.-Mexican land claims and border issues. The petition presented the Indians of Senecu as "civilized" Mexican citizens who legally possessed the land during the signing of the 1848 Treaty. The plaintiff claimed that the 1854 relinquishment "Act" had deprived them of their best land. The Commission ruled, "the claim of the people of Senecu does not raise an international question." Although the evidence was overwhelmingly in favor of the Pueblo of Senecu, the Commission ruled against them, sending them back to the

Setting the stage for the dispossession, the shifting geo-political borders of the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, and the 1854-58 Relinquishment Acts, were never resolved for the Piro Pueblo of Senecu, Mexico. Subsequently, they challenged the 1854 "Act to relinquish to the inhabitants of Ysleta" in Pueblo of Senecu v. United States (1870).

Texas courts.²⁰ Consequently, while the 1854 "Act" recognized the Spanish land grants, it was also used as a tool to dispossess the land from the very people it was granted to. While the Piro Pueblo of Senecu wrestled with the legal bureaucracy, the state of affairs was changing rapidly for Ysleta.

On May 9th, 1871 the Texas Legislature passed "An Act to incorporate the town of Ysleta in El Paso County." The County was originally established in 1850 and the first County seat was in San Elizario. The main protagonist of this "Act" was Albert Jennings Fountain, State Senator representing El Paso in the Legislature. Within about a month's time, San Elizario, Socorro, and Ysleta were all incorporated into El Paso County. The Ysleta incorporation was not approved via local election; however, it fast tracked the bureaucratic process of Tigua land dispossession by providing the ways and means to legitimize actualization of non-Indian land ownership.²¹

The 1871 "Act" was an exclusive policy apparatus that supported the special interests of newly arrived capitalists and speculators. Nevertheless, it temporarily served the power elite's agenda in establishing a legitimate way to possess the land in Ysleta.²² It violated the Texas Constitution of 1869, which limited land grants to 160 acres and made "actual settlement," not just the "desire" to settle, a condition for ownership.²³ It put supreme power of ownership within the biases of the "town council," a body of local elites with their own ulterior motives. Section 3 excluded the Tigua, as well as all Indians and women from voting in that "no person shall be a qualified voter in said corporation unless he be a registered voter in the State." Section 21 economically discriminated against already existing landholding Tiguas through the use of "taxes of every kind as they shall become due and owing."²⁴ Consequently, the 1871 "Act" gave local elites the ability to dispossess the Tigua of their land geographically, politically, and economically.

The 1871 "Act" described the land dimensions that conveniently fell within the parameters of the 1854 "Act to relinquish" and its 1858 amendment, which granted Ysleta the "two leagues" that had shifted from Senecu to Ysleta. In that the 1854 and 1858 legislation was designed to honor the rights of the original "inhabitants" of the Spanish Ysleta Grant, within the U.S. border, as defined by the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the boundaries of the original Ysleta grant became embedded within the 1871 "Act

to incorporate."²⁵ Yet the 1871 Act was totally contradictory to the Ysleta Grant, as well as its protections, which should have been guaranteed under the Treaty of 1848. Moreover, two fundamental tenets of the Ysleta Grant were deliberately overlooked: (1) that "[n]on-Indians were forbidden to reside upon Pueblo Lands."; and (2) "Pueblo Indians held their lands in common, the land being granted to the Indians in the name of their Pueblo." Moreover, Mexico's Plan of Iguala "declared that all 'inhabitants of New Spain, without distinction, whether European, African, or Indian,' were citizens of Mexico."²⁶ This in itself presents that the state of Texas's approval of the 1871 Ysleta incorporation was a violation of the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

Albert Jennings Fountain is viewed as the leading participant in the Tigua Indian land dispossession. Fountain returned to El Paso in 1865 and discovered Ben Dowell's saloon, where he befriended local elites, such as Luis Cardis and Republican ring-leader W.W. Mills. His political ties at Dowell's enabled him to practice law and investigate old Confederate land titles so that they could be perfected and auctioned off.²⁷ The Overland Mail station, among other properties, was possessed, and Fountain moved there. His relationship with Mills flourished, and he wielded local power as both county surveyor and federal customs inspector. However, Fountain and Mills split on the issue of the Guadalupe salt beds, which were lo-



Miguel Pedraza and the Tigua "Piro" Drum

cated north of El Paso. During 1869, Fountain ended up defeating Mills in a race for the Texas Senate. In the Senate, Fountain participated in the Public Lands committee, which was responsible for railroad subsidies. Fountain also was chairman of the Indian Affairs and Frontier Protection committee.²⁸ Thus, Fountain was a grand conspirator in the Tigua land dispossession.

When Fountain investigated land titles, fraud was embedded within his methods. In 1869, as justice of the peace, he and Sheriff J.B. Miller used force and coercion to confiscate real estate in El Paso. One confiscated piece of land was auctioned to Fountain's wife for \$135.00.²⁹ Fountain's involvement with the state allowed him inside knowledge on economic development.

After the survey, communal land was subdivided and issued petitions, which were approved by the mayor of the township, and then sold.³¹ Inhabited lands received deeds under the heading "old titles," seemingly transferring perfect title into the incorporated town. Considering the railroad's arrival, speculators and local elites surely needed the land pre-packaged and ready to

He surely knew that the Texas and Pacific Railroad was chartered and given lands by President Grant on March 3, 1871. He also knew that the Federal government did not have access to Texas lands, and that the railroad was coming to El Paso because of its geographical location on the 32nd parallel. Because Fountain was President of the Texas Senate when the incorporation of Ysleta was passed on May 9, 1871, it would be myopic not to evaluate Fountain's incorporation of Ysleta as being economically motivated by speculators and railroad interests.³⁰

The major act of dispossessing the Tigua of Ysleta del Sur of their land occurred between 1871 and 1874. Its methodology rested upon all the preceding occurrences. After the 1871 "Act to incorporate the town of Ysleta," the area within the Ysleta Grant was solidified and isolated for its bu-

reaucratic possession. Joseph William Tays, a friend of Fountain's, surveyed the unregistered lands of the Ysleta commons around 1872. After the survey, communal land was subdivided and issued petitions, which were approved by the mayor of the township, and then sold.³¹ Inhabited lands received deeds under the heading "old titles," seemingly transferring perfect title into the

incorporated town. Considering the railroad's arrival, speculators and local elites surely needed the land prepackaged and ready to sell. Between May of 1871 and May of 1874, the town of Ysleta made 304 land conveyances. However, the legitimacy of the incorporation of the town of Ysleta itself was increasingly becoming an issue due to its violation of the Texas Constitution of 1869, which "prohibited grants of over 160 acres without actual settlement or residence."³² The Texas legislature subsequently sought to correct it.

On May 2nd, 1874, the Texas Senate passed "An Act to Repeal an Act to incorporate the Town of Ysleta, in El Paso County, approved May 9, 1871." The "Act to repeal" was a short (two section) piece of legislation that repealed the 1871 "Act to incorporate." Yet the 1874 "Act" contained a clause in Section 2, which stated, "That this act take effect and be in force sixty days after its passage."³³ The sixty day grace period allowed a rush of last minute land petitions to cross the mayor's desk. Consequently, several hundred grants were issued, 254 in May alone. The 1871 "Act to incorporate," allowed for the dispossession of over "23,000 acres of the Ysleta grant," leaving three acres for the Tigua.³⁴

Although some of Fountain's local political ring made out well from the land grab, Fountain himself was excluded because of local political controversy.³⁵ Ben Dowell, the owner of Dowell's saloon, was elected El Paso's first mayor. Through his saloon, he was always at the center of local political power and knowledge discourse. This political capital allowed his privileged access to patronage. Dowell was also "El Paso's most enthusiastic railroad supporter."³⁶ Ben Dowell's wife, Juana Marquez, was the daughter of Tigua cacique, Domingo Marquez.³⁷ This enabled Dowell to have access to information networks within the Tigua community of Ysleta itself. After the 1871 "Act to incorporate," Dowell acquired a significant amount of land in Ysleta through his networks of political capital.³⁸ In this sense, Dowell's ability to participate in the discourse allowed him to become a beneficiary of its implementation.

Ironically, Fountain was excluded from the land grab by local elites, such as José María Gonzales. Gonzales was an established Hispanic community leader who served as the mayor Ysleta at various times between the 1850s and 1870s. Gonzales was also allied with "local politicians such as Benito Gonzales, Juan García, Pablo Romero, Nicholas Padilla, Martin Alderete, Pedro Candelario, and

others." Moreover, Gonzales played off the factionalism between Mills and Fountain and formed ties with W.B. Blanchard, J.P. Hague, Joseph W. Tays, and William Pierson. Together, this group petitioned, titled, and sold practically all of the land in Ysleta.³⁹ This reveals that both Hispanic and Anglo elites at the local level participated in the Tigua land dispossession.

The dispossession of Tigua land in Ysleta increased and solidified with the arrival of the railroad in 1881. The arrival of the railroad, similar to the trends of the 1850's arrival of white settlers, caused significant migrations, or dislocations, of Tigua to the Las Cruces area of New Mexico, as well as other points on the railroad line. This was because land dispossessions caused Tigua dislocations, as well as the event of Tigua railroad workers following the northwestern development of the railroad after it passed through Socorro and Ysleta in 1881. This migration, which started much earlier, led to the creation of the Tortugas community, just south of Las Cruces, around 1854, which was made up of dislocated Tiguas from Ysleta del Sur.⁴⁰ Campbell writes that "[a]s life became more difficult for native people in the El Paso border zone after the U.S. Mexico War and subsequent Anglo immigration, some Piros, Mansos, and Tiwas sought a better life in the relatively unpopulated Mesilla Valley to the north and west."⁴¹ The dynamic is significant because it reveals that the Tigua did not cease to exist after they lost their land.

In Texas, the dilemma of cleaning the bureaucratic mess that was left over from the land grab fell upon the State government. The Texas Legislature's 1889 "Act to quiet land titles in the towns of Socorro, Ysleta, and San Elizario" seemingly closed the era of bureaucratic fraudulence in that it legitimately solidified the previously granted land deeds of the 1870's. After the 1874 "Act to Repeal" the 1871 Ysleta incorporation, local and State bureaucracies faced a land title dilemma. Although Ysleta had been issued a patent under the unfinished auspices of Section 3 in the 1854 "Act to relinquish," via Edmund J. Davis's "grant to the inhabitants of Ysleta," which was issued in 1873, the issues of incorporation, new titles, and the legitimacy of titles issued during the 1870's were still pending. Thus within this administrative hodgepodge of overlapping policy, the Tigua became bureaucratically dispossessed: Section 3 of the 1854 "Act" had been overlooked by the Tigua and could have given them legal title much earlier if they had had access to legal representation, which could have

pushed the "General Land Office" to issue a patent much sooner, assuming that their rights would've been honored.⁴²

Nevertheless, the post-1874 local bureaucracy was still jammed up with the land issue. In 1880, the municipal level "Corporation of the Town of Ysleta" enabled the local government to facilitate land titles under the auspices of the 1873 grant, but the State did not recognize those titles. Regardless of State acknowledgement, the 1880 incorporation, through the manipulation of more petitions and sales, "reduced the Tigua to barrio status." This also significantly contributed to the dispossession and dislocation in that it forced more Tigua to migrate to Tortugas and New Mexico.⁴³

It is in this context that the 1889 "Act to quiet land titles in the towns of Socorro, Ysleta, and San Elizario" sealed the crime of bureaucratic land dispossession.⁴⁴ Thus, with the swipe of a pen, the final touches of the Tigua land dispossession had been facilitated by the State of Texas.

This assessment of the Tigua land dispossession reveals that after the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the privatization of land in El Paso's lower valley community of Ysleta was motivated by the need to establish a title chain to the land so that speculators could sell it to the railroad, which was steadily advancing into west Texas. In this framework, the Tigua land dispossession under United States rule was a two-part process that began in the 1850s, continued and peaked during 1870s, and finalized itself in 1889. Because the Tigua Indian land dispossession resulted from legislation from the State of Texas and involved a two-part chronological process from both before and after the U.S. Civil War, this author has titled it as the "Texas Two Step: The Incorporation and Dispossession of the Tigua of Ysleta Del Sur, 1848-1889."

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NOTES (Endnotes)

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5. W.W. Newcomb, Jr. *The Indians of Texas: From Prehistoric To Modern Times* (Austin: University of Texas Press, 1961), 24.
6. Fewkes, "The Pueblo Settlements near El Paso, Texas," 62-73.
7. The term incorporate will appear various times in this essay, and it has two distinct definitions: (1) as used in the thesis statement, "incorporated" implies "to combine or join with something already formed; make part of another thing; include; embody;" and (2) as a legal term, used in the Legislative Acts of the State of Texas, the word means "organized as a legal corporation," as in an incorporated town. Definitions courtesy of *Webster's New World Dictionary of the American Language*, 2nd ed., s.v. "incorporate" and "incorporated." In the incorporation of Ysleta, the Town is given authority by the State to survey land and issue land deeds, which were backed up by State patent. The legally incorporated Town is responsible for electing a Mayor and Town Council and is held accountable to the State. The legal 'incorporation' of land gave the town the power to tax, give title to, sell and/or lease land within the boundaries of that township. The method turned communal land, which belonged to Indians, into subdivided plots of individual pieces of property.
8. Andrew L. Knaut, *The Pueblo Revolt of 1680: Conquest and Resistance in Seventeenth-Century New Mexico* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1995), 57-117; Jeffrey M. Schultze, "The Rediscovery of the Tiguas: Recognition, Indianness, and Identity in the Twentieth Century" (master's thesis, University of Texas at El Paso, 2000), 30-32; Howard Campbell, "Tribal synthesis: Piro, Mansos, and Tiwas through History," *Journal of the Royal Anthropologist Institute* 12 (2006): 293-294, 298-301.
9. Campbell, "Tribal Synthesis," 298.
10. George Kinsinger, "Ysleta Mission Land Grant May Be First One Recorded In N. America," *El Paso Times*, 1 August 1971, sec. A.
11. Bowden, *Spanish and Mexican Land Grants*, 140-142, 148; J.J. Bowden, Misc: Correspondence, Ysleta Grant, Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Archives, *Tom Diamond Files* (El Paso: University of Texas at El Paso, Special Collections). FM 554, roll 1 of 3, index 4.
12. "Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo," March 10, 1848, *U.S. Statutes at Large* (El Paso: University of Texas at El Paso, Special Collections), 218. Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Archives, *Tom Diamond Files*, FM 554 roll 1 of 3, index 31.
13. *Ibid.*, 217-222; Alan H. Minter, *The Tigua Indians at the Pueblo de Ysleta del Sur, El Paso County, Texas* (El Paso: West Texas Historical Associa-

- tion Yearbook, 1969), 31-32, 38-39, 42; George D. Harmon, "The United States Indian Policy in Texas," *The Mississippi Valley Historical Review* 17, no. 3 (1930): 380-381.
14. Mark Edwin Miller, *Unrecognized Tribes and the Federal Acknowledgment Process* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2004), 214; *An Act proposing to the State of Texas the Establishment of her Northern and Western Boundaries, the Relinquishment by the said state of all territory claimed by her exterior to said Boundaries, and all of her Claims upon the United States, and to establish a territorial Government for New Mexico*, Public Statutes at Large of the U.S.A., vol. 1, 31st Cong., 1st sess. (March 3, 1845), 446-452; in *A Century of Lawmaking for a New Nation: U.S. Congressional Documents and Debates*, <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/ampage> (7 Oct 2008); H.P.N. Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, vol. 3, General and Special Laws (1850), 832-833. Accessed at University of North Texas Library online, <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-6728:836> (7 Oct 2008).
 15. An Act to relinquish to the inhabitants of Ysleta, in El Paso county, a certain tract now held and owned by said inhabitants, approved Jan. 31, 1854, 5th Leg., ch. 30, 1853, Tex. Special Laws, 42-43, reprinted in 4 H.P.N. Gammel, *The Laws of Texas 1822-1897* at 42-43 (Austin: Gammel Book Co., 1898). <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-6730:46> (2 Oct 2008); Adolph M. Greenburg, *Ph.D Report*, vol. 1 of *Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Archives* (El Paso: Sundance Press, 2000), 303. UTEP. C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Dept; Minter, *The Tigua Indians of the Pueblo de Ysleta del Sur*, 35; "Tom Diamond Compilation," vol. 3, *Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Archives* (El Paso: Sundance Press, 2000), 90. UTEP. C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Dept.
 16. Nicholas Houser, "From the Place of Beginning: An Analysis of Land Transactions and Their Effect on Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo," vol. 2 (El Paso: n.p., 1994), 30-31, 35-41. UTEP. C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Dept., 1994; An Act to amend the 17th section of an act to incorporate the Memphis, El Paso, and Pacific Railroad Company, approved 5th of February 1856, approved Aug. 25, 1856, 6th Leg., A.S., ch. 192, 1856, Tex. Special Laws 112-113, reprinted in H.P.N. Gammel, *The Laws of Texas 1822-1897* at 658-659 (Austin: Gammel Book Co., 1898); An Act to provide for the Incorporation of Towns and Cities, approved Jan 27, 1858, 7th Leg. Ch. 61, 1858, Gen. Laws 69-74 reprinted in 4 H.P.N. Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, at 941, 946. <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-6730:945> (9 Oct 2008); An act to relinquish the right of the State to certain Lands therein named, approved Feb 11, 1858, 7th Leg. Ch. 120, 1858 Tex. Gen. Laws 155, reprinted in 4 H.P.N. Gammel, *The Laws of Texas* at 1027 (Austin: Gammel Book Co., 1898). <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-6730:1031> (2 Oct 2008); Bowden, *Spanish and Mexican Land Grants*, 96-97, 125; *Tom Diamond Compilation*, vol. 3 of *Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Archives* (El Paso: Sundance Press, 2000), 91-92. UTEP. C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Dept.
 17. Nicholas Houser, "From the Place of Beginning: An Analysis of Land Transactions and Their Effect on Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo," vol. 2 (El Paso: UTEP. C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Dept., 1994), 56-58; An Act to provide for the Incorporation of Towns and Cities, approved Jan 27, 1858, 7th Leg. Ch. 61, 1858, Gen. Laws 69-74 reprinted in 4 H.P.N. Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, at 941, 946. <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ptb-6730:945> (9 Oct 2008); "A Bit of History," *El Paso Herald*, 9 March 1894. *Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Archives, Tom Diamond Files*,

- UTEP Library. MF 554, roll 1 of 3, index 9; Nicholas Houser, "From the Place of Beginning: An Analysis of Land Transactions and Their Effect on Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo," vol. 1 (El Paso: n.p., 1994), 42-25, in UTEP. C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Dept.
18. Houser, "From the Place of Beginning," vol. 1, 42-45, 63.
 19. Houser, "From The Place of Beginning," 68-71.
 20. "Chronology," *Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Archives: Tom Diamond Files* (El Paso: University of Texas at El Paso Special Collections), MF 554, roll 1 of 3, index 27; An Act to relinquish to the inhabitants of Ysleta, in El Paso county, a certain tract now held and owned by said inhabitants, approved Jan. 31, 1854, 5th Leg., ch. 30, 1853, Tex. Special Laws, 42-43, reprinted in 4 H.P.N. Gammel, *The Laws of Texas 1822-1897* at 42-43 (Austin: Gammel Book Co., 1898). <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-pt-6730:46> (2 Oct 2008); "Tom Diamond Compilation," vol. 3, *Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Archives* (El Paso, Sundance Press, 2000), 94; Myra Ellen Jenkins, "The Pueblo of Ysleta Del Sur," (Santa Fe, 1989), 105, in "Jenkins: Pueblo/Ysleta," *Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Archives: Tom Diamond Files* (El Paso: University of Texas at El Paso Library), MF 554, roll 1 of 3, index 113, p. 104.
 21. An Act to incorporate the town of Ysleta, in El Paso county, approved May 9, 1871, 12th Leg. Ch. 175, 1871 Tex. Special Laws 297-303, reprinted in H.P.N. Gammel, *The Laws of Texas* at 1435-1441 (Austin: Gammel Book Co., 1898). <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-pt-6734:1425> (2 Oct 2008); Eickhoff, *Exiled: The Tigua Indians of Ysleta del Sur*, 80; Minter, *The Tigua Indians of the Pueblo de Ysleta del Sur, El Paso County, Texas*, 36-37; "Chronology," *Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Archives, Tom Diamond Files* (El Paso: University of Texas at El Paso Library) MF 554 roll 1 of 3, index 27; Houser, "From the Place of Beginning," vol. 1, 62.
 22. Houser, "From the Place of Beginning," vol. 2, pp. 50-51.
 23. Minter, *The Tigua Indians of the Pueblo de Ysleta del Sur, El Paso County, Texas*, 36, 37.
 24. An Act to incorporate the town of Ysleta, in El Paso county, approved May 9, 1871, 12th Leg. Ch. 175, 1871 Tex. Special Laws 297-303, reprinted in 6 H.P.N. Gammel, *The Laws of Texas* at 1435, 1438 (Austin: Gammel Book Co., 1898). <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-pt-6734:1425> (2 Oct 2008).
 25. *Ibid.*, 1435; 4 Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, 1094; 4 Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, 42; Bowden, *Spanish and Mexican Land Grants in the Chihuahuan Acquisition*, 144. (Subsequent to the January 31, 1854 "Act to relinquish" was a February 1, 1854 "Act for relief to the inhabitants of the town of Ysleta, which further recognized the Ysleta Grant by stating: "Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas, That the grant made to the inhabitants of the town of Ysleta, in the present county of El Paso, in the year seventeen hundred and fifty one, by the Government of Spain, to the following described tract of land, to-wit: commencing at the Rio Grande... is hereby fully recognized and confirmed." Also, Section 2 of the "Act for the relief authorized the General Land office "to issue a patent to the inhabitants of said town of Ysleta" (4 Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, 53). However, the patent wasn't issued until March 28th, 1873 (El Paso County Deed Record 1 (1881), 184. UTEP C.L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Dept.). At best this document, initially written by Edmund J. Davis (Texas Governor, 1873) was a last ditch effort to maintain legitimacy to land titles,

fraudulent as they were, in the midst of the awareness of the illegality of Fountain's 1871 "Act to incorporate."

26. "Correspondence: Misc: J.J. Bowden," *Memorandum on the Pueblo of Ysleta Claim*, p. 7, *Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Archives: Tom Diamond Files*, University of Texas at El Paso. MF 554, roll 1 of 3, index 4.
27. Perfected land titles, or perfect titles are land titles that are free of liens and legal questions that may come up after a purchase is made and create a dilemma for the buyer. Title companies investigate title chains and insure land titles to protect land buyers from losing their investments. Considering the land of the Spanish Ysleta Grant, Socorro Grant, and Senecu Grant, the 1848 Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo does create such a dilemma for the current inhabitants.
28. A.M. Gibson, *The Life and Death of Colonel Albert Jennings Fountain* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1965), 45, 48, 56, 65; Myra Ellen Jenkins, "The Pueblo of Ysleta Del Sur," (Santa Fe, 1989), 105, in "Jenkins: Pueblo/Ysleta," *Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Archives: Tom Diamond Files* (El Paso: University of Texas at El Paso Library), MF 554, roll 1 of 3, index 113, p. 105; An Act to Incorporate the Indianola, San Antonio and El Paso Railroad Company, approved April 3, 1871, 12th Leg. Ch. 40, 1871 Special Laws 74-78, reprinted in 6 H.P.N. Gammel, *The Laws of Texas at 1212-1216* (Austin: Gammel Book Co., 1898). <http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph6734/m1/1202/> (21 Feb 2010).
29. Houser, "From the Place of Beginning," vol. 1, 71.
30. Edward A. Leonard, *Rails at the Pass of the North* (El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1981), 13, 21; Myra Ellen Jenkins, "The Pueblo of Ysleta Del Sur," (Santa Fe, 1989), 105, in "Jenkins: Pueblo/Ysleta," *Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Archives: Tom Diamond Files* (El Paso: University of Texas at El Paso Library), MF 554, roll 1 of 3, index 113, p. 104; The notion of a conspiracy for land theft is in Eickhoff, *Exiled*, 84-86.
31. For petition information see 6 Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, 1440-1441; Jenkins, "The Pueblo of Ysleta Del Sur," 108.
32. Jenkins, "The Pueblo of Ysleta Del Sur," 108; Eickhoff, *Exiled*, 82; Tom Diamond Compilation, vol. 3, *Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Archives* (El Paso, Sundance Press, 2000), 97.
33. An Act to repeal an Act to Incorporate the town of Ysleta, in El Paso county, approved May 9, 1871, approved May 2, 1874, R.S., ch. 41, 1874 Tex. Gen. Laws 82, reprinted in H.P.N. Gammel, *The Laws of Texas*, at 348 (Austin: Gammel Book Co., 1898). <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-ph-6731:350> (2 Oct 2008).
34. Quote taken from "H.R. 1344 Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Restoration Fact Sheet," *Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Archives: Tom Diamond Files* (El Paso: University of Texas at El Paso Library Special Collections), FM 554, roll 2 of 3, index 67; Minter, *The Tigua Indians of the Pueblo de Ysleta del Sur*, 37; Eickhoff, *Exiled*, 82.
35. Houser, "From the Place of Beginning," vol. 2, 85.
36. Leonard, *Rails at the Pass of the North*, 12; Eickhoff, *Exiled*, 82.
37. Eickhoff, 73; Houser, "From the Place of Beginning," vol. 2, 64.
38. Eickhoff, *Exiled*, 73, 81; Gibson, *The Life and Death of Colonel Albert Jennings Bryan*, 47.

39. Houser, "From the Place of Beginning," vol. 1, 85-88. W.B. Blanchard petitioned first, receiving a "gift" of 152 acres; Joseph W. Tays received 600 "free" acres; James P. Hague, the defending attorney for Ysleta in the case *Senecu v. Ysleta*, received three allocations of land well in excess of 200 acres. Houser wrote that Gonzalez petitioned off the land with the assistance of W.B. Blanchard, James P. Hague, and Joseph W. Tays. Fountain's plans didn't work out the way he wanted them to. Although some of his cohorts gained access to the lands of the Tigua, he himself didn't. Nicholas Houser in "From the Place of Beginning," vol. 1, p.85, wrote of the significance of the railroad in the acquisition of Tigua lands: "Fountain was an avid railroad supporter and a member on the board of directors of two railroads. Blanchard held railroad land opposite Guadalupe, just south of Ysleta. The two lawyers, Blacker and Hague, who represented Ysleta in the 1870's, also represented railroad companies. In July 4, 1871, Hague wrote the following prophetic letter about the pending arrival of the railroad: "*The growth of El Paso depends upon the Southern Pacific coming to this exact spot, which will make El Paso a great town in a few years*" ...The Town of Ysleta subsequently passed an ordinance which granted to the Galveston Harrisburg and San Antonio Railroad Company a tract of land 150 feet wide on each side of the center line "*through all the lands belonging to Ysleta*" (...February 28, 1881; El Paso County Records, Deed Book I-1:143).
40. Patricia Aylward Farr, "The Women of Ysleta Del Sur: Contributions To The Culture Of A Pueblo" (master's thesis, University of Texas at El Paso, 1986), 44; J. Walter Fewkes, "The Pueblo Settlements Near El Paso, Texas," *American Anthropologist* 4 no. 1 (1902): 61; "Tom Diamond Compilation," *Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Archives*, vol. 3 (El Paso: Sundance Press, 2000), 103. Tom Diamond wrote of the village of Tortugas being on an 1854 map (National Archives Record Gp. 77, W23/F).
41. Campbell, "Tribal Synthesis: Piro, Mansos, and Tiwas Through History," 301. (Also, Campbell (p. 301-302) wrote, In Las Cruces, Piro, Mansos and Tiwas intermarried and maintained a distinctive collective identity... Native peoples populated the village of Tortugas, areas in and adjacent to contemporary Las Cruces, New Mexico, and other outlying places, where they maintained farms.")
42. Socorro, Ysleta, and San Elizario—Act Quieting Land Titles In, approved April 2, 1889, 21st Leg., R.S., ch. 16 [H.B.], Tex. Special Laws 145-146, reprinted in 9 H.P.N. Gammel, *The Laws of Texas at 1371-1372* (Austin: Gammel Book Co., 1898). <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-pt-6729:1373> (6 Oct 2008); 4 Gammel, *Laws of Texas*, 42; El Paso County Deed Record 1 (1881), p. 184, University of Texas at El Paso, C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Dept; Minter, "The Tigua Indians of the Pueblo De Ysleta Del Sur, El Paso County, Texas," 36.
43. Myra Ellen Jenkins, "The Pueblo of Ysleta Del Sur," (Santa Fe, 1989), 105, in "Jenkins: Pueblo/Ysleta," *Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Archives: Tom Diamond Files* (El Paso: University of Texas at El Paso Library), MF 554, roll 1 of 3, index 113, pp. 108-110; "Tom Diamond Compilation," *Ysleta Del Sur Pueblo Archives*, vol. 3 (El Paso: Sundance Press, 2000), 101.
44. Socorro, Ysleta, and San Elizario—Act Quieting Land Titles In, approved April 2, 1889, 21st Leg., R.S., ch. 16 [H.B.], Tex. Special Laws 145-146, reprinted in 9 H.P.N. Gammel, *The Laws of Texas at 1371-1372* (Austin: Gammel Book Co., 1898). <http://texashistory.unt.edu/permalink/meta-pt-6729:1373> (6 Oct 2008).

The Taft-Díaz Visit A Centennial Remembrance

By The Honorable William Moody



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ince 1889, every United States president has visited El Paso either before, during, or after their presidency except for Grover Cleveland and Woodrow Wilson. The shortest time spent was by Herbert Hoover in 1932, a mere fifteen minutes. The most politically significant

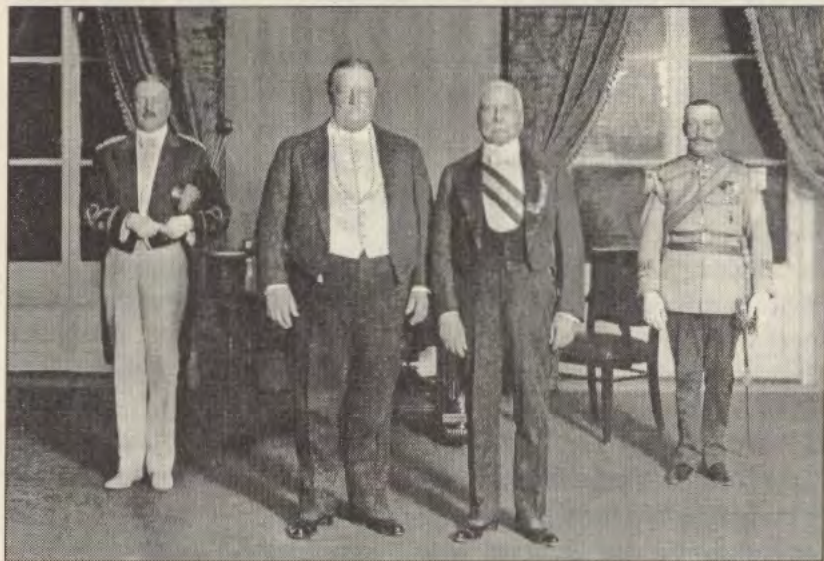
were the Lyndon Johnson visits in 1964, 1967, and 1968 to conclude the Chamizal Treaty.

Without question, the most spectacular was the 1909 meeting between United States President William Howard Taft and Mexican President Porfirio Díaz. El Pasoans had been trying to arrange a joint meeting between the U.S. President and Díaz since 1891. Benjamin Harrison was the first United States president to come through El Paso, and an attempt was made for a joint meeting. Again, in 1901, when President McKinley came to El Paso, an invitation was extended by the City Council to President Díaz to meet with McKinley in El Paso. In both 1891 and 1901, President Díaz declined on the grounds that the Mexican Constitution prohibited the Mexican president to leave Mexico without the consent of the Mexican Congress. This provision still exists in the Mexican Constitution. There is little doubt that Díaz, more dictator than a president, could have gotten congressional approval. Meeting the United States president on land taken during the Mexican War only a generation before, however, would have been unacceptable to most Mexicans. High-ranking civil and military officials from

national, state, and local governments of Mexico did greet both Harrison and McKinley.

Prior to the twentieth century, United States presidents, like their Mexican counterparts, also did not leave United States soil while in office. Thomas Jefferson believed the United States Constitution implied that if the president left the United States during his term that he would temporarily or permanently lose his power to govern. The first to challenge this theory was Theodore Roosevelt when he went to visit the Panama Canal in 1906. He argued that the canal was United States territory and even his brief visit to the president of Panama was a short courtesy trip to a United States protectorate. It was not until October 16, 1909 that a United States and Mexican president both broke precedence and traveled to a truly independent country. October 16, 1909 is significant for its historic diplomatic importance. It was the true beginning of personal presidential diplomacy that we have become so accustomed to. It all began right here in El Paso, Texas.

President Taft was elected in November 1908 and inaugurated in March 1909. He had served only seven months in office when he made a lengthy cross-country tour. He explained his support of the controversial Payne-Aldrich Tariff and enjoyed the scenic country. Unlike Harrison and McKinley whose wives accompanied them, Taft's wife, Nellie, was unable to make the trip. She suffered



The official portrait of William Howard Taft and Porfirio Díaz. It was taken by Fred Feldman the night of the banquet in Juárez.



Taft's train route to El Paso.

a stroke on May 17, 1909. The true seriousness of her medical condition was masked from the public, which is why Taft went ahead with his planned trip without her. Taft's summer trip took him to the west coast and back through Texas and the Midwest, a distance of 13,000 miles. The trip lasted two months and was the longest presidential trip up to that date. The main reason for returning through Texas was to visit his brother Charles' south Texas ranch near Corpus Christi. El Paso was conveniently located on the railroad route between southern California and Corpus Christi.

The night before arriving in El Paso, Taft stopped for a dinner in Albuquerque and the issue of statehood for New Mexico was discussed. A.B. Fall, former Attorney General of the New Mexico Territory and destined to become the first United States Senator from New Mexico, tried to bully Taft into rushing New Mexico's entrance as a state. Taft rebuked him by saying, "In spite of your arguments, I am with you."

President Díaz made his first visit to Juárez in over 30 years and arrived on October 15. A huge parade headed by soldiers, police and school children accompanied President Díaz to the center of the city where he personally assisted in the laying of the cornerstone for the Benito Juárez Monument. The statue was built at a cost of \$117,000, and thousands of cheering Mexicans and Americans witnessed the event. If there was any unrest over



*The Benito Juárez Monument
that was dedicated by Díaz on
his way to the meetings.*

Díaz's regime in Juárez, it was not mentioned in either El Paso newspaper. Crowds that would support his overthrow in 1911 were extremely friendly and enthusiastic on this occasion.

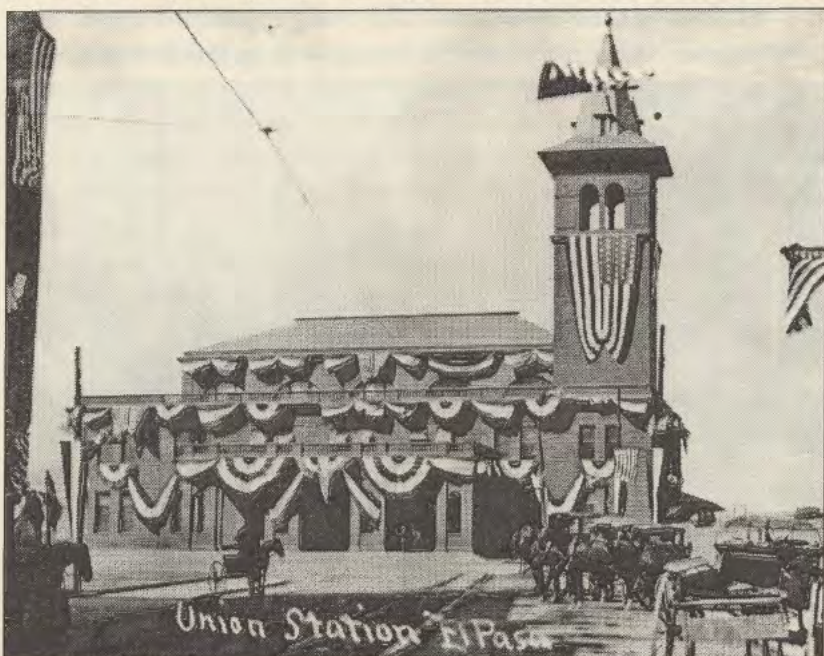
Great preparations had been made on both sides of the border in anticipation of the historic visit. It would be El Paso's first opportunity to show off its importance to the rest of the country. An elaborate breakfast was planned for President Taft at the St. Regis Hotel upon his arrival on the morning of Saturday, October 16. After breakfast, Taft was to be driven around San Jacinto Plaza, where over 4,000 El Paso school children were

assembled to sing "The Star Spangled Banner." When Díaz circled the Plaza the Mexican National Anthem would be sung. The children enthusiastically waved U.S. and Mexican flags. The presidents were to have their first meeting at the El Paso Chamber of Commerce Building. Díaz was to return to the Mexican Customs House where he would receive President Taft for a second round of talks. Taft would return to the United States where he would view the grandest parade in El Paso history. After a short rest at the Sheldon Hotel, President Taft would then return to the Juárez Customs House for an elaborate formal state dinner hosted by President Díaz. Taft would leave on his personal train for San Antonio at 8:00 p.m. after spending approximately eleven exhausting hours in the Sun City.

Security was a major concern as three United States presidents had been assassinated in the previous forty-four years. Anarchists had been involved in assassinations of heads of state on a worldwide basis, including McKinley's assassination in 1901. President Díaz was not without his enemies and traditionally

traveled with an extensive security force on his limited travels within Mexico. Crossing the disputed Chamizal (El Segundo barrio in South El Paso) territory posed unique security problems. Taft's visit would be in stark contrast to El Paso's last presidential visit in 1901. Less than one hundred U.S. and Mexican soldiers had been involved and McKinley had walked to Sunday church services without even one security guard to accompany him.

The Secret Service, whose duty it was to protect the president, had agents in El Paso a full two weeks prior to the event, and the head of the secret Service, John Wilkie, spent almost a full week coordinating security. The presidential parade route was published in advance but only security personnel were allowed on the roofs. Streets were roped off. Special police and soldiers were stationed in every building along the parade route. No one was permitted to enter any building carrying an umbrella, cane, handbag, or camera. No photos were allowed to be taken from the second story or above, except by authorized professional photographers. Kodak photography was prohibited from the streets and grandstands. Anyone remotely suspicious was jailed until after the presidents left and border security was heightened. Thousands of soldiers, police, and specially deputized police were stationed everywhere



Union Depot as decorated for Taft's arrival.

the presidents would be or travel by. Just before Taft's arrival, a plot to dismantle railroad tracks in Arizona was discovered.

President Taft's special train with his private car, "The Mayflower," arrived at the Union Depot at 9:00 a.m. and then slowly proceeded to Oregon Street across from the St. Regis Hotel. President Taft and his official party exited the train and were greeted by Mayor Sweeney and a specially selected delegation of El Pasoans. The entire El Paso committee for the visit formed a receiving line to the St. Regis Hotel. Mayor Sweeney gave the official greeting speech and then the entire party entered the elaborately decorated dining room for the specially prepared breakfast. The dining room had been closed to the public for a week while it was being transformed into an unbelievable fairyland. Dark curtains in the dining room necessitated small white electrical lights concealed within the numerous and artistic floral arrangements. Red, white, blue, and green flowers covered pillars, walls and tables. The total decorating cost ran at least \$2,000. Only 150 guests were invited, 100 of them from El Paso, and they paid \$75 apiece for a most sumptuous breakfast. Served in seven courses, fruits, soups, soufflés, martini cocktails, and desserts were prepared by one of the most noted U.S. chefs, Albert Weidemeir.

El Paso spared no expense and brought in the waiters from Los Angeles. Souvenir breakfast menus were printed. Every man



Taft's personal car, "The Mayflower" blocked Oregon Street.
Picture courtesy of the Otis Aultman Collection, Border Heritage Dept.,
El Paso Public Library.



Festivities were held at the St. Regis Hotel.

of substance in El Paso was present for the male-only event. The official souvenir gift from the breakfast was an engraved silver matchbox. President Taft sat between Texas Governor Campbell and Mayor Sweeney. They talked amiably during breakfast but it was reported that President Taft ate lightly. On his way from Albuquerque he had a small breakfast before his arrival. (Two steaks and six eggs!) Taft rose after eating and said merely, "Good Morning, Gentlemen." The guests stood and applauded as Taft walked down the hallway lined with soldiers to his waiting automobile.

President Taft, with a large military escort, drove slowly around San Jacinto Plaza where 4,000 school children were assembled and organized by school and grade. They marched down from Sunset School dressed in their finest clothes. The girls wore white frocks. Every school was in full attendance, including the Mexican-American and African-American schools. The children waved U.S. and Mexican flags and sang "America" and the "Star Spangled Banner" for President Taft. A beaming President Taft doffed his hat and smiled broadly acknowledging the children's efforts.

School children greeting U.S. presidents is one of the most common scenes during any presidential visit. El Paso's school children celebration maintains a unique and tragic place in history.



A welcoming committee waited for Taft's arrival. Picture courtesy of the Otis Aultman Collection, Border Heritage Dept., El Paso Public Library.

Just as President Taft was exciting his train two teenage boys began arguing and fighting. Neil Morgan drew out a pocket knife and Lawrence Wimber grabbed for it. As a result, the knife plunged into Wimber's groin, severing an artery. Within minutes Wimber bled to death. The crowd was so packed around the Plaza that no ambulance could get near and the removal of his body in the presence of the presidents was unthinkable. Wimber's body was laid on a park bench and covered with an American flag. The shocked children were faced away from the body and sang their songs as rehearsed.

It did not take El Paso Counth Attorney Tom Lea long to get fourteen-year-old Morgan charged and indicted for murder. On October 19, the El Paso Grand Jury indicted Morgan for murder with malice, a capital offense. At his bond hearing Morgan was bonded out of jail to his father. Court records indicate his trial was passed or continued on several occasions before disappearing from court records. Apparently, Texas law at that time did not permit the criminal prosecution of a fourteen-year-old for murder. One can still visit Wimber's gravesite in Concordia Cemetery.

President Díaz left the Juárez Customs House at 11:00 a.m. and proceeded in a carriage fit for a king, accompanied by a large contingent of Mexican infantry and cavalry soldiers. As Díaz crossed the Santa Fe Street Bridge a 21-gun salute was fired in his

honor. Traveling in his carriage was Governor Creel of Chihuahua and Gonzalez Casio, his Minister of War.

The area between the bridge and Seventh Street created a thorny international problem. This area known as the Chamizal was occupied by the United States but Mexico disputed this ownership of the land. The Rio Grande, the international boundary, had changed course between 1848 and 1900 due to flooding and erosion. Who truly owned the approximately 600 acres then within the city limits of El Paso that had become more populated each year depended on how the 1884 United States/Mexico Boundary Treaty was interpreted.

A beautiful arch was erected at Seventh Street and a compromise was reached. The Chamizal ground was treated as neutral territory while the presidents passed through it. Both United States and Mexican troops were stationed from Seventh Street to the bridge. When President Díaz exited his carriage at Seventh Street, he was transferred to a United States carriage and then escorted solely by United States troops. President Taft did not exit his carriage until crossing the bridge where a Mexican carriage and Mexican troops escorted him to the customs House.

When President Díaz exited his carriage at Seventh Street, he was greeted by Secretary of War J. M. Dickinson, Texas Governor



Taft, leaving his car for the meeting. Everyone was told to wear formal morning dress to the breakfast. Picture courtesy of the Otis Aultman Collection, Border Heritage Dept., El Paso Public Library.

Campbell, and Mayor Joseph Sweeney. President Díaz traveled by carriage to the El Paso Chamber of Commerce located at 310 San Francisco Street. Security at the Chamber was very tight and only sixty people were allowed inside while the presidents met. At 11:16 a.m. President Díaz and his party arrived at the Chamber Hall. The two presidents exchanged greetings. President Taft also met Mexican Secretary of War Casio and noted that he had also been Secretary of War prior to being president.

President Taft, President Díaz, and Governor Creel, acting as the official interpreter, met privately for about fifteen minutes. No written record exists regarding their private conversation. What was actually said is left to speculation. President Taft did, however, in a letter to his wife on October 17 write, "The meeting with Díaz is to be a historical one... I am glad to aid him... we have two billion of American capital in Mexico that will be greatly endangered if Díaz were to die and his government go to pieces. I can only hope and pray that his demise does not come until I am out of office." Unfortunately for Taft, Díaz's political demise occurred in May 1911 while Taft was still in office. Taft passed the thorny political problems to his successor, Woodrow Wilson. Wilson's handling of the complex revolutionary events that occurred in Mexico was less than stellar.



Taft is shown arriving at the door of the St. Regis and being greeted by El Paso's official party. Picture courtesy of the Otis Aultman Collection, Border Heritage Dept., El Paso Public Library.



The St. Regis Hotel lobby.

It is possible that the Chamizal was discussed, as it was a point of contention and honor to Mexico. If the United States returned this small piece of land to Mexico, it could be of significant importance to show that Díaz could effectively deal with the United States. This low-valued slum area was nothing compared to the vast and valuable land holdings that American businesses owned in Mexico. If returning the Chamizal would help maintain Díaz in power in Mexico, it would be a small price to pay for maintaining the vast U.S. corporate holdings in Mexico. President Taft had personally seen the problem and the awkward situation it created during his visit. After years of no action regarding the Chamizal dispute, the United States agreed to binding arbitration by the International Boundary Commission in June of 1910 only eight months after Taft and Díaz met. Less than a year later the hearing began in El Paso. It was, however, too late to save Díaz, who was forced to step down as president and exiled to France just days after the arbitration hearings began. The Chamizal would remain unresolved until the Kennedy/Johnson and Mateos/Ordaz administrations in 1963 and 1964.

Another interesting footnote of the Chamber meeting between Taft and Díaz involved the chair that President Taft sat in. Taft was the heaviest United States President at 332 pounds. He once allegedly got stuck in the White House bathtub. While he was

Governor General of the Philippines, he traveled by horse back up and down mountains for over twenty miles. He telegraphed his experience to a United States official claiming that it as a hard day but he got through it ok. The office telegraphed back, "How's the horse?" Taft, who could laugh at himself, found great humor in the story and often repeated it.

At the chamber, when President Taft and Díaz sat down for their private discussion, Taft's chair cracked under his weight. The story was not reported until many years later. The chair remained in possession of the City of El Paso, but recent serches for it have failed to reveal what happened to the chair.

Thirty minutes after President Taft departed the Chamber Building, President Taft got in his car and proceeded along the same route to the Juárez Customs House. The Customs House had been remodeled inside and out at great expense and acted as

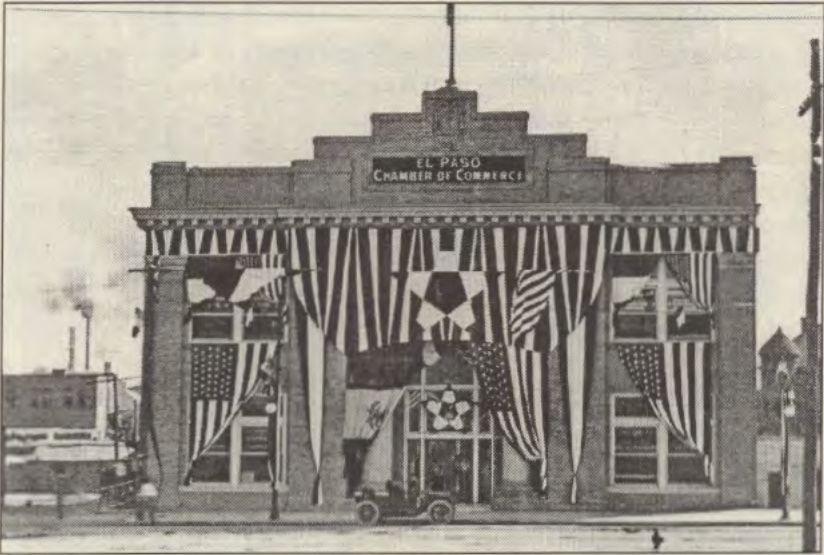
the temporary capitol of Mexico during President Díaz's stay in Juárez. One of the rooms was made to look like a famous salon at the Palace of Versailles in Paris. Over \$100,000 was spent improving the area of the visit. Corinthian columns were built at the bridge and Customs House; streets were repaved; and over 8,000 electrical lights were placed inside and outside the Customs House to give it a brilliant effect. Portraits of Taft and Díaz were commissioned for the event and United States and Mexican



DEJEUNER

Martini Cocktail Frappé	Apollinaris
Batons Soufflés au Parmesan	
Macedoin de Fruits en Surprise	
Bouillon de Clovis à la St. Regis	
Truite de Rivière Saute Meuniere	
Tournedos sur Croustades à la Trianon	
Mousse Glacée à la Mezeicane	
Petits Fours Variés	
Café Spécial	
Cigares: La Internacional. ("Presidents")	Cigarettes

The breakfast menu.



The Chamber of Commerce.

flags decorated the entire city. The most memorable photo of the meeting was taken on the steps of the Juárez Customs House. Official greetings and toasts were again exchanged at the Customs House and a second, brief private meeting was held between the two presidents.

President Taft received a 21-gun salute as he left and re-entered the United States. When he reached the intersection of El Paso and Fifth Streets, the largest and most impressive of the day's six parades began. Newspaper accounts estimated the crowd size as 100,000; but with El Paso's total population amounting to only 38,000, it appears that the press, overzealous at promoting the city, may have inflated the true crowd size. It was by far the largest gathering ever for El Paso up to that date and was certainly very impressive. The parade wound through El Paso, taking over one hour and thirty minutes to reach Cleveland Square where President Taft gave his public address. The parade began at 1:30 p.m. with Dr. H.E. Stevenson in full-dress uniform leading it. In the presidential auto that followed were President Taft, Governor Campbell, Mayor Sweeney and Captain Butt. General Albert L. Myer, Commander of the Department of Texas, and his staff followed the President with the 9th and 19th United States Infantry Regiments, the 9th Regimental Band, artillery, and the 3rd Cavalry Regiment and its band. Almost 2,000 United States soldiers were involved. Texas National Guard troops, one hundred

cadets from the El Paso Military Institute, Juárez military and civic organizations, and El Paso civic organizations also marched in the parade. The largest ovation was for the one hundred and fifty Civil War veterans from both the Union and Confederacy. Every home and business along the parade route was decorated beautifully at local expense. The papers estimated that almost 10,000 people were in the parade. The weather was beautiful: the sky was clear, the temperature was in the 70s, and a light wind blew.

President Taft spoke briefly to the large crowd that assembled at Cleveland Square. A canopy was placed over the reviewing stand on Oregon Street. Taft joked with the crowd at times but also was very gracious in his compliments to El Paso, Texas and the Southwest. He pointed out the historic importance of his meeting with President Díaz. While he noted United States ambitions and progress, he did pause to point out that America is a true blending of many people. He said, "We are not Germans, nor

The Official El Paso Committee for Plans and Execution of the Taft-Díaz Visit

Many El Pasoans worked to make the president's visit successful.
Committee chairmen are listed.

**MAYOR JOSEPH U.
SWEENEY**

Ex-Officio Chairman

JOHN M. WYATT
Committee on General
Arrangements

J. A. HAPPER
Executive Committee

A. COURCHESNE
Committee on Public Comfort

J. D. PONDER
Press Committee

W. W. TURNEY
Committee Reception
Senators and Congressmen

W. S. CLAYTON
Committee Reception
City Officials

G. F. HAWKS
Railroad and Transportation
Committee

FRED J. FELDMAN
Committee on Decorations

JOHN L. DYER
Committee Reception
State Officials

CAPT. T. J. BEALL
Committee Reception
Governors

P. F. EDWARDS
Committee Reception
Ambassadors

Z. T. WHITE
Committee on Public Safety

RICHARD CAPLES
Committee on Finance
and Auditing

DR. H. E. STEVENSON
Military and Parade Committee

FELIX MARTINEZ
Invitation Committee



The Chamber of Commerce Meeting Room.

French, nor Irish, nor English, nor Spanish, nor Italian; we are an amalgamated type created by all their mixtures that has made us capable of taking every advantage of and recognizing what the great good God has given us." In particular, he made reference to the Spanish people he had seen so frequently on that day. He said, "I might stop here to pay tribute to the descendants of Spain, for I have met them in all parts of the world." Taft had been Governor General of the Philippines, a former possession of Spain. "And, I must state that the Anglo Saxons are a little bit inclined to think they are the whole show and have little to learn from anyone else. But when you travel over the world, you see the courtesies of personality and you come across a nation not quite so vociferous as we, but can teach us a few of the details."

After a long and tiring day, President Taft was driven to the Sheldon Hotel where a suite of rooms was reserved for him and his official party to rest. He ate a light lunch under heavy security in his suite. The Ohio Society with over 100 members in El Paso had a huge sombrero made for their Ohio brother. William H. Burges and the Trost brothers, along with the other members, presented the hat that was two feet high, two-and-a-half feet in diameter, weighed twelve pounds, was decorated in gold and silver and made especially for President Taft at a cost of \$200. The hat was displayed for several days before Taft's visit in the Welch Company



Díaz arriving for the meeting at the Chamber.

Store on Stanton Street, and several El Pasoans had been allowed to try it on.

President Taft was a proud graduate of Yale University where, after his presidency, he served as a law professor before being appointed to the United States Supreme Court in 1921. His Eli brothers had been given two minutes to visit with the president by the Secret Service. Instead, Taft spent over thirty minutes talking with the Yale Alumni of the Southwest and was made an honorary member of their society.

At 6:00 p.m., President Taft left the Sheldon Hotel for the most magnificent event of the day. President Díaz hosted a formal state dinner at the Customs House that evening. Twenty thousand dollars had been spent preparing the banquet hall. Thousands of cut flowers, shipped from Mexico and California, added an aroma that defied description. The dome in the center of the Banquet Hall had the Mexican National emblem painted and surrounded by gold ornaments. Iconic columns supported the ceilings and were covered with laurel. Chef Daumont, the official chef of Mexico who had also worked previously for the King of Spain, oversaw the preparation of the massive feast. He took over a month to prepare for the dinner and with thirty-seven assistants, spent three days completing the meal. To add even more elegance, President Díaz had the banquet service that had been brought to Mexico by Maximilian from the Hapsburg collection brought from Mexico City. It was valued at over \$1,000,000. Also used were a solid gold coffee and tea service valued at \$100,000 and unique cut glass pieces valued at

\$200,000. These fabulous banquet items were brought by special train in twenty-four huge boxes under special guard for this single event. A massive table seating fifty was set in the center of the banquet hall where President Díaz and Taft sat, flanked by their cabinet officers, governors, mayors, military and other important civic leaders. The multi-course meal was served on heavy silver plates to the 160 guests. Special toasts were made by Taft and Díaz. The finest wines, champagnes, and liquors were served. A special box of high quality cigarettes was available at each place setting. The Mexican Orchestra, under Alexander Edgerton, along with a string orchestra dressed in charro costumes played songs of Mexico. Felix Martinez presented El Paso's official gift to the two presidents, a pair of gold-lined cups. The coat of arms of the United States and Mexico were engraved on the cups along with the words: "Token of esteem and appreciation of the Citizens of El Paso, Texas," in commemorating the meeting between Porfirio Díaz, President of United States of Mexico, and William Howard Taft, President of the United States of America, October 16, 1909, El Paso, Texas." At the end of the long evening, the presidents warmly shook hands several times, and Díaz in English said, "Good-bye, my friend" and Taft responded "Hasta la Vista." President Taft left in his carriage to his special train, thanked the large El Paso crowd, smiled, waved and entered the train. At 8:00 p.m.



Taft heading to the meeting at the Chamber.



The chair that Taft broke.

his train departed for San Antonio.

The two major participants, Presidents Díaz and Taft, came to similar yet different endings. President Díaz ran again for president in 1910 and fraudulently defeated Francisco Madero. Revolutionary forces in Mexico galvanized behind Madero, and in May 1911 Díaz's long reign as president was ended, and he was forced into exile to Paris, France where he died in disgrace in 1915. He is only one of two Mexican Presidents whose bodies remain buried on foreign soil. The other, Victoriano

Huerta, is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in El Paso.

President Taft had always claimed he was no politician. The presidential campaign of 1912 proved him correct. In 1908, Taft was Theodore Roosevelt's hand-picked successor. He was nominated and easily defeated Democrat, William Jennings Bryan, who



Taft attended the noon meeting in Juárez. In his carriage are El Paso Mayor Joseph Sweeney, General Archibald Butt (Taft's aide), and Texas Governor Tom Campbell. This photograph is by A. C. Swearingen of the Scott Photo Co. Picture courtesy of the Otis Aultman Collection, Border Heritage Dept., El Paso Public Library.



Taft rode in an automobile for the El Paso parade in his honor.

made his third and final campaign for the presidency. After Taft's inauguration in March, Theodore Roosevelt left the country for an extended big game hunt in Africa. In fact, on the day Taft and Díaz met the newspaper reported that Roosevelt had a narrow escape with a rampaging elephant. The papers also covered, during the summer and fall of 1909, Taft's growing rift between Roosevelt's leading conservationist Gifford Pinchot and Taft's Secretary of the Interior Ballinger. Pinchot's dismissal was the spark that set off the eventual bloody battle between Taft and Roosevelt for the Republican nomination in 1912. While Taft was ultimately nominated by the Republican Convention, it was Theodore Roosevelt who won all but one of the state primaries. Roosevelt and his progressives believed that the nomination had been stolen from them and bolted the party. Roosevelt ran as an independent candidate on the Progressive or Bull Moose ticket. Splitting the Republican vote ensured Democrat Woodrow Wilson the victory. For the only time in a United States presidential election, Roosevelt's independent party defeated a major party in both the popular and electoral vote. In fact, Taft won only two states, Utah and Vermont, with a mere eight electoral votes, the worst ever by an incumbent president. El Paso voted overwhelmingly for Democrat Wilson with Roosevelt second and Taft a distant third.

After Taft left the presidency in March of 1913, he accepted a position as a professor at Yale Law School. In 1921 his greatest dream was realized when President Harding appointed him as Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, where he served with distinction until his death in 1930. Taft is the only person to serve as President and Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. Taft, while on the Court, had another connection with



Dr. H. E. Stevenson was the Grand Marshal of the parade. He kept a meticulous scrapbook that provides most of the pictures of the parade. It is part of the Pioneer Association collection.

El Paso. Dr. Lawrence Nixon of El Paso challenged being denied the right to vote in the whites-only Democratic Primary in Texas. His case went to the United States Supreme Court in 1927,



The parade wound through downtown. This is a military unit and band.

where Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes wrote a unanimous opinion in favor of Dr. Nixon. Chief Justice Taft joined in the opinion that struck down the all-white Democratic primary in Texas in the case of *Nixon v. Herndon*. Dr. Nixon, by coincidence, arrived in El Paso in 1909 and was certainly aware of or part of the Taft-Díaz celebration. Taft became the first president to be buried at Arlington National Cemetery.

Another colorful figure accompanying President Taft in El Paso in 1909 was his Military Aide, Archie Butt. He had also served as the Military Aide to President Theodore Roosevelt. He was a close friend of both Roosevelt and Taft and was highly distressed over the impending political battle between his two employers and friends. Tragically, he was spared from taking sides since he was returning home from an European trip on the Titanic. He was last seen fighting to place poor women and children on the last lifeboats before the Titanic plunged to the bottom of the icy Atlantic. His body was never recovered.

El Paso, with great pride, helped host the first presidential summit meeting in American history. It was the beginning of United States Presidents' involvement in personal diplomacy. It was a marvelous and spectacular day for El Paso. Anyone that attended any of the events would always remember it as one of the most special days in the life of El Paso. For over eleven hours, national



The Ninth Infantry Band.



The El Paso Military Institute Cadets.

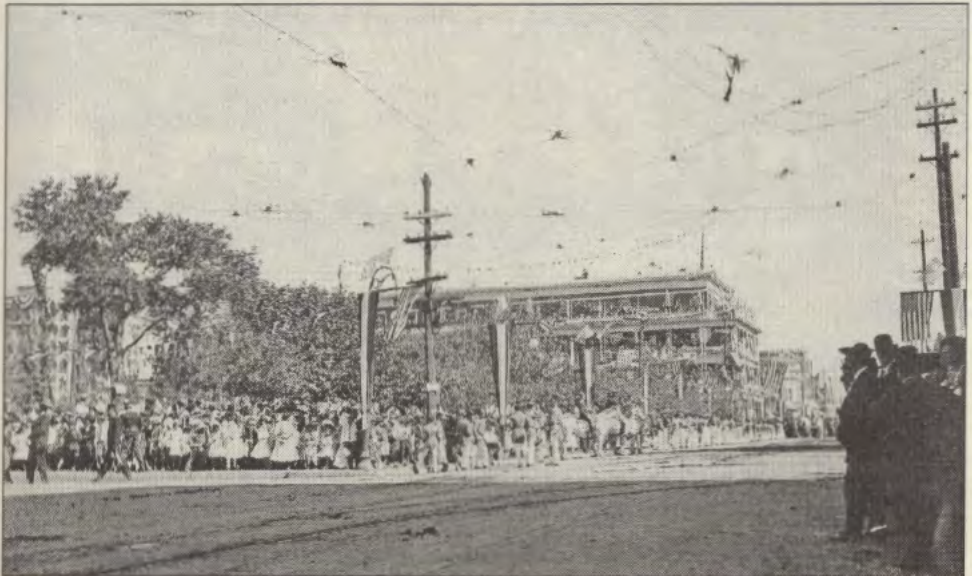


and international attention focused on the Sun City. It was El Paso's first day in the spotlight. The national press acknowledged El Paso's hospitality, friendliness, and warmth. El Paso came across as a sophisticated city, not a wild west cow town. El Pasoans were dressed like new Yorkers, not cowboys. It was an impressive day for the Sun City. El Pasoans showed they could organize and coordinate a complex, international event.

The parade turned north at the Plaza toward the reviewing stand.

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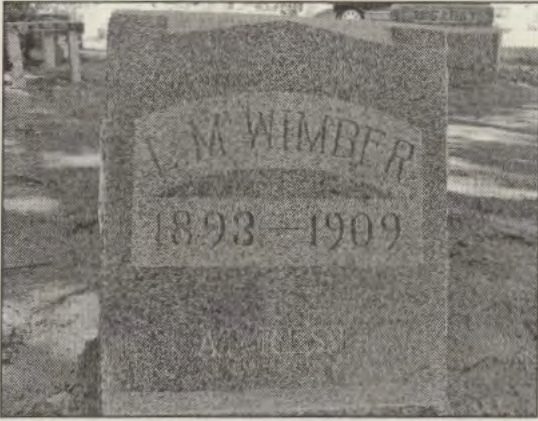
The Plaza was filled.



School children sang for the President.



The reviewing stand. Picture courtesy of the Otis Aultman Collection, Border Heritage Dept., El Paso Public Library.



The Wimber tombstone.



*El Paso was responsible for all its own decorations.
This was the El Paso Southwestern Building.*



The Orndorff Hotel.



The El Paso Herald Building.



*The Federal Building,
also the location of the Post Office.*



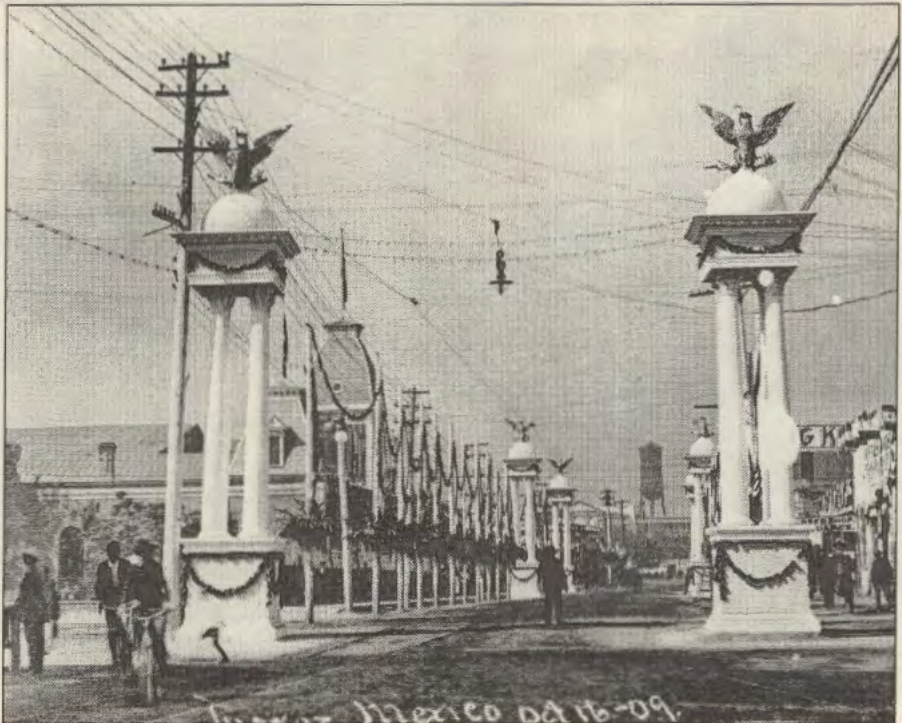
The Sheldon Hotel where Taft rested.



Taft going to Juárez for dinner. Picture courtesy of the Otis Aultman Collection, Border Heritage Dept., El Paso Public Library.



The International Bridge decorated for the visit. Picture courtesy of the Otis Aultman collection, Border Heritage Dept., El Paso Public Library.



The Juárez Customs House.



The entrance to the Customs House. Picture courtesy of the Otis Aultman Collection, Border Heritage Dept., El Paso Public Library.

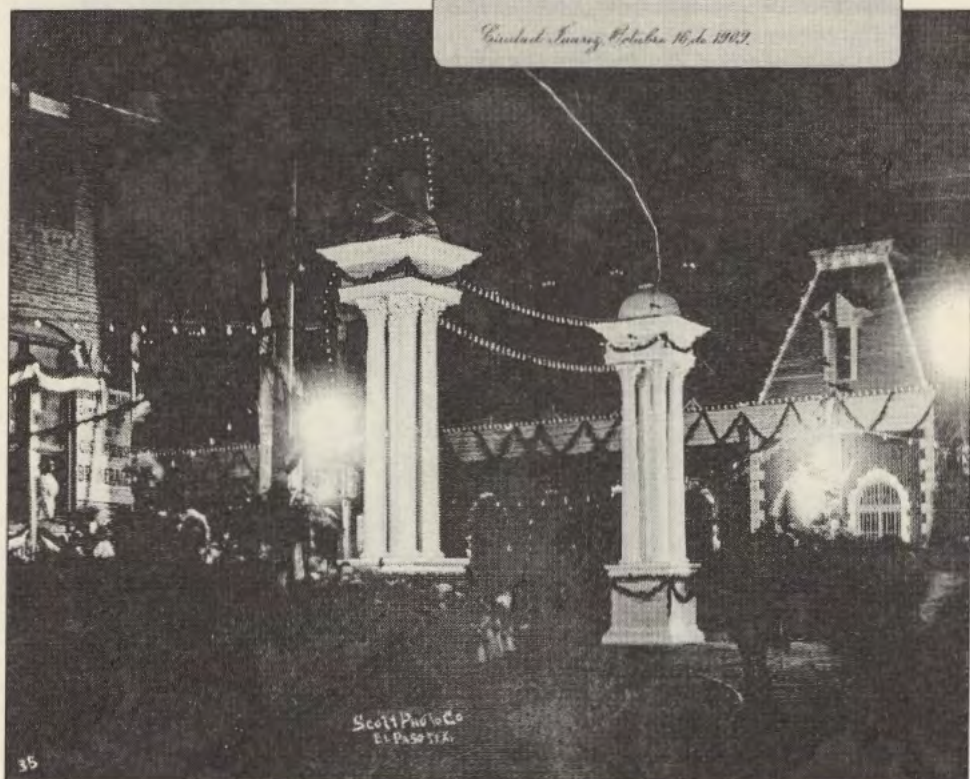


The dining room at the Customs House.

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 Please Note: Pictures not
 otherwise cited are in the
 collections of the El Paso
 County Historical Society.

(at right)
 The dinner menu.

(bottom)
 The Customs House after
 dark. Picture courtesy of
 the Otis Aultman Collection,
 Border Heritage Dept.,
 El Paso Public Library.





El Paso's Bohemian Artist

By Cita F. Schuster and Becky Duval Reese



Dressed in Wamsutta pajamas of powder blue trimmed with white silk, artist Harry Kidd walked the streets of downtown El Paso planning a makeover. He offered to organize a group of local artists to paint buildings within the business district leading from San Jacinto Plaza to

the Juárez Bridge. The colors would be vibrant... 'gleaming whites, cobalt blues, salmon pinks, tropical greens, Spanish yellows, then more scintillating whites.' The only cost to the city would be for paint at 25 cents a gallon. Initially impressed, city aldermen ultimately rejected the proposal after property owners complained it would make the city "too touristy."¹

But who was this eccentric and what was he doing in El Paso?

The question is answered in large part through a 1999 gift received by the El Paso Museum of Art. An archive that includes over 100 letters, travel post cards, press clippings and invitations to exhibitions introduces artist Harry Kidd. This collection of memorabilia had been sent to his longtime friends, sisters Gladys and Winifred Stewart, and later to Gladys and her husband George R. Burns.²

Harry Kidd's story told through his letters evokes both the pleasures and hardships of an artist in the early years of the twentieth century. These letters concentrate on his intermittent El Paso years beginning in 1922 and ending in 1947.

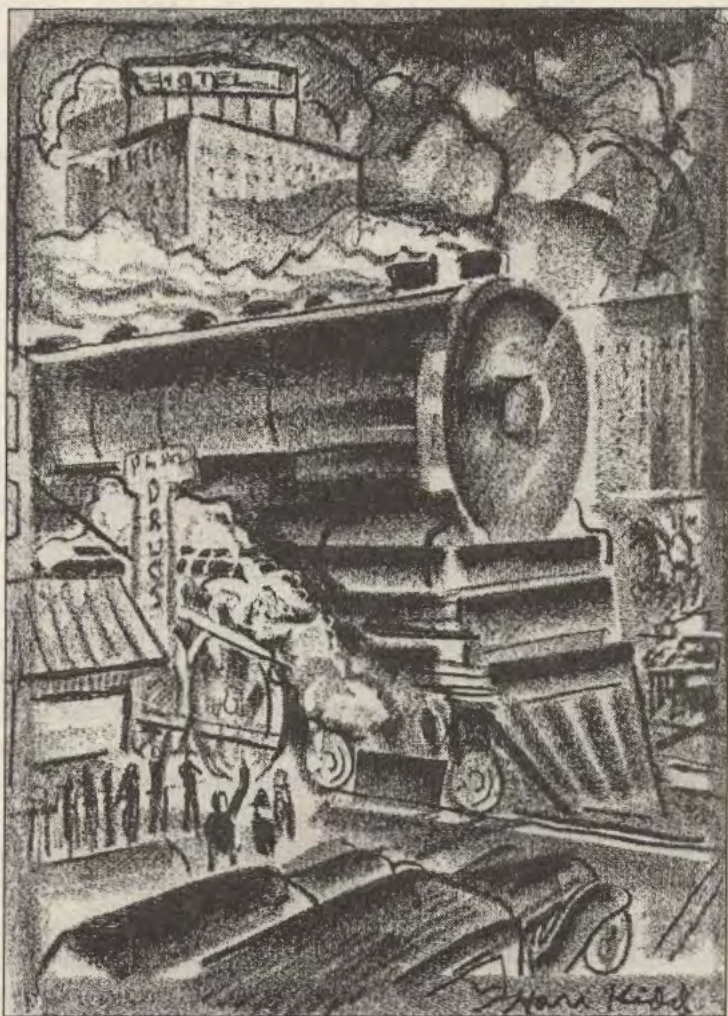
Born in Detroit in 1899, Harry Matthew Kidd attended elementary school in El Paso before moving to Germantown, Pennsylvania, where he completed high school. At the outbreak of World War I Kidd was only fifteen but enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force subsequently serving in England. After the war he returned to the U.S. to study at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia.³



Hart's Mill. From "Artist At Large In El Paso," Hari Kidd. Lloyd and Hilda Burlingham, *The Mexico Magazine*, El Paso, Texas, August 1940.

Six years after the groundbreaking 1913 'Armory Show,' change was in the air. Artists, patrons and the public had been astounded by the "International Exhibition of Modern Art" that for one month was on view at the Armory of the 69th regiment in New York City. This first large exhibition of modern European art profoundly influenced American artists. Seeing works by such artists as Cezanne, Rousseau, Gauguin, Van Gogh, and Marcel Duchamp both challenged and disturbed American artists. Some embraced the new styles of art that they saw while others continued to cling to the traditions they had been taught.

Art historian H. H. Arnason outlines these changes in his introduction to *The History of Modern Art: Painting, Sculpture, Architecture*.⁴ From the Middle Ages to the fifteenth century, artists attempted to create the illusion of reality on a flat panel or canvas. With the achievement of perspective, pictorial 'reality' became a possibility. Over the next four hundred years artists fine-tuned the compositional standards that had become the basis for judging 'good' art. Not until the nineteenth century, especially in France, were these ideas challenged. Artists began to deviate from the orthodox and realized that a work of art could be its own reality.



Locomotive on Oregon St. From "Artist At Large In El Paso," Hari Kidd. Lloyd and Hilda Burlingham, *The Mexico Magazine*, El Paso, Texas, August 1940.

As artists struggled to create new ways of structuring art, they also challenged the long held rules of the academy, in turn eliciting a romanticized view of themselves as rebels or bohemians.

Into this evolving and unsettling climate, Harry Kidd began his study of modernism, which was in stark contrast to the more conservative, academic painters of El Paso. First classes at the Pennsylvania Academy included lectures on constructive anatomy, perspective and life drawing as well as decorative painting, color and composition.⁵ His studies at the well-respected academy, however, were sporadic. An unnamed illness prevented his completing classes and returned him to his mother, Mrs. Sarah Wiley of Prospect Street.⁶ To understand Kidd's work is to understand how the art world was changing in the early years of the twentieth century.

Convalescing at home with his mother in the Sunset Heights neighborhood, Kidd indicated his worry about her finances in a letter to Gladys. "...Things aren't too smooth...my mother's affairs are in pretty bad shape...and I feel I'm a burden who should be doing things...and yet my progress has been so remarkable...."⁷ Clues are found within Kidd's letters, but he never names the mysterious illness that kept him an invalid. In a letter dated June 20, 1922, Kidd said: "...my daily routine has been breakfast in bed at 6:30. Up about 11, lunch, back to bed. Up about 5:30 supper, back to bed at 8...but my mother has her eagle eye on me. I have picked up a lot can walk much better now but still have some of those damned old pains.... My old chest is about normal so is my body but my arms and legs are still pretty thin."⁸

Throughout his life Kidd's health kept him on a roller coaster. He grew ill and recovered only to fall sick again. He wrote: "head spells have about all gone...I can think through them too and don't go into a trance as before... All better except my arms don't swing as well as they might...head cleared up and speech is better...arms swing like attached by rusty rivets...I'm stronger and able to work most of the day...I continue to improve so much that people remark from week to week how new I look. I'm stronger too and that terrible giant...who used to seem to live inside my head is slowly but surely being driven away. Stubborn cuss 'tho'..."⁹

An El Paso neuro-psychiatrist offered several suggestions for Kidd's possible diagnosis that include porfria or a neuro-motor disorder; epilepsy; a mild form of MS; TB; or, perhaps lead poisoning caused by the artist's pigments.¹⁰ Given Kidd's on-going

battle with chronic illness and despite the fact that he was often unable to make art during these episodes, he remained optimistic. From his correspondence we learn that he always believed he could get past his sickness. "Not much news...the doggone old symptoms seem to be clearing up...steadily...I had almost reconciled to them...but now I have hopes of their disappearing..." Kidd said in a letter dated 1934 to Gladys and George Burns.¹¹ His hope for a complete recovery, however, was never to be. Through sheer will, Harry Kidd worked at his art in spite of the symptoms that often left him weak and despondent.

Between bouts of ill health, the artist continued to paint. In a letter to Gladys from 1938, Kidd says: "I'm at last feeling much better and I'm now able to work pretty hard. New painting looks much better than past work. I'm busy as can be with millions of plans and irons in fire."¹² A month later Kidd wrote: "The new painting is getting quite exciting and as my strength gets better I am sure it will improve until it's really good."¹³

The artist was diligent in his work schedule and in seeking exhibitions for his art. Newspaper clippings record several of Kidd's exhibitions during his time in and out of El Paso. The shows include works at the Pennsylvania Academy, the American Airlines Gallery in NYC, the Dallas and Houston art museums and exhibitions in El Paso. Aside from gallery and museum shows, Kidd also painted portraits to support himself that included the following: Mrs. Charles C. Cragin, the Salazar sisters Alicia and Hortensia, the Crosby children, Stanley and Ruby, Laura Lawson and Senator Albert B. Fall's daughter, Mrs. Jouett Fall Elliott.¹⁴ About this portrait Kidd said: "The portrait was painted in order to bring out the tragedy of injustice to the women of the senator's family... it shows the perplexity and deep suffering inflicted by the strange decision in the senator's case, a decision which has been unsatisfactory to hundreds of his admirers, who still feel that the final outcome is not yet reached."¹⁵

An early El Paso sponsor of Kidd's art was publisher and gallery owner Hilda Burlingham. In 1941 she offered space in the offices of *The Mexico Magazine* to show his work. She often invited groups of community leaders to host exhibitions for their friends. Among the women involved were Margaret Schuster Marshall (Meyer) and Vera Wise, chair of the art department at the College of Mines (The University of Texas at El Paso). Thereafter the gallery opened to the public several days a week.



Texas and Mesa Streets. From "Artist At Large In El Paso," Hari Kidd. Lloyd and Hilda Burlingham, *The Mexico Magazine*, El Paso, Texas, August 1940.

Louise Wilmarth of Sunset Heights was another of Kidd's friends. She was a teacher who supported and encouraged artists. She and her daughter, Ann (Mrs. Dwight Edwards), befriended Harry and often invited him for supper. Asked if she remembered Harry Kidd going downtown in his pajamas, Ann replied: "Of course, if they were new."¹⁶ In a letter to Gladys dated June 20, 1922, Kidd remarks on his new style of dress. "I forgot to tell you I have discarded the other extra suit and now glory in BVWs. Great, No?...And I loaf in bed most of the day in my blue pajamas or yellow and read or write..."¹⁷ In August, Kidd tells Gladys that:

"Since my last letter I've been presented with another suit nay two other suits of pajamas...blue and alas! Pink. Brilliant pink... sorry but lawse they were given to me...I'd probably chosen some modest cobalt violet or some such. It's hard to picture myself sallying forth in rose hued pajamas..."¹⁸

From newspaper clippings, it is apparent that Kidd immersed himself in the social life of El Paso. He had friends at all levels of society. Hilda Flores Kern remembers his being enamored of a Berta who lived in Sunset Heights. Kidd presented the young woman with a painting that was discovered hung upside down.



Tortilla Sellers. From "Artist At Large In El Paso," Hari Kidd. Lloyd and Hilda Burlingham, *The Mexico Magazine*, El Paso, Texas, August 1940.

When brought to his attention, Kidd good-naturedly said, "If she likes it that way, it's fine."¹⁹ Portraits of Alicia and Hortensia Salazar were reproduced in the *Herald-Post* and from Harry's letters it is clear that he was infatuated with Alicia. (In 1940, Kidd dedicated *The Mexico Magazine's* 'Artist at Large in El Paso' publication to Alicia.) On another occasion, Harry attended a party for Ruth Rawlings and her fiancé, the General Motors magnate, Stewart Mott. Harry describes himself as the *bon vivant* of the affair, dancing with a socialite to the chagrin of her escort and creating a minor social scandal, news of which Harry had to explain to Gladys in an August 1935 letter: "...Amusing about the heiresses isn't it Glad? Tho how the rumor reached Philadelphia is more than I can guess...It all got started when I appeared at the wedding party dinner/dance. I knew of course that I was invited.... I left my dinner jacket more than 4,000 miles from the local scene. Anyway I appeared in mufti and took the old boy's gal away from him for a tango and that's how I aroused the interest...."²⁰

In addition to enjoying El Paso's social life, the artist found El Paso's climate appealing. In a 1936 letter to Gladys, Kidd said: "Hot here but exciting...mountains right outside my window, air is like something drunk-making, Glad...and when it rains the kids run up and down the streets shouting in their shirrtails. I like it very much...for a while."²¹ But as much as he enjoyed the desert southwest, Kidd missed the artistic stimulation of the Eastern art scene. In a 1934 letter to Gladys and George Burns he said: "I'm feeling better right along...head spells have about all gone...and I'm sure glad...I'd love to back in Philadelphia in the winter and do so if the government again decides it would like me to work for it... otherwise I don't know what the program will be...and when I read of the orchestra and other activities....miss the town a lot."²²

Kidd's life in Philadelphia was enriched by friendships that included Leopold Stokowski the renowned and flamboyant conductor of the city's orchestra. It was Stokowski who persuaded Kidd in 1937 to change the spelling of his name from Harry to Hari.²³ Living with access to New York City galleries and museums, coupled no doubt with stimulating conversations with other artists, Kidd dedicated himself to the investigation of modernism even though his early drawings reflect training in the classical tradition. He experimented with various styles of art that were current in the world outside of the Academy. Like Cezanne, Kidd no longer concerned himself with presenting an illusion of depth in his pic-

tures. He kept his images on the surface of the picture plane, not striving for a realistic image but rather using fragmented figures and objects that incorporated color as an expressive element.

When health and finances permitted, the artist traveled. He often recorded the scenery he observed. In Mexico he wrote articles for the *El Paso Herald-Post* detailing his impressions of the country. Later he produced a print series of thirty-two views of El Paso published by Hilda and Lloyd Burlingham for *The Mexico Magazine*.²⁴

Harry Kidd worked hard. His art was often shown in galleries and museums throughout his life. Shows included the Art Institute of Chicago; Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco; the Texas Centennial Exposition of 1936 in Dallas; and, museums in Texas that included the Witte Memorial Museum, San Antonio; the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston; the Dallas Museum of Fine Arts; and, the El Paso Museum of Art. Kidd's work was collected by individuals such as Frank Lloyd Wright and Leopold Stokowski, and by institutions that included the Allentown (Pennsylvania) Art Museum, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, Palace of the Legion of Honor, San Francisco, and the El Paso Museum of Art.

Unique in El Paso's art history, Harry Kidd adopted the innovative styles of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. His subjects ranged from portraits to genre scenes produced in styles both expressionistic and abstract while working in a conservative climate that customarily rewarded the traditional.

We are indeed fortunate that the Kidd letters were saved. It is through them that we come to know the artist not only through his works, but also through his words. An intelligent, multifaceted man, he was an artist who painted consistently while exploring myriad ways to support himself. He taught art, wrote short stories, illustrated children's books, patented a few inventions and composed songs. Harry Kidd was an artist who refused to pander to what he deemed "the sugary taste of the public."²⁵

We are grateful to the following for their assistance: Lilla Goggin Baker, Ann Pooley Boylan, Holly Cox, Mardee DeWetter, Ginger Francis, Gertrude A. Goodman, Thomas I. Hambright, Regina Schuster Hansel, Dorothy Ann Leach, Hal Marcus, Dr. Jeff Schuster, Leonard Sipiora, Kathy Sparks, Eugenia Schuster Swingle, Chris Villa, Michelle Villa and Katherine Boylan Weikert.

ENDNOTES

1. *El Paso Herald-Post*, "Artist Asks Bright Hues for El Paso," June 25, 1936.
2. John Orr to Hari Kidd, May 26, 1999. Hari Kidd Archive, El Paso Museum of Art, El Paso.
3. John and Deborah Powers, *Texas Painters, Sculptors & Graphic Artists: A Biographical Dictionary of Artists in Texas before 1942*, Woodmont Books, Austin Texas, 276-277.
4. H.H. Arnason, *The History of Modern Art: Painting, Sculpture, Architecture*, Prentice-Hall, Ind. Englewood Cliffs, N.J. and Harry N. Abrams, Inc. New York, 1968, 13-16.
5. Archived transcript provided by the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts, Philadelphia, PA.
6. Kidd's mother is referred to as Mrs. Sarah Wiley in an El Paso Times clipping, May 16, 1934. Subsequently, she is referred to as Mrs. Janet Wiley in an El Paso Herald-Post clipping, October 29, 1935.
7. Hari Kidd to Gladys and George Burns 1934. Hari Kidd Archives, El Paso Museum of Art, El Paso.
8. Ibid.
9. Hari Kidd to Gladys Burns 1934-1939. Hari Kidd Archives, El Paso Museum of Art, El Paso.
10. Information provided by Dr. Boris Kaim to Cita Schuster, 2008. Dr. Stephen Schuster, Sr. believed Kidd suffered from encephalitis according to Eugenia Schuster Swingle to Cita Schuster, August 2009.
11. Ibid.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
14. *El Paso Herald-Post*, "Mr. Harry Kidd Paints Picture of Mrs. Cragin," and "Somebody Told Me," January 7, 1937.
15. Albert B. Fall, one of New Mexico's two first senators, was appointed head of the Department of the Interior by President Warren G. Harding. Indicted in the Teapot Dome scandal he was convicted and imprisoned for a crime committed while in office. Some historians believe he was a scapegoat for the Harding administration. The Fall family had a home on Arizona street.
16. Conversation, Cita Schuster and Ann W. Edwards, 1994.
17. Kidd jokingly refers to his new pajamas not as BVDs but BVWs (Wamsuttas).
18. Ibid.
19. Conversation, Cita Schuster and Hilda F. Kern, 2006.
20. Hari Kidd to Gladys and George Burns, October 14, 1934. Hari Kidd Archives, El Paso Museum of Art, El Paso.
21. Ibid.
22. Ibid.
23. Paintings executed after 1937 are identifiable by the new signature, Hari Kidd.
24. *Artist At Large in El Paso, Hari Kidd*, published by Lloyd and Hilda Burlingham, *The Mexico Magazine*, El Paso, Texas, August 1940 and "Magazine Publishes Hari Kidd Paintings," *El Paso Herald-Post*, July 13, 1942.
25. Twelve Engravings, Carrillo Gonzales, comment by Harry Kidd.

In Memoriam

JOSÉ CISNEROS

1910-2009

Artist

Honored with Knighthood by
the King of Spain and the Pope
Charter Member, El Paso
County Historical Society
Designer of the Historical
Society's Official Logo
Member of the
Hall of Honor, 1974

*José Cisneros. Photo courtesy
of the C. L. Sonnichsen
Special Collections Dept.,
the Library, UTEP.*



HARRY BRUCE

1927-2010

President, Triangle Electric Supply
Civic Leader



DORIS GOETTING

1927-2009

1956 Sun Princess
Member Pan-American Round Table
P.E.O. Sisterhood Chapter D of El Paso
El Paso Symphony Guild
El Paso Del Norte Chapter of the National Society of
the Daughters of the American Revolution



ELLIS O. MAYFIELD

1915-2009

Attorney
Civic Leader
Member of the Hall of Honor, 1997

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