

PASSWORD



THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL. XIII—No. 1

SPRING, 1968

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PASSWORD

Published quarterly by THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

EUGENE O. PORTER, EDITOR

VOL. XIII—No. 1

EL PASO, TEXAS

SPRING, 1968

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THE RANGE HORSE—The typical range horse or “cow pony” used in working cattle is of unknown ancestry, but is obviously descended from the horses brought over by the Spanish Conquistadores. They tend to be on the small size, about 15 hands—ranging from 14 to 16 — somewhat smaller in the southwest than in the northwest. They are handy (able to stop and turn quickly, to change direction on the correct lead and to respond promptly to neck reins), surefooted, rugged, courageous, and they subsist well on the limited forage and water found on the Western plains.

Disston, *Know About Horses*

Published quarterly by THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

DR. EUGENE O. PORTER, The University of Texas at El Paso.

JACK C. VOWELL, JR., *Associate Editor*

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Mrs. Paul A. Heisig, *Secretary*, 1503 Hawthorne, El Paso, Texas.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by BARRY O. COLEMAN

THIS IS THE FIFTEENTH YEAR of the El Paso County Historical Society. The purpose of the Society is "To promote and engage in research into the History, Archeology, and Natural History of West Texas, Southern New Mexico, Eastern Arizona, and Northern Mexico; to publish the important findings; and to preserve the valuable relics and monuments." To carry out this self-imposed program we must continue to follow in the paths of the founders and the past presidents of our Society. We have been singularly successful, it should be noted, in one aspect of our program, the publishing of a quarterly. *PASSWORD* is not only unequalled in its field of local history but it is also a stimulus to those interested in recording the history of the Great Southwest.

A number of unfinished tasks remain, however, and the Society looks forward to the challenge they present. These tasks include:

- Acquiring a building to memorialize the Hall of Honor;
- Preserving the few remaining valuable and unique buldings of the area, either alone or in cooperation with other groups;
- Increasing the Society's membership; and
- Developing an increasing public awareness of the historical significance of this area.

Certainly a great amount of energy and goodwill are necessary to achieve these goals but with the active cooperation and support of the membership we shall, I feel confident, succeed.

To aid us in our growth and progress I have appointed the following committees and their chairmen. All workers in these fields, it should be known, volunteered their services:

- Essay Contest—Mr. Stephen Kent
- Hall of Honor Banquet—Mrs. Leland Hewitt and Mrs. Martin Merrill, co-chairmen
- Hall of Honor Selection—to be announced
- Historic Street Advisory Committee—Laurence Stevens
- Membership—Mr. Milton Burleson
- Programs—Mr. Fred Baily
- Publicity—Cmdr. M. G. Baily
- Ways and Means—Mrs. W. W. Schuessler
- Permanent Headquarters Committee—Mr. Jim Crook
- Historic Current Events Story—Mr. Fred Morton

Finally, that we may continue the excellent attendance at our Directors' and General meetings, I am publishing the following calendar:

- Directors' Meetings, Tuesdays, May 14, August 13, November 12.
- General Meetings, Thursdays, May 23, August 26, November 21.
- Hall of Honor Banquet, November 24.

THE DOUBLE LIFE OF EDWIN BLISS HILL

by KENNETH A. GOLDBLATT

It is impossible to estimate the number of men whose contributions to our society have been overlooked. History yields us many examples of men who, for one reason or another, fail to achieve the recognition they justly deserve. Such men oftentimes have laid the groundwork for some of our greatest discoveries, forecast and initiated some of our most important inventions, and made significant contributions to the fields of art and letters. These men, important though they may be, were overlooked by their contemporaries.

Edwin Bliss Hill was just such a man. His contributions to the field of literature and literary scholarship have been long neglected. Perhaps neglected is too soft a word, for Hill's contributions are almost unknown at present, although they are significant.

People of El Paso who were acquainted with Edwin B. Hill thought of him as a soft-spoken, intelligent, hardworking civil servant. Their memories of him seem to be consistent in respect to the recollection of these qualities. In each case he is recalled as a quiet, serious fellow who said very little.

Few of these people, even Hill's closest acquaintances, were aware of other, important facets of his life. Even now, a considerable number of the people who remember Hill are unaware of his first career as a newspaper man, and his reputations as a private printer, literary researcher and scholar. They recall him simply as an employee of the United States Reclamation Service and of the El Paso County Water Improvement District.

Edwin B. Hill was born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on August 17, 1866. The early years of his boyhood were spent there and in Pontiac, Michigan. Still later the family moved to Detroit.²

It was in Detroit that Hill began printing as a hobby. In September of 1882 he traded another boy out of a tiny hand-inking Daisy press. Shortly after this "swap" he exchanged the Daisy press for a more conventional one and began to teach himself the rudiments of the art of printing.

In 1884, after completing his schooling, he began his professional career as a devil on the *Detroit Tribune*. About the same time he privately set up a single issue of a tiny news sheet he called *The Journal*. Hill said later that this item marked the end of his apprenticeship and the beginning of his career as a full-fledged operator of a private press. After eight months with the *Tribune*, he was promoted to proofreader on the *Detroit News*; then later he moved on to become state editor of the *Detroit Times*, and finally news editor of the *Detroit Journal*.⁴ Hill

held this last position for ten years, from 1891 to 1901.

During his residence in Detroit, Hill also published a quarterly, *The Stylus*, from July, 1888, through 1892. Because of Hill's limited equipment, it was necessary for him to print each issue one page at a time. Thus the process must have been tedious and involved.

Also during this period Hill became friends with Dr. Samuel Arthur Jones, of the University of Michigan, an admirer of Henry David Thoreau. In 1899, as a result of this association, Hill issued the first of many pamphlets he was to print about Thoreau. Indeed, for the next four and a half decades the production of items relating to Thoreau was to be one of the common themes of Hill's press. At this time Hill also met Frank Holme, a noted Chicago newspaper artist. Although the association with Holme was not immediately important, it was to have some influence in Hill's later life.⁵

In 1900 Hill began work on the most ambitious project of his career, and the most disastrous. It was another Thoreau item—a 171-page anthology of critical essays discussing the Transcendentalist, edited by Dr. Jones and entitled *Pertaining to Thoreau*. Hill labored on the volume at night after working hours, printing it one page at a time, as he had *The Stylus*. Each page had to be set separately, printed, and the type distributed, before the next page could be processed. The long hours of hard work and close confinement resulted in a breakdown of Hill's health from which tuberculosis developed. In 1901 the disease forced his retirement as news editor of the *Detroit Journal*. He left Detroit for the woods of Lakeland, Michigan, where he remained for six or seven years to regain his health.⁶

One might imagine that such an incident would have embittered Hill toward printing, but it failed to have that effect. When he moved to Lakeland, the press moved with him and its operations continued.⁷

On October 19, 1908, he married Clara Ella Hood of Detroit. Almost immediately they moved west to Granite Reef Dam, on the Salt River, near Mesa, Arizona Territory, where Hill went to work for the United States Reclamation Service. There the Reclamation Service placed Hill in charge of the distribution of irrigation water for the Mesa and Chandler districts of the newly created Salt River Project. He remained in that position for ten years, until 1918, when he was transferred to Texas.⁸

Throughout his residence in Arizona, Hill continued his hobby of hand printing on an Excelsior press, producing a number of pamphlets, broadsides, and brochures. An additional number of Thoreau items appeared during this period. Hill also found time to write a booklet of

short stories entitled *Range Tales*, which was published in 1916 by the Severn-Wylie-Jewett Company of Boston.⁹

In 1918, the Reclamation Service transferred Hill to its office in Ysleta, Texas. Here his first position was that of gate-tender at the head of the Franklin Canal. His duties gave him the responsibility of the distribution of water for United States lands and those of Mexico as provided for by the treaty of 1906.¹⁰

By 1924, Hill had reached the rank of clerk of the El Paso office of the Reclamation Service. In that year he moved to the office of the El Paso County Water Improvement District to become its assessor-collector.¹¹ Throughout this period Hill lived in Ysleta in a house he had built on the edge of town. He remained at his job with the Water Improvement District office and continued to live in Ysleta until he retired and left the El Paso area in 1945.¹²

Meanwhile, Hill continued printing pamphlets, brochures, broadsides, and leaflets during his spare time in the evenings, on weekends, and on vacations and holidays. All printing was done on the Excelsior press that had been used at Granite Reef and a smaller Caxton press, purchased in Texas, of about the same size as the one used in Michigan.¹³ It was also during this period that Hill adopted a cowboy hat as his printer's mark. It continued to be his trademark for the rest of the life of his press.¹⁴

His work during his Ysleta residence continued to reflect his interest in three major literary figures: the enigmatic American poet Edgar Allan Poe, the English essayist Charles Lamb, and the American Transcendentalist Henry David Thoreau. In 1933, he printed an eight-page brochure, edited by Vincent Starrett of Chicago, which was a memoir of Edgar Allan Poe by Captain Mayne Reid. Reid was a vagabond soldier of fortune who was acquainted with the poet in Philadelphia. The account is interesting for its complimentary statements about Poe and his family. The following year Hill printed a letter by Charles Lamb that previously had not been published. Then, in the 1940's, he printed about a dozen items by and about Thoreau. A number of these items were rare or original pieces.¹⁵ Others of them were reprints of items he had previously printed both in Lakeland and at Granite Reef.

It was also during his Ysleta residence that Hill was honored with membership in two Arizona organizations. During a vacation trip to Tucson, Arizona, early in 1936, he was elected president of the Frank Holme Memorial group at the University of Arizona at Tucson. The group was founded in 1935 to perpetuate the memory of Frank Holme, an outstanding Chicago newspaper artist of the 1890's and the founder of the Banderlog Press, which in 1902 became the first private press in

Arizona. Hill served as the group's president for several years. It was also on this trip that Hill accompanied Dr. Frank C. Lockwood, a noted Southwestern scholar of the University of Arizona, to a meeting of the Desert Rats, an organization of Arizona pioneers founded by Lockwood in 1931 to "fix Arizona facts." During this meeting, in the Pinal Mountains, Hill was made a member of the organization.¹⁶

It should be mentioned at this point that Hill's participation in such intellectual organizations was not limited simply to Arizona. Hill was also a frequent contributor to the *Step Ladder*, the official organ of a Chicago club called the Book Fellows. But possibly more important was Hill's membership in the international Charles Lamb Club. Hill was the second American member at a time when there were only 148 members throughout the world.¹⁷

In Ysleta, on February 25, 1939, Hill celebrated the fifty-fifth anniversary of the founding of his private press. The next month it was recognized as the oldest private press in the United States.¹⁸ The press continued to operate in a small house on Hill's property in Ysleta until 1945 when he retired from the Water District Office and stored the equipment while he prepared to move back to Arizona. During this temporary storage all of Hill's equipment was destroyed in a warehouse fire in Ysleta.¹⁹

As a gesture of respect, friends and fellow printing enthusiasts presented him with a used side-lever Columbian press, ten-point Kennerley type — designed by Fredric Goudy — and type cases. Hill used this equipment until his death. (It was later given to the Journalism Department of Arizona State College in Tempe). The items printed during this period were usually limited to forty copies and printed in black ink only. They were never offered for sale, but distributed instead to friends and acquaintances.²⁰

One other result of Hill's Ysleta residence was the publication in 1942 of *Lone War Trail of Apache Kid* (Pasadena, California: Trail's End Publishing Company). Written in collaboration with Earl R. Forrest, it was the culmination of two decades of research by Mr. Hill.²¹

Edwin B. Hill died on April 6, 1949. At the time of his death he was the proprietor of the oldest continuously operated private press in America. Its production included one full-length book and over two hundred shorter pieces—pamphlets, brochures, broadsides, and leaflets.²²

In order to evaluate Edwin B. Hill properly a number of factors must be considered. In the first place, Hill succeeded in not one, but two careers. Starting at the bottom in the Detroit newspaper business, he managed to reach a position of considerable responsibility within seven short years. When his health forced his retirement from this field, he

began life anew in the West and within seventeen years had reached another responsible position that he held for over two decades. Such a record could stand alone and still be viewed with pride.

But this record seems to sketch only the outlines of Hill's life. The other half—his career of intellectual research and scholarship—remained hidden from many who knew Hill. Indeed, three El Pasoans who were in a position to know of this facet of Hill's life were almost completely unaware of it during their acquaintanceship with him. Hill's next-door neighbor in Ysleta only vaguely recalled his hobby. People connected with the printing industry in the area were also unfamiliar with his accomplishments.²³ But probably most surprising is the fact that the man Hill rode to work with six days a week for over five years can recall having seen only one of Hill's items and even then he was not given to understand clearly that Hill had printed it.²⁴

On the other hand, anyone familiar with Hill would not be too surprised by such facts. Throughout the available documents Hill is referred to as "quiet," "close-mouthed," "retiring," "bookish," and "a loner."²⁵ In addition, Hill is characterized as a very modest fellow who was careful about discussing his intellectual accomplishments. These statements can probably be traced to a combination of humility and shyness on Hill's part. Hill was described by Mr. N. B. Phillips of the El Paso County Water District Number One office as a fine worker and a gentleman of high quality in every respect, but, according to Phillips, Hill "... had everything but the 'front' to put him on top."²⁶ Still, Hill's record is one of outstanding achievements even though he was not the type to blow his own horn.

Another interesting aspect of the Hill enigma is his ability as a printer. Carl Hertzog, typographer and book designer of El Paso, considers Hill's work "rather artistic." Mr. Hertzog recognizes the fact that Hill was a hobby printer rather than a professional and judges him in light of the possibility that Hill's talent was handicapped by the fact that he did not own enough type.²⁷ Vincent Starrett, a Chicago author with whom Hill corresponded, remembered Hill's items as "nice little things."²⁸ Others saw fit to call Hill a "meticulous publisher" for the careful manner in which he printed his items on Thoreau.²⁹ It is safe to assume that he exercised the same care in his other publications.

Beyond his ability as a printer Hill must also be lauded for his scholarship. He was a recognized authority on first editions.³⁰ Also, many of his printings made specific contributions to the field of letters. In the case of Poe, he made several important contributions to the body of source material on the poet.³¹ He also found, and published for the first

time, at least one letter by Charles Lamb, as noted above. Further, it was only through his careful reproduction of Thoreau texts that several letters and at least one essay were preserved intact. He has also been cited as one of the outstanding pioneers in spreading the fame of Henry David Thoreau. His contribution in that respect is considered a lasting one.³²

A final factor to be considered in assessing Hill is his personal library. Throughout a period of about fifty years he amassed over 10,000 volumes. In 1955 the bulk of this collection was presented to Matthews Library at Arizona College (now Arizona State University) in Tempe.³³ The quantity of collection in this case would inspire admiration, even if the reader was not acquainted with Hill. But from all evidence available it can be confidently assumed that the quality of Hill's library matched its bulk.

That Edwin Hill has failed to be properly recognized for his accomplishments is obvious. While his contributions as a newspaper man and later as a public servant has been noticed by a few, the possibly more important and lasting of Hill's contributions — his literary research, scholarship and authorship — have yet to be realized and appreciated by a majority of people who knew him. Yet, such a record probably cannot remain undiscovered much longer. Others are now investigating Hill's many-sided accomplishments and their researches will someday become public.

FOOTNOTES

1. Letter of Carl Hertzog, Director of the Texas Western Press of the University of Texas at El Paso, to Adrian H. Goldstone of San Francisco, California, April 1, 1965.
See also: Statement of N. B. Phillips of the El Paso County Water Improvement District, to the author, October 27, 1967. (Cited hereinafter as Statement of N. B. Phillips).
2. Gertrude H. Muir, "Edwin B. Hill: Arizona Printer," *Arizona Librarian*, Winter, 1967, 50. "New Editions, Fine and Otherwise," *New York Times Book Reviews*, March 12, 1939, 33. (Cited hereinafter as *New York Times*). Mrs. Muir is the daughter of Edwin B. Hill.
3. "The Private Press: Work in Progress," *American Notes and Queries*, September, 1947, 96. (Cited hereinafter as *American Notes and Queries*). *New York Times*, March 12, 1939.
4. Newspaper sources fail to agree on the sequence of Hill's movements from one Detroit paper to another. The *Christian Herald* is cited by some sources as the first newspaper which employed Hill. (See: "El Pasoan Named as Head of Southwestern Memorial Group for Famous Artist," *World News*, June 28, 1936, 14. (Cited hereinafter as *World News*). See also "In Memoriam: Edwin B. Hill," *The Thoreau Society Bulletin*, No. 28, July, 1949, 1. (Cited hereinafter as *Thoreau Society Bulletin*). See also *New York Times*, March 12, 1939.
5. *New York Times*, March 12, 1939.

6. *Idem.* Also, *Thoreau Society Bulletin*. July, 1949; and Muir, "Arizona Printer," 50.
7. *New York Times*, March 12, 1939.
8. Muir, "Arizona Printer," 50.
9. *Idem.* Also, *World News*, June 28, 1936, 14.
10. Statement of N. B. Phillips, October 27, 1967.
11. Mrs. Muir, in "Arizona Printer," states that Hill became assessor-collector of the El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1 in 1928; however, the El Paso City Directory for 1924 lists Hill as a clerk for the Reclamation Service, while the Directory for the following year lists him as assessor-collector for the Water District.
12. Letter of Gertrude H. Muir of Tempe, Arizona, to the author, February 28, 1967; *World News*, June 28, 1936, 14; and *El Paso Times* October 19, 1936, 5.
13. Muir, "Arizona Printer," 51, and *American Notes and Queries*, September, 1947, 96. A Standard self-inking press was probably used in Michigan.
14. The original die for this cowboy hat was later destroyed in the warehouse fire that ruined Hill's presses, type and cases. Hill was never again as satisfied with dies he purchased to make the same mark as he had been with the original.
15. Vincent Starrett (ed.), *Edgar Allan Poe* (Ysleta: Edwin B. Hill, 1933); *World News*, June 28, 1936, 14; and *Thoreau Society Bulletin*, No. 28, July, 1949, 1.
16. *World News*, June 28, 1936, 14; and Muir, "Arizona Printer," 51.
17. *World News*, June 28, 1936, 14.
18. *New York Times*, March 12, 1939; and Muir, "Arizona Printer," 51.
19. Muir, "Arizona Printer," 51.
20. *Idem.* Also, *American Notes and Queries*, September, 1947, 96.
21. Muir, "Arizona Printer," 51.
22. *Thoreau Society Bulletin*, No. 28, July 1949, 1; Muir, "Arizona Printer," 51. and Muir to Goldblatt, February 16, 1967.
23. Statement of Carl Hertzog to the author, September 26, 1967. (Cited herein after as Statement of Carl Hertzog).
24. Statement of N. B. Phillips, October 27, 1967; and letter of Adrian H. Goldstone to Carl Hertzog, April 4, 1965.
25. See: letter of Vincent Starrett of Chicago, Illinois, to Adrian H. Goldstone, April 16, 1965. See also: Statement of Carl Hertzog, September 26, 1967, and Statement of N. B. Phillips, October 27, 1967.
26. Statement of N. B. Phillips, October 27, 1967.
27. Statement of Carl Hertzog, September 26, 1967.
28. Letter of Vincent Starrett to Adrian H. Goldstone, April 16, 1965.
29. *Thoreau Society Bulletin*, No. 28, July, 1949, 1.
30. Letter of Gertrude H. Muir to the author, February 16, 1967; and *World News*, June 28, 1936, 14.
31. One of these contributions was the discovery and publication of correspondence between Edgar Allan Poe and John Neal. (See: *New York Times Book Reviews*, June 17, 1917, 233). Another was the publication in Ysleta in 1933 of the Captain Mayne Reid memoir of Poe.
32. *Thoreau Society Bulletin*, No. 28, July, 1949, 1; and letter of Gertrude H. Muir to the author, February 16, 1967.
33. Muir, "Arizona Printer," 51.

NEGROES WITH CONFEDERATE TROOPS IN WEST TEXAS AND NEW MEXICO

by MARTIN HARDWICK HALL

An interesting sidelight of the Confederate period in far West Texas and New Mexico was the fact that at least five officers and men brought their negro servants with them. Two of these slaves were with Colonel John R. Baylor's original contingent, whereas the other three came with the "Sibley Brigade."

Colonel Baylor, according to the census of 1860, owned seven slaves,¹ and he brought one—Bower—with him. This is confirmed by the prescription book of the military hospital at Doña Ana which records that Bower was treated for gonorrhoea from January 3-6, 1862.² Major Edwin Waller, Jr., Baylor's second in command, owned three slaves,³ and one named Simon came west with him. Like Bower, this fact is revealed by the medical records. Simon was treated at the Fort Fillmore hospital for myxiosis from August 14-18, was hospitalized for being "impotent" from August 29-31, and was treated for gonorrhoea from September 20 to October 2, 1861.⁴ Where these negroes contracted their venereal diseases is not recorded, but it is logical to assume that they were infected by contact with some of the local population, either on this side of the border or on the other. Presumably both Bower and Simon accompanied their masters when those officers later left for the interior of Texas.⁵

Colonel Thomas "Tom" Green, commander of the 5th Regiment Texas Cavalry of the "Sibley Brigade," owned ten slaves in 1860.⁶ His body servant came with him as far west as Birchville (Smith's Ranch), across the Río Grande from San Ignacio, Chihuahua. At this point, the negro stole his master's horse and fled into Mexico on January 1, 1862. The colonel immediately sent Adjutant Joseph D. Sayers⁷ and several troopers in pursuit. After fording the Río Grande, the Confederates were compelled to stop at San Ignacio and secure a pass from the local *alcalde*. This delay was apparently all that Green's Negro needed to make good his escape. Sayers, after traveling down the Chihuahua road for several miles, decided that further pursuit would be fruitless. He and his detachment thereupon turned back and crossed the Río Grande from the Mexican town of Guadalupe to rejoin their command which was on the march to Fort Bliss.

Captain Willis L. Lang of Company B (Lancers), Fifth Regiment Texas Cavalry, also brought his personal servant. The census of 1860 shows that Lang operated a large plantation near Marlin, Falls County, and was the owner of seventy-four slaves.⁸ The captain was severely wounded at the battle of Valverde, and was subsequently left at Socorro Hospital. Lang suffered intensely, and knowing that he could never recover from his wound, "he ordered his colored servant to hand him

his pistol which he did, and with this weapon he ended his suffering and his life!"¹⁰

Even a private brought along a Negro. Eighteen year-old John T. Wafford¹¹ of Company C, 4th Regiment Texas Cavalry,¹² owned a slave named Henry. Both took part in the New Mexico campaign, but during the retreat the servant took sick and was left at Peralta on April 15. Henry was subsequently taken prisoner and sent to the military hospital at Albuquerque where he died on May 13, 1862.¹³

It is, indeed, unfortunate that the records of Negroes with the Confederates in the Southwest are so sparse. Undoubtedly other personal slaves accompanied their masters, for a cursory check of the slave census of Texas for 1860 shows that many officers of the "Army of New Mexico" were slave owners. It is also possible that some "field" slaves were brought along to serve as teamsters, cooks, foragers, and general laborers.

FOOTNOTES

1. U. S. Eighth Census, 1860, Texas Slave Schedules, Microfilm roll 286, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D. C.
2. Prescription Book of Fort Fillmore and Doña Ana Hospitals, Record Group 109, National Archives.
3. U. S. Eighth Census, 1860, Texas Slave Schedules.
4. Prescription Book of Fort Fillmore and Doña Ana Hospitals.
5. Waller was promoted to lieutenant colonel December 17, 1861, and ordered to Hempstead to raise a battalion of mounted volunteers. Baylor left for Richmond, Virginia, in April, 1862, where he received a commission to raise five battalions of partisan rangers in Texas. Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations From the State of Texas, Microcopy 323, rolls 8, 15.
6. U. S. Eighth Census, 1860, Texas Slave Schedules.
7. Joseph Draper Sayers later served in the United States House of Representatives from 1885 to 1898. He was elected governor of Texas in 1898 and reelected in 1900.
8. Walter A. Faulkner (contrib.), "With Sibley in New Mexico; The Journal of William Henry Smith," *West Texas Historical Association Year Book*, XXVII (October, 1951), 123
9. U. S. Eighth Census, 1860, Texas Slave Schedules.
10. *A Memorial and Biographical History of McLennan, Falls, Bell and Coryell Counties, Texas* (Chicago, The Lewis Publishing Company, 1893), p. 640.
11. Although Wafford (or Wofford) was from Victoria, he is not listed in the 1860 Texas Slaves Schedules. There is, however, an R. B. Wafford of Victoria who is recorded as owning four slaves. This was probably Wafford's father, and thus the slave that the soldier took with him was more than likely his father's property.
12. Shortly after he was sworn into service, Wafford was promoted fifth sergeant. From September 20, 1861 to March 20, 1862, he was on extra duty in the regimental commissary department. Presumably, Henry (or Henery) accompanied his master while he was on this detached duty.—Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations From the State of Texas, Microcopy 323, roll 30.
13. Return of Prisoners of War of Troops in the Confederate Service Captured in New Mexico During the Campaign of 1862, Record Group 109, Roll 2, National Archives.

THE EL PASO VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

edited with notes and epilogue

by EUGENE O. PORTER

EDITOR'S NOTE: this anonymous article was taken from *The El Paso Herald* for May 13, 1897. At the time the State Firemen's Convention was being held in El Paso, May 12, 13, 14.

In preparing this article for inclusion in *PASSWORD* the editor became indebted to the following persons: Mmes. Virginia Hoke and Emma Hamilton of the public library staff, Leon Metz, Archivist, Library of the University of Texas at El Paso, and Calvin Forrester, Secretary-Treasurer of the Volunteer Firemen's Association. He wishes to take this opportunity to thank them.

To W. H. CARTER¹ belongs the honor of first suggesting the advisability of organizing a fire company in El Paso, and on August 19, 1882, he with others circulated a paper for signatures, resulting in forty-six charter members signing the roll. Four days later, on August 22, a meeting was held on the balcony of the old Grand Central Hotel² where the organization was made permanent, under the style and name of "El Paso Hose Company No. 1" and the following officers were elected: J. W. Zollars,³ President; Col. James Marr,⁴ Vice-President; Chas. L. Pierce,⁵ Chief; Ben F. Levy,⁶ Assistant Chief; W. H. Carter, 2nd Assistant Chief; W. A. Irvin,⁷ Treasurer; W. B. McLachlan,⁸ Secretary.

At a subsequent meeting held on November 15, 1882, the membership was enlarged and the Fire Department which had been organized as "Hose Company No. 1" was re-organized into the following companies, to wit: Hose Company No. 1, Hose Company No. 2 and Hook and Ladder Company No. 1. The department continued to be conducted on this basis as the town gained in population and new companies were necessarily added. To a certain extent Charles Pierce was looked upon as the originator of the El Paso Fire Department. As the first chief he without apparatus of any kind and within a few months, had the Department in a position to fight almost any fire that might occur.

The first fire in El Paso occurred shortly after the Department was organized, on the night of November 11, 1882, at the present site of the Windsor Hotel⁹ where stood two one-story frame lodging houses. It was a coincidence that these buildings belonging to Mr. Carter should be the first to burn. The water works had just been completed a few weeks, and a fire plug had been placed almost opposite where the fire occurred, but at this time there were but one hundred feet of hose in the city; with this the firemen could throw the water only far enough

to splash on the front doors of the buildings. This was quite provoking as well as embarrassing to the newly organized Department, which naturally desired to start off with a good record. With fifty feet more of hose the men could easily have saved one of the buildings. The Chief, in his report, said: "We could not prevent the buildings from burning with only one hundred feet of hose to work with, but there is one consolation, boys, we saved the lot."

A few months later, in April, 1883, the firemen had another opportunity to distinguish themselves. A fire burned from what is now the Gem saloon¹⁰ to the Davis building; some eight or nine stores were burned. The firemen by the hardest work ever done by the Department saved all the buildings on the east side of El Paso Street. Some impression can be gained concerning the fight made by the firemen when it is known that eight sections of hose were burned and the Hook and Ladder truck with several ladders were badly damaged by fire. After this fire some \$400 was sent to the firemen by the merchants, showing their appreciation of the good work. This was the beginning of what is now known as the "Relief Fund."¹¹

Mr. Pierce, after holding the office of chief from the organization of the Department in 1882 to about February 1, 1884, resigned, and L. H. Maxwell¹² was elected to fill the vacancy. Mr. Maxwell was a former member of the Las Vegas, New Mexico, fire department. Besides his valuable experiences as a fireman he had many fine traits of character which made him many admirers. During Chief Maxwell's administration the first Tournament¹³ of the Department was held, on April 17, 1884, resulting in the Hook and Ladder Company winning the first prize and Hose Company No. 1 the second. After holding the office one year and two months, Chief Maxwell resigned on April 24, 1885, and on April 28 Chas. Kiefer¹⁴ was elected chief. Mr. Kiefer had served faithfully as assistant foreman of Hose Company No. 2, and was formerly a member of a department in Kansas, and was therefore well qualified to fill the position.

On February 9, 1886, a Hose Company was organized composed of the Southern Pacific Machine shop men and, upon application, was admitted into the El Paso Fire Department under the name of the "Sunset Hose Company No. 4." The Department, finding that after a little more than one year's connection with the Department the men did not keep up their organization, concluded to drop them from the rolls.

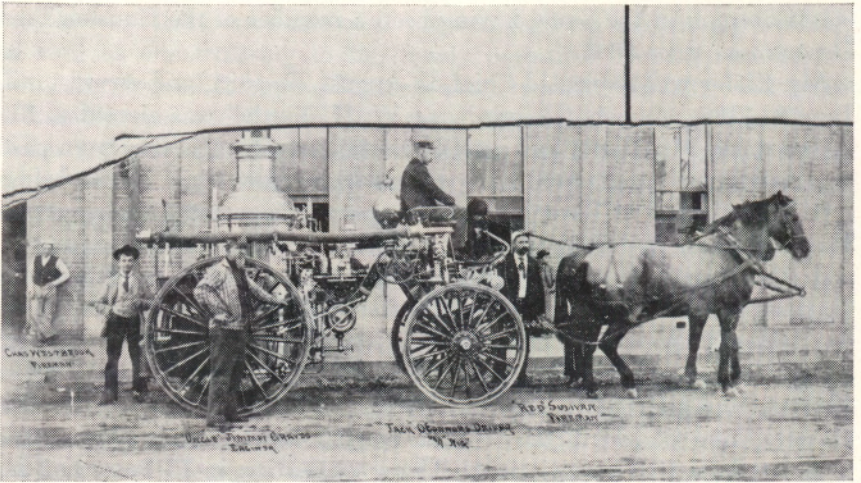
Meanwhile, on May 26, 1885, the Department was favored by a distinguished visitor in the person of the Honorable Robert Brewster, treasurer of the State Firemen's Association.¹⁵ He was duly elected an Honorary Member of the El Paso Fire Department. Mr. Brewster was the

oldest fireman in the State, having been a member of the Houston Fire Department since 1845.

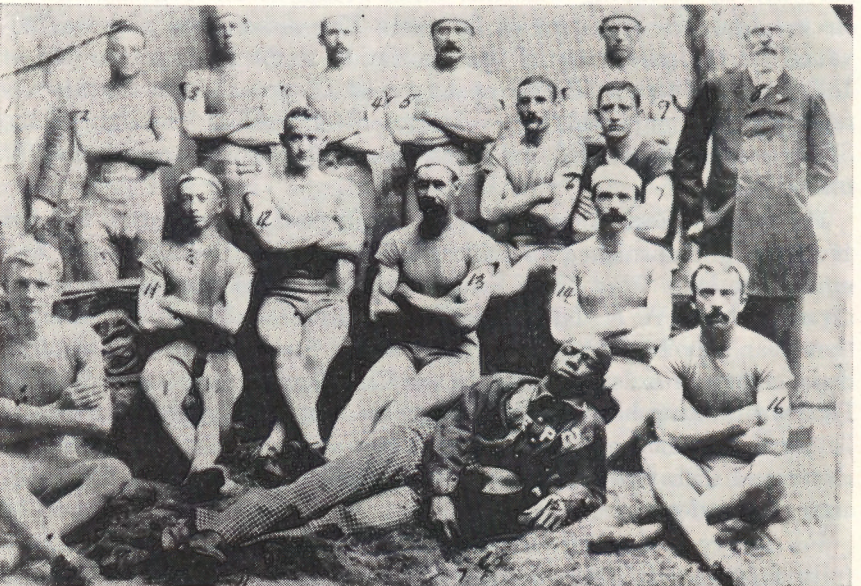
Mr. Kiefer was re-elected Chief on August 22, 1885, and served until June 8, 1886, when he resigned and W. H. Tuttle¹⁶ was elected to fill the vacancy. Mr. Tuttle had served as Assistant Chief, so that from past experience he was able to fill the position with credit. Chief Tuttle, being a strong advocate of Firemen's Tournaments, organized a racing team. The City Council, joining in the enthusiasm, purchased a racing jumper and the citizens, subscribing liberally, sent the boys up to the Firemen's Tournament at Albuquerque in October, 1886. There they captured the principal prizes and came home victors, to enjoy a fine reception and a banquet at night. Mr. Tuttle was re-elected chief on January 11, 1887. At the end of his term the Honorable John Julian¹⁷ was elected president and Charles Fruin,¹⁸ Chief. During Chief Fruin's administration the State Fire Association held its convention in El Paso, and in the rhetoric of some of the Delegates and visiting Firemen, "El Paso entertained her guests handsomely," the citizens joining with the Department in extending welcome. Chief Fruin, at this convention, was elected first vice-president of the State Fire Association and was advanced to the presidency of the association at the Paris convention in 1889 by the death of President Austin of Denton. Austin's death was regretted and mourned by every volunteer fireman throughout the State, as he had attended and taken great interest in the association for many years.

Forrestville Hose Company No. 3 joined the Department on October 17, 1889, and furnished valuable assistance to the Department at several of the large fires. Chief Fruin was again elected and when he had served his term W. H. Tuttle was for the third time elected chief. During that year Mr. Tuttle made a visit over the State, taking data of other departments in order to convince the City Council that it was time El Paso was putting horses to her apparatus; but three years were to pass before the Council agreed to place horses at the service of the Department, and then it was more or less compulsory, made so by the insurance companies.

For the year 1891 Mr. Kiefer was elected Chief and served so faithfully that he was again elected to serve through the year 1892, this making four terms he served. During his four terms quite an addition was made to the Department by the purchase of a Silsby steamer.¹⁹ Chief Kiefer also organized a racing team which proved to be the fastest in the southwest. At Albuquerque, in September, 1891, the team made a record in a straight-of-way race of two hundred yards, running the distance in twenty-two and a half seconds.



The John Julian Engine Company No. 1, 1895/96.—The Otis Aultman Collection, El Paso Public Library, Southwest Reference Department.



No. 1—Fred Eddleston, 2—Daughterman, 3—Lyons, 4—McGowan, 5—Chas. C. Keefer, 6—Peyton Edwards, 7—George Florey, 8—John Julian, 9—Red Herbert, 10—Jess Weidman, 11—Proctor, 12—Herb Stevenson, 13—Robinson, 14—Jim Conklin, 15—Felix the Bootblack, 16—John Whitaker — Photograph undated, from the Otis Aultman Collection, El Paso Public Library, Southwest Reference Department.

Frank Powers²⁰ was elected chief in 1893, having been foreman of the Hook and Ladder Company and Assistant Chief. From the viewpoint of experience in the Department no better man could have been selected than he. Chief Powers was re-elected for the years 1894 and 1895 and again for 1896. During his administration a Gleason & Bailey 65-foot Aerial truck,²¹ manned by three horses, a driver and a tillerman, was added to the Department. Also added were a beautiful new style two-horse hose wagon, a fine team for the steamer, a telephone alarm, an electric system to awaken the officers of the Department at their respective homes during an alarm at night, and a comfortable assembly and reading room.²² The wisdom in adding horses to the Department was proved by the reduction of the fire loss during the following years.

With the advent of horses the Department seemed to take a new lease on life. It changed from the old individuality so noticeable in each company to a more compact and concentrated form of government which stimulated interest in many ways. Great credit was due Mr. Powers for his steadfast purpose in putting the Department in such a fighting trim.

For 1897 John Connors²³ was elected Chief and Judge Payton F. Edwards,²⁴ president. Mr. Connors had served as foreman of Hose Company No. 2 for two years and had proved himself an able fireman. His entry into office was like each incoming chief before him, making changes and improvements as well as additions. He had the paid men uniformed²⁵ and added a fine team of gray horses to the new hose-wagon to take the place of the old ones. To Mr. Connors goes the credit of being the principal factor in bringing the convention to El Paso in 1897 and he worked night and day with the different committees to make the convention a success.

The former president, John Julian, known by all the firemen as "Uncle John," was looked upon as the father of the Department. Back in the fall of 1883, when Hose Company No. 1 was disbanded, he stepped in and re-organized the company, got it on its feet, and the company retained its membership in the Department against many disadvantages. Mr. Julian was elected president of the Department on December 13, 1887, and was re-elected for nine successive years. Constantly, faithfully and earnestly did he perform his duties as president, giving the Department a steadiness and dignity which was needful and wise and which added greatly to the success of the organization. Previously he had been honored by being elected president of the State Firemen's Association when it met in Fort Worth in the year 1892. Considering the fact that he was a comparatively new member of the Association, his election was quite a compliment to El Paso as well as to President Julian. The volunteers of the El Paso Department, recog-

nizing the long years of valuable work which President Julian had devoted in their behalf, by a unanimous vote made him a life member of the Department and a director.

The City Council, during its many changes of administration, granted almost every demand made upon it by the firemen, and the Department can say, to a man, that in no city of Texas was there such a mutual feeling of rapport between the Council and the Fire Department as in El Paso. This was due largely to the fact that the firemen always looked after their affairs as though they were personal, taking good care of apparatus, handling money with economy and integrity, and acting gentlemanly in their conduct towards the public.²⁶ Also, political factions which have destroyed the efficiency of many good fire companies have been utterly unknown among the El Paso firemen.

RELIEF FUND

As the volunteers served without pay of any kind, a relief fund was created to take care of firemen disabled while on duty, or in case of sickness to see that they were properly cared for. The Department also had a burial fund; it was maintained by each member donating one dollar a year. When a member died, if found necessary, this fund was called upon to see that his remains received proper burial. Money that came to the Department by donations and otherwise was placed in different funds as found necessary, and every dollar was accounted for in a most careful and judicious manner. No lodge in the city was more rigidly conducted in this respect. This, with their faithful attention to duty, was why the firemen enjoyed the confidence of the citizens; and accounted for their responding so generously, both in money and assistance, when the Department called upon them.

In the first fourteen and a half years of its existence, covered in this article, the Fire Department was fortunate in never having lost the life of a fireman at a fire, nor was one ever seriously injured. During that time, however, Jim Sullivan²⁷ and W. H. Tuttle²⁸ rescued from burning buildings five persons, a babe, a woman and three men.

HONORARY MEMBERS

Each company had a roll of honorary members composed of prominent citizens who did not have time to devote to active service at fires, but who gave advice and support and encouragement to their respective companies and who had much to do with the stability of the Department. Lack of space does not permit the naming of all of these faithful but there are two who must be mentioned, S. H. Buchanan²⁹ and W. M. Yandell.³⁰ These men gave many years of their lives to the up-building of the Department.

The personnel and the apparatus of the Department as of today [May, 1897] are as follows: Hose Company No. 1, Hose Company No. 2, Hose Company No. 3, Junior Hose Company, Steamer Company, Hook and Ladder Company No. 1, membership, 150 volunteers, six paid men, eight head of horses, one Gleason and Bailey two-horse hose truck, four hand-hose reels, 3000 feet of two-ply jacket hose, sliding pole, one life-saving gun, one Gleason and Bailey sixty-five foot aerial truck with full compliment of ladders, etc., seven sets of Hale hitching harness, billiard table, bath room, assembly and reading room.

The assistant chiefs of the Department have been — Levy, Tuttle, Fruin, Cooney, Race, Holland, Powers, Robinson and Millspaugh.

The secretaries of the Department have been — McLachlan, Kahn, Harper, O'Connor, Payne and Kiefer.

DEPARTMENT EXPENSES

From 1882 to 1892 running expenses of the Department, \$840 per year.

For the years 1892 and 1893, \$1,800. For the years 1894, 1895 and 1896, \$7,200.

EPILOGUE

The establishment of a volunteer fire department brought forth immediate recognition on the part of the city government. The Council on December 9 enacted the "Fire Department Ordinance of 1882"³¹ and in so doing gave the volunteers official recognition and standing. The Ordinance is long, containing forty sections. Section 1 provided: "That the committee on fire and water which is three members of our City Council, be appointed as Fire Commissioners, and shall hold office till the expiration of their terms as alderman." Section 2 provided that "The said board of Fire Commissioners shall supervise and control said Fire Department, its officers, members, and employees, subject to the laws governing the same, shall see that the officers, members, and employees thereof faithfully discharge their duties, that the laws, orders, and regulations relating thereto are carried into effect and operation."

The Ordinance also provided that the officers of the Department be appointed by the City Council. Section 5, stated, for instance, that "The Officers of the Fire Department of this city shall be Three Fire Commissioners (appointed as aforesaid), One Chief of Department, One Ass't. Chief of Department and one 2nd Ass't. Chief of Department (appointed by the City Council)." Section 8 was more specific. It stated that "The Chief of Department and 1st and 2nd assistants shall be appointed by the City Council." In practice, however, the officers were elected annually by the members of the Department. At the same time

it became customary for each company to elect its own foreman and assistant foreman. The foreman was somewhat like the present-day company captain. He was responsible for training his men and directing their activities at fires.

As El Paso grew the duties and responsibilities of the volunteers increased until it became necessary to employ full-time, paid members. In fact, Section 6 of the Ordinance provided for two such employees: "Two steward and Hydrant men." And Section 7 mentioned "All paid members." The first paid member was John Kierski, hired in February, 1883, at a monthly salary of fifty dollars. He was charged with taking care of the hose and reels and seeing that the fire hydrants were kept clean and in good order.³² The first horses, a pair of roans and a pair of brown and bay, were purchased in December, 1893.³³ These necessitated additional full-time men. Thus by 1895 the paid members of the Department numbered five, namely: J. O. Connors, driver of Hook and Ladder No. 1; F. M. McMahan, tillerman, Hook and Ladder No. 1; A. B. McBride, engineer, Engine No. 1; W. A. Mitchell, driver, Engine No. 1; and Harry Jessup, messenger.³⁴ By 1908 there were eight full-time firemen.

In the same year, 1908, the mayor, J. U. Sweeney, and Council announced their intention of making the office of Fire Chief a full-time position³⁵ and replacing the volunteers with full-time members. There was a rather large number of local applicants for the chief's position but in order to avoid the charge of favoritism the city fathers appointed William W. Armstrong. At the time he was chief of the Douglas, Arizona, Fire Department. Previously he had served for two years as chief of the Joliet, Illinois, Fire Department. He took office on February 1, 1909. At the same time the number of full-time members was increased from eight to eighteen.³⁶ These appointments marked the beginning of the City Fire Department.

With the establishment of a full-time, professional fire department in 1909 the volunteer association became a social organization. For several years thereafter, however, the volunteers continued to render service at large fires. Today the Volunteer Fire Department is entirely social. With a membership of about one hundred it meets twice a year, in June and December. The June meeting, a dutch treat affair, is generally held at the Falstaff Brewery. The December meeting is given to the election of officers as well as to social activities. At its recent meeting on December 15, 1967, the following officers were elected for 1968: Arthur L. Martin, President; Ben Hieken, First Vice President; Harold G. Levy, Second Vice President; and Calvin Forrester, Secretary-Treas-

urer; directors: William Knodell, M. B. Krupp, Ken Linton, Tom McGuire, James C. Orr, Tom Patterson, and Don Rathweg.

Membership in the Volunteers is open to all males, twenty-one years of age and over. Dues are three dollars a year. In passing it might be noted that volunteer firemen are excused by State law from jury duty.

CHIEFS OF THE VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT: 1882-1909

Charles L. Pierce	1882-1884	Frank Powers	1893-1897
H. L. Maxwell	1884-1885	John J. Connors	1897-1898
Charles C. Kiefer	1885-1886	Tom Holland	1898-1899
William H. Tuttle	1886-1888	Frank Powers	1899-1905
Charles E. Fruin	1888-1890	Charles Krause	1905-1906
William H. Tuttle	1890-1891	Tom Holland	1906-1909
Charles C. Kiefer	1891-1893		

REFERENCES

1. W. H. Carter is listed in the 1889 city directory as a "property owner, residence 504 El Paso, between Second and Third Streets." *The Lone Star*, December 27, 1882 refers to him as a "prominent hotel owner." He died in Havana, Cuba in 1924.—See the card index of El Paso newspapers in the El Paso Public Library. Actually there are two indices, one of places and events and the other of persons. This latter will be herein cited as *BF—EPPL* (Biographical File, El Paso Public Library).
2. This is an error. It should read "Central Hotel." The Central and Grand Central adjoined each other and are often confused. The Grand Central was not constructed until 1883. It was built by J. F. Crosby and Colonel Anson Mills on the northwest corner of the Oregon and Mills Streets, the present site of the Mills building. Originally a three-story structure, a fourth floor was later added. The Grand Central was described as "the largest and most expensive building . . . the pride and glory of the entire Southwest." The firemen held their meetings, dances, etc., there until it was destroyed by fire in the early morning of February 11, 1892. — Owen P. White, *Out of the Desert* (El Paso, 1923), 194-95.
3. John W. Zollers was an official of the First National Bank for a number of years. He was called "Uncle John" by his friends and "Honest John" by his detractors. He died in 1915.—*BF—EPPL*.
4. Colonel James L. Marr was born in Philadelphia but was brought to El Paso in 1878 by his father, Colonel S. H. Marr. In 1905 the son associated himself with his father-in-law, W. H. Austin, in the real estate firm of Austin and Marr and the following year laid out Austin Terrace. He was active in Republican Party politics and served as a delegate to the Republican National Convention in 1916.
An interesting episode relates to the fact that in 1912 he came into possession of the Cardiff Giant for transfer charges. He later gave it to the McGinty Club. It finally found its way to a back yard on Hills Street after its legs and arms were broken off.—*BF—EPPL*.
For a short history of the Cardiff Giant see *The El Paso Herald*, June 7, 1912.
5. It is rather strange that the first fire chief, Charles L. Pierce, was not listed in the city directories for the 1880's and 90's nor was his name found in the *BF—EPPL*.
6. Ben F. Levy owned and operated the Union Clothing Store for a number of years. He sold out to the proprietors of the Fashion and the name was changed to Union-Fashion. A public spirited man, he served several terms as a city alderman. His one son, Leroy, a graduate of the University of California and a lieutenant, U. S. Army, was a prisoner-of-war of the Japanese in the Philippines Islands. The elder Levy died in 1953.—*BF—EPPL*.
7. William A. Irwin operated a drug store with his brother, Dr. Orlando C. Irwin under the name of W. A. Irwin and Co. The store was located at 113 South El Paso Street.—*El Paso City Directory*, 1900.

8. William B. McLachlan was a business partner of Judge A. M. Loomis in Loomis and McLachlan, Insurance and Real Estate.—C. A. Gould, *General Directory of the City of El Paso for 1886-88*.
9. The Windsor Hotel was located at 409 El Paso Street. William H. Willbank was the proprietor in 1889.—*El Paso City Directory, 1889*.
10. The Gem Saloon, J. J. Taylor, Proprietor, was located at 127 El Paso Street. It included gambling games and a variety theater. — *El Paso City Directory, 1895-1896*.
11. For an explanation of the "Relief Fund" see below in the text.
12. The *El Paso City Directory, 1885*, merely lists L. H. Maxwell as residing at 105 South El Paso Street. Nor is there a card for him in the *BF-EPPL*. It is known that during his administration as chief, in addition to organizing the first tournament, he organized in September, 1884, a band which became known as the "Firemen's Cornet Band." D. S. Darrow was employed as instructor and was paid from the Department's funds. It is considered the forerunner of the more famous McGinty Band.—*The Lone Star*, September 24, 1884.
13. Tournaments were conducted in conformity with the rules laid down by the Colorado Fire Association. There were both individual and team events. The individual events consisted largely of footraces, one of which was the hundred-yard dash. The most important team event consisted of running five hundred feet, laying two hundred feet of hose, elevating a twenty-foot ladder, and "throwing a stream of water from the nozzle." — *The El Paso Daily Times*, April 17, 1884.
14. Charles C. Kiefer arrived in El Paso in 1881 from Fairfield, Illinois.—*The El Paso Times*, October 8, 1937. He owned and operated a stationary and book store at 121 El Paso Street.—*El Paso City Directory, 1892-1893*.
15. The State Firemen's Association was organized in 1875 at Waco, Texas. The El Paso Department affiliated in 1883. The purpose of the organization as expressed by John Julian in his speech as Association president in 1894 was "to devise ways and means and formulate the surest plans for discharging the hazardous duties developing about us."—*The El Paso Daily Times*, May 12, 1895.
16. William H. Tuttle was trapped on the fourth floor of the Grand Central Hotel when it burned in the morning of February 11, 1892. The only available ladder lacked fifteen feet of reaching him. Fireman James J. Sullivan (see below, fn. 27) threw him a rope which he tied to lace curtains. These he tied to the bed and let himself down. Described as a "pioneer El Paso merchant," he died at Sierra Madre, California on November 4, 1916.—*BF-EPPL*.
17. John Julian is listed in the 1900 city directory as a real estate operator. At one time he was the agent for both the Wells Fargo and the Pacific Express Companies and a partner in the house of Julian and Johnson, the southwestern agents of Anheuser-Busch Brewing Co. He served as El Paso's postmaster in 1896. He died in Douglas, Arizona in 1916.—*BF-EPPL*.
18. Charles E. Fruin was a contractor and builder. His shop was located on San Antonio Street between Utah and Kansas.—*El Paso City Directory, 1889*.
19. The Silsby Steamer cost \$3800. It arrived from New York on November 1, 1892. It came to be called "The Uncle John Julian." — *The El Paso Herald*, November 1, 1892.
20. Frank Powers was associated with Spencer H. Buchanan (see below, fn. 29) in the manufacturing of sash doors, blinds, scholls, etc.—*El Paso Times*, July 12, 1959.
21. The Gleason and Bailey Aerial Truck cost \$2600. The two crewmen were paid members of the Department.—*The El Paso Daily Times*, January 30, 1895.
22. The central fire station occupied the first floor of the city hall which was located at Overland and Santa Fe streets. The council chamber was partitioned for the assembly room. The addition of carpet, comfortable chairs, tables, pictures, magazines and books made the room an attractive place in which the members could spend their leisure hours.—*The El Paso Daily Herald*, February 24, 1894; *The El Paso Daily Times*, April 24, 1894.

23. John J. Connors served as superintendent of the contagious disease hospital, popularly known as the "Pest House," until it was discontinued in 1901. He was retained as the city sanitary officer and later was made superintendent of the city hospital.
In 1896 he was a delegate to the Austin Convention of the Volunteer Firemen's Association and the following year he was a delegate to the meeting of the International Association of Fire Chiefs in New Haven, Connecticut.
The El Paso Times, September 15, 1935 published a half-page biographical sketch of "the Early Time Chief, with a description of a typical old-time fire with volunteer firemen assisting, and humorous incidents with local color and atmosphere of by-gone days."
24. Judge Payton F. Edwards was born in 1844 in Nacogoches County, Texas. After serving in the Confederate cavalry he was elected district judge and later a member of the state legislature, serving as speaker of the House in 1875. He came to El Paso in 1886 and engaged in the practice of law. He was active in Democratic politics and helped organize a campaign club to support Cleveland and Thurman in the presidential election of 1888. In 1893 Governor Jim Hogg appointed Edwards a delegate to the bimetallic convention in Chicago. He was also affiliated with the El Paso National Bank. He died in El Paso on June 21, 1918.—*The El Paso Morning Times*, June 22, 1918.
25. The uniforms consisted of blue caps and shirts and blue trousers.—John Connors, *BF-EPPL*.
26. It is true that the aldermen spoke in glowing terms of the efficiency of the Fire Department but always they found excuses for not making money available for hose and other needed equipment. Consequently the firemen were forced to give dances and to sponsor a variety of entertainment in order to meet the growing demands of the Department. The newspapers continually criticised the city council for its penuriousness. See *The Lone Star*, December 16, 1885, which also noted that it was not a question of lack of money because the city was free of debt and had a surplus in the treasury—See also *The El Paso Daily Times*, March 2, 1886.
27. James J. "Red" Sullivan came to El Paso in 1881 and for a time in the 1880's operated a ferry between El Paso and Juárez. He joined the Fire Department at its inception and, when horses were obtained, became a paid member as a driver and trainer. He served nearly a half century as a fireman.
An excellent athlete, he was an outstanding player on the El Paso Browns Baseball Team which played games as far away as Galveston. He was seventy-six years old when he died in New York in August, 1940. His body was returned to El Paso for burial.—*BF-EPPL*.
28. See above, fn. 16.
29. Spencer H. Buchanan, a business partner of Frank Powers (see above, fn. 20), had served as first vice-president of the Department in 1897. A veteran of the Civil War, he was an active member of the G.A.R.—*BF-EPPL*.
30. Dr. William M. Yandell, a practicing physician, was associated with Dr. Wegforth. Their offices were located in the Sheldon Block. Dr. Yandell served as city health officer for many years. Yandell Drive was named in his honor.—*BF-EPPL*.
31. *Records and minutes of the Proceedings of the City Council of El Paso From December 27, 1881 to September 25, 1885* (El Paso City Hall), 145-50.
The El Paso Public Library has bound copies of the minutes of the city council from the incorporation of the city in 1873 to 1908. See either Mrs. Hoke or Mrs. Hamilton.
32. *The Lone Star*, February 17, 1883.
33. *The El Paso Daily Times*, December 23, 1893.
34. *The El Paso City Directory, 1895-1896*.
35. As early as Fruin's administration (1888-1890) the City Council voted a monthly salary of twenty-five dollars to the fire chief. He could engage in business or other activities but was obligated to attend all fires.—*Report of the City of El Paso, Texas* (National Board of Fire Underwriters, March, 1910, Report No. 116), 10. This rare pamphlet is in the archives of the library at the University of Texas at El Paso.
36. *Ibid.*, 10; *The El Paso Times*, January 24, 1909.

BOOK REVIEWS

CONFESSIONS OF A FIDDLEFOOT

by Carlisle Graham Raht

(Odessa, Texas: The Rahtbooks Co., 1967. \$6.95)

This reviewer first met little "Carlie" Raht through the fascinating pages of *Old Buck and I*. In *Confessions of a Fiddlefoot*, little Carlie has reached man's estate and, at the age of seventeen, started out on his own. Not content with being the son of a prosperous rancher, secure and protected, with parental permission he obtained a job on the vast Slaughter spread in the Arizona Territory. His assignment was to aid in an operation designed to "clean the range of mossy-horn steers from the Mexican border on the south to the Santa Fe railhead on the north, in conjunction with all the other cow outfits in the eastern part of the territory." This expedition, known as the "big gather" (actually a round-up) lasted for three months.

After a short period of idleness and play in Flagstaff, when he was nearly broke again, Carl signed up as a packer with a mining engineer on leave of absence from a mining outfit in Salt Lake. And thus commences his long nomadic career as a "fiddlefoot." A fiddlefoot has been defined as "one who moves restlessly back and forth, hence a trifler" which term is certainly not descriptive of the life of the author. During these years Carl held many jobs—cowhand, prospector, brakeman, part-time prize fighter, railroad worker, dishwasher in a Chinese restaurant and piano player in a honky-tonk, to name but a few—some of them "trifling" to be sure. But of each of these he made a profession, researching each job as carefully and thoroughly as a student working toward an advanced degree.

Perhaps Mr. Raht was not aware of it, but the theme of his *Confessions* was firmly established in the first few pages of the book; namely, preparation for attainment of a long dreamed of goal to become a full-fledged writer. His first work, *Romance of Davis Mountains and the Big Bend Country* is considered to be a classic in its field, giving the lie to the rumor that fiddlefooting is seldom a lucrative profession.

Mr. Raht writes easily and well, in a breezy conversational style, drawing upon his prodigious memory with apparently total recall. *Confessions of a Fiddlefoot* was written when Mr. Raht was nearly eighty-six years of age, during the convalescent period following a long illness. It is surely destined to occupy a place of distinction among the other notable works on the history of the west and southwest. This reviewer treasures her autographed copy and will browse through it again and again.

El Paso, Texas

MARY ELLEN B. PORTER

WINGS AND SADDLES

by Stacy C. Hinkle

(El Paso: Texas Western Press, Southwestern Studies, \$2.00)

Move over cowboys and pony soldiers, the Army Air Service is flying in to claim its rightful share in the winning of the West. Arriving on the scene a little belatedly, Uncle Sam's lumbering bits of glue, linen cloth, spruce wood, and guy wires helped break the back of the Mexican bandit empire operating along the Río Grande near the Upper Big Bend

country. With the awkward DH-4's darting above the canyons, few outlaw bands were safe from observation. The time was August, 1919, and decades of border rustling were about to vanish.

Lieutenant Hinkle called the daylight patrols a unique technical accomplishment. Most of the flying area was unmapped, communications from ground to air were non-existent, night missions were impossible (the landings were hair-raising), equipment and parts were in short supply and of poor quality, and losing a plane a day was almost standard operating procedure. On August 10, Hinkle's fellow officers, Lieutenants Peterson and Davis, left Marfa for Fort Bliss, but mistook the Río Concho for the Río Grande and followed it into Chihuahua, Mexico, where they crash landed. The pilots were subsequently captured by bandits, ransomed, and finally returned to the United States.

Big Bend ranchers raised the money (\$15,000) and gave it to Army Captain Matlack who negotiated the prisoners' release, one at a time. While picking up the last man, he heard guarded talk among the bandits that all would be killed before crossing the river. Matlack angrily withheld the last payment and, pulling his guns, escaped with his charge. (Later he suffered a military reprimand for not keeping his word with the outlaws.) A punitive expedition then galloped south across the border to kill or capture the desperados. The Mexican chieftan was slain by aircraft strafing, and several prisoners were taken, four of whom were executed by civilian scouts. (Because of these executions, the American military commander was court marshaled.)

This interesting and informative monograph, although footnoted in a peculiar style, is a fine contribution to Southwest history.

University of Texas at El Paso

LEON C. METZ

[EDITOR'S NOTE: we are happy to announce that the summer issue of *PASSWORD* will contain an excellent article by Mr. Hinkle, "El Paso's First Municipal Airport."]

PANCHO VILLA RIDES AGAIN

by Haldeen Braddy

(El Paso: Paisano Press, 1967. \$1.)

Haldeen Braddy's book, *Pancho Villa Rides Again*, has been published by the Paisano press as the first of a series, "Authentic Views of The Frontier West." The print is clear; the book, or booklet, is an excellent contribution to this area.

In giving the background of Haldeen Braddy, the staff of the press have cited only his credentials for this particular subject, giving only one facet of Dr. Braddy's considerable scholarship. When he came to this area, he brought with him a well-established reputation as a Chaucer scholar, an authority on Poe, and a scholar of Old English. In addition he has published several works on Shakespeare. After his arrival in El Paso, Braddy applied his scholarship to several areas such as the pachucos, or tirilones; the dope trade; and the subject of this book—Pancho Villa. The articles in the book are well written; they have been written by a man who has a sure command of the English language.

The book is a collection of short articles about Villa. The first is an introduction written by S. D. Myres in which he assesses Villa and his contribution to Mexican history, reaching the conclusion that "Villa qualifies . . . as event-making man and hero." The other articles take up the many aspects of Villa as a man, his wealth, his women, and the mutilation of Villa's corpse. Many facts are presented with documentation and several unsolved mysteries are presented.

Pancho Villa provides a subject that is interesting. In telling the truth about him, the author uses such phrases as "improbable man" and "a human enigma." This book is indeed a collector's item for all who gather the lore of the Southwest.

University of Texas at El Paso

LURLINE H. COLTHARP

* * *

BOB FITZSIMMONS, the world champion fighter, played right tackle on the El Paso Football team that defeated the Albuquerque, New Mexico, Indians on January 1, 1896.

THE CONGREGATIONALISTS AND METHODISTS united forces and marched on "that branch of the Devil's Vanity Fair commonly called Utah Street" and also known as the "Reservation." There was "singing and exhorting to flee from the wrath to come while yet there is time."

—*El Paso Herald*, July 30, 1894

MRS. MARY E. TEATS, National Purity Evangelist for the W.C.T.U., gave a lecture in the Christian Church on Progressive Civilization from a Temperance Standpoint.

—*El Paso Herald*, October 21, 1902

The Fourth Commencement of the High School of El Paso was held on Thursday evening, May 29, 1890 at Myars Opera House. There were five graduates: Harry Leigh Oldham; Miss Lilly D. Coker; Mr. Vivian V. Clark; M. Claude Miner; and Miss Maud B. Doane.

The class moto was: *Esto quod esse videris*.

The American West was a Mecca for British travelers during the last half of the 19th century. Between 1865 and 1900 nearly three hundred Britishers visited the West. Among these were Matthew Arnold, James Bryce, Rudyard Kipling, the Crimean War correspondent, Sir William Howard Russell, Sir Henry Morton Stanley, Robert Louis Stevenson and Oscar Wilde.

—Robert G. Athearn
in *Westward the Britain*

BOOK NOTICES

Boot Hill: Historic Graves of the Old West (Superior Publishing, Seattle, \$12.95). By Lambert Florin.

The Buffalo Soldiers: A Narrative of the Negro Cavalry in the West (University of Oklahoma, Norman, \$5.95). By William H. Leckie.

The Conquest of Apacheria: home of the Apaches (University of Oklahoma, Norman, \$6.95). By Dan L. Thrapp.

Doctors of the Old West: A Pictorial History of Medicine on the Frontier (Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, \$12.95). By Robert F. Karolevitz.

Eight Rattles and a Button: An Account of Life in the Territory of New Mexico (The Naylor Co., San Antonio, \$3.95). By Merle Blinn Brown.

Frontiersmen in Blue: The United States Army and the Indian, 1848-1865 (Macmillan, N.Y., \$9.95). By Robert M. Utley.

George Smith's Money: A Scottish Investor in America (The State Historical Society of Wisconsin, \$4.50)

The Ghost Dance of 1889 Among the Pai Indians of Northwestern Arizona (Prescott College, \$5.85). By Henry F. Dobyns and Robert C. Euler.

Ghost Towns of New Mexico (University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, \$7.50). Photographs by Karl Kernberger. By Michael Jenkinson.

Health-Seekers in the Southwest: 1817-1900 (University of Oklahoma, Norman, \$5.95). By Billy M. Jones

Horse Tradin' (Knopf, N. Y., \$5.95). By Ben K. Green.

How They Dug the Gold: An Informal History of Frontier Prospecting, Placering, Lode-Mining, and Milling in Arizona and the Southwest (Arizona Pioneers' Historical Soc., Tucson, \$5.00). By Otis E. Young, Jr.

Indian Agent in New Mexico: William Arny's Journal, 1870 (Stagecoach Press, Santa Fe, \$4.50). Edited by Lawrence R. Murphy.

Indian Cultures of the Southwest (Naylor, San Antonio, \$3.95). By Louis Thomas Jones.

Pioneer Forts of the West: An Historical Tour (Superior Publishing Co., Seattle, \$12.95). By Herbert M. Hart.

Politics in New Mexico (University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, \$7.95). By Jack E. Holmes.

Too Far North . . . Too Far South: The Controversial Boundary Survey and the Epic Story of the Gadsden Purchase (Westernlore Press, Los Angeles, \$7.50). Great West and Indian Series XXXV. By Odie B. Faulk.

HISTORICAL NOTES

CORRECTIONS

Society member E. L. Mechem, former United States Senator and former Governor of New Mexico, asked in a recent letter to the editor: "How did Las Cruces slip into the Southeast quadrant of New Mexico (Vol. XII, No. 4, p. 111) when it is about 137 miles from Arizona, 220 miles from the Texas Panhandle and 40 miles West of New Mexico's center line? Several other fine writers and excellent publications," he added, "have done the same thing."

Governor Mechem also added: "I enjoyed this issue (Winter, 1967) more than most. Maybe due to the tributes to R. E. McKee and Chris P. Fox and the articles on "*The Borderer*" and "Life in El Paso."

* * *

Mrs. Stuart N. (Louise Blumenthal) Greenberg, Society member of 2106 Jackson Street, San Francisco, California, 94115, pointed out, in a letter to the editor, an error in Nadine Prestwoods article, "Life in El Paso in the 1890's" (Vol. XII, No. 4, p. 121, Winter, 1967). Mrs. Greenberg wrote: "There is a correction to be made as to the wife of Mr. Eugene B. Fatman. He married my aunt Cora Ullmann, and not Cora Williams. This correction is for the record. Being a loyal El Pasoan, I have an interest in seeing the facts being stated as correctly as possible. PASSWORD is very interesting to me and I am happy to see many familiar names mentioned."

The editor would like to thank Mrs. Greenberg and to state that this error was one of those "slips that pass in the night" and not an error in the MS. submitted by Mrs. Prestwood.

THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SURVEY COMMITTEE, under the chairmanship of Mrs. W. W. (Louise) Schuessler, has been unusually active in restoring markers, as shown here, and in erecting signs directing the public's attention to historical places, monuments and markers. Among the latter are four signs erected at the city limits on Interstate 10, Carlsbad Highway, and on Newman Road. Funds for the markers were furnished by the Commissioners Court.

The vandalism committed on the Fort Bliss marker, located at Magoffin and Willow streets, was erased through the volunteer sandblasting efforts of Western States Improvement Co. Mrs. Schuessler, in behalf of her committee, wishes to thank the Company for its great kindness. She also wishes to thank Judge Coldwell and his County Court for their contributions, and the City Parks Commission for replacing the STAR within the wreath (see pictures).

The most recent marker placed by Mrs. Schuessler's committee was a large metal plaque locating the "Pass of the North." The plaque was unveiled during a well-attended public ceremony on Saturday, March 2. It was donated by the State Historical Survey Committee in recognition of the outstanding accomplishments of the local committee.



Fort Bliss marker before restoration.

Fort Bliss marker after restoration.



A Request

THE PUBLIC PAPERS of WILLIAM A. CLAYTON

Rice University is currently sponsoring an edition of the public papers of William A. Clayton, one of the developers of Anderson, Clayton and Co., the world's largest cotton marketing firm. He also made an equally important impress on international economics and politics through special service in the State Department during three critical years of world history, as a member of the War Industries Board during World War I and as a member for more than four years of the Reconstruction Finance Corporation under Jesse Jones.

Mr. Fredrick J. Dobney, Editor of the Clayton papers, in a letter to the editor, wrote: "We would greatly appreciate your inserting an announcement concerning our project in the News and Notice Section of your journal. Anyone who has materials relating to Mr. Clayton in his possession or who knows of the location of such materials should be requested to contact me at the Department of History, Rice University."

* * *

The city of El Paso was incorporated in 1873. The following are the names of the mayors who have served the city since its incorporation and the dates of their administration:

Benjamin L. Dowell	1873-1875	Charles Davis	1917-1923
M. A. Jones	1875-1880	R. M. Dudley	1923-1925
Solomon Schutz	1880-1881	H. P. Jackson	1925-1927
Joseph Magoffin	1881-1885	R. E. Thomason	1927-1931
R. C. Lightbody	1885-1889	A. B. Poe	1931
Richard Caples	1889-1893	R. E. Sherman	1931-1937
W. H. Austin	1893-1894	M. A. Harlan	1937-1939
A. K. Albers	1894-1895	J. E. Anderson	1939-1947
Robert F. Campbell	1895-1897	Dan R. Ponder	1947-1949
Joseph Magoffin	1897-1901	D. L. P. Duke	1949-1951
B. F. Hammett	1901-1903	Fred Hervey	1951-1955
Charles R. Morehead	1903-1905	W. T. Misenheimer	1955
Charles Davis, Sr.	1905-1907	Tom E. Rogers	1955-1957
J. U. Sweeney	1907-1910	Raymond L. Telles	1957-1961
W. F. Robinson	1910	Ralph Seitsinger	1961-1963
C. E. Kelly	1910-1915	Dr. J. F. Williams	1963-to date
Tom Lea	1915-1917		

* * *

Santa Fe was founded in 1610 and in the same year was made the permanent capital of New Mexico.

Opuntia arborescano, often called "tree cactus" and "cane cactus," has flat or terete joints usually studded with tubercles bearing sharp pines or prickly hairs or both. It bears yellow flowers succeeded by edible pulpy fruit known as prickly pears.

In 1900 there were 5 breweries and 48 saloons in El Paso.—*City Directory, 1900.*

In 1900 there were 43 physicians in El Paso.—*City Directory, 1900.*

PIONEER AMERICA SOCIETY FOUNDED

John Porter Bloom, editor of the National Archives' Territorial Papers, past WHA Secretary-Treasurer, and former Professor of History at the University of Texas at El Paso, is editor of the new *Pioneer America Society Newsletter*, first published in November. The Pioneer America Society, the brainchild of Henry H. Douglas of Falls Church, Virginia, is organized to preserve and document evidence of America's pioneer heritage. It will "concern itself mainly with rural America," its task being "to make a written and pictorial record of all that now remains of the pioneer houses and cabins, barns, bridges, inns, grist-mills, sawmills, stores, churches, cemeteries, river fords, etc., to draw upon existing pictorial and written sources, and to produce a periodical as well as a series of county books or booklets which will be available to all who are interested in having a deeper appreciation of their land and its dynamic past, even as the winds of constant change swirl about us." Information concerning membership and dues may be obtained by writing to the Pioneer America Society, 626 South Washington Street, Falls Church, Virginia 22046.

* * *

PARK SERVICE TO RESTORE NEW MEXICO MISSION

ARCHAEOLOGIST LOUISE CAYWOOD of the National Park Service spent this past summer at Zuñi Pueblo, New Mexico, digging into ruins of the old adobe-constructed Spanish mission there. It is planned that excavations are a prelude to restoration. In digging into the church sanctuary, Caywood came upon human remains presumed to be those of Father Pedro de Avila y Ayela, a Franciscan missionary slain by the Zuñis in 1672. The remains of another priest, found earlier, are as yet unidentified. The Church, which rests in the center of the old part of Zuñi Pueblo, has walls that are four feet thick. Its construction began about 1629.

—WHA Newsletter, February, 1968

* * *

GEORGETOWN LOOP DEVELOPED

ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL and historic of all Colorado mining districts, and certainly the one that best preserves the flavor of a bygone era, is the Georgetown-Silver Plume region, which contains some of the oldest gold and silver workings in the state. Today, much of the area is being developed as a mining interpretive site, the Georgetown Loop Historic Mining Area, by the State Historical Society.

Aided by a recent grant from the Union Pacific Foundation, the Society is currently working with the highway department to preserve the site and is refining plans for the development of a mining and railroad interpretive complex in the valley. For example, the various methods of ore recovery, such as the use of sluices, arrastras, and stamp mills, will be demonstrated at the original locations. Other projects include the resumption of work at the Lebanon Tunnel, one of the oldest silver tunnels in the state, to illustrate early mining techniques, and the restoration of the narrow-gauge railroad line.

—WHA Newsletter, February, 1968

CONTRIBUTORS to this ISSUE

BARRY O. COLEMAN, like many other Southwesterners, came to El Paso as a Khaki-clad member of the armed services. He arrived in 1956 after being graduated from the University of Arkansas with a degree in pharmacy.

While still in service, in 1957, he was married to the former Barbara Forester of Houston, a 1957 graduate of Rice. His interest include history and writing, encouraging future historians, and his five children, Russell, Anne, Regan, Douglas and Hugh.

KENNETH A. GOLDBLATT is a graduate teaching assistant in English at the University of Texas at El Paso. He has reviewed several books for *PASSWORD*.

Those who have read his present article are of the opinion that it is an outstanding contribution to the history of this area.

DR. MARTIN HARDWICK HALL is an Associate Professor of History at The University of Texas at Arlington. He is the author of several articles published in *PASSWORD* and of a book, *Sibley's New Mexico Campaign*, which was reviewed in Vol. VII, No. 2 (Spring, 1962) issue of *PASSWORD*.

LEON METZ is the Archivist of the University of Texas at El Paso. He is the author of *John Selman—Texas Gunfighter*, a review of which was published in Vol. XI, No. 4 (Winter, 1966) issue of *PASSWORD*.

DR. LURLINE COLTHARP is Associate Professor of English at the University of Texas at El Paso. She will be remembered for her excellent article, "Names in a Pawn Shop—A Study of Navajo Names," in Vol. II, No. 1 (Spring, 1966) issue of *PASSWORD* and for her book, *The Tongue of the Tirilonos: A Linguistic Study of a Criminal Argot*, reviewed in Vol. X, No. 4 (Winter, 1965) issue of *PASSWORD*.

* * *

Palo Alto means big or tall tree. Palo is colloquial Spanish for any kind of tree.

Pinus brachyptera is commonly known as "Western Yellow Pine" and also as "ponderosa pine."

Gaillardia pulchella, named after the French botonist Gaillardia de Morentonneau, is of the aster family. Red and yellow in color, it is called a "blanket flower." It is found chiefly in the American West.

Echino cactus is of the barrel cactus genus.

Very little is known of the Bonilla expedition into New Mexico in 1594 because it was an illegal one—*contra bando*, as the Spaniards put it—and consequently no diary or journal was kept. The King required all expeditions to keep records.