

# PASSWORD



THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
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# The El Paso County Historical Society

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## PASSWORD



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AND LIFE

# PASSWORD

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## The Hall of Honor Issue

**F**or the El Paso County Historical Society (EPCHS), 2020 will long be remembered as a year of perseverance. Among other challenges, COVID-19 forced the Society to postpone our annual Hall of Honor banquet. Yet the pandemic did not prevent us from honoring four exemplary El Pasoans and celebrating their achievements. This issue of *Password* is dedicated to this year's incoming Hall of Honor class—Rick Francis, Maude Craig Sampson Williams, William J. Hooten, and Janice Woods Windle — who will be honored in person at the 2021 banquet. Readers of this issue will also learn more about the history of the Hall of Honor, the first decade of Hall of Honor banquets, and a few exemplary inductees honored in years past.

The first Hall of Honor was held in 1961. According to the selection criteria, the Hall “shall be composed of outstanding men and women of character, vision, courage, and creative spirit, who have lived in what is presently El Paso County.” Furthermore, inductees must have “consistently done the unusual which deserves to be written or recorded; or who have created that which deserves to be read; heard or seen; and who have made El Paso County better for their having lived in it.” Lastly, honorees must have “influenced over a period of years the course of history of El Paso County” or “brought honor and recognition to the El Paso Community.” Since then, the EPCHS has celebrated artists, authors, civic leaders, attorneys, teachers, businesspeople, elected officials, and many others.

In the pages that follow, you will learn that Maude Craig Sampson Williams was a suffragist, teacher, civil rights leader, and community activist. William J. Hooten was the editor of the *El Paso Times* from 1940 until he retired in 1970. Well known for his civic and charitable activities, Rick Francis is the Chairman and CEO of WestStar

Bank. And Janice Woods Windle is well-recognized for her accomplishments as an author and her decades of work at the El Paso Community Foundation. Following the biographies of this year's inductees, Dr. Sue Stanfield has written a piece titled "Eventful Evenings: A Glimpse at the First Decade of Hall of Honor Banquets." We have also included the first Hall of Honor message, titled "Pasan Por Aqui" and delivered by former EPCHS President Dr. Joseph Leach at the inaugural banquet in 1961. Then we highlight three past honorees: Maud Durlin Sullivan, José Cisneros, and Felix Martinez.

We hope that learning more about the El Paso County Historical Society's Hall of Honor and a few of its inspiring honorees will encourage you to submit a nomination for 2021. If you know someone, living or deceased, who merits being remembered for their contributions as an exemplary El Pasoan, please contact us at 915-533-3603 or through email [epchs@elpasohistory.com](mailto:epchs@elpasohistory.com). And thank you for your continued support of the El Paso County Historical Society. It is essential in these trying times, as we simply cannot fulfill our mission without you!

— *Brad Cartwright, Past President*



## President's Message

In an El Paso Herald article titled, "Stops Crowding while 'Flu' is on," published on October 28, 1919, the Herald reported that Mayor Charles Davis met with health board officials, merchants, and police officers to discuss implementing drastic measures to reduce the spread of influenza amongst the population in El Paso. The Influenza Pandemic of 1918 – 1920 infected approximately 50 million people worldwide and killed 675,000 Americans. During this pandemic, El Paso city leaders met to discuss the enforcement of the "rule of 25," a resolution which states that "no stores nor public places of any kind are to allow more than 25 people other than employees to congregate at any one time... loitering for nonessential purposes is hereby prohibited." Called the "The Rule of Reason," the rhetoric of this resolution is all too familiar to those of us in the Borderland who have experienced untold hardship, loss, and anxiety this past year. As the Coronavirus rages across borders, sparking a global pandemic that has taken millions of lives, we learn and co-opt new rhetoric that has come to define these times, including "Social distancing," "Flattening the curve," "Shelter in Place," and many others. We greet each other with faces covered, six feet apart, or not at all and instead keep in touch with loved ones remotely, through a screen. This generation faces one of its greatest challenges, but our role at the Society is to remind our community that history is cyclical – what rises must fall, economies recede and grow, and like the pandemic of 1918, the Coronavirus pandemic will also, eventually, fade.

The El Paso County Historical Society entered 2020 with vigor and a packed schedule of events. We began the year with a guest lecture series to promote our new book, *The Lost Restaurants of El Paso*, which explores the histories of restaurants in the borderland, including the Café Central, Jaxson's, the Mint Café, and others. We also hosted the grand opening of "Women as Social Agents of Change: El Paso Social Housekeepers, 1880-1930," an exhibit about El Paso suffragists who advanced women's involvement in society through activism in the late 19th and 20th centuries. However, on March 24, 2020, Mayor Dee Margo issued the historic "Work Safe, Stay Home," ordering all non-essential businesses to close as the Coronavirus spread rapidly through the borderland. The Society closed the Burges House, our 106-year-old headquarters, to the public, and we postponed our annual Hall of Honor celebration until next November 2021. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit education and research center, dedicated to sharing knowledge and engaging with the community, and responsible for maintaining an archive of over 25,000 artifacts, this shutdown has impacted us greatly. Due to COVID-19, we have not been able to fundraise in our typical way. Our annual Hall of Honor is our biggest fundraiser

of the year, and we, like many other nonprofits, rely on the generosity of community members to continue our operations.

Despite these tremendous challenges, EPCHS received new and exciting donations in 2020. The Davenport family donated to the Society the 101-year-old former Texaco Service Station located at 2871 Grant Avenue. The donation earlier this year fulfilled Mr. Davenport's wish to preserve the station as a gift to the community that as he said "gave him so much" in his 92 years of life in El Paso. Mr. Davenport had a long and successful career as an antiques dealer and appraiser. He and Mrs. Davenport owned the Alameda Trading Post and Davenport's Antiques in Canutillo. The station, restored by Mr. Davenport in 2009, was built in 1919 and later served as the site of the Radio TV Hospital. We received two large murals of famous El Pasoans, paintings that once hung in the historic Jaxson's restaurant on North Mesa. We launched several new programs, including the Jane Burgess Perrenot Research Center, Publications, Hall of Honor, Burgess Family Home, Jane Burges Perrenot Garden, Historic Christmas Celebration, History Day, and the 1918 Texaco Service Station program. Our goal is to increase our engagement with the community through these exciting programs and regain the meaningful interactions and connections we lost in 2020.

What makes the Hall of Honor so important is that it encourages our fellow El Pasoans to employ a larger perspective by remembering and commemorating individuals who also experienced and overcame diverse challenges throughout the decades. By asking El Pasoans to nominate their peers, community members, family members, or their ancestors for this distinguished award, we ask our community to explore its collective past and elevate and amplify the histories of individuals who have positively impacted their region. Although the 60th annual Hall of Honor has been postponed until November 2021, during which we will honor the slate from both years, the society selected four outstanding individuals to honor during next year's banquet. This year's honorees are Rick Francis, Maude Craig Sampson Williams, William J. Hooten, and Janice Woods Windle. Rick Francis is the Chairman and CEO of WestStar Bank and well known for his civic and charitable activities. Maude Craig Sampson Williams (1880-1958) was a suffragist, teacher, civil rights leader, and community activist. William J. Hooten (1900-1991) was the editor of the El Paso Times from 1940 until he retired in 1970. Janice Woods Windle is well-known for her accomplishments as an author and her decades of work at the El Paso Community Foundation. We invite you all to join us next year to celebrate these incredible individuals and rejoice in what we hope will be a year of events, celebrations, and social gatherings. Thank you and stay safe,

— *Melissa Hutson, President*

# *2020 Hall of Honor*

## **Maude Craig Sampson Williams**

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### *2020 Hall of Honor Inductee*

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Maude Craig Sampson Williams was a prominent El Paso suffragist, teacher, civil rights leader and community activist during the first half of the 20th century.

Craig was born in Austin, Texas in February 1880 and graduated from Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College (now Prairie View A&M University) in 1920. She taught at African American schools her entire career, including the Douglass School in El Paso and at Central Elementary in La Union, N.M., in the 1920s and 1930s.

She moved to El Paso in 1904, and three years later married Edward D. Sampson, a janitor, realtor, and barber. She helped establish the local Phillis Wheatley Club and led campaigns in support of World War I, including the promotion of Liberty Bonds, Junior Red Cross membership drives, and boosting the morale of black soldiers stationed at Fort Bliss and Biggs Field. From



1917 until the early 1920s, Sampson served as vice president of the El Paso NAACP, the first branch in the state. As a founding organizer of the El Paso Negro Woman's Civic and Enfranchisement League and president of the El Paso Colored Woman's Club, she was an outspoken suffragist who in 1918 attempted to apply for affiliation in the National American Woman Suffrage Association but was rebuffed due to segregation and racism.

After her first husband's death, Sampson married dentist Emerson M. Williams in 1929. The following year she lectured on activist Frederick Douglass during the fifth annual Negro History Week celebration. The 1940s and 1950s saw Williams — as a member of the Council of Church Women and the Women's Federated Clubs and Societies — organize programs that promoted integration, host World War II black troops and

serve as trustee of the Mary L. Peyton Foundation. In 1947, she witnessed the successful hiring of the first four black El Paso police officers.

While chair of the El Paso NAACP Legal Redress committee, Williams was a delegate to its Southwest Conference; participated on panel discussions; petitioned the city council and the Park and Recreation Board for more housing and leisure facilities; toured Black neighborhoods with mayor Fred Hervey to assess needs; and fought for the desegregation of public schools at Fort Bliss and in the Fabens and Ysleta school districts. Moreover, in March 1955, Williams accompanied Thelma J. White, Douglass School valedictorian, in an unsuccessful bid to register her at Texas Western College. The El Paso NAACP immediately filed suit in US district court, *White v. Smith*, and won to desegregate TWC. Texas Western College became the first state-supported institution to desegregate at the undergraduate level.

Williams moved to Oklahoma City in 1957 and within a year died at the age of 78. The El Paso Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance honored her in 1968 by establishing a Memorial Scholarship Fund.

## **Rick Francis**

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### ***2020 Hall of Honor Inductee***

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El Paso has seen some big changes in the last 15 years or so. A prime mover behind two of the largest has been Rick Francis.

Francis is chairman of the board of the WestStar Bank Holding Company and chairman and CEO of WestStar Bank, which is putting the finishing touches this year on the first commercial tower in downtown El Paso in 40 years. The WestStar Tower, which will also be the city's tallest at 18 stories and 306 feet, is set to open this year with 300,000 square feet of space inside.

But before this latest landmark, Francis was instrumental in the expansion of medical education in El Paso, for El Pasoans.

Francis was part of the Texas Tech Board of Regents from 2003 to 2019, allowing him to bring a Far West Texas perspective to the board, and he became an early champion of the university's establishment of medical and nursing schools in El Paso. Later, he played a key role in getting Texas Tech's chancellor to recognize the need and opportunity that El Paso presented for a full-fledged, freestanding health sciences university.



## *Password*

Today, the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center El Paso includes the Paul L. Foster School of Medicine, the Gayle Greve Hunt School of Nursing and the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences. In addition to educating future medical professionals, the center's physicians, clinics and partnering hospitals provide more than \$33 million in free health care services to our underserved community each year.

Francis is the son of former El Paso Mayor Larry and Marilyn Francis. He married his college sweetheart Ginger Gurr, also from El Paso, and they have both been very involved in civic and cultural organizations.

Francis found business success in the 1990s with Francis Communications, a two-way radio and car phone company. After selling the company, he became involved in local banking, eventually taking over as chair of Bank of the West on the death of founder and former El Paso Mayor Jonathan Rogers.

Francis is vice chairman of the board of the Medical Center of the Americas Foundation, a member of the board of directors of the El Paso Electric Company, Paso del Norte Community Foundation and the Hospitals of Providence. He has also been on the boards of the Borderplex Alliance, the El Paso Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Texas Business Leadership Council, the Community Depository Institutions Advisory Council of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, the Community Bankers Council of the American Bankers Association and the Pioneer Association of El Paso County.

Francis was chairman of the executive committee for the Texas Hospital Trustees, and on the board of Western Refining. He was president of Area 5 of Boy Scouts of America, the Young Presidents Organization, the Yucca Council Boy Scouts of America, the Sunturians, and Crime Stoppers of El Paso, among many other civic organizations. In 2001, Francis received the Dean's Distinguished Service Award from the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. In 2005, he was named Outstanding Ex by Coronado High School and Distinguished Alumni by the Jerry S. Rawls College of Business at Texas Tech in 2008. In 2007, Rick and Ginger were named El Paso's Philanthropists of the Year by the Association of Fundraising Professionals for their millions of dollars of giving to area organizations. In 2009, he was named El Pasoan of the Year by El Paso Inc., and in 2010 he was inducted into the El Paso Business Hall of Fame.

Francis is a graduate of Texas Tech with a BBA in finance, the Texas Tech School of Banking and the Southwestern Graduate School of Banking at Southern Methodist University.

## William J. Hooten

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### *2020 Hall of Honor Inductee*

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William J. Hooten moved to El Paso as a young man to take a job as a telegrapher with the Associated Press in 1918. By the time of his retirement more than 50 years later, he had risen to the position of editor of The El Paso Times, where he advocated on behalf of the citizens of El Paso for decades.

W.J. Hooten, as he was better known, was born in North Carolina in 1900. In 1927, when the Associated Press replaced telegraphers with automatic printers, he became a reporter for the El Paso Herald. He rose to the position of city editor in 1929 and when Dorrance Roderick took control of the El Paso Times in 1931, he made Hooten the editor of his newspaper.

He was named editor of the Times in 1940, and a 1956 article noted that he was the longest serving editor in the history of the newspaper, which was first published in 1881. And that was only halfway through his tenure, which lasted until he retired in 1970.

Hooten and editor Ed Pooley of the afternoon Herald-Post carried out fierce editorial battles in the mid-20th century over political contests and other issues facing the city.

Former El Paso Mayor Raymond Telles, whose candidacy Hooten opposed, said the editor was always trying to do what was best for the city he loved.

“Once I got elected and began my term, however, he realized that I only had the best interests of our city at heart,” Telles told the Times on the occasion of Hooten’s passing in 1991.

“He was a good man who believed in the El Paso community. He worked hard to make this a better city to live in for all its citizens,” Telles said. “He will be sorely missed.”

Hooten also served the El Paso area through his work with community organizations. He was a life member of the Rotary Club, a 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason, past potentate of the El Maida Shrine Temple, a past sovereign of the St. Alphege Chapter of the Knights of the Red Cross, a Knight Templar and an honorary Sojourner.

His wife, Grace Bull Hooten, was a teacher with the El Paso Independent School District for 39 years. They were married for 65 years and had three children: former county commissioner Charles, William P. Hooten and Dr. Grace Hooten Gates.

Hooten was a friend of former President Lyndon Baines Johnson. He and Mrs. Hooten were part of a group of 38 Americans who were granted an audience with Pope Pius XII in the Vatican in 1956.



## Janice Woods Windle

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### *2020 Hall of Honor Inductee*

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Janice Woods Windle is well-known for novels based on her ancestors, but these historical novels are only the beginning of what she has accomplished for the citizens of El Paso. Windle has continued the legacy of her family by shaping El Paso through her work with the El Paso Community Foundation.

Windle was raised in Seguin, Texas, where her parents were avid historians. As a child, Janice spent time with her parents in libraries as they researched. During her freshman year at the University of Texas at Austin, she met Wayne Windle, who she married.

In 1961, the Windles moved to El Paso, where Wayne had accepted a job. Janice loved the El Paso area, the mountains and traveling to Mexico. She worked for El Paso Mayor Fred Hervey in the 1970s and was assigned to design a plan to preserve the Magoffin Home and prevent the city from tearing it down. In 1974, Hervey appointed Windle director of El Paso's Bicentennial Commission, which planned the local celebration of America's 200th birthday in 1976. Among the accomplishments of the commission was the acquisition of the Magoffin Home for restoration and placement on the list of historical sites.

In 1977, Windle landed the position of executive director of the newly formed El Paso Community Foundation, dedicated to helping fund charitable organizations. The notion of raising money for "good things" was very appealing to her. The Community Foundation has given more than \$230 million to area nonprofit organizations, and 2020, the foundation awarded in excess of \$15 million.

Through the foundation, the Plaza Theater, built downtown in 1930, was saved from demolition in the mid-1980s. Windle recalled that it was a



“horrible bloody fight for over 20 years.” One mayor would favor saving it and then his term would end, and another would come in against the plans to reopen the Plaza. The foundation raised a million dollars in six weeks to save the Plaza, an amount the foundation paid to buy the building. The cost of restoration was approximately \$25 million. Windle said that events are often sold out which shows that people care about the Plaza and realize that it is a “precious treasure.”

Windle led the foundation for 33 years before retiring in 2008, and today serves as senior advisor to its president.

Windle, however, has other interests as well. She had listened to stories about family for years. Her bestselling novel “True Women” was born in a unique way. Windle wanted to create a cookbook for her oldest son as a wedding gift because he loved to cook. Her mother gave her a cookbook in which three generations of their family had written since the Texas Revolution.

In addition to recipes, these women had provided home remedies and other lore. Windle included this folk wisdom in the cookbook along with biographies of each of the women who contributed to it. At the rehearsal dinner for the young couple, the reaction to the cookbook made her realize there was more to write more about these women. She began researching what would become “True Women.”

She has authored a total of five books based on her family’s history. “True Women” was eventually published in eight languages and became the basis for a CBS miniseries starring Angelina Jolie and Dana Delaney.

Windle was named El Pasoan of the Year in 2008 by El Paso Inc. In 2010, she received the Lifetime Achievement Bravo Award from the League of Women Voters of El Paso. She was also inducted into the El Paso Commission for Women’s Hall of Fame and has received numerous other awards.



## Past Honorees

- 1961: James Wiley Magoffin  
Lawrence Milton Lawson
- 1962: Richard Fenner Burges  
Maud Durlin Sullivan  
Rev. B.M.G. Williams
- 1963: Eugenia Schuster  
Robert Ewing Thomason
- 1964: Allen H. Hughey, Sr.  
Mrs. W.D. Howe
- 1965: Ernest Ulrich Krause  
Lucinda de Leftwich Templin
- 1966: Charles Robert Morehead  
Maurice Schwartz
- 1967: Robert E. McKee  
Chris P. Fox
- 1968: Zachariah T. White  
Jack Caruthers Vowell
- 1969: James Augustus Smith  
Jean Carl Hertzog
- 1970: Haymon Krupp  
Eugene O. Porter
- 1971: Hugh Spotswood White  
Charles Leland Sonnichsen
- 1972: Olga Bernstein Kohlberg  
Joseph F. Friedkin
- 1973: Juan Siquieros Hart  
Judson F. Williams
- 1974: Joseph Magoffin  
José Cisneros
- 1975: James P. Hague  
Tom Lea
- 1976: Mrs. Otto Norwald  
Fred Hervey
- 1977: Cleofas Calleros  
Msgr. Henry Buchanan
- 1978: Robert R. Jones  
Edward W. Rheinheimer, M.D.
- 1979: Thorton Hardie  
Louise Johnson Schuessler
- 1980: Henry Thomas Ponsford  
Dr. J.M. Hanks
- 1981: Henry C. Trost  
Abraham Chavez, Jr.
- 1982: William Martin Yandell, M.D.  
Mrs. Margaret Schuster Meyer
- 1983: Felix Martinez  
Elizabeth Hooks Kelly
- 1984: Brigadier Gen. Anson Mills  
Manuel Gregorio Acosta
- 1985: William H. Burges  
William I. Latham
- 1986: Mrs. Guy Hallet Johnson  
Karl O. Wyler
- 1987: Dorrance D. Roderick  
Gertrude Goodman
- 1988: Jeanie M. Frank  
Thomas J. Beall  
Cdr. (Ret.) Millard McKinney
- 1989: Brigadier Gen. S.L.A. Marshall  
D. Harold Wiggs, Sr.
- 1990: William Henry Fryer  
Williard W. Schuessler, M.D.
- 1991: Vernus Carey  
Charles H. Leavell
- 1992: Mrs. Alice Pierce Barry  
Benjamin S. Dowell  
Louis W. Breck, M.D.
- 1993: Florence Cathcart Melby  
Hughes de Courcy Slater  
Richard C. White
- 1994: Juana Maria Azcarate De  
Stephenson  
William Michie Coldwell  
Eliseo H. Baeza
- 1995: Harry H. Varner, M.D.  
Myrna George Deckert
- 1996: Frank Feuille, III  
Peter deWetter
- 1997: Dr. Walter Nathaniel Vilas  
Ellis I. Mayfield
- 1998: Major Jefferson Van Horne  
Dr. Diana Natalicio
- 1999: Leonard A. Goodman, Jr.  
Richard W. Mithoff
- 2000: Owen P. White  
Woody Hunt

*Past Honorees*

2001: Mother Praxedes Carty  
Daniel Roy Ponder  
Roy T. Chapman

2002: Dr. Lawrence Aaron Nixon  
Dr. Wilbert H. Timmons

2003: David L. Carrasco  
Leon Claire Metz

2004: Dale Resler  
Frank W. Gorman, Jr.

2005: Jane Burges Perrenot  
Adair Wakefield Margo

2006: Alice Lorraine Dwyer  
Sheldon Hall

2007: John Hamilton McNeely  
Frank John Magnan, Jr.

2008: Laurence Paul Berry  
Mabel Welch  
J. Sam Moore, Jr.

2009: Betty Mary Smith Goetting  
Hubbard Glenn Polk  
George Alexander McAlmon

2010: Jack Caruthers Vowell, Jr.  
Richard Dudley  
Laurence N. Nickey, M.D., F.A.A.

2011: Dr. Mimi Reisel Gladstein  
Rosa Guerrero  
Lee Moor  
John H. Stockmeyer, Sr.

2012: Joe Gomez  
Mary Sarber  
Dr. Alward McKeel White  
Julia North Breck

2013: Larry Francis  
Nancy M. Hamilton  
Rabbi Floyd S. Fierman  
Jesus Cobos

2014: Patrick B. Haggerty  
Belen Robles  
Judge Albert Armendariz, Sr.  
Hana Farah

2015: Dee Margo  
Nestor Valencia  
Ernest and Mary Ponce  
Bill Rakocy

2016: Luis Jimenez  
Michael J. Hutson, Sr.  
Charles F. Jordan III  
Holly Thurston Cox

2017: Alex & Patti Apostolides  
Bert Williams  
Don Henderson  
Jim Peak

2018: Pres Dehrkoop  
Paul Foster  
Dr. Maceo Dailey  
Telesforo Montes

2019: Betty Moor MacGuire  
Fred Morton  
Ron Dawson  
John Peak

2020: Rick Francis  
Janice Woods Windle  
Maude Craig Sampson Williams  
William J. Hooten



# Eventful Evenings: A Glimpse at the First Decade of Hall of Honor Banquets

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*By Dr. Sue Stanfield*

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## The Beginning of the Hall of Honor

The El Paso County Historical Society created a Hall of Honor to celebrate “outstanding men and women of character, vision, courage and creative spirit who have lived in what is now El Paso County.” Originally, the society honored “one living and one dead person,” to commemorate those who have “consistently done the unusual which deserves to be written or recorded: or who have created that which deserves to be written or recorded: or who have created that which deserves to be read, heard, or seen; and who have made El Paso County better for their having lived in it.”<sup>1</sup> The Hall of Honor banquet, however, is more than a ceremony to induct new individuals. In the 1960s it was an eventful evening where EPCHS members and the community could celebrate El Paso’s past and imagine the future, enjoy an elegant meal, and raise interest and support for the society. The first banquet was a success with over two hundred in attendance to induct Lawrence M. Lawson and James Wylie Magoffin as the founding individuals in the Hall of Honor. Local newspapers covered the event reporting that “members of the Lawson and Magoffin families, representatives of the Juarez city government, and David Herrera Jordan, Mexican member of the Boundary and Water Commission,” were special guests and that “Chris P. Fox was master of ceremonies and the Rev. B. M. G. Williams gave the invocation and benediction.”<sup>2</sup> For a cost of five dollars, attendees could enjoy the banquet held in the Sky Room of the Hotel Paso del Norte, and a social hour in the mezzanine ballroom.<sup>3</sup>

## Venues

The location of the banquet was an important component of the evening. Seven of the first ten Hall of Honor banquets were held at the Hotel Paso del Norte. The hotel, established in 1912 provided both elegance and history creating the perfect atmosphere for the event. In 1957, the hotel completed a \$50,000 remodel of the kitchen, hired a new chef (Charles Zullig), and created a position of catering manager helping to make the hotel destination dining over the next decade.<sup>4</sup>



*Figure 1. Exterior and interior of the Paso del Norte Hotel. Image courtesy of the El Paso County Historical Society.*

Whether it was a matter of cost, scheduling, or merely a desire to explore new venues, three other locations were used for the Hall of Honor Banquet during the first decade. In 1964 the banquet moved to the International Club located on the top floor of the Merchandise Mart Building (200 San Francisco Street). Membership in the club itself was by invitation and open to a limited number of local business and professional individuals. The club was “primarily for men, wives of members [were] extended club privileges, with separate luncheon room and main lounge and dining room privileges in the evenings.”<sup>5</sup> It is likely that there was some overlap in membership between the International Club and the EPCHS allowing the society to host the banquet there. The combination of the beautiful views provided by the top floor location of the International Club and the exclusive nature of their membership, made this an enticing setting.

In 1968 the festivities took place at the El Paso Club and in 1970 it was held at the swank Empire Club, a private social club. The Empire Club, organized in 1959, provided members with over-the-top opportunities for travel by train, bus charters, and its own private plane as well as a luxurious clubhouse.<sup>6</sup> By 1969 membership in the Empire Club “passed 2,000, [and was] one of the largest membership clubs in Texas.”<sup>7</sup> As membership grew, the club was enlarged providing opportunities for other groups to engage the accommodation, including “the Red Room, a site for private banquets and additional room for dining.”<sup>8</sup> When combined with the adjacent Gillespie’s Steak House, the Empire Club could provide seating for over one thousand guests.<sup>9</sup>



Figure 2. Image courtesy of the *El Paso Times*, September 12, 1954.

## Decorations and Fashion

The first decade of Hall of Honor banquets was covered by the local newspapers with announcements of the new inductees, photos of the various planning committees, lists of those in the receiving line, and excerpts from the speeches given by and about those honored. The decorating committee was often highlighted with detailed descriptions considered newsworthy. For example, in 1964 the *El Paso Herald-Post* reported that the décor included an “arrangement of fuj[i] mums and grapes in shades ranging from pale pink to burgundy is planned for the head table. Silver candelabra holding pale pink tapers and swagged with pink grapes and chrysanthemums also will be decorated with candles and arrangements of grapes.”<sup>10</sup> The 1966 banquet included “gold candelabra swagged with fern, English ivy and velvet ribbons decorated the side tables... tables were spread with cloths of green linen and the head table was graced with a handsome branched French candelabra in bronze and crystal holding an arrangement of chrysanthemums and ivory twisted tapers.” This article also reported the attire of the women in the receiving line. “Guests were received by Martha Gale, chairman for the affair, in jeweled pink lace gown... Mrs. Maurice Schwartz... in a black crepe gown with bodice accented with illusion and jeweled lace... and Mrs. Dexter Mapel, in pale blue jacketed silk and lace gown. They both wore

## *The First Decade of Hall of Honor Banquets*

orchid corsages. Also in the line was Mrs. Crampton Jones, whose husband is president of the host group. She wore a black all over sequin studded gown with a cymbidium orchid.”<sup>11</sup>

Throughout the decade attendance was typically a little over two hundred attendees with the largest gathering in 1968. That year 262 reservations were received.<sup>12</sup> The price to attend the event was 5.00 per person rising to 6.00 in 1967, a reasonable price considering the elaborate meals and special venues it included.<sup>13</sup>



*Figure 3. The receiving line at the 1966 Hall of Honor, featuring from left Mrs. Arthur Gayle, Col. H. Crampton Jones, society president, and Mrs. Jones. Courtesy of The El Paso Times, November 22, 1966.*

## **Recipes and Menus**

Much like fashion, recipes also go in and out of style. Food in the 1960s was influenced by Julia Child and her book, *Mastering the Art of French Cooking*, a desire for more complex recipes than were characteristic in the 1950s, diverse ingredients and an interest in Asian as well as French cooking.<sup>14</sup> These trends are seen in the Hall of Honor menus in the mid-sixties. The 1963 program included the menu for the banquet held November 20th at Hotel Paso Del Norte.

### **Menu**

*Mandarin Orange al'Kirch Supreme*  
*Tournedos of Beef, aux Champagne*  
*Asparagus*  
*Potatoes Parisienne*  
*Marinated Celery Salad, aux Pimento*  
*French Cream Puffs*  
*Small Vienna Rolls*  
*Coffee Tea Milk*<sup>15</sup>

On November 29, 1964 the banquet moved to the International Club. Over two hundred people were in attendance including special guests “Mayor and Mrs. Judson Williams, County Judge and Mrs. Glen Woodward and Judge and Mrs. Ewing Thomason.”<sup>16</sup>

## Menu

*Avocado and Grapefruit Salad with French Dressing*  
*Beef Romalade with Mushroom Stuffing and Mushroom Sauce*  
*Fried Rice, Green Beans almandine*  
*Hotel Rolls & Butter, Blueberry Muffins*  
*Lemon Tarts*  
*Coffee<sup>17</sup>*

Below you will find the recipes for two dishes featured on the Hall of Honor menus. Both come from mid-century newspapers, but you can find more contemporary versions of these dishes online.

Potatoes Parisienne were a popular dish at banquets and dinner parties throughout the 1960s. The dish was considered regal enough to serve to Queen Elizabeth at a royal banquet held on Prince Edward Island in celebration of her Canadian tour. However, at least one local in attendance thought plain potatoes would have been preferred.<sup>18</sup>

### **Baked Potatoes Parisienne (4-Servings)**

<i>4 medium baking potatoes</i>	<i>1 cup evaporated milk</i>
<i>2 tablespoons butter</i>	<i>1/3 cup crumbled blue cheese (2 oz.)</i>
<i>½ teaspoon salt</i>	<i>¼ teaspoon pepper</i>
<i>Chopped Chives</i>	

Scrub potatoes thoroughly and rub with fat, then prick potatoes with a fork to allow steam to escape while baking. Bake in a preheated oven (400 degrees F.) until done; about 1 hour. Cut a cross on top of each potato and carefully scoop out insides, saving shells. Mash potatoes, then beat in butter, salt, pepper, and evaporated milk. Teat in crumbled blue cheese. Spoon mixture back into potato shells. Bake in a moderate oven (350 degrees F.) for 20 minutes longer. Top with chives, if desired.<sup>19</sup>

Avocado and grapefruit salad was a popular recipe in the 1950s and 60s that has made a comeback after being featured on an episode of the reboot of *Queer Eye for the Straight Guy* on Netflix.<sup>20</sup> Significant commercial production of Texas grapefruit (the ruby red) began in the 1920s adding to its availability and it became increasingly prevalent as a breakfast food by mid-century.<sup>21</sup> Although they had been common in the southwest for much longer, avocados became more popular and accessible throughout the United States beginning in the 1990s with approximately 4.25 billion avocados consumed in this country in 2014. However, in the 1960s, before the restriction on imported avocados from Mexico was lifted, the fruit was less common and was seen as a sophisticated ingredient.<sup>22</sup>

## Sliced Avocado and Grapefruit Salad

A little grated onion, finely chopped fresh cranberries and minced parsley mixed with a simple oil and vinegar French dressing is excellent over a sliced avocado and grapefruit section salad.<sup>23</sup>

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## Honoree Highlight: José Cisneros

*By J. Carl Hertzog*

**T**hank you, Conrey, and ladies and gentlemen I want to thank you too for this rare privilege, the chance to say a few words about my dear friend, José Cisneros, a gentle man, but a strong man who has contributed much to this community and brought us recognition and respect in the world of scholarship and craftsmanship.

I shall not take up your time with vital statistics and repeat what you have already learned from the newspaper.<sup>1</sup> If you will permit me to disperse with formalities I would like to resort to reminiscing. That will make it easier on me and you, too.

While Conrey was presenting the award to the Magoffins, I remembered that the honorees are usually announced in a front page story in the El Paso Times a couple of weeks before the annual banquet. In 1969 when I was one of the honorees, there was the story about James A. Smith and one about me, and the article went on to say that the Society customarily selected two honorees—one living and one dead, but it never did say which one I was.

One happy day in 1938 a shy and bashful young man came into my little shop on West San Antonio Street. He had gone to the Federal Courthouse to see Tom Lea painting a mural there, and to get acquainted. Tom suggested that he come to see me. In printing we sometimes need some art work and it would be a good idea for us to make contact. About this same time he got acquainted with Maud D. Sullivan, the great builder of our El Paso Public Library. This was the beginning of a new world for José. I think we must have organized a mutual admiration society. The four of us (Tom Lea, Mrs. Sullivan, José and I) did many things together after this get-acquainted period. And we all learned from each other.

At this time José had not yet developed his beautiful calligraphy and it was part of my business to set in type plaques or Awards (like a diploma) and often they needed some illumination. Consequently, the first work that José did for me was mere decoration, not illustrations or pictures, just conventional designs worked in with the type. At that time José was employed as Assistant Window Trimmer at the White House department store which, of course, involved elements of design. [hold up hook] This resolution in honor of Rabbi Martin Zielonka was hand-decorated by Cisneros in January, 1938.

In 1940 I published a little book on Square Dance Calls and needed some



*Figure 3. José Cisneros at work. Photo courtesy of The El Paso County Historical Society.*

semi-illustrated diagrams to show the dancers which way to go. José made a number of these for the book. This might be the first time that Cisneros appeared in print in quantity, in the United States. Later in 1948 he made a new drawing for the cover, and we sold thousands. I know you can't see this, but it gives me confidence to hold it up as proof.

We didn't see much of each other for several years during which time I produced several books with Torn Lea as illustrator and author of some. In 1947 I had a contract to do a book about some sailors walking across Texas in 1568. When I talked to Tom about it, he said, "For this project, this

period, you need some wire-edged drawings, sharp pen work.” The next day I was mulling it over and looked out the window, and there was José Cisneros walking down the street—just the man I needed. I called to him. When he came over, I asked, “What are you doing now?” and he replied, “I work for the street car company painting busses and street cars.” Then I asked, “Are you doing any drawing?”

“Oh yes, I am doing some drawing, learning.”

“Well José, I’d like to see some of them.”

The next day he brought a bundle of 20 or 25 pen drawings that he had done just for practice and his amusement. This time the drawings were of people, and horses, and ox carts—historical—the Spanish Southwest, conquistadores, padres, Indians, Missions. I was impressed and asked him to work on my project. This was sort of a second beginning of our collaboration as it had been six years since the square dance book. From this talk came a front cover drawing, a dramatic frontispiece, an illustrated initial, and a double-page map that told the whole story. José’s maps are fantastic: beautiful antique lettering, miniature illustrations, and decorative borders.

While thinking about this 1947 book, I want to stop right here and acknowledge a great debt. What José has contributed to my book projects makes me look good. His drawings and decorations have added to my reputation as well as his. I couldn’t have made it without him.

Since José was now fully employed by the bus company, I would go to his house at night to consult about drawings and illustrations. I remember the first time. He lived in an upstairs apartment across the street from St. Clements Church. I went up the stairs and José met me saying, “My studio is out this way—” But, do you want to see my books first? They are this way here in the front room.” He had a large bookcase, five foot shelves and five feet high. He had a beautiful deluxe volume about the viceroys of Mexico, in Spanish, and other books of history. Then a number of so-called Art books—those large \$20 books on the famous artists like Michelangelo, Botticelli, Velázquez, Goya and others—just the sort of books he should have. How did he know what to buy? He had had very little schooling and no companionship in the field of history or art. Perhaps this was the divine spark that has motivated him to learn, to study, to work, to concentrate. José would be the first to acknowledge that his great talent is God-given—and that puts a big responsibility on him to produce, to add to the beauty of this world, and to do it serenely and generously. Many of his drawings that I have handled for programs, bulletins, bookplates, and I am sure there are many more that I don’t know about, were donated by José without any thought of getting paid. Many times when José knew the budget was short, I would ask “How much do I owe you?” He would answer, “Whatever you say.” or “Oh, about \$15” when it was worth \$50. When it was for a good

cause, José was most generous.

When I talked with Al Lowman, who handled the Cisneros Exhibition in San Antonio, who is here tonight, he observed, “José is the least complicated man I know.” And yet, he has maintained a large family, worked an 8 to 5 shift in the shops, studied at night, and made hundreds of drawings over the weekends! Even with the complications of five daughters and their husbands and children, the care of aged and unfortunate relatives, the catastrophe of a terrible accident in a snow storm, José remains serene and productive—a remarkable man. But we cannot give all the credit to José because he has been blessed with a competent, efficient and loving wife, Vicenta, who is entitled to at least half the credit.

In November, 1948 we finished a book entitled *The Red River Valley: Then and Now* about Northeast Texas. This was José’s first entry into the Gringo World. He made 28 excellent drawings. It was his first experience as an illustrator, i.e., he interprets the author’s ideas about people and events. Mr. Pat Mayse, the publisher of the *Paris News* and our book, was so pleased that he invited us to a celebration.

So, José and I took off for Paris—Path, Texas, that is. And it was 700 miles. On the way we had a good time in Dallas. We went out to Bill Johnson’s house (Time-Life Bureau) with Elizabeth Ann McMurray, the great book store operator, and two or three other kindred spirit. We sat on the floor in front of a log fire and had José open his bundle of drawings. Everybody asked him pertinent questions and appreciated his comments. It was a good audience and they drew him out. Bill gave José a portfolio with handles to replace the “bundle” and he still uses it.

The next morning he was singing in the shower bath. And I said, “José you sound happy this morning.” and he replied, “You know something? I can speak English.” Indeed he could but it was the first time he had an opportunity to express himself. He knew the words from his own study and reading but had no companionship in the language.

When we got to Paris, Mr. Mayne told me he would expect us to say a few words at the Celebration Luncheon in honor of the author, A. W. Neville, on his 85th birthday, the oldest working newspaper man in the South. I was afraid to tell José. There was a big crowd of notables including Governor Allen Shivers. Ted Dealey of the *Dallas News*, other newspaper publishers from Houston to Atlanta. When I told José at 11:30 that he would have to speak, he became frightened and said, “Why didn’t you tell me? I wouldn’t have come.” (700 miles!) But when his time came, he was quite coherent, just right. His talk was much better and more to the point than Governor Shivers’ speech.

In December of 1948 a week-long program was planned to celebrate the 289th anniversary of the founding of the City of Juarez. Why they picked out the 289th I never could understand. The *El Paso* newspapers

wanted to cooperate and Mayo Seamon asked me if I knew where there were some pictures they could use. Immediately I thought of that bundle of pen drawings José had shown me. Here was a chance for him to get some exposure as well as some pay for his work. We talked it over, selected seven pictures and composed a paragraph to go with each one.

When I presented these to Mayo Seamon I cautioned him to be sure and get the right text with the right picture but as sometimes happens in the rush of daily newspaper production the very first one was wrong. The text telling about the first travelers through the Pass of the North was to begin the series but the picture they used was of the carts going into Santa Fe. In defense, Mayo said, "Oh well, there is an indication of a Pass in the picture. Only one person in a thousand will know the difference." To which José replied, "That's the one person I'm worried about." This was a blow to José. He is so meticulous and thorough in his research and is careful not to misrepresent anything.

There is an old Hindu proverb: When the pupil is ready the teacher will appear. I think José will agree that this happened to him several times. When he became interested in the trappings of the horseman, an unexpected event brought him in contact with Joseph Hefter of Mexico City, a recognized authority on Military Costumes. Mr. Hefter recognized José's dedication to learning and his craftsmanship. They became friends with voluminous correspondence. José was ready.

When Tom Lea illustrated Part I of a two-part article in *Western Horseman* magazine, he recommended José for Part II. The editor of that journal, Bob Denham is a well-known author and authority on the Horses of America. Now José was ready again. He could put his variety of saddles, bridles and spurs on authenticated horses and dress the riders in proper costume. The October 1974 issue of *Western Horseman* re-printed a Cisneros drawing which they first published in 1949.

The Cisneros dream was realized when he was awarded the 4th Dobie-Paisano Fellowship. This provides six-months in a quiet and picturesque atmosphere with all expenses paid, formerly the J. Frank Dobie Ranch, not far from Austin with extensive research facilities. This was total escape from the workday world and José capitalized on it by adding many drawings to his now famous *Riders of the Spanish Borderlands*. This series depicts horsemen from Cortez to the modern American cowboy—well over 100 drawings with an amazing variety of costumes and equipment. So many collectors are now seeking Cisneros originals that he has probably made 250 or more drawings on this subject, all with infinite detail.

While we are inclined to think of José only as a book illustrator because he has achieved fame in this field, he has many other talents. When taking inventory, I was amazed at the tremendous volume of work he has produced. His work has enhanced the appearance of programs, exhibition

catalogs, newspaper articles, magazines, and special stationery. He has designed emblems such as the seal for the University of Texas at El Paso and the seal for the City of Juarez and the emblem of the Western History Association. His knowledge of Heraldry is extensive and he has applied this in designing bookplates as well as emblems and trademarks.

And there is another side which most of you have not heard about. Did you know that the elegant plaques in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Las Cruces are wood carvings by José Cisneros? And there are 22 windows in Williams Hall in St. Clements Church designed by José. You see the pictures on either side in the hallway and from inside the rooms. In the same church is a record book, leather-bound in England, but with José's beautiful lettering on every page.

You will find José's work in other churches: A Remembrance Book in the Presbyterian church with hundreds of names all in José's superb calligraphy, added to year after year. He is also represented in Temple Mt. Sinai. And then we come to José's own church and we quote from their weekly bulletin wherein Father John Finnegan says:

"...We especially have reason to feel pride in his achievements since we are surrounded by his work at St. Joseph's Church. Mr. Cisneros designed the wood figures of the Stations of the Cross and the Crucifix which hangs above the Altar. He is a man endowed with great talents which he executes with the greatest humility. We congratulate Mr. Cisneros and rejoice with his family for having been recognized as a most worthwhile contributor to the Church, to culture and to the history of the Southwest."

*Congratulations José*  
[un abrazo]

### **Endnote**

1. José Cisneros was born in Villa Ocampo Durango, near the Chihuahua state border, April 18, 1910. In 1918 the family was uprooted by the Revolution and wandered on foot for a year to settle in Dorado. In 1925 the family moved to Juarez and José attended school three and a half years at Lydia Patterson Institute in El Paso during which time he worked at menial jobs. He had to leave school in order to support his aging parents. In 1927 he began working in El Paso, legally. He moved his residence to El Paso in 1934 and in 1939 married Vicenza Madero. They raised a family of five daughters and a niece. He worked for the El Paso City Lines from 1943 until 1969; first as a mechanic's helper and later as foreman of the paint shop. During all these years he studied history and art, and practiced his drawing, self-taught. He gained his American citizenship in April 1948. The year before he achieved recognition as a competent illustrator. Since that time his illustrations have appeared in dozens of books and magazines, and his work has been exhibited in various museums.

## Honoree Highlight: Felix Martinez

*By Deane Miller*

Congratulations to the El Paso County Historical Society for naming Felix Martinez to its Hall of Honor. As the Historical Society honors Mr. Martinez, so does it honor itself. It was with pride that I nominated Mr. Martinez to the Hall of Honor. It is with pride that I review, briefly, his background and outstanding contributions which make him worthy of this distinguished honor. And I thank his granddaughter, Rosita Martinez Horwitz, for allowing me to pay tribute to a truly great pioneer leader.

Felix Martinez was born in 1857 in Taos, New Mexico; he died on March 22, 1916, in El Paso, where he had resided for many years. He was the son of a prominent Southwest family which traced its lineage to an earlier Felix Martinez, a Captain General and provincial governor who had been appointed by the Spanish Crown .

Felix Martinez was a man of wide interests, progressive outlook, versatile abilities, and high ideals.

He began his career as a clerk in a country store, and in the less than 40 years that remained to him he climbed to dizzying peaks: he became a power in the Territory of New Mexico; he achieved distinction for his public service in the El Paso area; he attained national recognition for his financial expertise and his vigorous labor in the field of inter-American relations; and he extended his influence and distinguished reputation into most of the countries of this hemisphere.

Felix Martinez was one of the builders of El Paso, employing his talents to the construction of physical facilities needed in a fast growing city, and also exerting his powers of leadership toward the transforming of a raw frontier town into a viable and responsible modern city.

He organized the Southwestern Portland Cement Company and was president of the Central Building and Improvement Company, which was involved in the construction of the downtown Plaza Block-the White House Building and the Paso del Norte Hotel. He was one of the organizers of the El Paso Chamber of Commerce and was president of the El Paso Valley Water Users' Association. He helped to establish a modern water works for the booming city.

It was in response to the water problems in our Southwest that Felix Martinez rendered what many consider his most significant and enduring service: his monumental work in behalf of the reclamation of the Rio

Grande under the government Water Storage and Irrigation Project—the building of Elephant Butte Dam, without which there would be no cotton or pecans produced in our valley. While many men played vital roles in the implementation of the Elephant Butte project, no one, probably, would deny that Felix Martinez contributed as much as any other to bring about the fulfillment of that ambitious plan.

Other kinds of building endeavors also brought from Felix Martinez many remarkable achievements. In matters financial, he was a local bank board member—his work in this field so widely respected that he was appointed a director of the Federal Reserve Bank of this district. In matters educational, he served on the committee which succeeded in obtaining for El Paso a Free Public Library, and he enthusiastically supported in its early, struggling years that institution which was to become The University of Texas at El Paso.



*Figure 4. Felix Martinez. Photo courtesy of The El Paso County Historical Society.*

In matters social and political, he was keenly sensitive to his responsibilities in the area of inter-cultural relations. At home in both the Anglo and the Hispanic cultures, he envisioned El Paso's potential for leadership in bridging the gap between the two cultures. He was instrumental in bringing together in El Paso President William Howard Taft and Porfirio Diaz in 1909. Later, he participated actively in an effort to unite Francisco Madero, stalwart of the Mexican Revolution, and Pancho Villa on the outskirts of Juarez. In his eloquent English and in his equally eloquent Spanish, he consistently and earnestly pleaded for the acceptance of that broader culture which comes from wide human contact, study of history, philosophical reflections, and charity of opinion. He developed his methods of argument and personal influence along this line so thoroughly that

## *Password*

he was named Commissioner of Panama Pacific International and was appointed by President Woodrow Wilson and Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan as special envoy from the United States to tour all the South American countries.

Felix Martinez was unique, and his place still remains vacant. Others there are to take up some branches of his work where he left off-to assume the chair that he relinquished at the director's table of many an institution, to succeed him in various offices he held, to manage one of his numerous enterprises. Builders there are, yes, and civic leaders, and also humanitarians. But none there are who work in all these areas with his wisdom, his dedication, his understanding of two cultures, his love of people, his faith in the future.

The Historical Society dramatically vivifies and celebrates El Paso's past by focusing our attention on this excellent citizen who helped to lay so many cornerstones for the physical, social, and moral betterment of our city. Also, the Society demonstrates its high regard for El Paso's present and its belief in El Paso's future by allowing us to review the life of this man whose achievements stand as an inspiration to us and to our young people. The Society honors all El Paso by inscribing in the Hall of Honor the name of FELIX MARTINEZ.



## Honoree Highlight: Maud Durlin Sullivan

*By Betty Mary Goetting*

She was not cut from the ordinary pattern, this woman we are honoring tonight. Yet to only a comparatively few were the many charming facets of Maud Durlin Sullivan's character and personality known.

To most people she was a scholarly, gentle, efficient librarian, with a keen mind and a boundless enthusiasm for any subject she was called upon to investigate. Few of these would know of her great gusto for living, her superb, sophisticated, lusty sense of humor. Those who may have heard her give a talk on fine printing, the realism of Thomas Hardy, Italian Primitives, or Coronado's Expedition would never suspect that she had left the refined atmosphere of a public library to live in the mountains of New Mexico, much of the time in a tent house.

Resigning her position as librarian of the El Paso Public Library in 1912, Maud Durlin went to the Mogollon Mountains as the bride of John Kevin Sullivan, witty Irishman, Harvard educated mining engineer. This marriage in her forties, was one of the most amazingly romantic ones, and lasted until his death in 1943; she survived him eight months.

A picture of the interior of the tent house shows the flap drawn back, giving a view of the majestic mountains. The foreground reveals a bowl of wild flowers with the sunlight on them, a row of books, some Spode coffee cups. This mountain living personalized for her our mining industry of fifty years ago. When she



returned, in 1917, to take up her duties again as librarian of the El Paso Public Library, she built a splendid mining reference department, to which engineers came from all parts of the West and Mexico.

Mrs. Sullivan had come to the dusty little town of El Paso in 1908. (It is especially fitting and most unique that all three honorees tonight should have come to El Paso around the turn of this century; all should have been good friends, and all associated with the El Paso Public Library.) Maud Sullivan had been brought up in an Episcopal Rectory, where she and the other children in the family, with a few neighbor ones had been taught by her scholarly clergyman father. She was never in a class room until she went to Pratt Institute in Brooklyn to study art, yet she was an extraordinarily well educated person.

It was to be a rewarding experience that came to a young El Paso High School graduate, when she entered the Public Library as an apprentice preparatory to attending library school. This girl and the librarian were so different, yet a spark was struck which affected the girl's entire life. A new world opened to her as she learned to respond to the influence of this charming, delightful librarian.

With almost a paltry budget (about that of the garbage disposal department in those days), Mrs. Sullivan had the rare perception of what went into building a good public library. This enabled her to stretch the money in such a way that the El Paso Public Library became known throughout the country. Many were the times that the young apprentice would be called into the librarian's office to share her ecstatic pleasure in showing her an out of print book on Southwest history, or a hard-to-get book on etchings. These may have come from as far away as a second-hand book store in London, and very often would have been bought with a balance of perhaps \$5.87 left over from the book fund. Such wise purchases as these, many years ago, enriched our library and it became known for having superior collections on Southwest history, art books, mining reference materials, the best in good literature; a cultural center. Today many of these books are not available, or, if so would cost many times the price paid for them; some would cost \$75 to \$100.

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*It was to be a rewarding experience that came to a young El Paso High School graduate, when she entered the Public Library as an apprentice preparatory to attending library school. This girl and the librarian were so different, yet a spark was struck which affected the girl's entire life.*

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Because of such a limited book fund, Mrs. Sullivan used United States Public Documents, sent free to all public libraries asking for them. They were classified exactly as books, placed in the basement document room of the old library building. In recognition of this unusual use of public documents, Maud Sullivan was asked to give a talk to the American Library Association, explaining the use of them as such.

Mrs. Sullivan touched the lives of thousands of El Pasoans, among them, Tom Lea, Carl Hertzog, Fremont Ellis, to name only three who came under the inspiration of this librarian, who herself had been in the field of art before giving it up for the broader field of books. The Carnegie Foundation recognized her superior collection of art books and her sponsorship of young artists when the El Paso Library was presented with the Carnegie Collection of Art valued in the thousands of dollars. The local library was one of two in Texas (the only public library), and one of thirty in the nation to receive the honor.

It was a commonplace event to have a stranger wander into the library and after awhile come to the desk, asking "who is responsible for this unusual collection of books on art that I find in this small library?" Or, for an author waiting between trains, to stroll over to the library, to discover the best material on the Southwest. Often, changing their plans, they would remain in El Paso for several days. Our small library came to be known as the scholar's library. In a number of books the authors give credit and praise to the local library for their source material. Among Mrs. Sullivan's personal papers are many letters from writers thanking her for the use of the library. Such have written repeatedly that though they had used larger collections, they had never used finer ones in quality.

But it was not alone to the artists, the writers, to whom Maud Sullivan was a cultural influence. She made the institution of the El Paso Public Library into one of immeasurable value to serve the business man, the lawyer, the radio and newspaper person, the army man, the teacher, and always the every day library patron, such as the tousled haired newsboy whose eyes would shine as she told him of a book he would enjoy. Mrs. Sullivan encouraged and inspired many groups of people in studying. She made outlines, bibliographies, gave talks, used the basement of the old building for art exhibits.

A public library is often a cold place, but not the El Paso Library, because of the women whose spirit pervaded it. The lobby of the old building was always inviting, with a display of books, a small group of prints, perhaps a painting or two of a local artist. It was never without a bowl of flowers in season, or greens in winter. At Christmas time the lobby was a place of beauty which welcomed the old men and women living nearby in dreary rooms. Humorous episodes which happen every day in a public library were always enjoyed and shared by Mrs. Sullivan. She chuckled heartily

## *Password*

over the eccentricities of the reading room habitués, such as the old man who came early every morning, gathered the new magazines from the rack, sat on them as he perused one by one.

Maud Durlin Sullivan was recognized throughout the library world, and honored in many different ways, particularly by the Carnegie Foundation which had her escort six librarians from Mexico on a tour of the United States. Her linguistic ability and interest in Spanish-speaking peoples resulted in her being sent to Puerto Rico in 1932, where she made a brilliant survey of libraries. In 1935 the Carnegie Foundation sent her as one of four librarians from the United States to the International Congress of Libraries and Bibliography in Spain. Received by President Zamora, she gave a talk in Spanish to the Congress.

Maud Durlin Sullivan's impact on the life of El Paso has been incalculable, for this intangible gift she left cannot be measured. As one of El Paso's builders of the mind and spirit, librarian and guardian of El Paso's culture for thirty years, she deserves this recognition which you so justly are conferring on her tonight. In closing I should like humbly to add that I am that young apprentice of many years ago.



## Hall of Honor Address: *Pasan Por Aqui, 1961*

*by Joseph Leach*

**I**N 1605 Juan de Onate made Inscription Rock, now known as El Morro National Monument, forever notable by inscribing upon its enduring limestone face his name and the words, "Paso par aqui." In the many years that have lapsed since then, countless others have carved their own inscriptions nearby.

The phrase, "Paso par aqui," has become a famous one, not only because of the fame of its earliest user, but also because in later years Eugene Manlove Rhodes adopted it as the title for his most widely read story. Its fame, plus its rhythm, have kept it alive; its lilt appeals.

I have wished many times that our igneous bluffs along the river here had lent themselves to Spanish inscription. After all, Juan de Onate passed by here long before he rested from the rigors of pioneering and colonization to the north of us and laboriously incised his record in the more yielding stone of El Morro.

And the phrase, "Paso par aqui," is more rightfully ours anyhow. We remember, though all too vaguely, that many names and many faces have passed our way in the centuries of time since El Paso del Rio Grande del Norte became a focal point on the routes of travel to the north, to the west, and beyond. When one thinks of our Pass as loadstar, as landmark, as gateway, one glimpses the magnificent story that through the centuries has unfolded its lengthy chapters here. Better than any fiction by Eugene Rhodes, the facts of our Pass and the lives that have wended their way through it might indeed carry the title, "Paso por aqui." What dreams, what aspirations spurred these people on! I wonder if most of man's story since his ignominious exit from Eden could not properly be told in terms of those intrepid Pasenos who, whether red man or white man, yellow man or black, have gone this way, through time and distance, weaving into the lore of this region the oft-times anonymous pattern of their lives.

Though Juan de Onate passed by here, he left no record of his passing, he left behind him no Inscription rock. Tonight we are met to rectify Onate's oversight. For we know now, as he did not, that his waving banners and flashing arms, the dust-caked faces of his people and the long crooked lines of his wagons, the bawling of his cattle under the clouds of dust, were but the vanguard details of a meandering parade that has continued to pass this way. For nearly 350 years others have been treading in the footsteps of Onate. They have looked upon our mountains, they have drunk the waters

## *Password*

of our river, they have slept and waked where we now sleep and wake. Regrettably, the names of most of them are now forgotten. Except as the page of history remembers them, their thunder and their footprints have vanished.

But we, the later marchers in Onate's long parade, are determined that the impersonal hand of time shall not forever erase all the names and all the faces that deserve to be inscribed in our permanent lore. As members of the El Paso County Historical Society, we see ourselves and the people who have come this way before us as travelers, in much the same position as Onate's colonizer, the Spanish padre, the American pioneer—we see ourselves all travelers, who pass by here, through this Pass—whether in daily literal journeyings between the valleys in our work and in our pleasures—or in our figurative journeys through the years.

Quite properly, time has a way of removing from us the old, the outmoded, the unworthy, the better-forgotten—but history, conversely—both as written record and as monument—is the rampart we can raise against the ravages of time to rescue merit from dark oblivion.

As an organization, we have long held this preservation of names and events to be our major interest. Through our publication, *Password*, we have vigorously pursued this course.

Tonight, we enter another, more singular, phase of our mission as historical society. We take the years, 1850 to the present, as a period for special attention. We take it as an aim that the men and women of outstanding merit who have lived among us during these years shall be remembered, that their names and their contributions shall be known by us, the fortunate ones who follow after them. In a very real sense, we can look to them as trailbreakers, pointing out the proper route ahead.

In selecting the two gentlemen whose names we honor especially this evening, we have been guided by the highest considerations: character, generous accomplishment, a particular vision that clearly set them apart. In one of these gentlemen we recognize the pioneer—nineteenth-century spirit that opened up this country, the personal courage that enabled him to prevail in the face of bitter opposition from nature and the Indian. Tonight, we acknowledge our indebtedness to the intrepid quality that inspired him to found our town.

In the other of these gentlemen, we pay tribute to similar worth. In the present century, he has confronted different obstacles, faced different challenges; but with the determination characterizing all pioneers, he too has prevailed. Without his particular vision, civilization and progress would have faltered in this region. If in the case of the one gentleman, we honor a man who gave us a town, we honor in the other, a man whose energy and foresight gave us a city.

Far from attempting to reward the memory of the one and the vital

presence of the other with any tribute which we could bestow, we are met here to recognize, humbly but sincerely, the tremendous debt we owe to both.

As your president, I would be distorting the true import of this occasion, however, if I did not hasten to point out that in establishing the El Paso Hall of Honor—wherein these two names will now be permanently inscribed—we look to a larger purpose. Merely to have preceded any of us through this place and time is of little significance. On the other hand, to have preceded us as enlightened pathfinders, as spiritual pace-setters, as models worthy of our emulation, is of very great moment indeed.

The El Paso Hall of Honor award is—in one sense—a tribute to already completed accomplishment. In another equally important sense, it is the means through which this Historical Society can actively direct the course of local history.

We devoutly hope that in this annual ceremony memorializing the men and women whose lives have enriched us so importantly, we can lay down a gauntlet before the men and women of our own generation and the men and women who in future will follow them.

Each person chosen for permanent admission to this Hall of Honor is above all else, a challenge to the people of his own period and to those of later times. What he has accomplished, others in their own way may well accomplish. What he has envisioned, others may well envision. What he left as the record of his passing points the way for others.

One personal word, and then I have finished. I can think of no greater measure of a man's success or a greater indication of his personal worth than to be told by an impartial committee – after they have spent months carefully scrutinizing his record- that he has been found worthy of their tribute - that his name has been permanently chosen as a yardstick by which to measure the accomplishments of other lives.

In recognizing these gentlemen tonight, we pay them this tribute. We point to them and their records in the full knowledge that in choosing them, we present to the whole El Paso community the challenge to do as well. We rejoice that each of them saw fit to pass this way.



El Paso County Historical Society  
El Paso Strong Archival Initiative



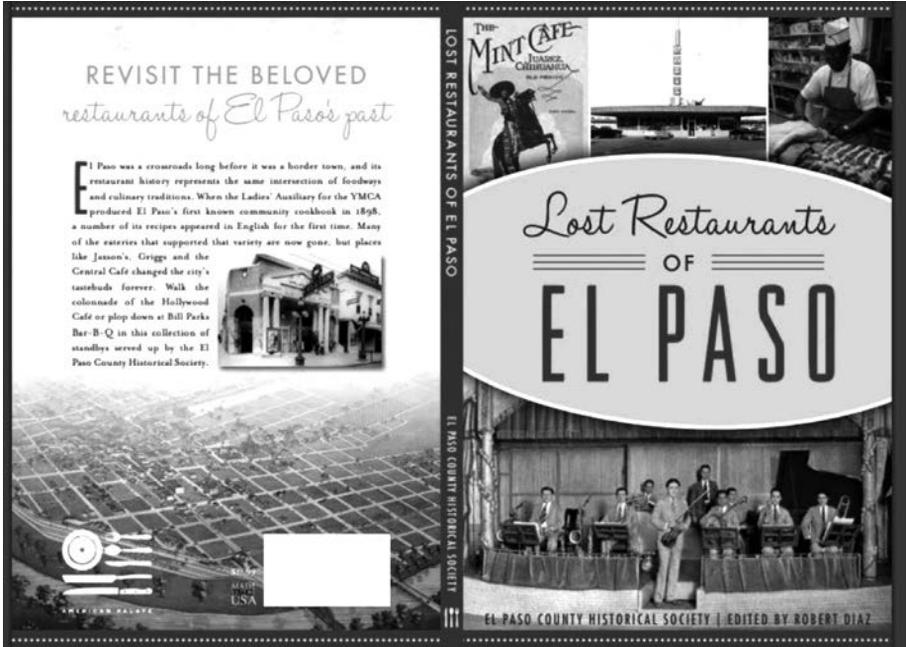
The El Paso County Historical Society (EPCHS) is creating an archive to preserve the memories of those who perished in the senseless tragedy that occurred on August 3, 2019, along with documenting the impact on the community and the subsequent outpouring of support for El Paso. We are gathering images, oral histories, social media posts, artwork, and other physical and digital items related to the event.

We will do this with the utmost sensitivity and respect for all involved.

The items will be preserved at our headquarters, the Burges House (603 W. Yandell), for viewing and study by current and future generations.

EPCHS is a 65-year-old nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of the borderland. We maintain a physical and digital archive of over 25,000 items pertaining to the history of this region at our headquarters and are open to the public. If you would like to learn more about the El Paso Strong Archival Initiative and our mission, please visit [elpasohistory.com](http://elpasohistory.com), call us at 915-533-3603, or email us [epchs@elpasohistory.com](mailto:epchs@elpasohistory.com).





## Lost Restaurants of El Paso

Jaxon's, Ashley's Gardens, and Bill Parks BBQ are all lost, but not forgotten, restaurants of El Paso. Learn the history of these restaurants, complete with pictures and menus, in the El Paso County Historical Society's new book, *Lost Restaurants of El Paso*.

From El Paso's earliest days, the mix of travelers who have moved through the Pass City have left their mark on the meals that grace our tables as well as the tables of our lost restaurants, including the Hacienda Café and Café Central. Pancho Villa could often be found enjoying ice cream baseballs at the Elite Confectionary, a restaurant also featured in the book. Readers will recognize many of the restaurants and proprietors in the book and will be introduced to others they may not have known.

Books may be ordered through the Society's website, [www.elpasohistory.com](http://www.elpasohistory.com), by phone at 915-533-3603, or by email at [info@elpasohistory.com](mailto:info@elpasohistory.com).

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Election of officers and directors is held at the October Members Meeting, with exact times and dates to be announced at least 10 days in advance.

### OTHER ACTIVITIES

- Hall of Honor Banquet
- Frank W. Gorman and Arthur K. Gorman Memorial Historical Essay Contest

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# El Paso County Historical Society

ORGANIZED MARCH 18, 1954

## MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the society shall be to study the history of the city and county of El Paso and of the surrounding territory; to conduct and foster research in the history of the area; to acquire and preserve documents, papers and other objects of historical interest and value pertaining to this area; to make such material available for the information of the community; to publish and encourage the publication of historical writing pertaining to this area; to develop public consciousness of the rich heritage of our historical background; and to engage in such activities which contribute to the restoration and maintenance of the Richard F. Burges House, home of the Society.

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