

PASSWORD



THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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ARTICLES APPEARING
IN THIS JOURNAL
ARE ABSTRACTED
AND INDEXED IN
HISTORICAL ABSTRACTS
and
AMERICA: HISTORY
AND LIFE



DR. MIMI REISEL GLADSTEIN
Hall of Honor 2011

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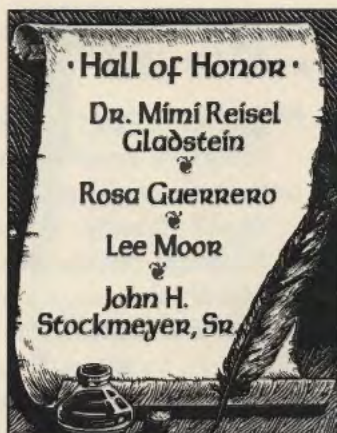
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• Hall of Honor •
2011

Dr. Mimi Reisel Gladstein



r. Gladstein was born Miriam Reisel seventy-five years ago in Leon, Nicaragua. Her sister, Holli Berry, relates that their parents fled Poland just as things were getting very threatening. Their grandparents' business was confiscated and their bank accounts closed. The Reisels

left their family and friends to go to Nicaragua where they didn't even know the language. After two years, the family entered the United States and lived in Las Cruces for six years before moving to El Paso. Dr. Reisel attended Dudley School, graduated from Mesita then El Paso High. She earned her B.A. and M.A. (Theatre Arts) from Texas Western College and her Ph.D. in Contemporary American Literature from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. By the time she finished Texas Western, she was Mimi Reisel Gladstein. She and her husband, Jay, have three children, Cliff, Denise and Alfred.

In supporting Dr. Gladstein's nomination to the Hall of Honor, Diana Natalicio, president of UTEP, states that she can think of no other person whose combined readiness and ability have so effectively pushed Paso del Norte forward. In 1981, Dr. Gladstein helped found and served as the first director of UTEP's Women's Studies Program. Dr. Gladstein held a number of administrative positions at UTEP, such as chairing the English Department twice, directing the Western Cultural Heritage program, serving as Associate Dean of Liberal Arts, and chairing the Department of Theatre, Dance and Film. As executive director of UTEP's Diamond Jubilee, she created a year-long celebration that brought together the city and the university.

Her interests are far flung. The early research she and Lester Standiford did to counter the negative publicity after the 1966 UTEP Miner's NCAA basketball championship created a

foundation for a turn around in media attitude. Dr. Gladstein considers herself fortunate to have been the friend of some of the pioneer Chicano writers and is a member of the Chicano Studies faculty. She and Daniel Chacon co-edited a book, *The Last Supper of Chicano Heroes: Selected Works of José Antonio Burciaga* which was recognized with the American Book Award, A Southwest Book Award and a Latino Book Award.

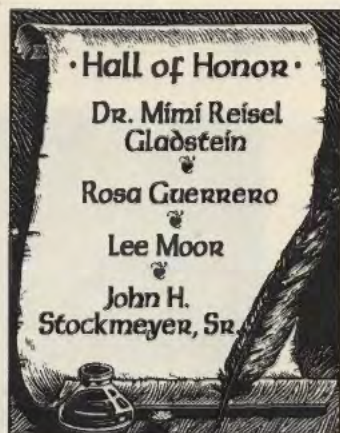
In an attempt to provide students with an example of a successful female character in literature, she began assigning Ayn Rand's *Atlas Shrugged* for her class. This led her to write one of the earliest academic articles about Rand as a literary figure. She later wrote or edited several other works about the author including *The Ayn Rand Companion* and *Feminist Interpretations of Ayn Rand*. In 1986 Dr. Gladstein published *The Indestructible Woman in Faulkner, Hemingway, and Steinbeck*. Her work related to Steinbeck has won multiple awards. She received the John J. and Angaeline Pruis Award for Steinbeck Teacher of the Decade (1978-1987), and in 1996 she received the Burkhardt Award for Outstanding Contributions to Steinbeck Studies. Dr. Gladstein has served as president of both the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association and the South Central Society for Eighteenth Century Studies.

She is recognized as a key figure in the struggle for Women's Rights in El Paso. Dr. Gladstein fought to improve the climate for women students and faculty. In addition to her battle for women's rights on campus, she led a movement in her synagogue which resulted in women being given Torah honors as men were. In 2011 she was elected to the El Paso Women's Hall of fame.



• Hall of Honor •
2011

Rosa Guerrero



Rosa Guerrero has earned many honors throughout her lifetime. One of her proudest moments was in 1993 when she became the first living educator, first artist and first Hispanic woman in the history of El Paso to have a school named in her honor. Texas Governor Ann

Richards was present for the dedication of the Rosa Guerrero Elementary School.

Rosa Ramirez Guerrero was born in El Paso on November 14, 1934 to Josefina and Pedro Ramirez. She and her two sisters and four brothers grew up in the historic Sunset Heights neighborhood. She decided in the third grade that she wanted to be a teacher because the teachers she had were not kind and did not understand her cultural background. She accomplished that dream by graduating from The University of Texas at El Paso with a master's degree in bilingual education and then teaching for 20 years. Her teaching career began at Austin High School.

Along the way, her efforts promoted cultural awareness and resulted in her developing the first intercultural programs within the El Paso Public schools. Dance is the medium that Mrs. Guerrero uses to bring people together. Known as the "grand lady" of Mexican folklorico dance in El Paso and Juárez, she organized in 1975 the International Folklorico Dance Group with the mission of promoting awareness by providing opportunities in education, entertainment and artistic expression through dance. Her dance group performed for President Reagan in Washington, D.C. in 1983 as well as a performance at the Kennedy Center in 1991. Her film "Tapestry" which focuses on creating cultural harmony and understanding won a national award for documentary filmmaking.

Her list of honors are numerous and includes being inducted into the Texas Women's Hall of Fame in 1994, Outstanding Woman



ROSA GUERRERO
Hall of Honor 2011

in the Arts, Outstanding Hispanic of El Paso and UTEP Distinguished Alumnus. Southwest Senior named her the Best Older El Pasoan Who's Made a Difference. She's also received the Valley Forge Freedom Foundation Award, the LULAC Arts and Humanities Award, the NEA Human Civil Rights George T. Sanchez Award, and the Mexican Consulate OHTLI Award for her work with Mexican-Americans and other minorities.

She has volunteered her time at Nazareth Hall, Le Fe Preparatory School and the Las Palmas Children's unit. Mrs. Guerrero has become the spokeswoman for Las Palmas Medical Center and her face is on billboards across the city as well as on television. The increased exposure and recognition led her to "feel like a movie star."

She is married to Sergio Guerrero, former Coronado High School basketball coach and teacher. They have three children: Sergio, Ana and Roland and are grandparents to five.

Rosa Guerrero continues to inspire her friends and her community with her message of hope. She reminds us all to value ourselves.

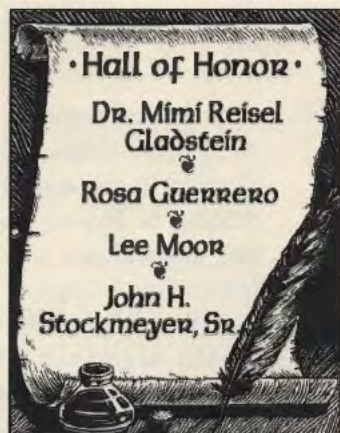




LEE MOOR
Hall of Honor 2011

• Hall of Honor •
2011

Lee Moor



ike many before him, Lee Moor came to El Paso for the high, dry climate, having newly recovered from tuberculosis and for opportunities to make a better living. Born in 1870 and raised in East Texas, Moor supported his abandoned mother in his youth by hauling lumber

and later becoming a water boy for the Cotton Belt Railroad. His hard work enabled him to rise through the ranks with the railroad, eventually serving in its management. Curious about his father, Moor traveled 700 miles on horseback at the age of seventeen to visit his father's cattle ranching operation near Orogrande, New Mexico, where he stayed and worked for less than a year. Returning to East Texas, Moor assumed his position as stationmaster in Hillsboro and met young Beulah Johnson, a schoolteacher, in 1898. That same year, Moor contracted tuberculosis and recuperated in Cloudcroft and High Rolls, New Mexico, breathing the drier air and regaining his strength while working for an area farmer. All the while, he courted Beulah Johnson through the mail, and she gave in and married Moor in El Paso in April 1900.

Beulah and Lee Moor began their married life ranching in Orogrande but moved to El Paso in 1903 with a substantial profit from the sale of their livestock. Beulah set up a boarding house in their Sunset Heights home while Moor started a contracting business, using mules and scrapers, the only equipment available at that time. From leveling, grading, and building streets and houses in El Paso neighborhoods, to building railroads in Mexico, to carving out a highway through the mountains from Los Angeles to Bakersfield, the Lee Moor Contracting Company became successful and prospered through the 1950s. Moor also acquired farmland in the Lower Valley, eventually owning more than 3,600 cotton-producing acres. He provided housing and a commis-

sary for his workers and encouraged competition among them to yield more crops. Moor also had ranching interests in Hudspeth County, Texas and Mexico to support over 10,000 head of cattle. Adding to Moor's business empire was in investment in a fledgling natural gas pipeline company, the forerunner of the Southern Union Gas Company.

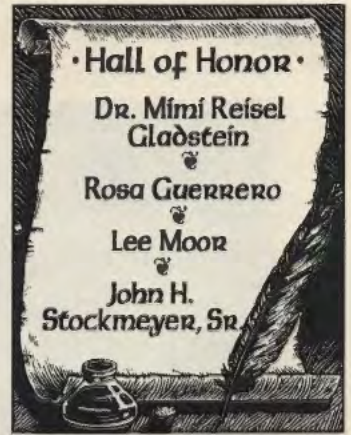
The Moors shared their fortune in a quiet way, giving to worthy organizations that provided important services, such as the non-profit Providence Memorial Hospital. Their most important legacy, however, was the trust that they created in 1949 that led to the establishment of the Lee and Beulah Moor Children's Home. They based their vision of the institution on their mutual experience of parental absence and the need for such an institution in El Paso. After Beulah Moor died in 1951, Lee Moor enlisted his trusted business associates to help plan for the children's home, which opened in December 1959, a year after his death.

The Moors' legacy continues today through the support that their daughter, Betty Lee Moor MacGuire, and her daughters Pamela Gunton and Carol Johnson, provide to El Paso educational and cultural organizations as well as to the Lee and Beulah Moor Children's Home. Lee Moor's example of the benefits of hard work, determination, and fairness has enriched our community for the better.



• Hall of Honor •
2011

John H. Stockmeyer, Sr.



John H. Stockmeyer, Sr. was born February 14, 1901 in Concheno, Chihuahua, Mexico where his father worked as an accountant for a silver mine. A few years later, the family moved to El Paso where they resided in the Sunset Heights neighborhood where John attended school.

John's life long commitment to the El Paso-Juárez communities began as a small business owner. John owned Modern Stationary in downtown El Paso and eventually joined the family business as general manager of the Cruz Blanca brewery in Cd. Juárez. Over the years John became extremely active in both the El Paso and Juárez communities serving as a charter member of the El Paso County Historical Society and El Paso Sheriff's Posse. He was also a member of the El Paso Chamber of Commerce, Advisory Board of Banco Mercantile of Mexico and the founder of the Charro Association of Juárez.

Aside from being known for his excellence in international relations on the border, John (also known as Hansy to his family and friends) was loved and admired by all who knew him, whether it be his employees, waiters or even generals and governors. He was loving and generous to those who were less fortunate and offered his kindness to the poor and the handicapped on both sides of the border. He was recognized by the United States State Department and given the title of Honorary Consul of Mexico at El Paso. He continued his commitment to his community by serving as a member of the Mission '73 at Texas Western College, Director at Large and President of International Relations for the Sun Carnival Association and honorary member of both the El Paso Rotary Club and Pan American Round Table.

Among John's many accomplishments was being honored by the US Commanding General as a goodwill ambassador for his



JOHN HENRY STOCKMEYER, SR.
Hall of Honor 2011

contributions to international relations between Mexico, El Paso and the Fort Bliss Army Air Defense Center.

He was a devoted husband to Consuelo Fernandez Stockmeyer for over 40 years and a dedicated father to Juan Stockmeyer, Jr., Patricia Stockmeyer, Frederika Stockmeyer and Hilda S. Lewels. His legacy continues on in his 11 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

John truly embodied the spirit of international cooperation and friendship between borders and his impact on over 50 years of El Paso's history has helped to make El Paso what it is today.



Hall of Honor Dinner

November 6, 2011 • El Paso Country Club



El Paso High School Color Guard



Dr. Mimi Reisel Gladstein



Rosa Guerrero



Betty MacGuire



Hilda Lewels



Ellie Fenton, Mary Jo Melby



Betty MacGuire, Dorothy Murray



*Juan Stockmeyer, Brady Stockmeyer,
Meredith Stockmeyer, Erin Stockmeyer*



*Alfred Gladstein, Denise Gladstein,
Mimi Gladstein, Jay Gladstein*



Mary Sanders, Betsy Miller



Jaime and Jennifer Lowenberg



*Bryant and Vickie
Douglas*



*Rod and Mary
Davenport*



*Carol and Dr. Steve
Johnson*



Magda Flores, Kelli Rocha, Lillian Crouch, Mary Railey



*Ana Salazar Renteria, Rosa Guerrero,
Sarah John*



Bill Castillo, Dr. Helen Castillo



Mary Railey, Terry Wyatt, Lulu Thorpe



Sam Moore, Casey Stevenson, Mary Quevedo



Mary Jo Melby, Mimi Gladstein



Hollie Berry



*Mary Haynes and
granddaughter, Corbin*



*John and Bonnie
Schwarting*



*Erin Stockmeyer,
Marisa Lewels-Morroco*



These three crosses mark the burial sites for three boys, all from one family, during the years 1948-1949. Two were stillborns. The third lived only a few months.



The Smelter Cemetery: El Paso's Forgotten Graveyard

By Mark Cioc-Ortega and Evelina Ortega



The Smelter Cemetery, located on a bluff overlooking the Rio Grande at the "Pass," is one of El Paso's oldest grave sites. Between 1893 and 1972, it was the principal burial site for the Spanish-speaking community of Smelertown. It shares its nickname—"La Calavera" ("The Skull")—

with a small barrio located in the bone-dry arroyo below.

The cemetery is all but inseparable from the gigantic copper-and-lead smelter that loomed over its gravestones for more than 120 years. Robert Towne built the smelter, with the financial backing of Kansas City Consolidated Smelter and Refining Company, in 1887. Known initially as the El Paso Smelting Works or the Towne Smelter, it acquired the name American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO) in 1901, when it became part of Meyer Guggenheim's burgeoning copper empire. It stayed in operation under the name ASARCO for the remainder of the twentieth century, closing in 1999 when the bottom fell out of the copper market. The plant was dismantled in 2011-2012.¹

A sprawling Hispanic "company town" sprang up alongside the smelter, first on the hillside adjacent to the plant ("El Alto") and then along the Rio Grande valley below ("El Bajo"). For over 80 years, Smelertown—"La Esmelda" in Spanish—was the principal place of residence for ASARCO workers and their families, as well as for those laboring at the nearby International Brick Company and Southwestern Portland Cement plants. In its heyday, Smelertown and its many sub-barrios, including La Calavera and Buena Vista, supported a population of several thousand.

The town was vacated and razed in 1972-1973, after local and national health officials determined that smelter children were being exposed to dangerously high levels of lead.²

The cemetery was situated on the northern edge of the smelter property, just a stone's throw away from the buildings and smokestacks, but the burial ground itself has long been the property of the Catholic Diocese of El Paso. This occurred because Kansas City Consolidated gave burial custodianship to the Catholic Church in 1893 and ASARCO donated additional tracts of land

*The cemetery was situated on the northern edge of the smelter property, just a stone's throw away from the buildings and smokestacks, but the burial ground itself has long been the property of the Catholic Diocese of El Paso. This occurred because Kansas City Consolidated gave burial custodianship to the Catholic Church in 1893 and ASARCO donated additional tracts of land... as the cemetery expanded.*³

(in 1902, 1912, 1917, and 1931) as the cemetery expanded.³ Day-to-day guardianship was in the hands of the Smelertown parish, La Capilla de Santa Rosalía y San José from 1892 to 1946 and San José de Cristo Rey from 1946 to 1973. The first church was known as the Smelter Church, Santa Rosalía Church, St. Joseph's Church, and San José Church. The second was called San José Church or Cristo Rey Church.

The Smelertown parish kept a burial registry from October 1893 to July 1972.⁴ The registry appears to be a seamless record of all official burials that took place under the parish's guardianship, but some cautionary remarks are nonetheless in order. First, the Smelter Cemetery, as the metal archway over the entry gate boldly proclaims, existed from "1882 to 1970." But the burial registry does not begin until 1893, shortly after the first smelter church was built. Second, many of the early Smelertown residents were illiterate or poorly educated, so some of the names, dates, and birthplaces are based on the parish priest's best guesswork. Third, many of the burial entries are difficult to decipher, sometimes because the record books have disintegrated around the edges, more often because of sloppy penmanship. Fourth, not all of the parishioners listed in the registry were buried at Smelter Cemetery: over 350 were buried at Concordia, Evergreen, Canutillo, Mount Carmel,

Fort Bliss, and other nearby cemeteries between 1934 and 1972. Finally, some of the terms used to explain the causes of death—"delirium," "exhaustion," "misfortune," "tremor," "pain," "sudden," "born sickly"—cannot readily be translated into modern medical terms. Equally unfortunate, after 1930 the records rarely include the cause of death.

Despite these limitations, the registry unearths a wealth of information about the cemetery. It records the burial of almost exactly 5,000 persons between October 1893 and July 1972. In 1894, the first full year of church burials, a scant 14 persons were laid to rest. The number of annual burials rose gradually to 55 by 1897 and 99 by 1899. The burial rate continued to rise almost every year thereafter (with occasional dips) until it reached an all-time high of 212 burials in 1916. The years from 1915 to 1919 marked the peak period of cemetery use, with a total of 815 burials taking place during that five-year period. Thereafter, the number of burials began to subside gradually: 95 in 1920, 68 in 1930, 48 in 1940, 22 in 1950, 13 in 1960, and 12 in 1970. The annual burial rates thus form a bell curve. (See *Figure 1*)



There are more bodies buried in the Smelter Cemetery than the 5,000 listed in the parish registry. How many more cannot be ascertained with certainty. It is probably safe to assume that only a small number of burials took place before the Smelertown parish took control in 1893. El Paso's other burial sites—located in the downtown area until the mid-1880s and at Concordia after that—were far more attractive than this hard-to-reach rocky hillside outside the city limits (it is not included in the 1888 El Paso

Smelertown residents were overwhelming of Hispanic ethnicity, over 95 percent in 1920 and nearly 97 percent in 1930, according to the U.S. census.⁵ It therefore comes as no surprise that nearly everyone buried at Smelter Cemetery bears a Hispanic surname, the most frequent being Gonzalez, Garcia, Rodriguez, Lopez, Flores, and Hernandez.

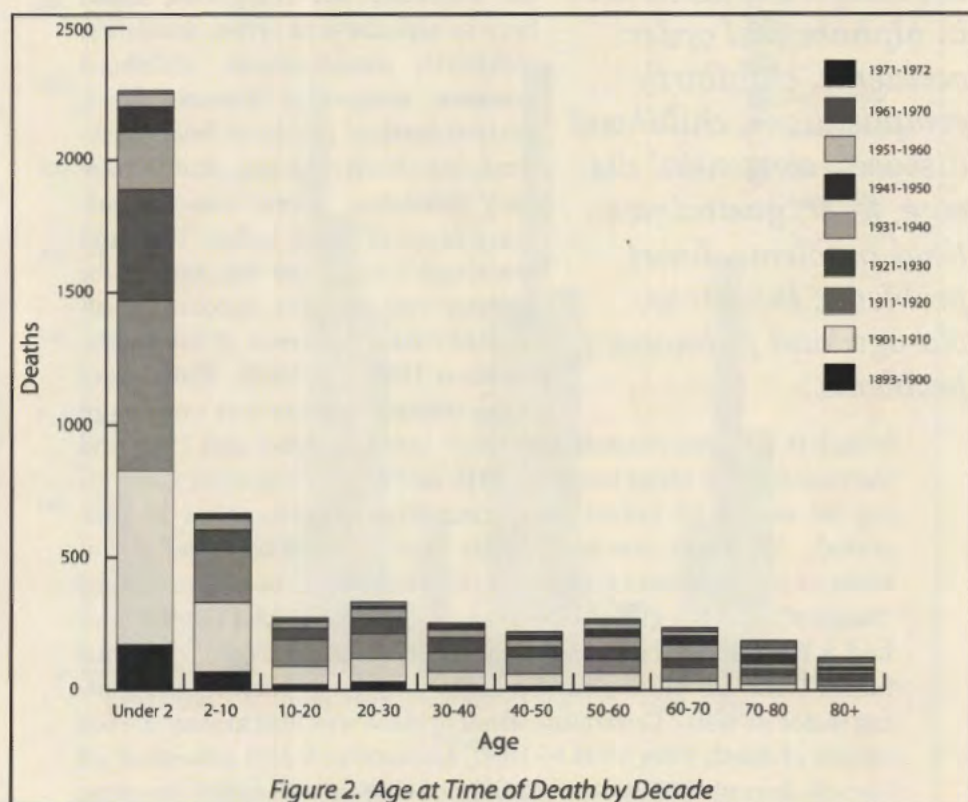
directory, the first to list cemeteries). There were also some burials after 1893 that were not overseen by the Smelertown parish, as there is a small "company cemetery" within the Smelter Cemetery and there are names on headstones that cannot be found in the parish registry. Finally, there have been some burials after the cemetery officially closed in 1972. All that can be safely concluded is that Smelter Cemetery contains more than 5,000 souls and that it most likely contains fewer than 6,000.

Smelertown residents were overwhelmingly of Hispanic ethnicity, over 95 percent in 1920 and nearly 97 percent in 1930, according to the U.S. census.⁵ It therefore comes as no surprise that nearly everyone buried at Smelter Cemetery bears a Hispanic surname, the most frequent being Gonzalez, Garcia, Rodriguez, Lopez, Flores, and Hernandez. Before 1920, a majority of the adults buried at the cemetery appear to have been

born in Mexico (there are too many gaps in the record to be certain), whereas nearly all the deceased children were born in Smelertown. After 1920, the overwhelming majority of all interred, adults and children alike, were "Esmeltianos"—Mexican-Americans born and raised in Smelertown. The most common birthplace for those born in Mexico was Santa Rosalía (now called Camargo), a small village in Chihuahua; in fact, the first ten persons buried under church supervision were all from Santa Rosalía. The prevalence of these villagers—who immigrated to

El Paso with the first whiff of roasting ore under Towne's sponsorship—explains why the parish church was called Santa Rosalía. The second most common birthplace in the early years was Encarnación de Díaz, in Jalisco, Mexico, followed by a scattering of emigrants from towns and villages across Mexico, mostly the northern states. Very few were listed as coming from Ciudad Juárez, El Paso's sister city across the Rio Grande, but this may simply reflect the fact that these bodies were taken back across the river for burial. There was only a small spike in adult male deaths during the years 1911 to 1920, suggesting that the Smelter Cemetery was not a significant burial site for slain soldiers during the Mexican Revolution. Overall, there seem to be about the same number of males and females in the graveyard.

Smelter Cemetery was the final resting place for a heartrendingly high number of babies and children. (See Figure 2) Between 1893 and 1930, infants under the age of two account for 1,889 of the 3,771 burials; this is almost exactly half of all burials during



this 37-year period. When all deaths under the age of ten are included in the tally, the childhood mortality statistics paint an even grimmer picture: 2,493 of 3,771, almost precisely two-thirds of all the graves dug during these 37 years. Childhood death rates began to drop in the 1930s, no doubt reflecting better medical knowledge and health care; but even into the 1950s infant deaths (under the age of two) still accounted for nearly one-third of all the funerals, 45 out of 156. Tallied together, children under age ten account for at least 2,928 of the parish's 5,000 recorded burials between 1893 and 1972 (there is some ambiguity because

The registry enumerates over fifty different "causes of death," but most can be subsumed into one of the following ten categories, listed here in alphabetical order: accidents, childbirth complications, childhood diseases, congenital disease, fever, gastrointestinal problems, heart problems, infections, old age, and pulmonary problems.

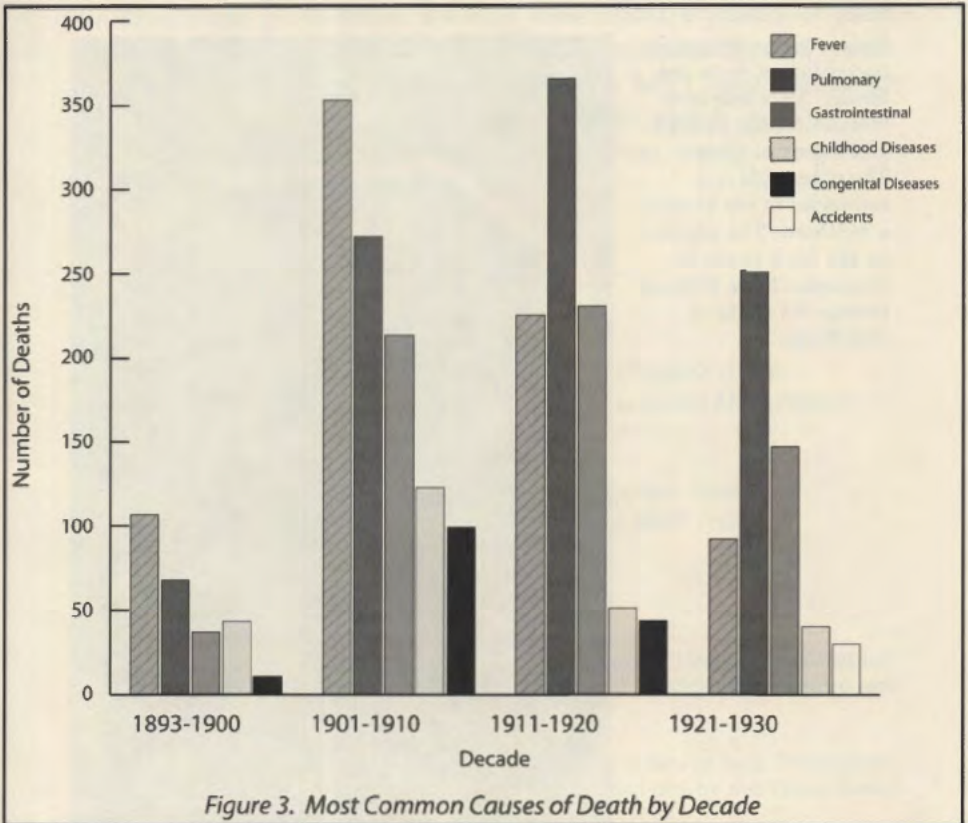
some entries included no age). Put differently, nearly 60 percent of all bodies in the Smelter Cemetery are children under the age of ten!

The registry enumerates over fifty different "causes of death," but most can be subsumed into one of the following ten categories, listed here in alphabetical order: accidents, childbirth complications, childhood diseases, congenital disease, fever, gastrointestinal problems, heart problems, infections, old age, and pulmonary problems. Fever was the primary cause of death before 1910 and remained among the top causes for another two decades, accounting altogether for 21 percent of all deaths between 1893 and 1930. Pulmonary (lung-related) disease was even more

lethal: it was the number two killer between 1893 and 1910 and the number one killer between 1910 and 1930, altogether accounting for nearly 25 percent of parish burials during that 37-year period. No doubt this high death rate reflected both the prevalence of tuberculosis in the area (El Paso was a health resort for "lungers") and the global influenza epidemic of 1918-1919 (El Paso had a large army base and many poor neighborhoods). Noxious fumes from the plant's smokestacks may have been a contributing factor as well. Gastrointestinal disease was also among the top causes of death from 1893 to 1930, accounting for 16 percent of all burials during this period. Childhood diseases (measles, mumps,

smallpox, etc.) were also a significant killer during the same period, accounting for nearly 7 percent of all deaths. However, it should be borne in mind that all of the other top killers—fever, influenza, and gastrointestinal distress—killed children and youth as readily as did measles and mumps. (See *Figure 3*)

Accidents accounted for only around 2 percent of all burials at the Smelter Cemetery between 1893 and 1930, though it is the fifth leading cause of death between 1920 and 1930. Among the most common accidents were car wrecks, drowning in the Rio Grande, house-related fires, train mishaps (usually caused by walking on the tracks), and shootings. The registry notes only a small number of lethal work accidents, despite the obvious hazards of laboring in the smelting, cement, and brick-making plants. Only one of the victims of ASARCO's two best-known industrial accidents—a slag explosion on March 25, 1909 that killed three workers and second explosion on December 29, 1910 that killed



six workers—can be found in the parish registry. This was Florentino Navarro, who was buried on December 31, 1910. The registry lists “Muerto de un barren” (“Died from a drill hole”) as the cause of death, shorthand for the premature detonation of a dynamite stick that was being placed in a drill hole.

It is impossible to assess the principal causes of death after 1930, as the record keepers no longer considered it a priority. However, a few broad observations can be made about this period. The 1940s mark the first decade when more than half of those buried were 21 years or older at the time of their death; and the 1960s marks the first decade when more than half lived beyond 50 years. Similarly, by the 1950s “heart disease,” an ailment commonly associated with longevity, appears to be on the rise. All of this suggests that members of the smelter parish were living longer as the twentieth century progressed. Still, old age appears to be the exception rather than the rule for most of the 80-year period covered by the registry. Only 17 percent of the interred lived

This is a gravestone for two children from one family. This side commemorates the death of a 4 year old boy. The other side is a memorial to his brother, a stillborn. The caption on the back reads in Spanish: “Died Without Seeing the Light of The World.”



beyond 50; 11.4 percent beyond 60; 6.4 percent beyond 70; and 2.6 percent beyond 80.

The parish burial registry tells a clear tale. The Smelter Cemetery is, first and foremost, a children's cemetery, a hillside reminder of the poverty and medical neglect that plagued this border region for so long. Unlike El Paso's other burial grounds, it contains no famous politicians, gunslingers, painted ladies, buffalo soldiers, or revolutionaries, though it no doubt has its own share of unsung heroes and local celebrities. It is a memorial to the stillborn, the infant, the toddler, the small child—to the life un-lived and the dream cut short. Other El Paso cemeteries are easy to reach, and resplendent with mausoleums, statues, and polished markers. Smelter Cemetery, by contrast, can only be reached via a dirt road off San Marcos Drive, itself a back street near the intersection of Executive Center and West Paisano Drive. The burial ground is scrubby and neglected, and it contains more mesquite and yucca than marble and granite. Closed since 1972, its handmade gravestones are now mostly just a jumble of piled rocks, splintered crosses, rusted pipes, ceramic shards, and cracked cement. Many of the grave inscriptions have been erased by sand and time. Only the meticulously kept parish registry has saved these working-class Esmeltianos from being completely effaced from the landscape of memory.

Special thanks is extended to Yvette Delgado of the University of Texas at El Paso Special Collections Department for preparing the graphs.

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NOTES

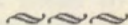
1. Mary Antoine Lee, "A Historical Survey of the American Smelting and Refining Company in El Paso, 1887-1950," unpublished master's thesis (El Paso: Texas Western College, 1950). ASARCO's official website, <http://www.asarco.com/about-us/company-history/>, contains a complete chronology.
2. Monica Perales, *Smelertown: Making and Remembering a Southwest Border Community* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2010), esp. 1-93; and Fred Morales, "Smelertown," photocopied manuscript (El Paso: El Paso/Juárez Historical Museum, 2004), esp. 1-18.
3. "Property Record," Real Estate Sheets 2-8, ASARCO Collection, University of Texas at El Paso Special Collections. See also Committee Pro Smelter Cemetery, "Restoration of a Cemetery," (no date, but circa 1969) and "Deed of Gift" (June 3, 1970), both in the Archives of the Catholic Diocese of El Paso (El Paso, Texas).
4. The Smelertown parish registry is kept in the archives of St. Matthews Catholic Church, 400 W. Sunset Rd., El Paso, TX 79922.
5. Perales, *Smelertown*, 49.



Lecturas

The 2011 Southwest Book Awards

- Rudolfo Anaya. *Randy Lopez Goes Home* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press) 2011.
- J. Edward de Steiguer. *Wild Horses of the West: History and Politics of America's Mustangs* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press) 2011.
- Glen Sample Ely. *Where the West Begins: Debating Texas Identity* (Lubbock: Texas Tech University Press) 2011.
- Susie Kalil. *Alexandre Hogue An American Visionary: Paintings and Works on Paper* (College Station: Texas A&M Press) 2011.
- Molly Molloy and Charles Bowden. *El Sicario: The Autobiography of a Mexican Assassin* (New York: Nation Books) 2011.
- Lydia R. Otero. *La Calle: Spatial Conflicts and Urban Renewal in a Southwest City* (Tucson: University of Arizona Press) 2011.
- Mark Santiago. *The Jar of Severed Hands: The Spanish Deportation of Apache Prisoners of War, 1770-1810* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press) 2011.
- David Taylor. *Working the Line* (Santa Fe: Radius Books) 2011.



Correction

On pages 79 and 80 of issue 55-2,
the Naval ship El Paso should be listed as USS El Paso.



Hall of Honor Nominations

The El Paso County Historical Society accepts nominations from the general public as well as from Society members for the Hall of Honor. One living and one or two deceased persons will be remembered and honored at the Society's annual banquet in November. Nominations may be made for one or both categories. Nominees must be (1) outstanding men or women of character, vision, courage and creative spirit who have lived in what is presently El Paso County, (2) who have consistently done the unusual which deserves to be written or recorded, or who have created that which deserves to be read, heard, or seen, and who have made El Paso County better for their having lived in it; and (3) who have influenced over a period of years the course of history of El Paso County, or by their singular achievements have brought honor and recognition to the El Paso community, and (4) who have directed us toward worthy goals and merit being remembered by all El Pasoans as an exemplary guide to our future.

All nominations must be accompanied by a biographical resume that includes pertinent information about the nominee and the reasons for nominating him or her. Please include the nominee's address and phone number if living, date of death if deceased, date and place of birth, years of residence in El Paso County, profession, and name and address of nearest known relative(s). The person making the nomination must give his or her name and phone number and mail all information to Chairman, Hall of Honor Selection Committee, El Paso County Historical Society, P.O. Box 28, El Paso, Texas 79940 by July 1 of each year.

HALL OF HONOR NOMINATION FORM

LIVING NOMINEE:

Name _____

Address (including zip code) _____

Birthplace _____ Years Residence in El Paso _____ Profession _____

Nearest Relative _____ Address _____

DECEASED NOMINEE:

Name _____

Place and Date of Birth _____ Date and Place of Death _____

Years of Residence in El Paso County _____ Profession _____

Nearest Living Relative or Close Friend _____ Phone No. _____

Address (including zip code) _____

NOMINATOR:

Name _____

Phone No. _____ Date _____

The History of the Pioneer Association of El Paso



The Pioneer Association of El Paso was organized June 3, 1895 at Hart's Mill, with a charter membership of 204 persons. One hundred and sixty had signed the original charter papers but the deadline later was extended.

To distinguish between the real pioneers and late comers, it was decided that the name "pioneer" would apply only to those who had come to El Paso before the advent of the railroad and those who had come later would be called "early settlers."

At the first annual reunion, held in 1895, Joseph Magoffin, the first president, presided. William Freyer, who had come to El Paso in 1853 as a soldier, was named honorary president because he was the earliest arrival present.

A picture, taken at the 1904 reunion shows about 70 persons but around 175 were present.

The second annual reunion was held at Washington Park in 1905 and there were 58 in the picture taken by Otis Aultman [Aultman did not arrive in El Paso until 1907].

From the organization of the group a collection of artifacts, pertaining to early El Paso, was started. Many varied items—an old Mexican *carreta* (cart), a door from the Ysleta Mission, a knife carried by Marshal Dallas Stoudenmire, the stump of the original News Tree in Pioneer Plaza—were included. Through the years many of these items have disappeared. For many years the collection was housed in the basement of the El Paso County Courthouse, then the Centennial Museum, and the basement of the Bassett Tower.

In 1982 the directors voted to donate all artifacts to the El Paso County Historical Society.

One item, the Historical Album and Biographical Record, was retained by the Pioneers. It is kept in the vault of the State National Bank. The library at the University of Texas at El Paso has a microfilm copy. There are 200 biographical sketches in the album. [These items are now in the Pioneer Association collection of the El Paso County Historical Society.]

In 1921 the association attempted to organize a ladies auxiliary. In November of that year members of the proposed ladies auxiliary voted to become an independent organization and became the Pioneer Women of El Paso. Mrs. I. A. Shedd was elected first president.

At the present time officers of the Pioneer Association are: President—Freeman Harris, Vice-President—R. C. Lovelace, Second Vice-President—Fred Bailey, Curator—Bill Latham, Secretary-Treasurer—Harry Mathews. The directors are Pat Rand, Charles Tupper, Sam Abdou, Arthur Schear, Lloyd Borrett, Clyde Anderson, Harvey Meston and Ralph Guilliams.



Pioneers in the Biographical Sketchbook

- Dr. E. Alexander
John Adler
Joseph G. Beach
Thomas J. Bell [Beall]
Robert B. Bias
John Allen Blacker
William W. Bridgers
Julius A. Buckler
William H. Burges
P. Burnham
Robert F. Campbell
F. A. Clinton
James H. Comstock
Alfred Courchesne
L. H. Davis
John M. Dean
John Adam Dieter
Henry A. Donnelly
John F. Dowling
Maurice C. Edwards
Homer Young Ellis
John W. Eubank
William J. Fewel
William W. Fink
Ignatius G. Gaal
James Hewitt
Percival Henderson
Adolf Hoffman
William S. Huggett
Frank Eckley Hunter
Robert Marshal (Joe) Keating
John Mitchell Kelly
C. C. Kiefer
Robert Marshall Kinne
William E. U. Krause [Krowse]
Joseph Magoffin
John A. Merrill
Simon Mike
William W. Mills
William Moeller
Charles R. Morehead
Robert Paul Nash
Simeon Harrison Newman
George Parker
Joseph Leslie Phillips
Noyes Rand
James Redmond
W. Rheinheimer
Lee Roberson
Samuel Schutz
Joseph Schwingle
Frank D. Scotten, Sr.
William E. Sharp
Frank Ball Simmons
H. T. Stacey
Horace B. Stevens
Herbert Elmer Stevenson
John Sullivan
Joseph U. Sweeney
James Eli Terry
Randolph Terry
William Treyer
W. N. Vilas
Nathan G. Weston
James H. White
Zack T. White
George C. Wimberly

An Early Collection of the Pioneer Association of El Paso

Los Angeles, Calif, July 7, 1923



The Henderson Collection, consisting of a large number of specimens of the art of tapestry painting, left to the city of El Paso, or to some society able to care for it and place it on exhibit, has been secured by the Pioneer Association of El Paso, Texas. It will arrive next week and will be placed on exhibition as soon as a suitable place can be secured upon the return of the secretary. The collection consists of twenty-two Navajo and other blankets, seven pieces of painted tapestry, and a large number of musical pieces painted both with notes and illuminated by hand. Besides framed pictures of the same character. It also includes a copy of the Koran in Arabic along with framed and other pictures. This collection was made by the late Percival Henderson in his travels in Mexico and New Mexico, in Italy, Turkey, and other parts of Europe. They were loaned to the city of Los Angeles until such time as either the city of El Paso, or other competent organization, should take charge of them for public exhibit. The Pioneer Association of El Paso is ready to do so now. Hence the exhibit will be placed as early as possible for the benefit and enjoyment of the public at an early date.

Due notice will be given of the time and place of the exhibit. The value of the collection is not less than ten thousand dollars. It's value will continue to increase. To lovers of art this is a boon indeed. We congratulate the people of El Paso upon its acquisition.

— *Adolf Hoffman, Secretary of the
Pioneer Association of El Paso, Texas*

[This material is not at the El Paso County Historical Society.]

Dr. Edward Alexander

Born at Germany, on the 2nd day of May 1832.

Came to El Paso County, Texas, 1874.

Pioneer Association Biographical Book, p. 4

No photograph from the Pioneer book is available.



r. E. Alexander, pioneer military surgeon in charge of the Marine Hospital department at El Paso, was born in Germany near the Switzerland line, May 2, 1832, his parents being Major and Ida (Picard) Alexander. The father was a wine merchant and gave to his son excellent educational privileges. Dr. Alexander pursued his studies in Constance College and in the University of Munich and Vienna, and on the completion of a thorough course in Medicine and surgery was graduated in 1854.

He came to the United States about the time of the commencement of the war between the north and south, He did not know the language of the people at that time, but soon afterward he enlisted in the federal army and was advanced rapidly to the position of Medical officer.

During the period of hostilities he served in Washington, New York, Key West, at Forts Jackson and St. Philip, and also at Baton Rouge and Ship Island. He has remained continuously in the government service and in 1870 was transferred to Texas, being post-surgeon successively at Fort-Griffin, Fort-Stockton, and Fort-Quitman. In 1874 he was located at Fort-Bliss at El Paso, and has remained here in the federal service, with the exception of the period from 1876 to 1888, he having resigned because of his wife's failing health.

In the latter year, when El Paso was made a quarantine station, he again entered the service. His official capacity is that of surgeon in charge of the public health and Marine Hospital at the port of El Paso under the surgeon General of the Marine Hospital at Washington. Dr. Alexander is a member of the City and County Medical Association of El Paso, the American Medical Association, the Public Health Association of the United States, Canada and Mexico, and the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States, who were in the service during the Civil War.

He has for the greater portion of forty-five years been continuously in federal service in connection with its health department and has continuously broadened his knowledge through research and investigation so that he is today a man of marked efficiency and comprehensive learning in the line of his chosen profession,

He is moreover one of the greatly revered pioneers of El Paso and his mind is stored with an interesting fund of information about Western Texas, especially in connection with its Military life.

EL PASO CITY DIRECTORY.

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Grape Grower,

WHOLESALE DEALER IN



AND CUTTINGS.

Ships by express FREE to parties in ten and twenty pound baskets the choicest selection of the Celebrated Mission Grape from his own vineyard.

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Address:

DR. E. ALEXANDER,
EL PASO, TEXAS.

John Atler

Born at Bombast, Bavaria, Germany, on the 23rd day of April 1848. Came to El Paso County, Texas, 1877 or 78.

Pioneer Association Biographical Book, p. 36

No photograph from the Pioneer book is available.



as born at Bombast, Bavaria, Germany April 23, 1848, His father was Jose, and his mother Condina Atler. He worked as a sheep herder until he came to this country, He landed in New York a little before Christmas 1873, stayed there about one year and then went to Denver and overland to California through New Mexico and Arizona.

He first went to San Diego, then to Wilmington, and Los Angeles and thence to Anaheim where he worked for John and Chas. Wagner as a sheep herder for three years. Then he came to Texas. El Paso was practically nothing at that time. This was in 1877 or 1878. He went to Ysleta and bought 50 acres of land through Chas. Kerber, Agent and paid something like \$200 or \$250 for it.

He remained here about one year when he went back to California, alone on horseback and on the Washington Territory at Colfax and Walla Walla.

In 1881 or 1882 he came back and was married to Teresa Chavez. They had three children, Joseph and John who are now living and Secundina who is dead. He was married 6 years, 6 months and 14 days when his wife died. Two years after he mar-



*Pioneer Association of El Paso, First Reunion, 1895, Hart's Mill
Francis Parker Photo*

ried Lupe Flores, a daughter of Francisco Flores, a Spaniard. He has remained here ever since. Since he has been in El Paso, he has been in the Dairy and cattle business, but is now doing little labor, living mostly on the rents from houses which he owns. By his last wife he has two children, Jennie and Fernando.

Joseph G. Beach (Diamond Joe)

Born at Brooklyn, New York. Came to El Paso County, Texas, 1882. Became a Charter Member of the Pioneers' Association.

Died in Providence Hospital, El Paso, on the second day of December, 1904. Pioneer Association Biographical Book, p. 17.



he meager facts obtainable about the life of Pioneer Beach are furnished by Dr. A. L. Justice, of El Paso, who was during the last few years of his life his faithful friend and protector. From him it is learned that Pioneer Beach arrived in El Paso from San Francisco in the year 1882. He opened a restaurant on Oregon street in the rear of the State National Bank, calling it the "Diamond Joe", a name by which he himself was also known. He afterwards worked for W. Howland, of Shalam Colony, Doña Ana, N.M. His brother John S. Beach, is a banker in Terre Haute, Indiana. He was married, but his wife is dead; he has grown children in New York state. He served in the U. S. Army as paymaster's clerk during the war between the states and was a pensioner, receiving \$12 per month. A short time before his death he received from the U. S. government \$390, or therabouts, as back pension. This he deposited in the State National Bank. His bank book at the time of his death showed a deposit there \$360. Frank Carr, of the undertaking firm of Nagley Carr, took out letters of administration on his estate. The facts about this deposit were obtained from Billy Smith, his room-mate, who, when he learned of his death, "went up town to take out letters of administration, but found they had already been granted to Frank Carr." From Smith is also obtained the information that the soubriquet of "Diamond Joe" which was applied to Pioneer Beach originated from a huge diamond which found (or obtained) in Australia and of which he had a pin made, which he used to wear. He had mined in Australia and also in Nevada.

He was sent to Providence Hospital by Dr. Justice on Dec. 1st, 1904, and died there the next day. Dr. Justice saw him a few hours before death and after death. He was buried in Concordia

Cemetery in Grove No. 24, Section No. 3, Tier No. 1. Pioneers did not know of his death until after his burial. He was past 72 years of age at time of his death and had been sick for months with senile bronchitis, having lost his voice and being unable to even make himself understood by speech. He was conscious to the last.

(Written by the Secretary from data furnished by Dr. Justice & Billy Smith.) The writer of the above saw Pioneer Beach in a carriage on his way to the hospital on Dec. 1st and bid (sic) him goodbye, promising to visit him but not expecting so sudden a demise. He never saw him again, but heard of his death after he had been buried two or three days. His first restaurant (Beach's) is said to have been located..... (no further entry).

William Treyer

Born at Franzheim, Germany on the 2nd day of March 1836.

Came to El Paso County, Texas, December 1853.

Died January 22, 1908.

Pioneer Association Biographical Book, pp. 40-41



as born in Franzheim, Bavaria, Germany, March 2nd, 1836. When he was about four or five years of age, he was sent to an Uncle, William Richmond, who lived in Wilmington, Delaware, and who raised him. He attended school in Wilmington off and on until he was about 16 or

17 years of age, when he was apprenticed to a machinist. However he did not stay his full time, but enlisted in the United States army at Philadelphia, Pa., in July, 1853, and was assigned to a Company of the 18th Infantry under command of Capt. Longstreet, and was sent to Key West, Florida, and then to Corpus Christi, Texas, and joined his company at Fort Chadborn, Texas. In about two weeks the whole regiment was ordered out west, six Companies to build Fort Davis and four companies to build Fort Bliss. He remembers Captain Reeves, Capt. Sprague, Capt. Longstreet and Capt. Holliday, as the captains of the companies that came to El Paso to build Fort Bliss. They arrived in El Paso in December 1853. He does not remember the exact date, but knows it was before Christmas of that year. Each company had to build its own quarters and Fort was built to the southwest of Concordia on land of Col. James Magoffin, who ran a settlers store. He was assigned as driver to the paymaster, first to Maj. Price, and then to Maj. Rhett, in which position, he continued to act till he received his discharge at El Paso, or Fort Bliss in May 1858, two months before the expiration of his enlistment, but received his full pay for

those two months. After his discharge he secured employment as stage driver on the Butterfield line which ran from Memphis, Tenn. to San Diego, Cal., and at that time it was a daily line. At first the line ran by way of the Hueco tanks and on to Pecos but that was changed so as to take in the army posts. His route was from El Paso to Fort Initman [Quitman?] and he continued in that position till the breaking out of the war, when the stage line was taken off. There was a Federal army or at least several commands in New Mexico, and they were getting down into this section, so Col. John R. Baylor was sent to meet them, and Gen Sibley's brigade was ordered to take New Mexico and Colorado. He (Treyer) joined the Confederate forces under Col. Baylor, here at El Paso, and the first engagement was at Mesilla, N.M. before Gen. Sibley arrived. There they met a force of 700 men under Col. Lyon, while Col. Baylor had only 250 men, but Baylor drove Lyon back into Fort Filmore. At Ft. Filmore they were skirmishing and getting ready to inves [sic] the place, when Lyon set fire to the Fort and retreated to San Augustine springs, where Baylor attacked him and compelled him to surrender with all his men. After that Gen. Sibley came up with 3500 men and Baylor's command was attached to his brigade and they all went up into New Mexico to meet Gen. Canby. Maj. T. T. Teel was a captain of one of the companies under Sibley. They had a number of actions with the enemy at Val Verde, Albuquerque, Glorietta, etc. Glorietta, was then called Pidgeons Ranch. In the battle at Pidgeons Ranch, Sibley had the better of the engagements but he sent the supply train around the mountain without an escort and a priest seeing it, gave the information to a Col. Crittenden who was in command of Colorado troops, sent to reinforce Gen. Canby, and Crittenden captured the supply train. Being out of supplies, Sibley was forced to retreat. They had another action at Palo Alto, but kept on the retreat clear to El Paso. On that retreat they came to a place where they had to either take Ft. Gregg [Craig?] or go around it, and not being able to take it for lack of supplies and not being able to take their cannon around with them. It was then that they buried their cannon, and burned everything that they could not carry, every man taking just what he could carry along with him.

When Sibley got to El Paso it was reported that the Federal "California Column" was coming, so Sibley retreated to San Antonio, Texas. Treyer's time of enlistment having expired he did not continue with Sibley, but staid [sic] here in El Paso. The whole brigade at that time was badly demoralized. The country was full of cattle at that time, so Sibley's men lived on beef all the way to San Antonio. When the California Column arrived in El Paso,

Mr. Treyer had to take the oath of allegiance and he was afterwards made Military Sheriff under Martial law. Then he went to farming and during the reconstruction period, he was appointed Deputy United States Marshall, but cannot remember the name of his principal, though he remembers that Judge Derisee (sp) was the U.S. Judge.



William Treyer

There were a good many arrests made here in those days and as court met in Austin, Texas, it was a very long trip to get prisoners and witnesses to Court. At one time he had to arrest A. J. Fountain for impersonating a U.S. Internal Revenue Officer. Joseph and Samuel Schutz and Inocente Ochoa were the witnesses against him, but they would not go to Austin on the subpoena so Treyer was compelled to arrest them. During that period a man named Bacon was appointed District Judge in this District by Gen. W. S. Hancock. At one election (he thinks in 1874) he was a candidate for sheriff against Chas. Kerber, but Kerber beat him by about 30 votes. When El Paso was organized as a city, Andrew Hornick and Treyer were elected as the first aldermen from the first ward. This was about 1874. Benj Dowell was the first mayor. Fountain was in the legislature at that time and he got a bill passed incorporating the town. Treyer was in the city council for two terms. Among those who were aldermen in those days were Allen Blacker, Joseph Magoffin, J. W. Tays, John Evans, and John Gillette. Blacker was City Attorney for a long time. No one received any salary. At one time Treyer was Acequia Commissioner and Tax Collector and Alderman all at the same time. At that time all of the taxes for the entire city were not more than \$200 a year. As no one received any salary, all they needed money for, was to buy books and stationery, etc. The City Council met in a big room back of Ben Dowell's saloon, which was about

where the Golden Eagle Clothing Store is now on El Paso Street. Just prior to the El Paso County War, which was late in the seventies, he was offered the command of the Rangers by Judge Howard, but as Howard was for war and Treyer was for peace, he declined to take command after in vain trying to persuade Judge Howard to leave matters alone as they were. At that time he was driving a stage for Louis Cardiz from El Paso to Fort Quitman, and San Elizario was the County seat. When he got to San Elizario, coming from Fort Quitman, Howard and the Rangers were surrounded in a corral and the Mexicans would not let anyone enter the town so he had to drive around. When he reached El Paso, a number of persons began to make arrangements to go and relieve Howard but the rangers had surrendered and Howard was killed before he got there. When he first came to El Paso it was nothing but a ranch and was named Franklin in Texas, after a man name Franklin Coons. They applied for a post office here under that name, but as there was another Franklin in Texas, the Department refused to give that name, so the people then selected the name of El Paso. Treyer was only in one fight with the Indians. It was on the Gila River in Arizona, He was at that time working with the Boundry Surveyors [sic] as driver under Anson Mills, This was before the civil war and was probably about 1859, This same commission ran the boundry between Texas and New Mexico and Treyer was with them for about two months. Treyer was here when Maj. Emory ran the first line between Mexico and New Mexico. He thinks Col. Salazar was the Mexican boundry due west which put Juarez (then El Paso de Norte) in the United States, but the Mexicans-would not consent to that, so they lost a whole summer over the question. They then fixed the southern boundry of New Mexico up about Mesilla. The Southern Railroad had been surveyed and that would make the railroad run through Mexican territory, and that was the cause of the Gadsden Purchase where the U.S. paid \$5,000,000 for the strip, which at that time was not considered here as being worth that many cents. While El Paso was a ranch at the time Treyer came, there was quite a little settlement, there being in the vicinity probably 250 people. Simeon Hart was running a mill and made a great deal of money selling his flour. At the organization of the Pioneers' Association Treyer was made the first Honorary President because he had lived in El Paso longer than any person as a continual resident.

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