

**Long Locks, Buckskin Coat
SAM MYERS LEFT INDELIBLE
MARK ON EL PASO**

By Dorothea M. Fox

Written Especially for The Times
EPT 12/8/63

“Tio Sam” Myres was El Paso’s colorful character and famed saddlemaker of the Southwest. Having resided in the city for more than 33 years, Tio Sam always appeared as if he had just stepped out of the pages of a thrilling “Western.” He looked and acted the gallant and glamorous part of the frontier that disappeared with thick barbed wire fences, shanty sod houses and lonely, bleak ranches.

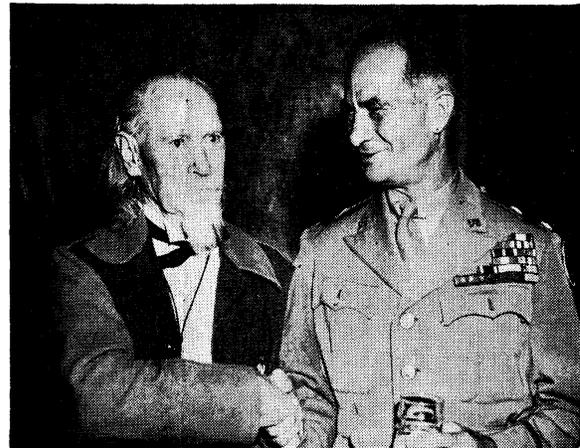
Sam D. Myres was a picturesque person, who, in his latter days, resembled Buffalo Bill Cody, the romantic Pony Express rider and fabulous showman whom Myres knew well. With long locks falling over his fringed buckskin coat collar, huge beige hat, silvery mustache and goatee, the saddlemaker became known as “Tio Sam” because little Mexican children who clustered about as he told stories and presented pennies, thought he resembled the great Uncle Sam of story book land. Ever after he was called “Tio Sam” by everyone.

During Sun Carnival and rodeo days, the saddleman and Capt. John R. Hughes, friend of “Tio,” and former commander of the Texas Rangers, were familiar figures leading the parades on their handsome horses. Always an important part of the Old West, they added color and romance to the scintillating atmosphere of El Paso's Sun Carnival activities during the holiday season.

To the Myres Saddlery in Sweetwater and El Paso, the famous and infamous thumped through the doors with high heeled cowboy boots and sturdy military shoes. Cowmen,

showmen and gunmen, came to ask the artist in leather to create a new saddle, design a different holster, or a special rig for their treasured Colts! “Tio Sam” always obliged by taking care of all their needs.

From youth Myres developed an established his successful business following a painstaking apprenticeship in two leather shops in East Texas. This soon led to the founding of a saddlery in Sweetwater in 1897 where Myres first emphasized the principles of quality workmanship, perfection and skill, in addition to employing creative ideas in leather.



AT ALLEN PARTY—The late Sam (Tio) Myers, left, who resembled Buffalo Bill Cody, whom he knew well, is shown with Maj. Gen. Terry Allen, right, at a party for Gen. Allen on July 31, 1945. Tio Myers, who lived in El Paso 33 years, also was a famous saddlemaker.

GOOD WITH GUN

In this little cattle town that was rough, dusty and primitive, the rattlesnakes slithered over the dirt road and the wolves killed the chickens. It was a good place to practice a quick draw, and the young saddlemaker became an experienced man with a gun. Here it was that J.C. Miller of the famed 101 Miller Ranch and Show of Okla-

homa, came to young Myres with his special request for a gorgeous saddle.

Miller, who had just returned from a tour of Europe, had visited the Museum of Paris. There he had seen the magnificent saddle that had been the pride of Napoleon Bonaparte. As Miller later related this story, he had stood rooted to the floor as he gazed at the beauty of the French creation and noted the exquisite workmanship. The guard, noticing the stranger's unusual interest stepped over to inform Miller that he was now looking at the "handsomest saddle in all of Europe."

Miller turned and bluntly replied, "was the handsomest. It won't be for long. There will be another," he stated as he stalked out of the museum.

When the rancher returned to the States, the long train of cars with his immense show pulled hi onto the side tracks in Sweetwater. Striding through the doors of the Myres shop, Miller related his experience in the Paris Museum and gave instructions for a unique saddle. Miller leaned over the counter piled high with hides and leather as he asked, "Can you do it, Sam?"

"Sure," answered Myres. His eyes twinkled, "And I'll do it t myself!"

LONG RECORD

After preliminary sketches and designs the gems were ordered from a Chicago firm, and the work on the \$10,000 saddle was begun. Set with many precious stones Tio Sam personally fashioned in 1914, what became known as the most magnificent saddle in the world. Resplendent with 166 diamonds, 120 sapphires, 17 rubies, 4 garnets and more than 15 pounds of gold and silver that set off the artistic hand tulled designs of Texas Longhorn and steer heads, beautiful butter-

flies, glistening gold bugs and scrolls of flower and scrub oak leaf patterns, this leather creation was alleged to have been the first spectacular saddle created in America.

The superb craftsmanship of Myres was immediately recognized in all the papers of the Southwest, especially the Oklahoma and Texas dailies and also the cosmopolitan papers of California and New York. This outstanding saddle that later traveled throughout the show arenas of the world, established the fine reputation of the struggling young !business man, and focused attention upon his artistic work.

Myres' excellent record as an artisan, however, did not rest only upon the creation of show saddles. He also fashioned durable equipment for cowboys, ranchers, U.S. Cavalry, border patrolmen and other law enforcing agents. During World War I he made thousands of sturdy McClellan saddles for the U.S. Cavalry and his standard of perfection was so well known officially that in 1920 the U.S. government presented him with a certificate of merit. This high ideal of craftsmanship always maintained by Tio Sam, was explained in his own words: "If a leather craftsman doesn't put masterwork into a \$30 hull, he will have a puny chance of ever building a \$10,000 saddle." This was the secret of his phenomenal success through the years.

"Tio Sam" not only fashioned saddles for adults, but also for juvenile performers. During the depression of 1933 the first "Kids' Rodeo" was originated by Wallace Perry. with the aid of Johnnie Mullins of New Mexico, a rancher and former rider of the : 101 Miller Ranch Show. Having worked closely with the spectacular and efficient promoter, Tex Rickard at Madison Square Gardens, Mullins was invited to assist in the

plans of this first juvenile rodeo to be held along the border.

Tio Sam, also approached for ideas, immediately offered to create a special saddle as a grand prize. When the children heard this announcement there was much excitement, for all young riders knew "Tio Sam, the Saddlemaster" who had been the shooting partner of Annie Oakley and a good friend of Buffalo Bill and Pawnee Bill, two famed showmen.

It was Bobby Boyce of New Mexico who won the first grand prize of 1933. A 13-year-old boy, he rode his horse over the mountains and desert roads, from Ruidoso to El Paso, to compete in the first big event for juveniles.

Today the aura and romance of the frontier still clusters about the equipment that was hand-fashioned many years ago by "Tio Sam." Some of his saddles are now on display in historical buildings, as the Woolaroc Museum near Barlesville, Okla., where the rare 101 Miller Ranch saddle minus its expensive gems, now reposes; the Museum of Texas on the campus Technological College, Lubbock, Tex., and the Bataan Memorial Methodist Hospital where a fine saddle was presented by Dr. W.R. Lovelace of the Lovelace Foundation for Medical Education and Research in Albuquerque. This beautiful silver mounted piece of work will be disposed of by the hospital to anyone who desires a hand-fashioned creation, according to word from Dr. Lovelace. It is a collector's item and one of the few custom made saddles of Tio Sam still available.

OTHER CREATIONS

Besides saddles he also created unusual belts and halters. The leather creation that caused a great deal of comment and commotion, was the famed Buscadero Belt, which, alt-

hough never patented, originated in the Myres Saddle Shop. During an exchange of ideas which occurred about 1926 or 1927. Tio Sam, Eugene Cunningham, author of the popular book, "Triggernometry, A Gallery of Fighters," and Capt. John R. Hughes, discussed belts for men who used both right and left hands because of some past emergency in their life. If a fighter's right arm had been injured, the left arm was trained for use.

An ugly experience in Hughes' life pointed out this fact. When a boy in Indian Territory, he was shot in a gunfight by angered Choc-taws and had to train himself to be a left-handed shooter. Because of this his holsters and pistol loops were generally worn on the left side.

The three men decided that a belt adaptable for both right and left-handed shooters was needed. As a result Tio Sam fashioned a wide belt with carved loops that dropped low for one or two holsters. This kind of belt canted the pistol butt forward, while the holster toe went back, yet enabled the wearer to make a fast draw.

The name, "Buscadero Gunbelt," was finally decided upon by the men. Cunningham thought that this title was especially fitting. Shortly after the belt was introduced to Westerners, it had phenomenal success. It was soon copied by other companies, since the idea had never been patented by "Tio Sam." However, the fame of this unusual belt spread far and wide, and with it, the name of the Myres Saddlery of El Paso.

It is interesting to note, here, that the Spanish-Mexican term, "Buscadero" was applied to both lawless hunters as well as lawful hunters such as the sheriffs and Texas Rangers who raised fear in the hearts of Mexican brigands along the border.

Although Capt. Hughes was in s the discussions at which the famed belt was created, he never carried his gun in a Buscadero Belt. He always used a holster that hung straight down from his left shoulder, and was buttoned to the outside of his trousers, reported Bill Myres, son and president of the S.D. Myres firm.

Tio Sam was known not only as a fine artist in leather; he was also known as an expert marksman. From early childhood he learned to handle a gun. Born Nov. 22, 1871, in East Texas, Myres grew up in the time when the Civil War left a cloud upon the nation. The father, an officer in the Confederate Army, taught the son to use a gun at an early age. Often left to his own resources, the boy pounded the plains with Indian children and learned to ride bareback with the yelling Comanches who were considered by many historians and Cavalry officers, to be the best riders on the great d- prairies.

WAS SCOUT

From boyhood Sam grew into a confident youth who acted as a scout to immigrant families who were settling in Texas. The weird, pitched howls and the eerie yelping of coyotes on the lonely, bleak plains and the high mesas were familiar calls to the youth who had a ready finger on his trigger.

He popped the rattlesnakes in Sweetwater as they slid over the dirt roads. He shot at the coyotes and wolves as they stealthily crawled into the yards of outlying homes. He was mayor in Sweetwater in 1911 when the town was still wild and wicked. But his fame and skill as a marksman and leather artisan soon spread among the border patrol of officials, and he was invited to attend the U.S. Championship rifle and pistol matches that were held at Camp Perry in the Midwest in 1938. Here it was that b e his unusual

handmade holsters and rigs attracted the attention of both Easterners and Westerners From the Midwest he journeyed to Massachusetts to visit the Smith and Wesson Co., in the firearms city of Springfield. As a result his reputation spread East to other firearm firms where he received a cordial welcome.

One of the holsters that has become popular and the law enforcement officials is yje famed Myres Border Patrol and Police Holster No.5. This was designed and patented by "Tio Sam" after a patrolman had come into the shop in 1936 to request a new kind of holster. As an example of what he desired, he had used an old gun rig with a tomatoe can to demonstrate his need.

"Funny what an old tomatoe can could show," laughed Bill Myres. "But Dad had some original ideas, too. Out of this amusing incident came our famous "5-Border Patrol holster," said Myres.

"Dad worked on the design which he patented, and I made he holster. Business boomed when the U.S. Department of Justice adopted this rig as their Uniform Border Holster. Thousands of No. 5 were ordered," added Myres with a twinkle behind his glasses.

MANY FRIENDS

Today the wooden walls of Myres' attractive office are still decorated with the autographed photos of former friends, celebrated guests and satisfied customers. Some have been writers, - actors, movie stars, military men I and artists. Among the immortals were the beloved Will Rogers, Gene Autry, Tom Mix and William S. Hart, of silent films who was known for his popular role of "Hop Along Cassidy," of "Western" book fame.

Another was Col. Charles Askins, authoritative writer on pistol shooting and two-time national champion pistol shot who carried a Myres holster for 10 years. Askins, formerly stationed at Ft. Bliss in the Army Ordnance during World War II, carried his gun during the North African and Sicilian campaigns. On his return he later reported to Tio Sam that he had never lost his pistol from the Myres rig.

Col Askins, who has written “Art of Handgun Shooting” and “Shotgunner’s Book, A Modern Encyclopedia,” and countless articles for gun and firearms magazines, has been an admirer of Tio Sam’s leather equipment, and still keeps in touch with Bill Myres of the firm.

Other outstanding military men who wore Myres holsters and belts through the wars were Generals Terry Allen and George Patton besides many officers and GIs from Biggs Air Force Base and Ft. Bliss. Gen. Patton’s custom-made holsters which Tio Sam and Bill Myres fashioned are now in the West Point Museum, New York .. The two prized pearl-handled Peacemakers and the durable holsters stamped with the well-known Southwestern trademark, “S.D. Myres, El Paso, Texas may be viewed with other antique firearms, old uniforms, letters and rare papers in the renowned military museum on the Hudson. In the past many holsters fashioned in the Myres Saddlery have traveled around the world and have helped to establish the outstanding reputation, and the glory and glamor of the West, into the far corners of the globe.

HAD HUMOR

Although never educated in college, Tio Sam pried a self-made education through the study of books on many subjects, especially religion and philosophy. tolerant of all faiths, he read and quoted from the Koran

and Book of Moses, although he was converted to Mormonism and was a teacher of Bible in the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints. Tio Sam was also a member of the Masonic lodge.

An example of his dry humor was the story of Tio Sam pointing to the many sacred books of religion that lined the shelves of his office as he said to his visitor,

“I read the King James Bible, There’s the Koran and the Torah. There is the Gita and the wisdom of the Vedas, the Oahspe and other books of philosophy.” On seeing the puzzled and amazed look of the guest’s face, Tio Sam added with a twinkle in his eyes, “You know, son, when you get my age, you can’t afford to take any chances.” There was a chuckle, for Tio Sam believed in being prepared always, always.

In spite of the seriousness of a goal-focused business life, Tio Sam delighted in telling a rollicking tale or acting the part of a mischievous imp. In sadness or gladness he always made others smile or laugh with his amusing anecdotes. Yet, he was also a part of the dignified, gallant Southwest that disappeared with barbed wire and squatter’s sod huts.

His old friend, Capt. Hughes who lived to be 92, had already left the final trail of life, and on July 2, 1953, at the, age of 81, the beloved saddlemaker died. Burled in Evergreen Cemetery, the high grave stone is impressed with an appropriate design of a lone horse! The saddle is empty and the reins hang down to the ground as a reminder of a fallen hero of the West.

Yet his spirit lives on in the community he loved so well. On the rear wall of the Myres Saddlery stands a huge life-size portrait of Tio Sam. Mounted on a magnificent palo-

mino, the picturesque rider seems to greet you with his welcoming smile. The beautiful life-like oil painting radiates with the amber and gold tones of the cacti-studded desert country. It is the colorful work of local artist, writer and horse historian, Frank O'Leary who has contributed many articles and illustrations for the well-known magazine, "Western Horseman." O'Leary completed this composite picture in 1961 from old photos, stories and memories of Tio Sam. It is a radiant likeness of a gallant man who was an important part of the romantic frontier of Texas and the raw, rough Border Country.

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**FAMED SOUTHWESTERNERS'
ROLE TOLD ON
'BUSCADERO GUNBELT'
EPT 1/12/62**

The story of the gunbelt that was the prototype for all "fast draw" practitioners, and of the men who collaborated in its design and production is told in the January issue of "Guns" magazine.

The story is that of the "Buseadero Gunbelt," the brainchild and product of a famed El Pasoan, the late Tio Sam Myres, and a noted manhunter, Capt. John R. Hughes of the Texas Rangers.

The story of their work on the gunbelt that was fancied in its infancy by men who carried weapons out of necessity and now by others of their kind as well as those who practice drawing fast as a sport, is written by Texas Western's Dr. Haldeen Braddy.

Dr. Braddy, a professor of history, has authored books, articles and stories on topics,

ranging from narcotics to Shakespeare, from Pancho Villa to Chaucer, from smuggling to cockfighting.

In "The Birth of the Buscadero" Dr. Braddy tells of the association of Tio Sam Myres, "a good man with a gun himself" and of Capt. John R. Hughes, a Texas Ranger and later a "buscadero" who patrolled the border country around the Big Bend.



TIO SAM MYRES

IMAGE OF BUFFALO BILL

Myres, who died in El Paso at the age of 81 in 1953, was a colorful Southwesterner. He became one of the area's most famous saddlemakers and leather craftsmen, and was a familiar and well known figure with his long, sweeping white hair, his flowing grey mustache and white goatee.

He was, El Pasoans agreed, the very image of Buffalo Bill Cody.

Myres, the leather craftsman, and Capt. Hughes, the manhunter and trouble shooter, met during the years Hughes was serving as a hired investigator in the Big Bend area. Hughes' right hand was crippled as a result of a bullet wound, and the ex-Ranger had become proficient at drawing a pistol rapidly and firing accurately with his left hand. Still

he was 'interested in improving the speed of his draw, and he discussed his problem with Tit Sam.

Dr. Braddy relates the result of their work. "Together the saddle-maker and saddleduster evolved a remarkable belt and holster, a rigging at once pleasing to the most critical eye and quick to reach with a drop of the hand."



CAPT. HUGHES

The new gunbelt canted the pistol butt forward, and the holster, toe backward, permitting the wearer to whip out his pistol efficiently and quickly. The first outfit, Dr. Braddy relates, was named "Myres Quick Draw," but writer Eugene Cunningham, who is reportedly induced Capt. Hughes to work on the new design, christened the gunbelt the "Buscadero Belt."

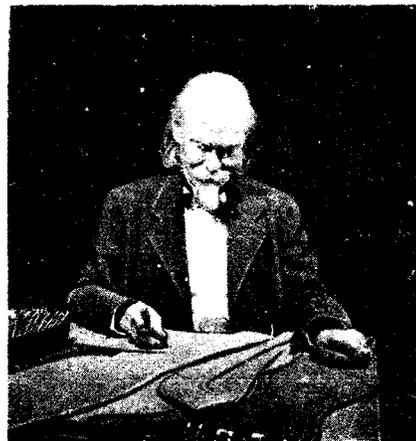
The word "buscadero" means "the one who is hunted" or "the one who was hunted." The term was generally applied to outlaws, Dr. Braddy states, although it would also apply to a manhunter—a lawman. In the latter sense, it was applied to Capt. Hughes.

Many notorious buscaderos, writes Dr. Braddy, were gunmen who "lived in the wastes near cow towns and mining sites. They robbed, they fought, they itched for

trouble" and many of them wore two guns on their belts.

"On the other side, Capt. Hughes had fewer qualifications as a dyed-in-the-wool buscadero. He could fire only one gun, and he shot to kill. But this left-handed Texas Ranger provided the inspiration and name for the old-time saddlemaker's design of a harness for a faster, easier draw that has become the favorite of fast draw experts everywhere."

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**Saddle-maker :Tio Sam" Myers,
one-time crony of Buffalo Bill**

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**Southwesterner In Focus
S.D. 'TED' MYRES' BROAD CAREERS
NOT ENDED; HE HAS 'MUCH TO DO'
EPT Sundial 7/5/70**

Sweetwater, in Nolan County Texas, was a cowtown just beginning to emerge as something of a trading center for ranchers and farmers in west central Texas when S.D. 'Ted' Myres was born there on April 16, 1899.

Ted Myres' father had come to Sweetwater in 1896 from Cleburne and Fort Worth as a saddle-maker of growing reputation if limited capital. The Myres saddle shop in Sweetwater was known to ranchers, Texas Rangers and a variety of other lawmen, drifter, drummers and not a few plain Texas-type gunmen. Young Ted Myres got to know a lot about human character from his dad's saddlery.

"Tio Sam" Myres, as Ted's father became known, was an extraordinary man in many ways (certainly not the least of which was in his cunning as a showman, promoter and "personality" which reached fruition when he moved to El Paso in 1920) and among his strongest points as a father was his strict Christian belief in the efficacy of frequent prayer, particularly family prayer.

PRAYING SALESMEN

Of these prayer meetings, Ted Myres recalls one in particular that involved one of Sweetwater's ubiquitous door-to-door drummers—a lightning rod salesman who, as his glibness demonstrated, was the Professor Harold Hill of the electrical storm damage prevention business.

Happening on the Myres home just at prayer time, the lightning rod man was invited in by the senior Myres and asked to join in the solemnities. As the prayer session progressed, the lightning rod man was asked if he cared to offer a few words of grace. With little hesitation, the ingenious salesman, as Dr. Myres recalls, intoned a message similar to this:

O Lord, bless this fine family and protect them from all the elements. Lord, lead this father to do whatever is necessary to keep his lovely wife and little children out of danger from the frequent heaven-sent storms
...

S. D. 'TED' MYRES

Recalling the incident today, Dr. Myres says, "Not long after this, our home had the most elaborate lightning-rod system in all of Sweetwater—in all of Nolan County!"

Sam Myres senior also had strict ideas about education for his children and at the age of eight, Ted began taking violin lessons, and at 11, "elocution". Both skills developed rapidly with Ted Myres and by the age of 14 he began entering debating contests. In 1916, along with a classmate named Owen Barker, he won the state oratorical contest



for Sweetwater High School.

As for fiddle-playing, Myres' professional debut was with the Ham-Ramsey Revival Organization, a forerunner of Billy Sunday's tent evangelism.

Myres entered Trinity University in 1916 and attended there for two years, transferring to the University of Texas at Austin, then to Southern Methodist University where he received the A.B. degree in English in 1920. He participated in debating contests and played violin in the orchestra and with the glee clubs.

After receiving his degree, Myres toured the Midwest giving recitals in one-night stands from Little Rock to St. Louis, Chicago, Detroit and back toward Texas—a tour that took about a year in all.

STUDIES LAW

Returning to Sweetwater as principal of the high school there, Myres began attending to one of his many interests—law. He began to study law at night and in July, 1924, was admitted to the bar of Texas by examination. In between his coaching of the Sweetwater debating team resulted in another state championship in 1921-22.

Myres returned to Southern Methodist circuitously—after teaching commercial subjects and coaching oratorical teams in a Dallas high school and practicing law in Dallas—when a foundation was established at SMU by Mrs. George F. Arnold, wife of a prominent Houston banker. Myres was asked by Dr. Edwin Shurter, director of the Arnold Foundation, to become his assistant, and Myres worked out an arrangement to get his M.A. degree at the same time.

He was awarded the degree in August, 1925, after receiving the first fellowship in government offered at SMU.

Another “first” was accomplished in 1929 when Myres, after two summers and one year in-residence, obtained his Ph.D degree from U.T. Austin. It was the first doctorate in government awarded there. He also became a charter member of Pi Sigma Alpha, honorary fraternity in government.

By 1930, Dr. Shurter had resigned as director of the Arnold Foundation and Myres filled the job immediately. At that time he had begun writing seriously for publication.

Among his earliest articles was a work on “Mysticism, Realism and the Texas Constitution of 1876,” which, along with other scholarly political studies, brought Myres to the attention of the Social Science Research Council in New York. In 1930, Myres received a travel fellowship to study in Europe and the Near East.

In the 1930-31 period, Myres lived in Geneva, Switzerland, taking courses at the Institut Universitaire de Hautes Etudes Internationales of the University of Geneva. He spent time in London, Paris, and Jerusalem on various research projects and as a special correspondent for the Dallas Morning News, and he wrote an especially well-received and provocative paper on the “Palestine Problem” in which he pointed out that the Jews and Arabs could never form a united community. For his work in the Near East, Myres was awarded a “Diplome” by the Institut in Geneva.

RETURNS TO SMU

He returned to SMU in 1912, while the country was in the depths of the Depression. Despite radical budget and salary cuts, however, he was able to inaugurate, through the Arnold Foundation, a series of “Studies in Public Affairs” monographs. He also became managing editor of the then struggling Southwest Review. A journal published jointly by SMU and Louisiana State University.

In about 1935, Myres was admitted to Who’s Who, one of the youngest Americans to be included in the prestigious book that year.

A year later, Trinity University awarded him the honorary LL.D degree.

Myres also originated at SMU a series of conferences which resulted in an annual

grant of \$10,000 from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace to conduct an Institute of Public Affairs on the campus. Six universities of north Texas sponsored the organization and by 1938, the "Fifth International Conference of the Institute of Public Affairs" at SMU 'Was being planned with the theme to be "Mexico and the United States."

It was to be a particularly unforgettable gathering.

Myres traveled to Mexico City and talked to U.S. Ambassador Josephus Daniels and many Mexican officials and ended up inviting a prominent Mexican educator, J. Silva Herzog, to participate in the conference and to speak on "Education in Rural Mexico."

As it turned out, 1938 was an auspicious time to hold a conference on U.S.-Mexican relations as those relations were to be strained toward the rupturing point that very year. While Myres was setting up his conference, Mexican President Lazaro Cardenas expropriated all American oil properties in the country. The event was further complicated by the fact that the prominent educator Myres had invited to speak at his SMU conference was President Cardenas' chief advisor and was virtual author of the recommendation to expropriate the oil properties.

Despite a distinct nervousness on everyone's part, Myres determined to proceed with the meeting. Instead of speaking on rural education, Herzog was asked to address the huge gathering on the oil property situation. Speaking on the other side of the question, but in a different meeting, was W.E. McMahon, general council for Standard Oil of New Jersey and vice-president of Huasteca Petroleum, one of the principal Mexican companies nationalized.

The program was an important one and received national attention.

DANIELS SPEAKER

The next year, another conference on Mexico was arranged with U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Josephus Daniels as main speaker. Daniels, in 1914 when he was Secretary of the Navy under Woodrow Wilson, had issued an order forbidding the use of alcoholic liquors in the Navy.

Myres met Daniels at the train depot and escorted the ambassador to the Melrose Hotel in Dallas where a formal dinner awaited, and for which Daniels was the main speaker. The man who introduced the ambassador, a prominent dean at Southern Methodist, gave a dignified welcoming address. Then, at the end of Daniel's speech, the dean returned to the microphone and announced: "Now let us all retire to the foyer for refreshments. The ambassador will pass out first."

In the winter of 1940, Myres made a long trip through South America with a group of newspapermen, agronomists and diplomats, and conducted a number of important studies—one on the problem of Argentine beef exports and another on the Nazi penetration in Brazil and Argentina.

From 1944, after he received a diploma in portraiture and natural color processes from the New York Institute of Photography, until 1952, Myres operated a photo school in Dallas, a photo processing laboratory and three camera stores.

In 1954, after completing 30 years at Southern Methodist and after closing down his Southwest Photo Arts Institute, Dr. Myres came to El Paso to go into business with his brother, W.J., in the S.D. Myres Saddlery Co. Ted Myres decided to go off on his own and moved to Juarez where he set up the

“Talabateria Fronteriza,” a leather goods company on 16th of September.

Dr. Myres began his second career as a university professor when Dr. Rex Strickland, then head of the Department of History at Texas Western College, saw Myres’ photo in a newspaper and asked him to give some evening lectures at the College. Myres began lecturing in 1955, then rose through the ranks—assistant professor, associate professor, full professor, and department head. He had followed the very same course at Southern Methodist and is probably the only man in the country ever to have two full careers—lecturer to department head—at two American universities.

In 1961, the then president of TWC, Joseph M. Ray (who has known Myres for many years), talked to him about editing a series of “Southwestern Studies” monographs on Southwestern history. The first of the series was published by Carl Hertzog’s Texas Western Press in the spring of 1963. Myres and Hertzog had worked together on books since 1956 when they collaborated on A Century of Free-masonry at El Paso. The first book Myres edited in Dr. Ray’s administration was Fallacies of Karl Marx by Eugene O. Porter.

Myres has been editor of 25 Southwestern Studies monographs and, in his capacity as editor for the Texas Western Press, has worked on the manuscripts of some 60 books in all. Among them is Pioneer Surveyor-Frontier Lawyer, the personal narrative of O.W. Williams which Dr. Myres edited and annotated and which recently passed into a second edition.

At the end of the summer, Dr. Myres will leave the University. “I am not retiring,” he says, “I have much to do.” The foremost project in his mind at present is an assign-

ment to work on an educational project for the Abell-Hanger Foundation of Midland.

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'TIO SAM' MYRES CAN RECALL THE REAL WEST EPT (Parade) 5/16/48

IN THE TURBULENT DAYS when marauding Indian, and blue-jowled cattle thieves roamed the West Texas plains, “Tio Sam” Myres was an adventurous young saddlemaker who every now and then swapped his favorite stitching needle for handy six-shooter.

Time has mellowed Tio Sam, but to twentieth-century Texans, and particularly to his neighbors in El Paso, he’s a living link with pioneer days.



Som's “Cowboy Headquarters” is famous for its fine saddles. Ordinary saddles range from \$150 to \$225, but the more elaborate ones sell for as much as 55,000.

Formally, Tio Sam (Spanish for “Uncle Sam”) is Samuel D. Myres, proprietor of “Cowboy Headquarters.” nationally famous for its saddles and other western accessories.

The nickname was first applied by Mexican friends impressed by Myres' likeness to cartoon drawings of Uncle Sam.

But Tio Sam bears an even closer resemblance to "Buffalo Bill" Cody, to whom he once sold riding equipment. Pawnee Bill, Will Rogers, and Pancho Villa were also his friends.



Kids of El Paso, Sam's home since 1920, continually press him for stories. Acquainted I with many of the Southwest's legendary figures, Myres' fund of yarns is limitless.

Tio Sam is literally a story-book character. Born 78 years ago in a log cabin on the Brazos River near Fort Worth. he learned the saddler's trade in Cleburne and at 22 opened a shop in Sweetwater. Rattlesnakes crawled down the main street, gunfights were common, and the town doctor carried a pistol and pills in the same bag.

Turned Mob's Wrath

For four years he was the "Fighting Mayor" of Sweetwater and once broke up a lynch mob single-handed.

Sam doesn't believe that western films are very accurate in presenting the old west. He quarrels particularly with their "two-gun" men. "I never saw anyone fire more than

one gun at a time," he says, "except if he was drunk and didn't know what he was doing. And then he didn't last long."

In appearance Tio Sam belies his years. His hand-clasp is firm, his gait snappy. He's the Old Southwest in an up-to-date twentieth century setting.

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FUNERAL SERVICES SET FOR SAM D. MYRES, 81 EHPH 7/3/53

Funeral services will or held at 9 a.m. Monday in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints for Sam D. Myres, pioneer saddlemaker, who died last night in an El Paso hospital.

He was 81. He suffered a heart attack several days ago.



A living link with the Old Southwest, "Tio Sam" Myres of El Paso, Texas, remembers the days of Indian marauders

Mr. Myres, colorful civic leader known as Tio Sam. was a favorite with El Pasoans, young and old. He resided at 5030 Aurora street.

Mr. Myres had been a saddlemaker for 63 years.

An unusual figure, he well-known to thousands for his resemblance to Buffalo Bill. He wore fringed, pioneer style costumes and western hats, with a wing collar and black tie. He had long white hair and chin whiskers. To many he was El Paso's, living link with the Old West they themselves had never seen.



Sam D. Myers

Born in Cleburne

Born in Cleburne in 1871, Myres experienced the hardships of frontier life. When he was a lad Indian raids and scalping, were still hazards.

His father, D.R. Myers, a native of Pennsylvania, had settled as a farmer in Johnson County and had been a captain and company commander in the Civil War. Mr. Myers' mother was Mary J. Dale, a native of Lexington, Ky.

Mr. Myres was born in a two-room log cabin. Among his early memories were fishing on the banks of the Brazos, shooting squirrels with a percussion cap rifle, and walking

five miles to school. He used to, astonish his hunting companions by driving wildcats out of tree branches with his bare hands.

While attending classes in a schoolhouse that had a dirt floor and log seats Mr. Myres was admonished by a taciturn schoolmaster to heed a motto, "He can who thinks he can." Although he attended only three terms of school Mr. Myres credited the motto with guiding him through a successful business career.

Sets Up Own Business

Mr. Myres learned his trade in Cleburne, starting as a janitor in a saddle company. He worked three years as a "saddle-cub" to earn a total of \$100, along with his board, room and clothes. He took part of the earnings to get a degree in Masonry. He put away the \$33 remaining to go into business for himself.

For a while he worked in West Texas as an itinerant saddle maker, earning \$12 a week. When he was 21 he went to Dallas to work for a saddle company. In 1897 he found the saddle business poor and turned farmer. But in 1898 he setup the S.D. Myres Saddle Co: in Sweetwater.

Mr. Myres spent 22 years in Sweetwater, which was a tiny village when he opened up shop there. He served as mayor, for two terms without pay. He also served as Texas Ranger and deputy sheriff while in Sweetwater.

Once, while mayor, he was credited with preventing a Negro lynching.

Moved to El Paso

Mr. Myres established his saddle business in El Paso in 1920.

He made various kinds of qualify addles, some made to order at a cost of thousands of dollars. He once filled a large order for saddles for Pancho Villa. He presented a hand-tooled saddle to President Lazaro Cardenas of Mexico.

From his shop have gone saddles for the late Will Rogers, Col. J.C. Miller, Capt. John R. Hughes of the Texas Rangers, and Movie Star Gene Autry.

During World War I and II the Myres Saddle Co. turned out leather goods on a large scale for the Army. Many Ft. Bliss cavalymen rode on addles made at the Myres plant. In War I he was cited by the secretary of war for turning over his plant to the Government.

Encouraged Rodeos

For years Mr. Myres rode in El Paso parades and attended various functions and celebrations, clad in his western outfit. He encouraged the annual Kids Rodeo, contributing and made saddles to the prize list.

Survivors include two sons, W.J. Myres of El Paso and S.D. Myres, Jr., of Dallas; a daughter, Mrs. M.M. Taylor of Denver, Colo.; two brothers, Carlos Myres of Cleburne and C.C. Myres of Fort Worth; a sister, Mrs. Annie, Elliot of Cleburne; a nephew, Dace Myres of El Paso; and four grandchildren.

The body will lie in state in the chapel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints; Monday from 8 a.m. until 9 a.m. Bishop Willard Whipple will officiate at the funeral service. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery under the direction of Kaster and Maxon Funeral Home.

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Considered a crack shot even in such expert company as "Buffalo Bill" Cody, whom he knew well for many years, Tio Sam still likes to display his six-shooter marksmanship,

**S.D. (TIO SAM) MYRES DIES;
PIONEER OF FABULOUS
SOUTHWEST
EPT 7/3/53**

S.D. (Tio Sam) Myres, 81, 5030 Alameda Ave., one of the last of the fabulous figures of the days of the Old West, died Thursday night' in an El Paso hospital. Famous throughout the Southwest for his intimate knowledge of past frontier days and known world wide for the craftsmanship of the saddle shop he opened in Sweetwater at the turn of the century and moved to El Paso almost a half century ago, Tio Sam will be missed

most by the youngsters who provided him with his name.

He is survived by two brothers, Carlos of Cleburne and C.C. of Fort Worth; a sister; Mrs. Annie Elliott, also of Cleburne; two sons, W.J. of El Paso and S.D. Jr. of Dallas; a daughter, Mrs. M.M. Taylor of Denver, Colo.; and a nephew, Dace Myres of El Paso. He was married in 1894 to Miss Druza Rogers, since deceased.

A resident of El Paso for the past 33 years, he was a member of Masonic Lodge and Shrine Temple and belonged to the Mormon Church. Funeral arrangements were pending with Kaster and Maxon.



S. D. MYRES

“Tio Sam” Myres earned his name through his friendship with the children of El Paso, who looked forward to his frequent visits, both for the favors he brought them and for the stories he told them. “Tio” is the Spanish equivalent of “uncle,” and came from his resemblance to the mythical figure of Uncle Sam.

Tio Sam numbered among his intimate friends presidents, governors, movie stars, and just plain cowboys. He had known Buffalo Bill Cody, Pancho Villa, Will Rogers,

Annie Oakley, Tom Mix, J. Edgar Hoover, Gene Autry, Pawnee Bill, Col. Zach Miller, and dozens of others.

He was a familiar figure in El Paso as he led almost every parade of any importance with his well-known frock coat, string bow tie, wing collar, and mustache and, goatee a la Buffalo Bill.

The son of a Confederate Army company commander, Tio Sam was born in Cleburne in 1871. In his long and adventurous life, he was mayor of Sweetwater, peace officer, fireman, honorary Texas Ranger, friend of the known and the unknown, and universally regarded both by himself and most of the rest of the world, as the maker of the finest saddles and leather goods to be found anywhere.

As the “fightin’ mayor” of Sweetwater, he gained a wide measure of fame. He persuaded the railroad to move its shops into the city, which then numbered more rattlesnakes than citizens; broke up a lynch mob single handed; drove a nudist colony out of town to avoid the bad publicity that the sunburn would give the climate; and sponsored numerous civic improvements, including the paving of streets, construction of sewers, and the building of new schools.

STARTED AT 22

His first saddlery was opened in Sweetwater, when Sam was just 22. He had learned the trade in Cleburne, where he worked for room, board, and approximately \$35 a year. When World War I broke out, Tio Sam offered his services to the government, and received a special citation from President Woodrow Wilson for the quality and craftsmanship of his work.

The most famous saddle, and the one of which he was the proudest, was made for

Col. Joe Mille of the renowned 101 Wild West Show. The saddle was later value at \$30,000. Generally recognized as the finest in the world, it contained over 300 precious stones; including 17 diamonds, 20 garnets, four sapphires, and 15 pounds of sterling silver and gold. All this was embedded into the leather, along with a maze of hand tooled flowers, vines, butterflies, and steer heads. In one corner was stamped the familiar emblem of S.D. Myres, just as it appeared on the equipments of two president of Mexico, Ken Maynard, Will Rogers, Tom Mix, and later, Gen. George S. Patton, who wore a pair of holsters and a belt, made by Tio Sam through some of his greatest triumphs.

WAS SELF-EDUCATED

Believing that the border city of El Paso had a great future, Tio Sam moved his shop—lock, stock, and barrel—to a location on Overland Street, where it remained until recently moved to larger and more modern quarters on Alameda Avenue. Although active in the business right up until his death, Tio Sam had left the active management of the firm to his son, Bill.

An achievement, which he was prouder of than most, was the originating of El Paso Kids Rodeo, which has since been widely copied all over the country. He donated thousands of dollars worth of prizes to local rodeos in the belief that this was the one great link between the old and the new West.

Self-educated, Tio Sam maintained that the only formal education a man needed was learning the alphabet. He then proceeded to prove his philosophy by rising from a young apprentice saddlemaker to the position of prominence he occupied throughout the world.

A favorite of youngsters everywhere, Tio Sam was often called upon to speak to high school and college students all over the Southwest.

He often ended his addresses to the students with advice designed to guide them over the “unseen rough places in life.” He said, “Believe in God., in your country, and in yourself, then go ahead.”

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MYRES RITES SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY

EPT 7/4/53

Funeral services for Sam D. (Tio Sam) Myres, 81, will be held at 9 a.m. Monday in the Latter Day Saints Chapel, 3625 Douglas St., Bishop Willard Whipple officiating. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery under the direction of Kaster and Maxon Funeral Home.

Mr. Myres, colorful Southwestern figure, died late Thursday in a local hospital. He was founder and owner of the S.D. Myres Saddle Co., and was a member of the Masonic Lodge and El Maida Shrine.

He had lived in El Paso and the Southwest for 55 years and was an honorary member of the Texas Rangers.

* * *

SAM D. MYERS FUNERAL RITES SET TODAY

EPT 7/6/53

Funeral services for Sam D. Myres" 81, of 5030 Alameda Ave., will be held at 9 a. m. Monday in the Church of Jesus Christ of

Latter Day Saints Chapel with Bishop' Willard Whipple officiating. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery.

Active pallbearers will be Howard I. Smith, Jess Taylor, Claud DeBusk, John Bean, George Simpson and Lester Cardon. Honorary pallbearers will be Oscar Eberhard, Santa Clara, Calif., Judge R.C. Crane, Sweetwater, Texas, R.L. Shaffer, Sweetwater, Texas, Johnnie Mullens, Seligman, Ariz., George Brown, R.M. Metcalfe, Ewing Thomason, W.A. Adams Sr., Victor Gilbert, P.M. Kelly, Chris P. Fox, Dr. Ralph Homan, Dr. Ross Rissler, Dr. Wick Curtis, O.C. Dowe, John Escontrias, Capt. J.E. Vaughan, Marfa, Texas, Tom Lea Jr., Nat Campbell, Sam S. Lard, Dr. Paul Gallagher, D.A. Bryce, Albuquerque, N.M., Harold O. Austin, Springfield, Mass., Fred Miller, Springfield, Mass., Dr. Andrew Souda, A.B. Cox, Hal Cox, Dr. H.H. Varner, Homer Garrison, Austin, Texas, Ed McGivern, Lewistown, Mont., Gene Cunningham, San Francisco, Calif., Walter Sanborn, Springfield, Mass., and the El Paso County Sheriff's Posse.

The body will lie in state at the church until 9 a.m. Monday.

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**LAST RITES HELD
FOR SAM D. MYRES**
EPHP 7/6/53

Funeral services were held for Sam D. Myres at 9 a.m. today in the Chapel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Bishop Willard Whipple officiated at the service. Burial was at Evergreen Cemetery under the direction of Kaster and Maxon. Mr. Myres was 81. He lived at 5030 Alameda avenue.

Active pallbearers were Jess Taylor, Claude DeBusk, George Simpson, Howard I. Smith, John Bean and Lester Cardon. Honorary pallbearers were George Brown, R.M. Metcalfe, Ewing Thomason, W.A. Adams, Sr., Victor Gilbert, P.M. Kelly, Chris P. Fox, Dr. Ralph Holman, Dr. Ross Rissler, Dr. Wick Curtis, O.C. Dowe, John Escontrias, Tom Lea Jr., Nat Campbell, Sam S., Lard, Dr. Paul Gallagher, Dr. Andrew Souda, A.B. Cox, Hal Cox, and Dr. H. H. Varner, all of El Paso; Oscar Eberhard, Santa Clara, Calif.; Judge R.C. Crane and R.L. Shaffer, Sweetwater, Tex.; Johnnie Mullens, Seligman, Ariz.; Capt. J.E. Vaughan, Marfa; D.A. Bryce, Albuquerque; Harold O. Austin, and Fred Miller, Springfield, Mass.; Homer Garrison, Austin; Ed McGivern, Lewistown, Mont.; Gene Cunningham, San Francisco, Calif.; Walter Sanborn, Springfield, Mass.; and the El Paso Country Sheriff's Posse.

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**TWC DEPARTMENT HEAD
REPLIES TO INDICTMENT
OF DALLAS AND TEXAS**
EPT 1/5/64

(Editor's Note—Reece McGee, an associate professor of sociology at the University of Texas, was 'the author of an article, "Texas: The Roots of the Agony," which appeared in the Dec. 21, 1963, issue of the magazine, "The Nation." The article, following the assassination of President Kennedy, was considered derogatory to Dallas and Texas and drew much attention. In the following article, Sam D. Myres, head of the Department of Government, Texas Western College and former director of The Arnold Foundation, Southern Methodist University, has replied to McGee's indictment of Dallas and Texas.)

By DR. SAM D. MYRES

Are the people of Dallas guilty of the assassination of President Kennedy? Is Texas a land of bigotry, reaction, violence and murder?

Undoubtedly, yes, according to Dr. Reece McGee, associate professor of Sociology at the University of Texas.

Dr. McGee, writing as a professional sociologist who has been in Texas seven years, expounds his observations at length in an article entitled "Texas: The Roots of the Agony," published in "The Nation" Dec. 21, 1963.

It must be said the professor has written a remarkable analysis, notable for its candor. In so doing, however, he seems to have ignored such outmoded essentials as simple logic and basic facts. It may be these are unimportant in what may be called the new "intuitive" sociology.

The key to Dr. McGee's argument is this statement: "it had to be Texas and, in Texas, Dallas." Such an idea is of course surprising, whether expressed by an ignoramus or a college professor.

There is not the slightest evidence anyone regularly presiding in Dallas or in Texas had anything, even remotely, to do with the dastardly crime. The FBI has worked with great diligence to ferret out the facts concerning the case and has discovered no connection whatever between the suspected killer and any person in Texas.

The information we have respecting Lee Oswald, the accused assassin, indicates that he was a confirmed social misfit and vagrant, a bird of passage in Dallas, a "loner," a dangerous psychopath, a self-proclaimed

Marxist who bore a grudge against authority of whatever kind.

PERSONAL MATTER

The attack on President Kennedy and Gov. Connally was according to all the evidence, a personal matter, an explosion of hate timed to revenge deep-rooted grievances the charged assassin harbored in his troubled mind. The unguarded warehouse in Dallas merely provided an opportunity for the act. It could have occurred in Minneapolis, New York, Washington or elsewhere, given a free hand.

From what we know of Oswald, he was cut to the pattern of presidential assassins. Killers of American presidents were men of erratic personalities, seemingly Intelligent on the surface, despite certain idiosyncrasies, but dangerously disorganized beneath. All except John Wilkes Booth, who led a conspiracy to destroy Lincoln and his cabinet, were motivated by strictly personal impulses, and they acted alone. Guiteau murdered Garfield; and Czolgosz killed McKinley.

Booth and Guiteau committed their crimes in Washington, D.C., Czolgosz his in Buffalo, N.Y. Were the people of Washington and Buffalo therefore "guilty" of the unspeakable offenses of the assassins in their midst? Are the people of Dallas and Texas "guilty" of the mad act committed there?

FINDS INFLUENCES

Having established, in his manner, the responsibility of Dallas and Texas for the death of Kennedy, the sociologist with headquarters at Austin next probes to the "roots" of the murderous personality of Dallas and Texas., He finds five deranging influences: (1) the absolutist nature of local thought; (2) the institutionalization of personal violence; (3) the proliferation of firearms and the habit of carrying them; (4) the political respecta-

bility of the radical right; and (5) the non-existence, publicly, of a radical left.

We may imply that while these five influences did not actually pull the trigger of the assassin's weapon, they did provide the gun, the ammunition, and the warehouse, if not the target!

Texas is deranged, first, according to Dr. McGee, because it is "a land of moral absolutes." The state suffers from its "basically Baptist orientation," which "unconsciously associated John Kennedy with Sin." Ergo, we may interpolate. Oswald, a self-confessed Marxist and atheist, killed Kennedy!

The writer of this rebuttal, having known many Baptists, cannot agree that their influence is bad or that it is necessarily dominant in Texas. A few figures may be enlightening. The census of the Texas Council of Churches for 1960 showed that there were 5,822,235 church members in the state. The U.S. Census for the same year gave the population of the state as 9,579,677. Thus there were 3,757,442 persons in Texas having no church connection whatever. Of those indicating a church preference in 1930, the non-Baptist constituted 64.2 per cent. As a matter of fact, the Baptists of all divisions outnumber the Roman Catholics (of Kennedy's faith) by only 4.1 per cent. Considering the population of Texas as a whole and considering its more limited church membership, the Baptists are a minority. That the Baptists dominate Texas is an outmoded cliché disproved time after time.

WARMLY WELCOMED

For example, the cliché, plus the wild statement that the people of Texas "unconsciously associate John Kennedy with Sin" was clearly refuted in the election of 1960 when Texas gave Kennedy a majority of 46,000

votes, thus materially contributing to his victory in one of the closest contests of the nation's history.

Both during the election campaign and afterward, John F. Kennedy came to Texas on several occasions. The masses welcomed him warmly. His last visit, up to the moment the shots rang out at Dealy Plaza, was a personal triumph both for him and Mrs. Kennedy. The people of Texas even though many differed with his policies, respected and admired Kennedy. The people of no other state suffered greater shock or more poignant grief when he was killed.

Next, Dr. McGee deplors "the habit of personal violence" in Texas and states that "arguments that might be settled with an exchange of blows in Minnesota end in homicide in Texas." He denounces Dallas and Houston as the "murder capitals of the nation." It appears that Dr. McGee is not fully enamored of Texas and that he does not feel entirely safe in this "harsh and violent land." Could it be that he has spent more time viewing old Westerns on his TV than checking the cold figures respecting the incidence of crime in the United States?

It cannot be denied that Texas has its share of crime—too much crime by any standards. However, it is patently wrong to brand Dallas and Houston as the murder capitals of the nation." A few reliable data will give a clearer picture.

According to information released by the FBI last July 19. Dallas had a murder rate in 1962 (the last year reported) of 9.9 per 100,000, and Houston had a rate of 8.5. While these rates are regrettably high, they are matched and even surpassed by those of any number of other cities. Compare these corresponding murder rates: Asheville, N.C. 9.8; Atlanta, Ga., 10.3; Birmingham, Ala.,

9.4; Charlotte, N.C., 11.9; Chattanooga, Tenn., 11.6; Durham, N.C., 12.1; Greenville S.C, 9.7; Huntsville, Ala., 11.9; Jacksonville, Fla., 10.0; Las Vegas, Nev., 11.7; Lexington, Ky., 10.9; Little Rock, Ark., 14.2; Lynchburg, Va., 10.4; Macon, Ga., 14.1; Mobile, Ala., 10.9; Nashville, Tenn., 10.1; New Orleans, La., 9.1; Newport News, Va., 9.2; Raleigh, N.C., 10.6; Richmond, Va., 10.7; and Shreveport, La., 10.7.

It is thus clear that crime is widespread throughout the nation. Why, except for prejudice against them, should Dallas and Houston be subjected to special criticism?

The widespread ownership of firearms in Texas is alleged of contributed to the condition of violence that led, in turn, to the assassination in Dallas. It is true of course, that Texas does not have an effective arms-control law. But it is also true that no other state, excepting New York, has such a law. Whether the per capita ownership of firearms is greater in Texas than in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Nevada and Virginia is not known. However, the figures quoted above indicate that guns are not used more in Texas for purposes of homicide than in a number of other states.

MOST LAW-ABIDING

Is it logical to conclude, as Dr. McGee apparently does, that owning a gun leads naturally to its use against a human being? My own observation in West Texas from the turn of the century to the present leads me to deny his inference. Ours was a typical frontier community, and almost everyone owned one or more pistols and rifles. In fact many men habitually carried arms. But there were few shooters and fewer killings. The majority of people were law-abiding. They went about their business daily little dreaming that the few despised criminals among them

would later become the heroes of TV, true representatives of the "violent" West.

Today those Texans who own guns commonly leave them at home; I have just safely visited Dallas, of all places, completely unarmed and unafraid. When guns are taken from the house, they are usually employed in plinking, "varmint" hunting and shooting off occasional intruders. In general, Texans know that guns are dangerous and when not to use them, just as they restrain themselves in using butcher knives, ice picks, rat poison, and other lethal weapons. And as to the allegation that 50 per cent the boys at the University are armed and, by inference, dangerous; I personally cannot recall any report of a shooting there. In fact, Austin has a relatively low homicide rate, only 4.4 per 100,000 population.

But what does all of this have to do with the assassination of President Kennedy? Did the accused assassin buy his gun in the wide-open market of Texas? No, it came from a mail-order, house in Chicago, It follows, therefore, in keeping with Dr. McGee's logic, that all the people of Illinois must share with all the people of Texas the guilt.

Another "root" of trouble, according to Dr. McGee, is the presence in Texas of influential right-wingers, especially extremists like Gen, Walker. Because such persons have recently been quite vocal, and have received much free publicity from opponents such as Dr. McGee, he concludes that they reflect the prevailing opinion in the state, How, then, explain the fact that the voters of Texas overwhelmingly repudiated Gen, Walker when he ran for governor in the last election? How explain Kennedy's victory in Texas. How account for the election of Gov. Connally and other moderates, The fact is that politics in Texas, in spite of some

anomalies, has consistently been middle-of-the-road, not radically liberal and not reactionary either.

Symbolizing reaction at its worst, in Dr. McGee's view, is the city of Dallas, sitting fat and proud on the banks of the muddy Trinity, with its "glass and neon," its "wheeler-dealer Cadillac owners" and "their gilded women." Dallas is "a newer city, without a hereditary local aristocracy to mind the civic welfare and without, really, any particular reason for existence except as a financial headquarters."

These are rather sweeping conclusions. On what are they based? Has Dr. McGee taken a field trip to Dallas and made a survey, in the good old research fashion, to dig out his data? Evidently not. Among others, he overlooks the great number of highly cultured people in Dallas including hundreds of alumnae of The University of Texas. He ignores the many excellent schools and colleges in Dallas, its excellent libraries and book stores, its outstanding museums of art and history, its famous symphony orchestra, its fine homes, and its friendly and wholesome people.

In the scales of Dr. McGee, all these plus-factors are outweighed by the fact that a handful of extreme rightists live in Dallas and that a left wing crazed killer apparently came alone and unknown to the city, and there committed the crime of the century. Thus it seems that in keeping with the new sociology, "guilt by association" has no fixed limits; the concept now takes on devastating dimensions.

But what worries Dr. McGee most of all, perhaps, is the absence in Texas of an active and effective left wing. As he says, "a true radical literally has no place to go politically, and nothing to do but hide." And he con-

tinues; with his usual logic, "it may be that the President's assassin was a leftist: In its mute frustration the left there (in Dallas) may have no other recourse than violence."

It is true, of course, that radical leftists are not welcome in Texas. But where else are they welcome? Public opinion throughout the nation is aware of the threat that radicalism, especially communism, has long posed to our institutions. The American people are paying something like \$50 billion a year to contain, counterbalance and deter this danger during the persistent Cold War. Texans, along with other Americans, are concerned with their security at home, as well as in South Vietnam and elsewhere abroad.

Even discounting the danger of subversion from an active left is at home, Dr. McGee's idea of having one extreme wing balance the other involves serious risks to our system of government. Democracy cannot survive when its institutions are subjected to attack by strong irreconcilable groups. The party anarchy in France that ended only with the dictatorship of De Gaulle is only one of many examples of this truth.

As President Johnson, a good American and Texan, has said, we in the United States today need to reject extremism on both the right and left, to abjure bitterness and violence, to respect one another as Americans, to work for the common welfare, and to live according to the precepts of good faith and goodwill.

These are the principles for which, fundamentally, John F. Kennedy stood. They are the pillars of American democracy. How can we as a nation survive without them? Is it not the obligation of teachers and social scientists, along with others charged with civic responsibility in Texas and elsewhere, to defend and advance these principles?

* * *

**BULLS GORE, PARROT CHASES
RABBIT, DOVE FLIES PEACEFULLY
ON SADDLE**

**S.D. Myres Makes \$1500 Artistic
Product For Sam Lard**

EPHP 8/7/39 p3c6

S.D. Myres puts his friends' personalities on the saddles he makes for them.

He is completing a saddle for Sam Lard of Hillsboro, N.M. Fighting men and animals adorn the \$1500 production.

The fighting figures are carved in the leather.



S. D. Myres and the saddle he is making for Sam Lard

Most remarkable figure is a carving of a famous Charlie Russell painting of a cow-puncher roping a calf. The calf is bawling. The old mother cow has charged the horse. The cowboy has jerked out his pistol to shoot the cow.

Hagedon Dog

Another scene shows two bulls scrapping.

There is a lion, king of the jungle, and an alligator, king of the swamps, having an argument; a cowboy trying to break a bronc; a ranger hunting deer.

Most graceful carving is that of a greyhound chasing a rabbit. The greyhound was carved from a photograph of one of Barry Hagedon's dogs.

Oddest figure is a parrot chasing a fat rabbit.

"Sam Lard has a pet parrot and a pet rabbit, and the two have a heck of a time," said Mr. Myres. The rabbit wins sometimes, but the parrot usually whips the rabbit."

A Little Joke

Mr. Lard sometimes likes horses. Mr. Myres carved a horses' head 'framed in a horse-shoe, symbol of luck.

Mr. Myres feels that he has played a little joke on Mr. Lard in his carving of a snake and coyote. He chuckles about it, but won't say why.

The snake is horrible looking, the kind you see when you fall off the water wagon.

"I know it is a bad drawing of a snake, but a snake always looks a lot worse than it really is," Mr. Myres explained.

Peace Dove

A dove flies through the midst of this chaos, with a palm leaf in its bill, symbol of peace. On the palm leaf is the name, "Lard."

Also carved in the leather are Mr. Lard's initials, his ranch brand (ladder-slash) and the ranch name, Ladder Ranch.

Most unusual thing about the saddle are rows of Mexican coins, bent cup-shaped and fastened to the eather. There are 250 pesos, half I lesos and 10 cent pieces on the sad- i lie and bridle. '

Buckles are of sterling silver.

* * *

by Steve Alex
EPT 3/3/46

S.D. Myres saddlemaker, pioneer, pistol expert.

Intimately known to governors, movie stars, cowhands as "Tio" Sam, the 73-year-old saddlemaker has lined his office with pictures of his many prize winning saddles, several of which have been valued at \$10,000, and poses of himself with Tom Mix, Gene Autry and other notables.



S.D. MYRES

He knew Pancho Villa, made riding gear exclusively for Col. Joe Miller, two presidents of Mexico. Will Rogers and Ken Maynard. His opinion is sought from all parts of the United States on pistol shooting. His colorful garb and white-flowing beard

gained him international fame when he attended .the National Pistol Matches. He thinks El Paso has more to offer than any other city in the U.S. and says "we are playing with pennies when we should be anteing dollars for national advertisement."

* * *

MOVIE PLAYER'S SADDLE MADE IN EL PASO SHOWN

EPHP 12/2/36 p11c7

A 35-pound saddle, trimmed with gold and silver and valued at \$2500, is on display in the window of the Popular Dry Goods Co.

The saddle is owned by Jaek Hoxie, western movie actor. It was completed today by the S.D. Myres Saddle Co. of El Paso.

Leather work on the saddle was done from cowboy paintings by Charles Russel.

* * *

FINE EL PASO SADDLES TO BE SHOWN AT DALLAS

**Work of S. D. Myres
for Col. W.T. Johnson**

Near Completion for Centennial Display

World News 5/29/36 p2c2

El Pasoans will be treated to some of the city's own representative work at the Texas Centennial in Dallas when the S.D. Myres Saddle Company, 526 East Overland street, places on display 10 new saddles made exclusively for Col. W. Tom Johnson for use at the exposition in his world-renowned rodeo, Mr. Myres revealed today.

The saddles represent an investment of several thousand dollars, and experts have been working night and day to have them ready to send to Dallas Saturday.

According to Myres, the saddles are only a few of the saddles he has made for Colonel Johnson, but are the finest he has done. They are hand tooled and represent two months' work. The saddles have a five-color design, with "W.T. Johnson, Rodeo, '36," carved in black in the saddle leather. They are designed strictly for rodeo work.

The \$1500 saddle with finely engraved silver trimmings to be used by Capt. John R. Hughes, Texas Ranger, in the opening parade of the Centennial, also will be on display.

Specially made belts, holsters and chaps will be exhibited by the Sheriffs' Association of Texas at its Centennial headquarters.

The Sheriffs' Centennial headquarters will be a replica of "Law West of the Pecos," the abode of Judge Roy Bean at Langtry, Texas. The belt and scabbard to be worn by Judge Bean in the re-enactment of his trials will be made by Myres. Arrangements have been made that any orders for belts and scabbards as souvenirs will be filled by the Myres Company.

Myres explains that masterly carving and hand tooled work on the leather is an old Moorish art, The Spaniards brought the art to this country originally.

* * *

**EL PASO SADDLE MAKER WINS
COUNTRYWIDE RECOGNITION
S. D. Myres Makes \$2500 Product for
Motion Picture Star;
Holster Adopted by U.S. Border Patrol**
EPHP 9/14/36 p7c3

Sam D. Myres, El Paso saddle maker, is getting famous. He has won recognition from the World Championship Rodeo, Hollywood movie stars, the U.S. Government, and the Texas Centennial.

Mr. Myres this week will ship six saddles to the World's Championship Rodeo to be held in Madison Square Garden, New York City, Oct. 7-25. They are now on display in his El Paso shop.

Col. W.T. Johnson, rodeo director, for whom Mr. Myres made a \$5000 saddle decorated with gold and silver, ordered the six saddles as trophies in the Madison Square Garden rodeo.

\$2500 Saddle

Mr. Myres is making a \$2500 saddle for Jack Hoxie, motion picture actor.

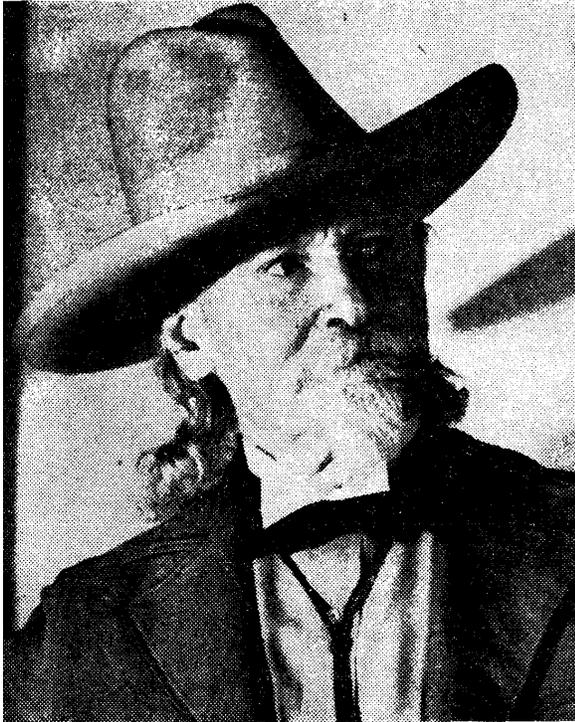
He has just received official notification from the Department of Labor that the Myres revolver holster, which he originated, has been made the official holster for U.S. Immigration Border Patrolmen on both the Mexican and Canadian borders. The holster used on the Mexican border is open top style, while the Canadian border holster has a flap.

70-Year Tree

Myres has a saddle tree which was in use 70 years ago and which he calls the "missing link" in the evolution of saddle making. It has a round, Mexican style horn, built on a modern western frame.

Mr. Myres' saddles are on display, in Ranger headquarters at the Texas Centennial in Dallas.

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SAM D. MYRES

**S.D. MYERS NAMED
PARADE MARSHAL**

EPT 10/29/49

Emphasizing the romantic and colorful background involved in the theme for the 1946-47 Southwestern Sun Carnival, "Glamour of the Southwest," Sam (Tio Sam) D. Myres will be grand marshal of the Sun Carnival parade Jan 1. Myres, native Texan, is an old-time Texas Ranger, cowboy and pioneer saddle maker.

The announcement was made Monday by J.T. Reynolds, acting parade chairman.

Myres, whose long list of friends included such famous individuals, Buffalo Bin, Pawnee Bill and Col. J.C. Miller of the 101 Ranch fame, was born Nov. 22, 1871, in a frame shack in Cleburne, Texas. He is now a picturesque figure, with his long white hair, moustache and goatee, a tonsorial style characteristic of early day Texans.

Myres went to Sweetwater in 1897 to work in a saddle shop. The following year he bought the business. The town then had a population of 600, Myers says.

Myres served for two terms as mayor of Sweetwater. He was called "the fighting mayor." Under his administration schools were built, sewers installed and streets' paved. After being mayor he was a deputy sheriff and then a Texas Ranger. He also was captain of the Home Guard, a volunteer organization which kept things on t an even keel during World War I.

**MADE \$10,000
SADDLE FOR MILLER**

Myres' saddles are internationally known. His most famous was the \$10,000 saddle he made for Colonel Miller, whose 101 Ranch wild west show then was a tremendous success.

Embedded in this saddle were 166 diamonds, 120 sapphires, 17 rubies, four garnets and 15 pounds of sterling silver and gold. Also, the leather was hand-carved, a specialty of Myres.

Myres has been making saddles since 1897 and among his other customers were presidents of Mexico and Pancho Villa.

His shop and store are located at 526 East Overland Street-along the old Butterfield stage route.

Associated with him are his son, W.J. Myres, graduate of Texas A. and M. College, and his nephew, i Dace Myres, graduate of John Tarleton College. His other son, Sam D. Myres, Jr., is a professor of government in Southern Methodist University, Dallas.

The pioneer saddle maker, who has been a resident of El Paso since 1920, will be mounted on a horse when he leads the Sun Parade.

FOUR PRINCESSES ANNOUNCED

There were 20 floats and four Sun Princesses entered officially Monday. The 20th float was the entry of El Paso Rotary Club, the theme of which is the Red Cross.

Latest princesses to send in their entry blanks and photographs to Sun Carnival headquarters, Hotel Cortez, were Miss Betty Lou Ward, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R.S. Ward, Carrizozo, and Miss Hattye: Ruth Cole, 19, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Cole, Artesia.

Miss Ward graduated from the Carrizozo High School last spring.

Miss Cole is a graduate of the Artesia High School, class of 1945, and is now attending Ward Belmont College in Nashville. She will receive her diploma and certificate in music next spring.

There have been several announcements of princesses elected in various Southwest towns, but entry blanks and pictures have not been received by the Sun Carnival Association.

An Associated Press message from Deming Monday said that Miss .Janet Winder,

daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Winder, had been chosen as Deming's princess.

GUTIERREZ WINS POSTER CONTEST

F.C. Bowman, president of the Deming Chamber of Commerce, also announced that the 63-piece Deming High School band would march in the Sun Parade.

F.C. Gutierrez Monday was announced as the winner of the poster contest, inaugurated to obtain a :subject to be used in advertising the Sun Carnival. Gutierrez's sketch showed a pioneer, with long hair, moustache and goatee. "Southwestern Sun Carnival" and "Glamour of the Southwest" appear in large red letters on a white background: "Sun Bowl Game" and dates, "Dec. 27-Jan. 1," also are included.

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UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR WITH STRING OF DEGREES TURNS SADDLE MAKER IN E.P. S. D. Myres Jr. Gives Up Academic Life For Happy, Friendly Work In Alameda Shop

By Marshall Hail
EPHP 2/15/55

A few months ago he was professor at a university.

Behind him were 30 years of scholarship, membership in learned societies, and the successful pursuit of A.B., M.A., LL.D. and Ph.D degrees.

A world traveler, he had served on committees investigating conditions in foreign countries. He had written 30 books and monographs on national and world affairs.

Today he is an El Paso businessman, a maker of saddles and gun holsters. And likes it.

Friendly People

How he came to take such an astonishing switch was explained by S.D. Myres Jr. as he busied himself with saddle and holster cat-I is t, alogs at the S. D. Myres Saddle Co. at 5030 Alameda avenue. He is vice president of the firm, which was founded by his late father, S.D. Myres Sr., long a colorful El Paso personality and exponent of things Western.

“We took opposite directions,” Mr. Myres said. “I went the academic way. I never learned anything about my father’s business.

“But last year I was near the retirement age at Southern Methodist University. My father had died and I wanted to be with my brother Bill.

“So I came to El Paso. I like the climate here and I like the people. They’re so friendly.”

Member of Bar Since 1924

Bill Myres is president of the company. The third officer of the firm is Dace Myres, secretary-treasurer, cousin of the two brothers.

The biography of S.D. Myres Jr., takes up three and a half inches of fine print in Who’s Who. At one time he and Robert Hutchins, former president of Chicago University, were the youngest men listed in that volume. At one time Mr. Myres was the youngest full professor in the U.S.

Born in Sweetwater, Mr. Myres got his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at SMU and his Ph.D at Texas U. He received his LL. D. at Trinity University and has been; a member of the Texas bar since 1924.

In 1931 he graduated from the Institute de Hautes Etudes in Geneva. : He has been a high school principal, teacher in Dallas schools. European correspondent of the Dallas News, editor of the Southwestern Review ; and other publications, and lecturer.



S.D. MYERS JR.

He was on the SMU faculty from 1924 to 1954. When he left SMU he was director of the Arnold Foundation in Public Affairs.

Constitution Revision

He has been fellow of the Social Science Research Council investigating in Switzerland and Palestine, member of an International Labor Organization committee, member of: a Carnegie Endowment group inves-

tigating conditions in South America, and member of numerous ; political science, social science and law associations and fraternities.

Mr. Myres also was on a commission to revise the Texas Constitution, another that had to do with governmental reform, and another that studied Argentine beef.

His books include such titles as "The Cotton Crisis," "The Southwest in International Affairs," "The United States and Mexico," and "America and the World Crisis." He has edited numerous studies and surveys.

Not New to Business

Although he is new to the saddle business, Mr. Myres is no stranger to business. As a sideline to his academic career he operated, for several years, the Southwest PhotoArts Institute in Dallas. It did a \$500,000 a year business.

Mr. Myres' sideline now is the study that used to be his main interest. He already has done research on what may be another book. It's about the effect of atomic and hydrogen bombs on the balance of power among nations.

"Now that both sides have absolute weapons it may be a blessing in disguise," Mr. Myres said "Churchill himself has accepted the idea of the bombs as a deterrent.

"Russia of course will resort to Trojan Horse tactics as she has in the past. But the lining up of nations in a classic war won't take place in the foreseeable future. The bombs will limit fighting to peripheral engagements. A general war is too dangerous. But of course a madman could go off at a tangent and plunge the world into war."

As an ex-editor and writer Mr. Myres is right at home preparing store catalogs and writing advertising copy. As an expert photographer he provides his own illustrations.

"I enjoy the work here," he said. "I still am an avid student and I like to travel. But I think I'm here in El Paso to stay."

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TIO SAM' MYRES

**Long Locks, Buckskin Coat
SAM MYERS LEFT INDELIBLE
MARK ON EL PASO
By Dorothea M. Fox
Written Especially for The Times
EPT 12/8/63**

**FAMED SOUTHWESTERNERS'
ROLE TOLD ON
'BUSCADERO GUNBELT'
EPT 1/12/62**

**Southwesterner In Focus
S.D. 'TED' MYRES' BROAD CAREERS
NOT ENDED; HE HAS 'MUCH TO DO'
EPT Sundial 7/5/70**

**'TIO SAM' MYRES CAN
RECALL THE REAL WEST
EPT (Parade) 5/16/48**

**FUNERAL SERVICES SET
FOR SAM D. MYRES, 81
EPHP 7/3/53**

**S.D. (TIO SAM) MYRES DIES;
PIONEER OF FABULOUS
SOUTHWEST
EPT 7/3/53**

**MYRES RITES SCHEDULED
FOR MONDAY
EPT 7/4/53**

**LAST RITES HELD
FOR SAM D. MYRES
EPHP 7/6/53**

**TWC DEPARTMENT HEAD
REPLIES TO INDICTMENT
OF DALLAS AND TEXAS
by Dr. Sam D. Myres
EPT 1/5/64**

**BULLS GORE, PARROT CHASES
RABBIT, DOVE FLIES PEACEFULLY
ON SADDLE
S.D. Myres Makes \$1500 Artistic
Product For Sam Lard
EPHP 8/7/39 p3c6**

**MOVIE PLAYER'S SADDLE
MADE IN EL PASO SHOWN
EPHP 12/2/36 p11c7**

**FINE EL PASO SADDLES
TO BE SHOWN AT DALLAS
Work of S. D. Myres
for Col. W.T. Johnson
Near Completion for Centennial Display
World News 5/29/36 p2c2**

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