

Bad start ends well

Civic involvement puts end to shyness



Virginia Turner

“All kinds of bugs . . . scorpions, centipedes and snakes.

“That’s what you will find in El Paso,” teased friends and relatives of Betty Jagoe Olmstead.

She and her new husband, Jack Jagoe, were en route to El Paso from Los Angeles. They stopped in Albuquerque and checked into the nearest nice looking hotel.

“We were so tired,” Olmstead recalled. “We settled down in the room and then I heard a scratching. Jack got up and looked and opened a dresser drawer.

“There was a big scorpion! Jack was so angry, he went downstairs and said to the clerk, ‘I thought you said you’d given us your best room.’ The clerk said he did and Jack said, ‘Then give us your second best.’ It seemed like all the things my friends had said were true.” But she had no problems after she reached El Paso.

Olmstead’s earliest memories are of Helena, Mont., where she was born: tobogganing, skating in weather 35 degrees below freezing.

“The kids would put two or three sleds on long boards and fasten them together and eight to ten people could ride,” she recalled. “We had a great time.”

Her father, John H. Kent, an architect, had moved from the East to submit plans for the state capitol building in Helena. They were accepted and his name appears on the building’s cornerstone.

They moved to Salt Lake City and lived there for a time, just two blocks from the Salt Lake City Temple grounds.

“During World War I there was a big need for help and I took a job in the filing department of Southern Pacific Railroad. I was very young and my father didn’t want me to work. I promised to give the job back to the man whose place I took. But when he returned, he wasn’t interested, so I stayed.

“My parents and I, in Los Angeles on vacation, went to a big dance hall. Jack was there as captain of the Shrine Patrol during a convention. He introduced himself to my parents first, then asked me to dance. We became well-acquainted and corresponded. We married in Santa Ana, Calif., when Jack was with the Southern Pacific.” Jagoe quit the railroad to become a prominent businessman. He helped organize the Southwest National Bank, and served as an officer.

Jagoe was involved in many community activities and she embraced them too. She took art lessons from Louise Black, joined the Woman’s Club of El Paso, headed different departments and became its president.

Her daughter, Anna Louise Kinnear, now of Jasper, Texas, was Sun Carnival Queen in 1947 and her other daughter, Betty Barefoot, El Paso, was lady-in-waiting.

A son, Jack Jr. is vice president of a Houston office equipment firm.

When her husband’s health began to fail, he pushed plans to move to White Acres Retirement Village.

“I think he saw the handwriting on the wall and wanted to relieve me of the care of the house,” she said. They moved and he died soon after that.

She and an occupant next door, Noel Olmstead, had been nodding to each other but she really didn’t meet him until his birthday party. His wife had died after a long illness shortly before Jagoe did. They got along well, liked the same things and were married May 25 of this year. They have traveled a good deal and plan a happy Christmas on a Caribbean cruise.

“It’s all a new life,” she said.

Virginia Turner is a columnist for the El Paso Herald-Post.

Correction

The El Paso Herald-Post incorrectly stated in an Aug. 15 story that ex-Mayor Peter de Wetter was a former executive of the Mayflower Co.

De Wetter was the owner of a Bekins Co. franchise while he lived in El Paso and later was president and chief executive officer of the Bekins Co. in California.

De Wetter currently is the executive vice president of National Medical Enterprises, the second-largest provider of medical services in the United States.

Sierra Medical Center in El Paso is among the company’s 470 worldwide facilities.

We work hard at the Herald-Post to produce a fair and error-free newspaper. But we make mistakes occasionally. If you spot a mistake or something you think is unfair, please let us know by calling 546-6369 between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m.



Photo by UPI

rs form 5-
e princess
open a se-



Photo by UPI

ore that
t. Police
e police
ally shot
r son.

vn
llined
sonals
ly
ork in
st like

ngs to
ill be

said
ed

6
nd

in
h,
nd
nt
y,

h
y
n
s
t.
d
y,
d

d
y
n
r
s

ore that
t. Police
e police
ully shot
r son.

vn
lined
sonals
ly
ork in
st like
u
s
-hgs to
e.
-ill be
-J

ste
-ca
ma
-ssaid
d
6
nd

m
in
h,
nd
nt
,
,

I
h
ly
n
is
t.
d
,
d
d
y
n
pd s
uo s
le p
ey's

dance hall. Jack was there as captain of the Shrine Patrol during a convention. He introduced himself to my parents first, then asked me to dance. We became well-acquainted and corresponded. We married in Santa Ana, Calif., when Jack was with the Southern Pacific." Jagoe quit the railroad to become a prominent businessman. He helped organize the Southwest National Bank, and served as an officer.

Jagoe was involved in many community activities and she embraced them too. She took art lessons from Louise Black, joined the Woman's Club of El Paso, headed different departments and became its president.

Her daughter, Anna Louise Kinnear, now of Jasper, Texas, was Sun Carnival Queen in 1947 and her other daughter, Betty Barefoot, El Paso, was lady-in-waiting.

A son, Jack Jr. is vice president of a Houston office equipment firm.

When her husband's health began to fail, he pushed plans to move to White Acres Retirement Village.

"I think he saw the handwriting on the wall and wanted to relieve me of the care of the house," she said. They moved and he died soon after that.

She and an occupant next door, Noel Olmstead, had been nodding to each other but she really didn't meet him until his birthday party. His wife had died after a long illness shortly before Jagoe did. They got along well, liked the same things and were married May 25 of this year. They have traveled a good deal and plan a happy Christmas on a Caribbean cruise.

"It's all a new life," she said.

Virginia Turner is a columnist for the El Paso Herald-Post.

Correction

The El Paso Herald-Post incorrectly stated in an Aug. 15 story that ex-Mayor Peter de Wetter was a former executive of the Mayflower Co.

De Wetter was the owner of a Bekins Co. franchise while he lived in El Paso and later was president and chief executive officer of the Bekins Co. in California.

De Wetter currently is the executive vice president of National Medical Enterprises, the second-largest provider of medical services in the United States.

Sierra Medical Center in El Paso is among the company's 470 worldwide facilities.

We work hard at the Herald-Post to produce a fair and error-free newspaper. But we make mistakes occasionally. If you spot a mistake or something you think is unfair, please let us know by calling 546-6369 between 7 a.m. and 4 p.m.