

**JUSTICE OF PEACE SHORT  
OF STATURE BUT LONG  
ON COURAGE, COMPASSION**

By Dorrance H. Guy  
EPT Sundial 12/31/67

Brunson Drury Moore, 37-year-old El Paso justice of the peace, might accurately be compared to a bantam rooster.

Short of stature, long on courage and oft times completely unaware of what could be a "political advantage," the diminutive jurist hands out justice with a degree of mercy that sometimes goes without notice.

However he's true to his word, though it may be a threat, as some persons who have been before his bench can testify. He has, on more than one occasion, granted leniency to a defendant and then coupled it with a promise to send them to jail if they commit the same offense again. He has sent them to jail the second go-around.

Judge Moore, who has tasted the bitterness of defeat and the honey of victory during his short span of political activity, can look back on a childhood as varied as his recent professional life.

Born into what, even then, amounted to a children's home, educated in El Paso, Bryan, Tex., Bay St. Louis, Miss., Wesson, Miss., Oxford, Miss., and Austin, Tex., a private practice of law and politics—both as a candidate and as an administrative assistant—all have left marks on the life of Judge Moore.

The affable peace justice is the son of the late Victor C. Moore, widely-known El Paso lawyer, and, Mrs. Moore, who for more than 30 years has headed the Southwestern Children's Home here. He is married to the former Miss Mary Ann Armstrong, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Armstrong, 818 McKelligon, and the couple has a daughter, Monica. 3.

During the depression, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Moore felt compassion for homeless and underprivileged children and opened their doors to the waifs of the community and, thereby, established what grew to be Southwestern Children's Home,



**BRUNSON MOORE**

Though they had children of their own—Victor Jr., manager of El Paso Sand and Gravel Co, of El Paso, Edward Taylor, a tax lawyer in Houston, Mrs. Herschel Austin of El Paso and Miss Mary Elizabeth Moore of El Paso—the Moores always seemed to find room "for one more" child.

Perhaps it is because of this background that Judge Moore "leans over backwards" for juveniles—sometimes even though they are delinquent.

"They ought to get all the legal rights provided by law," he said, "and I probably am more lenient if the parents will come to my court. If they (the juveniles) are in trouble and the parents understand the problems, then the juveniles can be controlled at home a whole lot better than they can in jail."

Judge Moore also commented on the law enforcement agencies in El Paso. He said, "In El Paso We have the best law enforcement. We have shortcomings in the Police and Sheriff departments primarily because the men are not compensated for what they do."

“We don’t have the money necessary to carry out complete law and order in a border community. We have restricted facilities and restricted manpower. We could do better with more money because a lot of officers who are efficient in the field are moving to other towns just because they can earn more money.”

And Judge Moore should know whereof he speaks as he has heard some of the most controversial cases in El Paso during his first term of office.

### **OLD SAYING**

There’s an old saying: “Fools walk in where angels fear to tread.” And this might apply to Judge Moore as he has conducted hearings on several potentially explosive murder cases, the widely-publicized Bel Air High School sit-in case and the Thomason General Hospital baby case. Though he has hesitated to make “immediate rulings” on occasion, preferring instead to take time to deliberate in his own mind as to the law and justice—which are not always synonymous—he always has made the decision on the basis of what he felt the facts were.

Judge Moore was drafted into the Army and received basic training at Ft. Chaffee, Ark. He served in Korea during that war for 10 months and was discharged as a corporal in 1954.

It was at this time that he went to Washington, D.C. serving as a legislative assistant to Congressman Frank Ikard of Wichita Falls. He was there for two years and then left, in 1956, to attend law school at the University of Texas at Austin. He was graduated with a law degree in 1959.

After rooming in law school with Sen. Joe Christie of El Paso, and influencing Christie to move to El Paso. Judge Moore moved back to El Paso.

Only three years later he met with a disaster. He and his close friend, the late Tito Poe, then president of A.B. Poe Motor Co., in El Paso, were flying to Albuquerque; N.M., to visit friends.

The plane’s engine malfunctioned and the duo crashed just outside of the airport. Poe was killed and Judge Moore critically injured. Judge Moore battled internal injuries and, by the time of his second campaign for office needed only a cane for walking. He now has recovered from all injuries:

In summing up his life and his career, it might be said of Judge Moore that he has been compelled to action by compassion, by ambition, by diligence and by faith.

\* \* \*

# Justice Of Peace Short Of Stature But Long On Courage, Compassion

By DORRANCE H. GUY

Brunson Drury Moore, 37-year-old El Paso justice of the peace, might accurately be compared to a bantam rooster.

Short of stature, long on courage and oft times completely unaware of what could be a "political advantage," the diminutive jurist hands out justice with a degree of mercy that sometimes goes without notice.

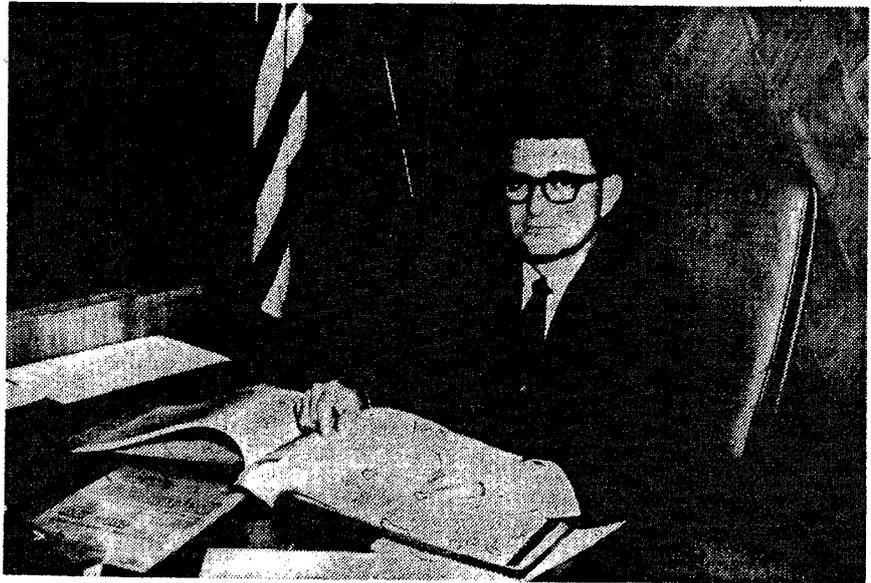
However, he's true to his word, though it may be a threat, as some persons who have been before his bench can testify. He has, on more than one occasion, granted leniency to a defendant and then coupled it with a promise to send them to jail if they commit the same offense again. He has sent them to jail the second go-around.

Judge Moore, who has tasted the bitterness of defeat and the honey of victory during his short span of political activity, can look back on a childhood as varied as his recent professional life.

Born into what, even then, amounted to a children's home, educated in El Paso, Bryan, Tex., Bay St. Louis, Miss., Wesson, Miss., Oxford, Miss., and Austin, Tex., a private practice of law and politics—both as a candidate and as an administrative assistant—all have left marks on the life of Judge Moore.

The affable peace justice is the son of the late Victor C. Moore, widely-known El Paso lawyer, and Mrs. Moore, who for more than 30 years has headed the Southwestern Children's Home here. He is married to the former Miss Mary Ann Armstrong, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Armstrong, 818 McKelligon, and the couple has a daughter, Monica, 3.

During the depression, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Moore felt compassion for homeless and underprivileged children and opened their doors to the waifs of the community and, thereby, established what grew to



BRUNSON MOORE

be Southwestern Children's Home.

Though they had children of their own—Victor Jr., manager of El Paso Sand and Gravel Co. of El Paso, Edward Taylor, a tax lawyer in Houston, Mrs. Herschel Austin of El Paso and Miss Mary Elizabeth Moore of El Paso—the Moores always seemed to find room "for one more" child.

Perhaps it is because of this background that Judge Moore "leans over backwards" for juveniles—sometimes even though they are delinquent.

"They ought to get all the legal rights provided by law," he said, "and I probably am more lenient if the parents will come to my court. If they (the juveniles) are in trouble and the parents understand the problems, then the juveniles can be controlled at home a whole lot better than they can in jail."

Judge Moore also commented on the law enforcement agencies in El Paso. He said, "In El Paso we have the best law enforcement. We have shortcomings in the Police and Sheriff departments primarily because the men are not compensated for what they do.

"We don't have the money necessary to carry out complete law and order in a border community. We have restricted facilities and restricted manpower. We could do better with more money because a lot of officers who are efficient in the field are mov-

ing to other towns just because they can earn more money."

And Judge Moore should know whereof he speaks as he has heard some of the most controversial cases in El Paso during his first term of office.

## OLD SAYING

There's an old saying: "Fools walk in where angels fear to tread." And this might apply to Judge Moore as he has conducted hearings on several potentially explosive murder cases, the widely-publicized Bel Air High School sit-in case and the Thomason General Hospital baby case. Though he has hesitated to make "immediate rulings" on occasion, preferring instead to take time to deliberate in his own mind as to the law and justice—which are not always synonymous—he always has made

the decision on the basis of what he felt the facts were.

Judge Moore was drafted into the Army and received basic training at Ft. Chaffee, Ark. He served in Korea during that war for 10 months and was discharged as a corporal in 1954.

It was at this time that he went to Washington, D.C., serving as a legislative assistant to Congressman Frank Icard of Wichita Falls. He was there for two years and then left, in 1956, to attend law school at the University of Texas at Austin. He was graduated with a law degree in 1959.

After rooming in law school with Sen. Joe Christie of El Paso, and influencing Christie to move to El Paso, Judge Moore moved back to El Paso.

Only three years later he met with a disaster. He and his close friend, the late Tito Poe, then president of A. B. Poe Motor Co., in El Paso, were flying to Albuquerque, N.M., to visit friends.

The plane's engine malfunctioned and the duo crashed just outside of the airport. Poe was killed and Judge Moore critically injured. Judge Moore battled off internal injuries and, by the time of his second campaign for office needed only a cane for walking. He now has recovered from all injuries.

In summing up his life and his career, it might be said of Judge Moore that he has been compelled to action by compassion, by ambition, by diligence and by faith.

