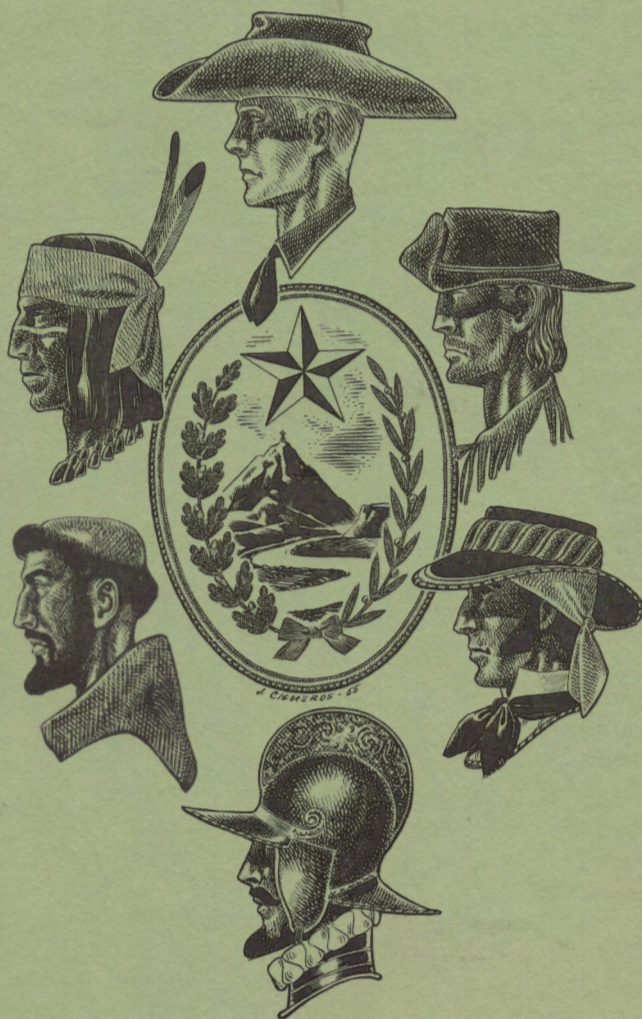


PASSWORD



THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

VOL. XXIII, No. 4

EL PASO, TEXAS

WINTER, 1978

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Published quarterly by THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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EL PASO, TEXAS

WINTER, 1978

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HALL OF HONOR BANQUET

The eighteenth annual Hall of Honor Banquet of the El Paso County Historical Society is scheduled November 19th at the El Paso Country Club, a few days after this issue of *PASSWORD* goes to press. The Hall of Honor address, details of the banquet, and the addresses honoring the two new members will appear in the Spring 1979 issue.

The Hall of Honor Selection Committee chose as the deceased honoree for 1978 Robert Randolph Jones and as the living honoree Dr. Edward W. Rheinheimer. Their names will be added to a distinguished list which began in 1961. Richard C. White (now United States Congressman from the El Paso district) headed the committee which set the guidelines for naming "outstanding men and women of character, vision, courage and creative spirit who have lived in El Paso County."

Those previously named to the Hall of Honor are:

- 1961 James Wiley Magoffin and Lawrence Milton Lawson
- 1962 Richard Fenner Burges, Maud Durlin Sullivan and Rev. B. M. G. Williams
- 1963 Eugenia Schuster and Robert Ewing Thomason
- 1964 Allen H. Hughey, Sr., and Mrs. W. D. Howe
- 1965 Ernest Ulrich Krause and Lucinda de Leftwich Templin
- 1966 Charles Robert Morehead and Maurice Schwartz
- 1967 Robert E. McKee and Chris P. Fox
- 1968 Zachariah T. White and Jack Caruthers Vowell
- 1969 James Augustus Smith and Jean Carl Hertzog
- 1970 Haymon Krupp and Eugene O. Porter
- 1972 Olga Bernstein Kohlberg and Joseph F. Friedkin
- 1973 Juan Siqueiros Hart and Judson F. Williams
- 1974 Joseph Magoffin and José Cisneros
- 1975 James Price Hague and Tom Lea
- 1976 Mrs. Otto Nordwald and Fred Hervey
- 1977 Cleofas Calleros and Msgr. Henry Buchanan

A brief biographical sketch of the two 1978 honorees follows:

ROBERT RANDOLPH JONES was born in Dinwiddie County, Virginia, May 3, 1873. He taught school for seven years, worked for the United States Customs Service seven years, and in 1907 was named superintendent of schools in Newport News, Virginia. In 1914, he moved to El Paso because of the illness of Mrs. Jones and was employed by the El Paso Public Schools.

His career as an educator in El Paso included service as Assistant Principal and Principal of El Paso High School and Assistant Superintendent of Schools. He was active in community affairs, church work, and Scouting and was the recipient of the coveted Silver Beaver Award of the Boy

Scouts of America. A man of outstanding character, he has been honored by having the football stadium at El Paso High School bear his name.

The influence of R. R. Jones upon the lives of thousands of pupils and teachers form the basis of his inauguration into the El Paso Hall of Honor. This influence will be detailed in the Hall of Honor tribute to be published in the next **PASSWORD**.

EDWARD WILLIAM RHEINHEIMER was born in El Paso, June 16, 1890. His parents, William and Elizabeth Rheinheimer had come to El Paso in 1881 from Syracuse, New York. He is one of the few surviving persons to have attended El Paso's first public school-house, Central School, at Myrtle and Campbell. He graduated from El Paso High School in 1909, and enrolled as a pre-med student at Syracuse University. He received his Doctor of Medicine degree from the Medical School of Syracuse in 1916, and following an internship he came to El Paso in 1917 to begin his medical practice. He has been practicing medicine in El Paso ever since, except for a period in 1918-19 when he served as a First Lieutenant in the United States Army Medical Corps.

He was Chief Surgeon for the Southern Pacific Railroad for many years. When the old tin mine site of the eastern slopes of Mount Franklin became a Baby Sanatorium, he donated many hours to service there. His civic services include life membership on the Advisory Board of the Salvation Army, a float judge for the Southwestern Sun Carnival for many years, a fifty year member and past president of the Kiwanis Club, and past president of the El Paso Philatelic Society. He is a charter member of the El Paso County Historical Society.

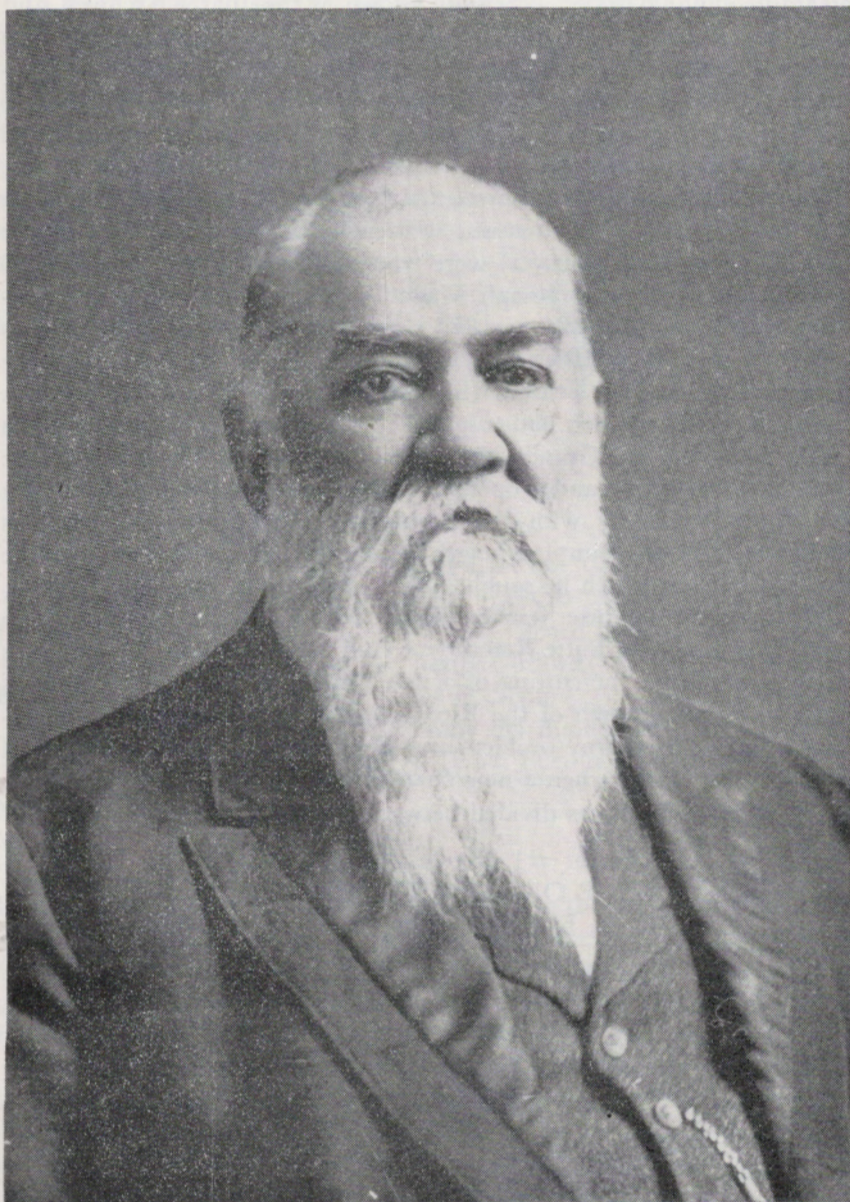
An outstanding example of the beloved family physician, his career will be detailed further in our next issue.

The frigate *El Paso* was christened Friday, July 16, 1943, in Wilmington, California. A distinguished group of El Pasoans, headed by Mayor J. Ed Anderson, and Chamber of Commerce President Erwin H. Will, attended the dedication. Karl O. Wyler, publicity chairman of the Chamber, was Master of Ceremonies and Susan Peterson Kaster, widow of John L. Kaster who gave his life in the Philippines campaign christened the vessel.

Putnam, "El Paso's Navy," **PASSWORD III** 138, Oct., 1958

JOSEPH MAGOFFIN MATERIALS IN THE
JUAREZ ARCHIVES

Edited by W. H. TIMMONS



JOSEPH MAGOFFIN, *four times Mayor of El Paso, 1881-85 and 1897-1901.*
(courtesy Octavia Glasgow)

The following five documents dealing with the political career of El Paso pioneer Joseph Magoffin were found in the records of the *Ayuntamiento de Ciudad Juárez*, otherwise known as the Juárez Archives, and are published here for the first time. This collection, consisting of 91 reels of microfilm, located in the Special Collections and Archives of the University of Texas at El Paso, is an indisputable source, and those interested in researching the history of the area in the 18th and 19th centuries will be well advised to make use of it.

Four of the five documents presented here were drafted in both English and Spanish; the 1877 letter was written in English only. Two of the five (Documents #2 and #5) were typed, and Documents #1 and #3 appear to be written in Joseph Magoffin's own hand. The first document, written by Magoffin in 1877 when he was County Judge, is his reply to alleged anti-Mexican political activities in El Paso; and the remaining documents, written when Magoffin was Mayor, deal with a perennial problem which had troubled residents of the area for centuries—the rampaging Rio Grande, the periodic flooding of the river, and the resulting losses in lives and property. No doubt one will be impressed with Magoffin's familiarity with the problem, his deep concern, and his patience and firmness until at length he obtained the agreement with the Mexican officials which he sought.

The solution, of course, was temporary. Flooding was relieved, and the building of Elephant Butte Reservoir would make the Rio Grande a less erratic stream, but the cutting of a new channel left some 386 acres of Mexican territory north of the Rio Grande, to become known as Cordova Island. The thorny problem was finally settled with the Chamizal Treaty in the 1960s, when a new channel was constructed for the river, and Cordova Island was divided between the two nations.

Document #1 (Reel 72, Frames 270-71)
OFFICE OF COUNTY JUDGE
El Paso, El Paso County, Texas

July 9th, 1877

Hon. Pablo de Jesús Padilla
Jefe Politico y Comandante Militar
Del Canton Bravos
Sir,

I am in receipt of your communication of this date, informing me that you are reliably informed by various parties that an organized force

is forming upon this side of the river for the purpose of attacking El Paso, Mexico, and requesting me to disband said organization.

In reply I have to say that no such organization exists upon this side of the river to my knowledge, and should such be the case and brought to my knowledge, I shall take any step necessary to disband the same and keep up that friendly feeling and relation that has always existed between both nations and upon our border.

In conclusion, I respectfully request that if any responsible party of either side of the river knows of any such organization, and knows its whereabouts, to make the same known to me and I shall go in person and see what there is of it.

With every respect for yourself and the welfare of your people and the hope that peace and harmony may prevail upon our border, I am

very respectfully,
Joseph Magoffin
County Judge

Document #2 (Reel 4, Frame 071)

CITY OF EL PASO

Joseph Magoffin

Mayor

(SEAL)

B. S. Catlin

City Clerk

Board of Aldermen

James Clifford

Ed D. Scott

Frank del Buono

J. B. W. Burton

J. L. Whitmore

A. M. McBinion

W. M. Coldwell

John Brunner

Mr. V. O. Nate (*sic*)

Mayor

Ciudad Juarez, Mexico

Dear Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of July 25th, 1898, in which you notify me of the appointment by your City Council of the Honorable Eduardo Prieto Basave to represent your municipality in cutting the canal or channel of the river through the Bosque de Córdoba, for which I am pleased to be informed.

I would be pleased to confer with Mr. Basave at the earliest practicable moment in the matter of devising and arranging plans for the cutting of the proposed canal or channel recommended by the Boundary Commission of our respective Governments.

Yours truly,
Joseph Magoffin, Mayor
(signature)
City of El Paso, Texas.

Attest:

B. S. Catlin

City Clerk

Document #3 (Reel 4, Frames 033-035)

El Paso, Texas September 6, 1898

Hon. V. Oñate
Mayor of Juárez, Mexico
Dear Sir,

I have the honor to report that I am in receipt of a letter from Mr. E. Prieto Basave representing the municipality of Juárez, dated September 2, 1898, in which he informs me that he has been requested to make a technical report upon the propriety of making the cut off through the Bosque de Córdoba. Anticipating his report to being at variance to the recommendations of suggestions of the Boundary Commission as stated by him to me in an interview we had in my office on August 30, 1898, I beg to call your attention to the propriety of having the work done for the following reasons: First: You are aware of the damages done by the flood of May, 1897, and second, of the recent rise of the Rio Grande causing considerable anxiety on both sides of the river during July last. The last flood, caused by the heavy rains in New Mexico, was higher than the flood of July, '97 notwithstanding the fact that the amount of water, as I am informed by Mr. W. W. Follett, Consulting Engineer of the Boundary Commission, was less than two thirds of the flood of July, 1897, showing conclusive that if the same volume of water should come again, and the cut off is not made as recommended by the Boundary Commission (that being the cause of the waters backing up between the two cities) that it is evident that either one side or the other will be flooded by the backing of the water, and great damage will result to the inhabitants thereof.

It is appearant (*sic*) that the constant filling up of the river in the neighborhood of the Stanton Street bridge is caused by the large bend in the river just below the two cities, not allowing the current to have sufficient flow, and if this is not remedied in some way it will cause the bridge to be washed away. Complications may arise on account of the loss of the bridge caused by the delay in not making this proposed cut off, and again by permitting to remain the obstructions put in by Mr. E. Prieto Basave above and also under the Stanton Street bridge.

Pardon me for again calling your attention to this matter, as I consider it of great importance to the two cities, and that something should be done at once in the premises. I have the honor to be, with great respect

Attest
B. S. Catlin
City Clerk

Your obedient servant
Joseph Magoffin
Mayor of El Paso, Texas

Document #4 (Reel 4, Frames 083-084)

El Paso, Texas January 18th, 1899

Hon. V. Oñate
Mayor of Juarez, Mexico
Dear Sir:

As the time is drawing near for the spring rise in the Rio Grande, and the matter of cutting the channel through the Bosque de Córdoba, as recommended by the Boundary Commission of both Governments is still unsettled, and from reports received from New Mexico and Colorado that heavy snows have fallen in the above mentioned countries, deem it necessary to again call your attention to this matter and earnestly request that you take some definite (*sic*) action in the matter.

In case that no definite (*sic*) action is taken by you or the authorities of your city by the first day of February, 1899, the City of El Paso will take necessary steps to protect its side of the river from overflow.

I am ready and willing to co-operate with you in this matter at any time up to Feb. 1st, 1899. I long to have an early and favorable reply from you in this matter.

I am with respect
Yours truly
Joseph Magoffin
Mayor of El Paso

Document #5 (Reel 4, Frames 108-109)

In Ciudad Juárez, this thirteenth day of the month of March of eighteen hundred and ninety nine, being here reunited in the Jefatura Política, Mr. Joseph Magoffin as representative of the City and County of El Paso, Texas; Senor Valentín Oñate in his capacity of Jefe Político of the District of Bravos and President of the Ayuntamiento, and Ingeniero Jacobo Blanco, Mexican Commissioner in the boundary with the United States and representative of said corporation in the affair in regard to the opening of the "Canal of Córdoba", with the object of conferring and deciding upon that subject; after discussing sufficiently and agreeing that said work will be the most convenient defense to safeguard the bordering cities against the inundations to which they are exposed periodically with the overflow, sufficiently authorized by their respective governments to treat this affair, have agreed as follows: —

First. - The political authorities mentioned before agree to proceed at

once to the opening of the canal in the forest of "Córdoba" entirely in conformity with what was decided by the International Boundary Commission upon this subject.

Second. - In consideration that the benefits from the cut-off or canal referred to are of more importance to El Paso, Texas, it is expressly agreed that all expenses required for the work that will be done to said purpose are solely to the charge or exclusive account of the authorities of said city of El Paso, Texas.

Third. - It is equally agreed that in any damage that the cut-off might occasion to Mexican individuals by reason of their properties situated in Mexican territory, the obligation of indemnifying them will be solely of the political authorities of Ciudad Juárez.

Under the preceding bases, stipulated as said before with due superior authority, the present convention is celebrated and signed here below, for record, by the contracting parties.

Attest
B. S. Catlin
City Clerk

Joseph Magoffin
(signature)
Mayor City of El Paso, Texas
El Jefe Político
V. Oñate
(signature)

J. M. Varela
(signature)
Srio.
Jacobo Blanco
(signature)
Com. Mex. y Representante
de C. Juárez

A special correspondent for the New York *Herald*, Waterman L. Ormsby, rode west from Tipton, Missouri on the first Butterfield Stage bound for San Francisco by way of El Paso. The stage arrived in El Paso at 5:40 A.M., September 30, 1858, after a throat-parching all night ride from Hueco Tanks.

Leach, "Stage Coach Through the Pass," *PASSWORD* III, 130, Oct., 1958

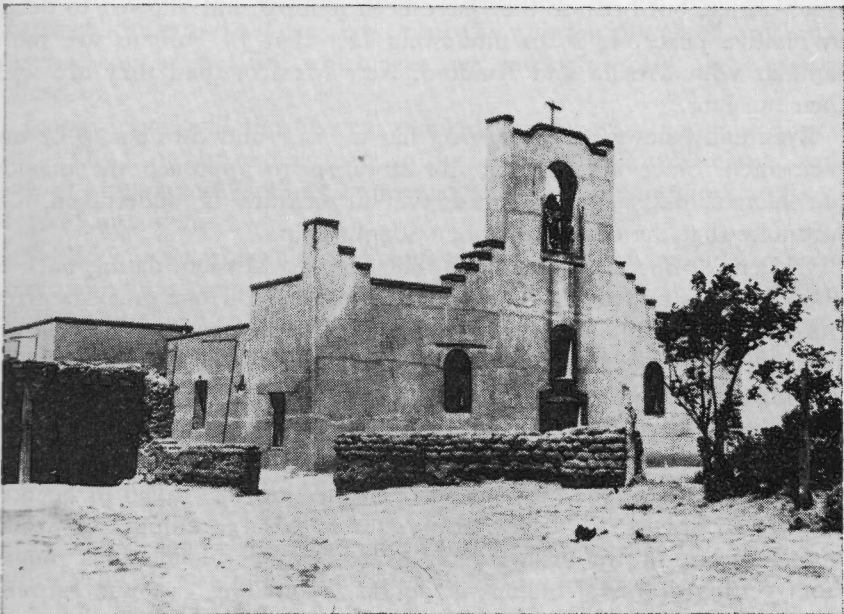
The El Paso Woman's Club, oldest Woman's Club in Texas, was organized April 30, 1895, with Mrs. W. W. Mills as its first President.

Mary S. Cunningham, "The Woman's Club of El Paso,"
PASSWORD, XIII, 126, Winter, 1968

THE MISSION HERITAGE ASSOCIATION OF EL PASO

by LEON C. METZ

The immoderate rains of late September, 1978, caused a shot heard around El Paso preservation circles. The old Socorro Mission, by some accounts the most authentic such structure in the United States today, gasped and allowed a portion of its inside southern wall to break away and crash heavily into the floor. In one split second, the old church shifted from being just an ailing mission in need of repairs and restoration to one being in possible danger of collapsing.



SOCORRO MISSION. This photograph, from the Otis Aultman Collection, is believed to have been taken prior to 1910. Any further information on the date of the picture will be appreciated by the Editor. The adobe wall is no longer standing. Note the small ramada at left. It may be a capilla posa, such as now stand at the four corners of the Socorro cemetery.

(Southwest Reference Department, El Paso Public Library)

Fortunately an organization already existed to go to its aid, and thus was averted the time and confusion usually required for a group to come together, to draw up by-laws, adopt a charter, obtain a tax number, elect officers, and start to work.

The Mission Heritage Association of El Paso had been created in the summer of 1977. It was an organization dedicated to the restoration and

the preservation of the El Paso missions. In this respect San Elizario qualified. Even though it is a presidio chapel (for the soldiers), and not a mission (for the Indians), it was acceptable under the broad, contemporary meaning of "mission." There is also some evidence of a lost mission near Clint or Fabens and, if found, it too would meet the standards for assistance.

With the exception of the Pass of the North from which El Paso gets its name, the missions are this region's greatest historical heritage. Yet, as the Pass of the North has already been bulldozed out of existence, so the missions suffer from neglect. They exist not so much because of benevolence, but because they have been ignored and allowed to decay in relative peace. It is an interesting fact that El Pasoans are more familiar with Mesilla and Ruidoso, New Mexico, than they are with their missions.

Eventually, however, the neglect has to cease and care has to be implemented. Since it is difficult for strangers to approach the mission parishioners and suggest that preservation measures be undertaken, it is fortunate that the church members sought help.

Citizens of Socorro awoke first. The Socorro Mission, dating back to about 1681, strained under the effects of old age. Huge cracks scarred the stucco. A portion of the foundation had been eaten away. The structure's great enemies were water—rain from the skies working its way inside the walls, and water from an underground table causing the salts to rise and the ground to occasionally shift.

Largely through the efforts of Mrs. Jenny Serna, resident of Socorro and parishioner of the mission, an open meeting was called in Socorro in 1973 to discuss the deteriorating church. A large number of people attended, but the results were far from satisfactory. Solutions ranged from getting grants of billions of dollars to building vast underground garages (for the tourists), to patching the roof with plexiglass.

Everybody went away promising to meet again, but never did. When nothing happened, the persistent Mrs. Serna called a few select people and *the process began anew. This time the meeting took place at the Socorro Church, and the proposals were more modest. Still, nothing happened.*

Nevertheless the mission had to be saved, and so with the groups getting smaller and smaller, it was decided to undertake an engineering study to determine just how serious the problems actually were.

An engineering firm recommended by the Texas Historical Commission agreed to do the study for \$2,400. A grant of \$1,200 came from the commission, the El Paso County Historical Society gave six hundred and the parishioners of Socorro contributed six hundred.

Immediately a problem arose. There was no effective organization

formed to accept the grant money. The parishioners could not get it, because they were not the mission owners. The Catholic Church was, and Bishop Metzger had been apprised of events only in the most lackadaisical fashion.

But it all worked itself out, and the study was made. Here began our education in terms of studies. It is a law, somewhere, that studies only point out the need for more studies. Next we had the National Park Service come down from Denver for a "windshield" survey. It was helpful, and it was free, but it said we needed more studies which the park service could not perform.

Following this, all mission efforts languished. At the request of the Historical Society, the Texas Historical Commission presented a one-day mission seminar in 1974, which was very successful. Still, there was no follow-up.

Jenny Serna, still the Socorro one-lady chamber of commerce, persisted. Other meetings took place in Socorro, this time with church officials in attendance. Nothing happened except for numerous statements of good intentions.

By 1977 it was becoming obvious that the church would never be saved without a proper organization to finance and to give it direction. Such a group had to be carefully formed; it had to have a board containing the proper elements of parishioners, church officials, historians, architects, attorneys, archaeologists, businessmen and housewives. It had to represent a cross-section of the community. It had to have a name, and we called it "The Mission Heritage Association of El Paso." I was elected its first President; Catheryn Kistenmacher and then Tom Westfall became Vice President; Jenny Serna was elected Treasurer; and Lois Gaylord, then Debra Normann Bentley, Secretary. Frank Ainsa, Sr., attorney for the Catholic Church in El Paso, also became the attorney for the Mission Heritage Association, although other lawyers also sit on the board. Initially the board was composed of 19 members serving three year non-consecutive terms. (By-laws have now been ratified to permit 30 board members.) The El Paso County Historical Society contributed \$750 to assist in the organization.

The Association has no membership other than board, no dues, no salaries. It depends entirely on contributions and grants for its success. Meetings are conducted on the second Tuesday of every month, unless special ones are called, and the sessions are open to the public.

Although the Association had visions of doing great things in a hurry, we experienced the usual frustrations in pulling our act together.

While we received incorporation swiftly by the state, we waited approximately six months for a Federal Tax Number. During that period we remained ineligible for funding as no foundation would contribute

money until getting assurances that donations could be written off as tax exemptions.

During the interim we did what we could. We noticed water ponding near the Socorro church, so we spent a portion of the remaining Historical Society funds to change the drainage. Frank Ainsa, Sr. obtained a legal description of the church property, since absolute boundary knowledge was essential to any planning and work. We talked the National Park Service into another free examination of the grounds and building. The United States Soil Conservation Service did a no-cost drainage and soil identification and analysis of the Socorro Mission site.

Duffy Stanley, local architect, civic leader and Director of the El Paso Historical Commission, headed the Association's Planning Committee. Duffy's task was a difficult one because he had to channel everybody's ideas into a single line of thought. While we all agreed as to the purpose of mission preservation and protection, prior to Duffy's guidance we had been riding off in different individual directions in terms of methods, priorities and scheduling.

There was also the problem of how to properly account for large sums of money, as the Association employs no staff. In this respect the board agreed to retain working and operating capital in a checking account, and place larger sums with the El Paso Community Foundation with offices in the El Paso National Bank Building. The Community Foundation would service the account at no charge, making our money immediately available to the Association board on demand.

Janice Windle, Director of the Community Foundation, agreed further to write grant proposals for the Association. As such expertise is difficult to come by, the Association eagerly accepted. To our delight she wrote a successful \$20,000 application to the Gannett Foundation, plus a \$3,500 one to the Burkitt Foundation.

Burkitt monies were earmarked primarily for local fund raising and publicity. Frankly, while it did not bring in as much money as we had hoped, the publicity portion flowered beyond our expectations. El Pasoans began expressing interest in their missions. Tourists pausing in El Paso during their travels to somewhere else took note of the television advertisements. Consequently, visitors to the missions appeared to more than triple during 1978.

Meanwhile the Association contracted for an engineering survey of the Socorro Mission grounds, so that the boundary could be more precisely identified. We also obtained a legal description of the Ysleta Mission site, and an engineering survey is currently pending there.

During this time, while we had verbal promises of cooperation from the Catholic Diocese, these arrangements needed to be formalized by a signed contract. Unfortunately, due to the illness and then death of the

Rt. Reverend H. G. Quinn, Chancellor, and the poor health and pending retirement of Bishop Sidney M. Metzger, discussions never developed past the talking stage.

After waiting for the new administration to settle into its routine, negotiations began anew between our attorney Frank Ainsa, Sr., and the Rt. Reverend Dixon Hartford, the recently appointed Chancellor. A fifty year agreement whereby the Mission Heritage Association of El Paso would have authority to preserve, protect and restore the El Paso missions was signed on Aug. 29, 1978 between myself, as President of the Association, and the Most Reverend Patrick F. Flores, Bishop of El Paso. The contract attracted favorable newspaper editorials which recognized the achievement as the milestone it was. Such events are not unknown in other parts of the country, but it is a rare happening for our community. It was simply an unparalleled boost for preservation, a recognition by all parties of the significant historical landmarks which reside in our area. In the judgment of most observers at the signing, Bishop Flores took a firm stand for preservation and restoration, referring repeatedly to the missions as the "string of precious jewels lying alongside the Rio Grande."

But saving historical landmarks is not just a matter of signing agreements, or in calling out the carpenters and landscape artists. A structure has to be reconstructed properly within rigidly defined scientific, historical and architectural limits in order to qualify for government assistance. We had to retain a historic architect, and the Association agreed upon Eugene George, who lives in Austin.

George would begin by taking the architectural measurements of the Socorro mission. He would determine the building's exact dimensions, identify the original fabric, and locate any weak spots in construction.

From the Association he would need a historical and archaeological evaluation of the mission, investigations only partly done in the past. And there is so much we do not know. How many times has the mission been rebuilt, if any? What evolutions has it undergone? Where did the vigas come from? When were the windows installed? Where are the original cemeteries? Where are the old letters, newspapers, bulletins, photographs, diaries, journals, memoirs, artifacts?

If you know, please step forward. No restoration/preservation plans can be implemented until more facts are gathered.

Otherwise, the Association recognizes that it has multiple commitments not only to Socorro but to the other missions as well. The Board's responsibilities are broad, and it chafes with desire to move on several fronts at once. Although some work has already been done on the Ysleta Mission (brief studies and legal surveys), the concentration thus far has been on Socorro because 1) that particular mission is in the most des-



This picture, from the collection of Cleofas Calleros, shows the remains of the Ysleta mission following the fire of 1907. It is believed that the major wall at the rear of the picture was incorporated into the present building. The cross on the small building and the bells hung between two trees indicate that church services continued among the ruins.

(El Paso Public Library)

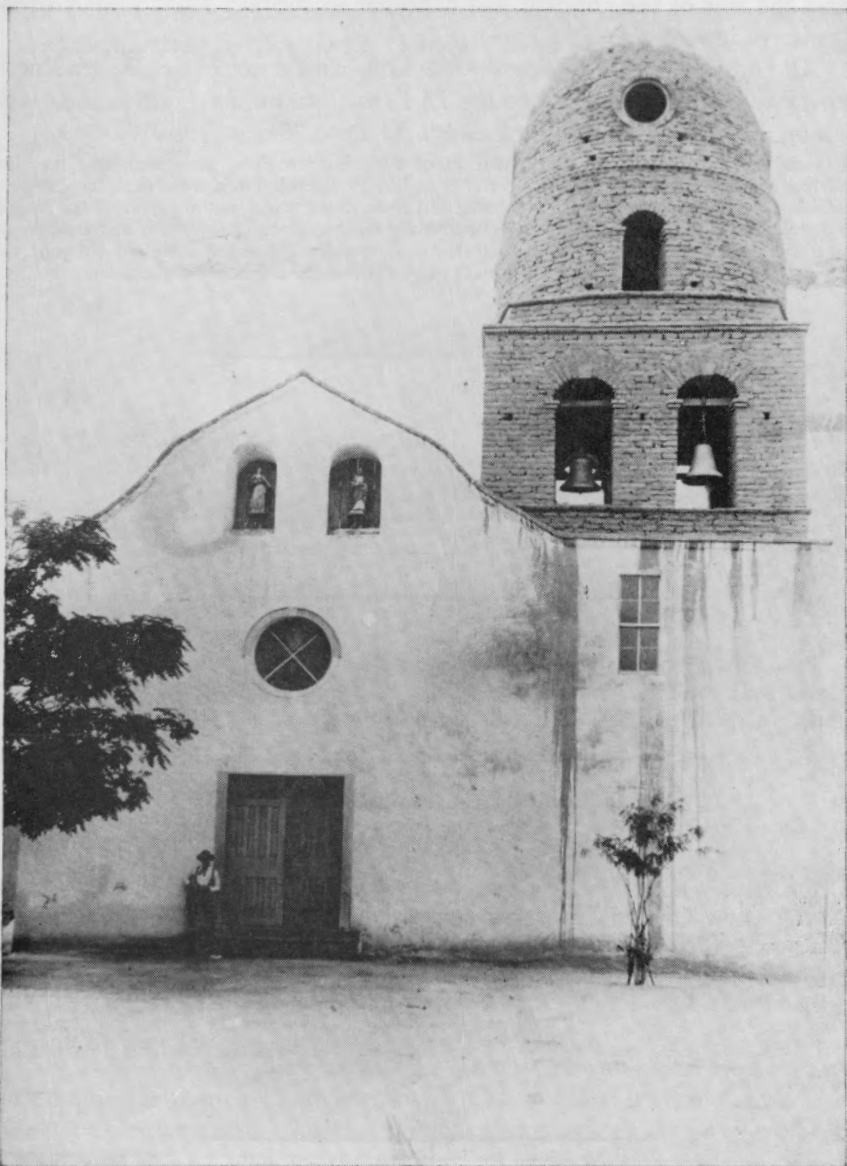
perate condition, 2) its parishioners were the first to request assistance, 3) due to a paucity of funds and time, only one project can be undertaken at a time, and 4) the Association hopes to use the preservation of Socorro as an example, a showplace of what it can do.

The Association envisions itself as an ongoing organization, for it has even deeper commitments, opportunities as well as obligations to speak strongly on the valley's future historical development.

We recognize that there is abroad in the land a strong presence of alienation, disengagement and indifference, and that it hangs across the city of El Paso like a depressing smog. If unchecked it will choke cooperative action, strangle any interest that one part of the community might have in the well-being of the other.

By itself the restoration of a mission will not change that, but it is a beginning. The Association hopes to reestablish beauty and pride in a region, to rekindle the cultural and economic possibilities. It hopes to remind El Paso of its common identity, its roots. In some small way if the Association can reinstall a sense of heritage, of togetherness, the chains of isolation so prevalent in this county can be broken. Perhaps if we can restore an old mission we might also restore a forgotten sense of who we once were and can still be again.

These are ambitious goals, goals which can be reached only through cooperation, research, time, money and dedication. The Association must



This picture, from the collection of Dr. Felix P. Miller, shows the Ysleta mission with a bell-tower of far different configuration than the present structure. It was evidently taken before the fire of 1907. If any readers of PASSWORD can give more identification on the date of this picture, the Editor will appreciate it.
(El Paso Public Library)

have community financial backing. Various foundations have been doing their share, but the people of El Paso cannot expect that the government and the rest of the country will continue to support what local citizens prefer to ignore.

All contributions are tax exempt. You can do your part by sending a check to "Mission Fund, c/o the El Paso Community Foundation, 16th Floor, El Paso National Bank Bldg., El Paso, Texas, 79901."

EDITOR'S NOTE: After the preparation of the above article, an emergency meeting of the Mission Heritage Association was called to consider evidence that the Socorro Mission is in danger of sudden collapse. The Association recommended to Bishop Patrick Flores that the Mission be immediately closed for the protection of parishioners and visitors and that a contractor be secured to take measures that will prevent the collapse, pending a long range plan for preservation of its historic values.

In the 25 years of its history, 15 men and one woman have served as President of the El Paso County Historical Society. All but one of these, Paul A. Heisig, Jr., are still living.

PASSWORD goes regularly to public and university libraries in sixteen states and is received by seventy five individual subscribers outside of El Paso, in thirteen states and two foreign countries.

On September 20, 1827, the *Ayuntamiento* of the city of El Paso del Norte, (now Ciudad Juarez) sold the first tract of land north of the Rio Grande to Juan Maria Ponce de Leon. Ponce de Leon planted a large vineyard on the present site of the U.S. Federal Court House and the El Paso City County Building.

J. J. Bowden, *The Ponce de Leon Land Grant*,
Texas Western Press, 1969

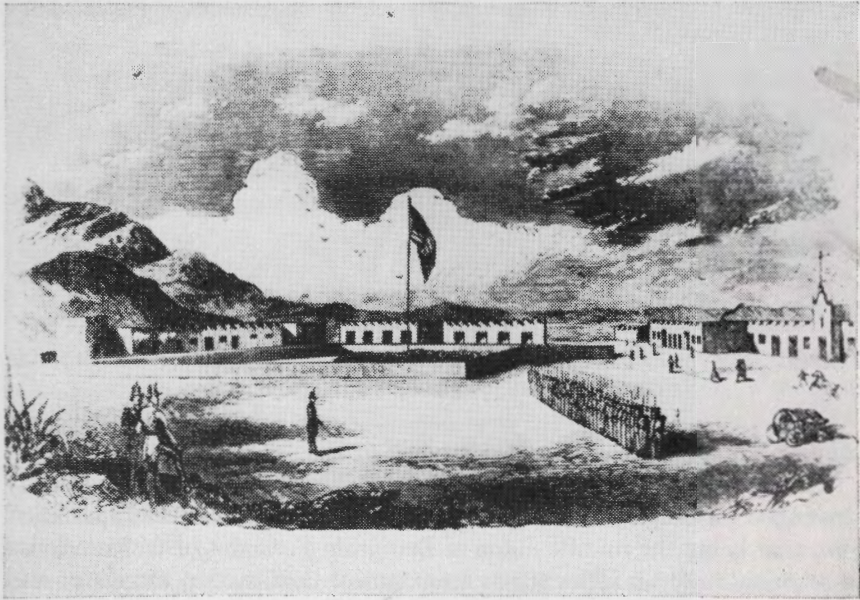
In August, 1848, Frank White built his trading house at Frontera, a mile above the Pass on the east bank of the Rio Grande, and settled down to await the coming of the traders—trains on their way to Chihuahua.

Strickland, *Six Who Came to El Paso*, Texas Western Press, 1963

THE FORGOTTEN SITE OF FORT BLISS

by MILLARD G. MCKINNEY

The military post that is now Fort Bliss has occupied six different sites in El Paso County and has had two other names since its beginning in 1849.¹ Authorized by War Dept. General Order No. 58 of Nov. 7, 1848, and implemented by Headquarters 8th & 9th Departments Order No. 8 of Feb. 3, 1849, it was established in September 1849 as the "Post of El Paso."

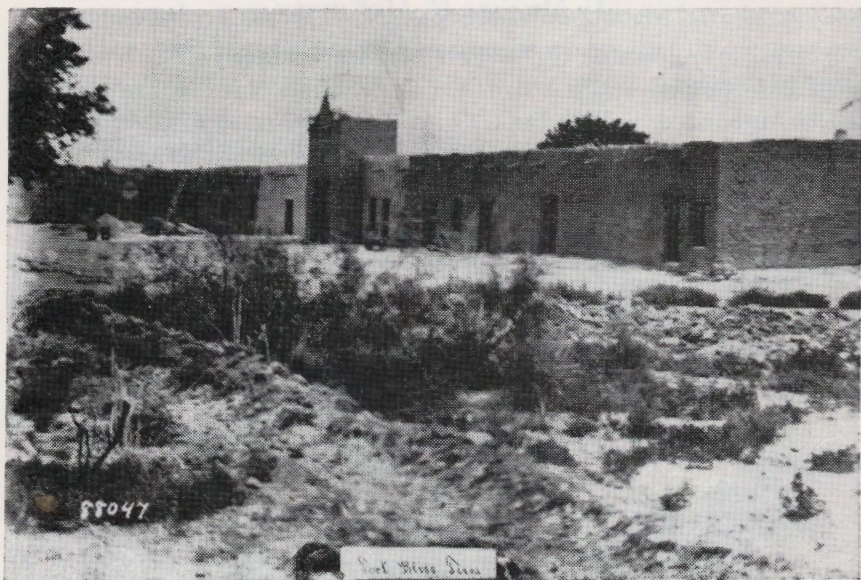


Sketch of first "Post of El Paso" on Coons' Ranch, 1849-51.

(National Archives)

Major Jefferson Van Horne, commanding six companies of the Third Infantry and an assigned howitzer battery, arrived from San Antonio, Texas on September 8 and made camp on the Stephenson Ranch (near present Tigua). The following week he assigned two companies and the howitzer battery to San Elizario, and took the rest of the battalion up river opposite Paso del Norte (Juarez, Mexico).²

Not even a village then existed in what is now downtown El Paso. The land was owned by Benjamin F. Coons (also spelled Coonz and Kuntz) an enterprising trader who knew of the Army's intent to establish a post there. He had bought the property in early 1849 from Juan Maria Ponce de Leon, the original owner of the Mexican land grant. When Major Van Horne arrived, six acres of land and some buildings near the present Civic Center were leased to the Army for \$4,200 per annum, and



The first post to bear the name, "Fort Bliss," at Magoffinsville. Photo made in 1868, after its abandonment following the Civil War.

(El Paso Herald-Post)

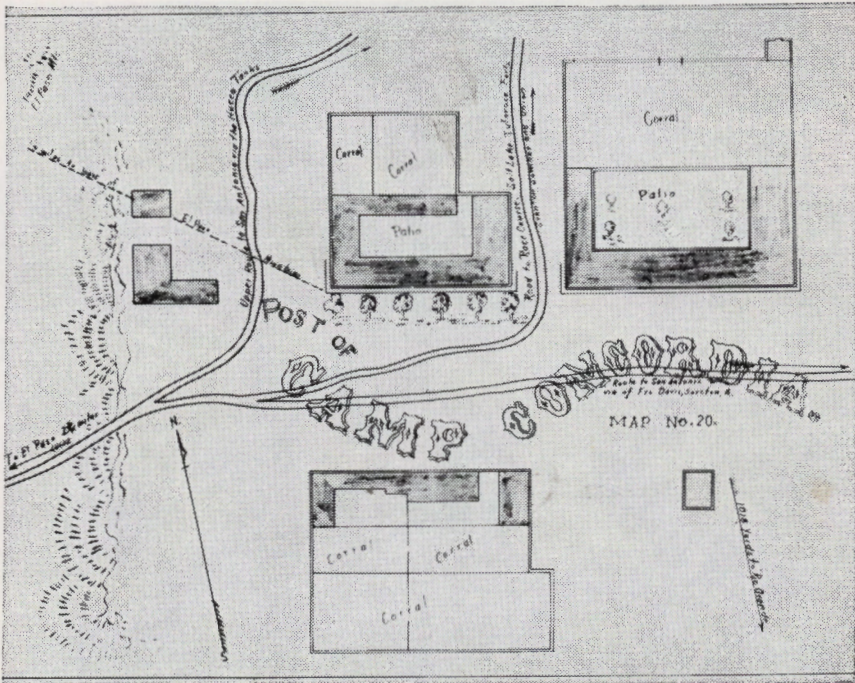
the first Post of El Paso was constructed at that site.³

Thanks to protection afforded by the Army, a little town quickly developed on the U.S. side of the Rio Grande. It was named "Franklin" and, that being the middle name of Benjamin F. Coons, it was no doubt in recognition of his influence as an extensive land owner, merchant and volunteer postmaster.

However, due to Indian problems elsewhere on the frontier the troops were transferred to New Mexico and the original Post of El Paso was abandoned in September 1851.

Some confusion has existed for a long time over the proper name of the *site* of the first Post of El Paso. Many historians have listed it on Wm. T. Smith's Ranch, and some have noted it on Smith (Coons) Ranch. Actually, Wm. T. Smith did not arrive at Franklin until after the first post had been abandoned, and after Coons had gone bankrupt and defaulted his payments to Ponce de Leon, who then repossessed the property. Ponce de Leon died in 1852 and his heirs sold the property to Smith in 1853.⁴

When the Army returned in December 1853, a new site was selected on the Magoffin Ranch (near present Willow and Magoffin Sts.). This second location of the post was also on leased property. On March 8, 1854 the name of the post was changed to "Fort Bliss," in honor of the late Lt. Col. William Wallace Smith Bliss, a combat veteran who had



Map of "Camp Concordia", 1869. (National Archives)

been Adjutant General for General Zachary Taylor during the war with Mexico, 1846-47.

Fort Bliss was occupied during the Civil War by Confederate troops in 1861 and then was retaken by Federal soldiers in 1862. The post remained on the Magoffin Ranch until 1868 and then was moved to its third site, on Stephenson's Ranch, where it was called "Camp Concordia" (near present Frutas and Stevens Sts.). The post was renamed Fort Bliss in 1869 and it remained there until 1877, when the troops were once again transferred elsewhere in the Southwest.

A local "Salt War" erupted after the troops departed, some civilians were killed and anarchy prevailed until soldiers were reassigned to the area in 1878. The Concordia site was no longer suitable for occupancy so the troops were quartered in rented buildings in the former village of Franklin, which had been renamed "El Paso" in 1873. At this fourth site, troop barracks were south of present Mills Avenue, Headquarters was near E. San Antonio and Oregon Streets, and military drills were conducted in the Public Square (now San Jacinto Plaza).⁵

This fourth site, appropriately designated The Garrison Town in Richard K. McMaster's book "Musket, Saber & Missile", is sometimes overlooked when counting the different locations of Fort Bliss. Troops



The forgotten fourth location—plat of El Paso (Franklin), showing where troops were quartered, 1879. (Fort Bliss Replica Museum)

were there for more than two years before moving to a new post on the west side of town, adjacent to Hart's Mill.

In 1879 the Army bought a tract of 135 acres from the Simeon Hart estate and started construction of a permanent post. That fifth site extended 3,000 feet along the Rio Grande and the reservation was entirely north of the Hart mill and homestead. Combination masonry and adobe buildings were erected and the post was occupied in 1880, though construction continued some years thereafter. Three of the old buildings are still standing: a pair of two-story officer quarters are now apartment houses, and the former guardhouse is a cafe.

When the railroads arrived at the Pass in 1881, the Southern Pacific was limited to crossing the east side of the military reservation, but the A.T.&S.F. was allowed to bisect the parade ground, a situation that contributed to the need of a new and larger post. In 1890, Congress authorized a new post of "not less than one thousand acres and within ten miles of El Paso" and the present location of LaNoria was selected.

Construction at this sixth site started in 1892 and the present Fort Bliss was occupied in October 1893, by a battalion of the 18th Infantry from Fort Clark, Texas. Though Col. Henry M. Lazelle was regimental com-



"La Chiquita Cafe," 1932 West Paisano Drive, was once the old guard house of Fort Bliss when it was at the Hart's Mill site. This building was erected in 1884, and is one of the oldest in El Paso. (Millard G. McKinney)



Fort Bliss on La Noria Mesa, as seen from the east side in 1898. (Col. M. H. Tomlinson)

mander of the 18th Infantry, he was on sick leave in Minnesota at the time and therefore the first Commanding Officer of Fort Bliss on LaNoria Mesa was Capt. William H. McLaughlin, who as senior officer in the regiment brought the troops from Fort Clark.⁶

For nearly a year after the new Fort Bliss was occupied, a detachment of the 23rd Infantry remained on security duty at the Hart's Mill site, while negotiations were underway to sell the property to the City of El Paso and local citizens.⁷

REFERENCES

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2. *Musket, Saber & Missile* by Richard K. McMaster, 1962.
3. *Ben Dowell—El Paso's First Mayor* by Nancy Hamilton, 1976.
4. *Ponce de Leon Land Grant* by J.J. Bowden, 1969.
5. *History of Ft. Bliss—Audio & Visual Presentation* by Albert S. Merrit, Public Affairs Office, Ft. Bliss, 1975.
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7. *Army Inspector General Report, Ft. Bliss and Old Ft. Bliss, May 1894.*

SOUTHWEST ARCHIVES

THE JUÁREZ MUNICIPAL ARCHIVES

by BUD NEWMAN, *Guest Editor*

There is a subtle test by which a person of long El Paso heritage can be distinguished from those people who hail directly or remotely from other parts. The majority of the natives here have at least one Mexican ancestor—usually more—and they think and speak of El Paso and Ciudad Juárez as if it were just one city. The Anglo and those whose origins lie elsewhere, tend to look upon Juárez as a separate town and as slightly foreign, to boot. The truth of the matter is that El Paso and Juárez are as intermingled culturally, ethnically, linguistically and economically as Buda and Pest; to pretend otherwise is to reveal, perhaps, more of one's true inner feelings and prejudices than one is possibly aware of doing.

For an historian to display such ingenuousness is comparable to the biographer who would write of one Siamese twin—to tell us the life of Chang while ignoring Eng. Unfortunately, though, this has been consistently the case since W. W. Mills wrote *Forty Years in El Paso* back in 1901, with the possible exception of a slender volume called *The Beginning of Spanish Settlement in the El Paso District* by Anne Eugenia Hughes, which was written in 1914. In 1918, Anson Mills wrote a semi-history of this city and told how he had surveyed the downtown plat back in 1859—*My Story*. Again, in 1924, Owen P. White penned *Out of the Desert*, an entertaining but atrocious history because he seldom checked his sources and could never resist embellishing a good tale. But his title *Out of the Desert* stuck in people's minds and to this day they tend to believe that the Anglo settler, arriving here after the Mexican War in the middle of the last century, built this city from scratch, neglecting to mention that the "lowly Mexican" provided much of the labor, money and skills to make this town grow. Out of the desert, indeed! In 1806, long before the arrival of the first Anglo, there were approximately six thousand people living in this area, with thirteen schools and some five hundred students! Nor were the communities here as isolated as hitherto believed. The people were always well informed of events in other parts (though naturally there was a time-lag in the transmission of the news, common to that era), and knew about changes in government in Mexico City, for example, and the Battle of the Alamo.

In 1968, Dr. C. L. Sonnichsen, a very dear friend of ours, wrote what is considered the "bible" of El Paso history, *Pass of the North*. Its publication was timely, and the book itself full of flavor and good writing. His objective in writing it was to touch the high points and to bring to people's attention the great wealth of history which we are heir to. This

he accomplished admirably. It is now incumbent upon others to plumb the depths of this history, and the Juárez Municipal Archives would be a good place to begin.

We are not attempting to belittle the Anglo accomplishments in this city; they have been marvelous. But in all probability, had the Mexican War never happened, and had this half of the city remained under the political control of the Mexican government, much of its phenomenal growth would still have occurred, and it would be one of the great cities of Mexico. On the other side of the coin, had there been no Mexicans living here in great profusion, many of the Anglos would never have come. El Paso is an international city. Its past, present, and future are built on this premise.

So, the history of this metropolis as it stands written today is very parochial, extremely incomplete. Why? Because the Juárez Municipal Archives, copies of which have been on microfilm in the University of Texas at El Paso library since 1963, have seldom been used as a source from which to write about the big picture. Where else can one go to find out about Apache warfare in this area during the 18th and 19th centuries, or about the rampaging Rio Grande and the never-ending concern of the settlers about an adequate supply of water and adequate protection against flooding? Here are the answers to the questions of 18th Century Spanish frontier administration of the *Provincias Internas*. Where else can be found periodic censuses of the six settlements—Paso del Norte, Real de San Lorenzo, Senecú, Ysleta, Socorro, and San Elizario, or of pioneers such as Mariano Samaniego, Ynocente Ochoa, Padre Ramón Ortiz, Ben Dowell, the Magoffins, Hugh Stephenson and Henry Cuniffe? Or of Mexican municipal administration, which surely must have caused continual headaches to the uninstructed Anglos who had different ways of doing things?

Not until this microfilm is studied—broached like a cask of fine, old wine—will the mists surrounding the origins of this area be dispelled—and only then will we all be able to take tremendous pride in our common heritage.

HERITAGE HOMES OF EL PASO
by HARRIOT HOWZE JONES
THE STONE CASTLE OF MADELINE PARK

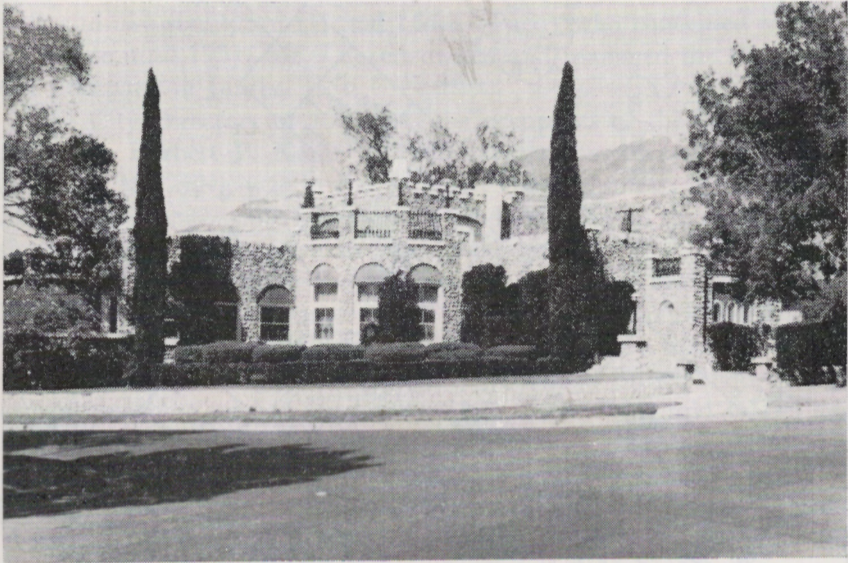


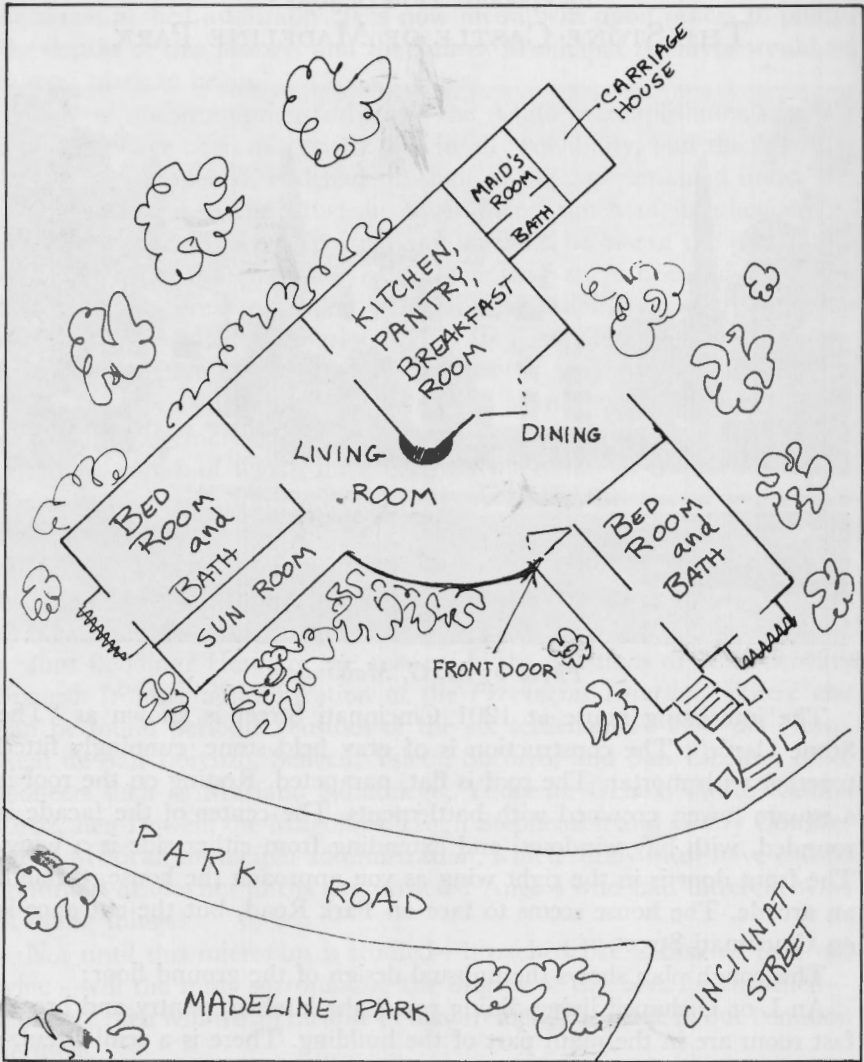
Photo by M. G. McKinney

The interesting house at 1201 Cincinnati Street is known as "The Stone Castle". The construction is of gray field stone, cunningly fitted together with mortar. The roof is flat, parapeted. Resting on the roof is a square tower, crowned with battlements. The center of the facade is rounded, with bay windows, and extending from either side is a wing. The front door is in the right wing as you approach the house, through an arcade. The house seems to face on Park Road, but the entrance is on Cincinnati Street.

This rough plan shows the unusual design of the ground floor:

An L or U shaped living-dining room, the kitchen, pantry and breakfast room are in the main part of the building. There is a semi-circular fireplace opposite the bay window. In the right wing there is a large bedroom and bath and the afore-mentioned entrance arcade. In the left wing a large bedroom and bath and a sun room. Off the kitchen is a maid's room and bath and a carriage house, in the tower are two rooms and a bath. The basement is fully finished and has a very large playroom, a library, two bedrooms and bath and the usual utility rooms.

It is no accident that the house bears some resemblance to a castle. Mrs. Nettie M. Van Epps, an architect and contractor, designed and built it in 1915, inspired by castles she had seen in Europe, thus the



stone walls, tower and battlements. (All it lacks is a moat!)

Mrs. Van Epps lived in the lower floor while the rest of the house was being constructed, but sold it in 1917 to Mr. and Mrs. Max Moyer. Mr. Moyer was one of the partners in the hardware firm of Zork, Moyer and Krakauer. After a time the Moyes decided that they would prefer to live within walking distance of the Temple and they traded houses with the Luckett family, then living on Hawthorne Street. Paul H. Luckett owned the Juarez Mercantile Company. There were four Luckett children: Paul Jr., Mary (now Mrs. Delphin von Briesen), Clinton Anthony,

and Virginia (now Mrs. E.W. Breese). Some members of the Lockett family occupied the house for over thirty years. Mr. Lockett died in 1932. In 1939 Mrs. Lockett turned over the house to her son, Paul Jr., his wife and two sons, Paul III and Lloyd (Paco) who continued living in the house until 1951. Mr. Lockett owned and managed the Cottonseed Oil Company in Juarez.

The City Directory of 1951 lists the occupants of the house as Mr. and Mrs. Herbert P. Kopf. In 1953 the owners were Mr. and Mrs. A. Silva. Mr. Silva was in the Import-Export business. It is said that Mrs. Silva is responsible for extensive modernization of the house. For a short period Richard Coleman lived in the house.

In 1972 the house was bought by Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Brown. Mr. Brown is an administrator of the Ysleta Independent School District. There are four Brown children: Pamela, Frank Jr. (a doctor), Sharon (now Mrs. Sam Camilli) and Kimberly. When the Brown children were grown the house seemed too large and in 1977 it was sold to Dr. and Mrs. Jose Roman. Dr. Roman is a pediatrician. There are six Roman children, so the house is not too large for the Roman family. These children are: Joey, David, Belinda, Richard, Yolanda and Michael.

So many young people have been reared in this spacious house, and there must have been gay dances and other festivities galore. One may think of a Castle as being a kind of fortress, rather dark and cold, but this El Paso "Castle" is flowed with sunshine, has beauty and a warm and happy atmosphere.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Readers of *PASSWORD* have told me that they enjoy the articles on Heritage Homes, which is very gratifying. These articles involve research and what might be called detective work. Jane Burgess Perrenot helps a great deal, as she has City directories dating from the very first ones published and can answer questions as to "Who lived at such-and such address in 1890-1920—or any other date?" I am grateful for her assistance. Harriot Howze Jones

ACTIVITIES OF YOUR SOCIETY

On September 17, the El Paso County Historical Society sponsored a tour of historic homes as the launching event for the annual membership drive. Membership Chairman William A. Burgett and Mrs. Burgett were in charge of the tour, which focused on Manhattan Heights, in the Memorial Park area, a district outstanding for its preservation of historic values. Mr. and Mrs. Burgett reported that 680 tickets were sold for the Parade of Homes, with about 100 members of the Society assisting with arrangements. The tour was well received; several new memberships were taken at the time and some fifty additional membership forms were accepted by the visitors.

On October 8th, your Historical Society was host for a reception honoring Dr. William Curry Holden, author, and Jose Cisneros, illustrator, of the book, *Teresita*, the story of a Mexican folk heroine. Much of her history was laid in and around El Paso. Seventeen of the Cisneros illustrations for the book remained on display at the Cavalry Museum. Book sales chairman Millard G. McKinney reported sales of 35 hardback copies and ten paperbacks, all autographed by both author and artist.

On October 29, at the Society's annual business meeting, the following officers were elected for the year 1979:

President	Patrick Rand
First Vice President	Thomas D. Westfall
Second Vice President	Gertrude Goodman
Third Vice President	CDR (USN-Ret) M. G. McKinney
Recording Secretary	Ruby Burns
Corresponding Secretary	Mrs. Hans Brockmoller
Membership Secretary	Mrs. Patrick Rand
Treasurer	L. F. Beard
Curator	William I. Latham
Historian	Mrs. Barry Coleman
Director Ex-Officio	Leonard Sipiora
Editor PASSWORD	Conrey Bryson
Editor EL CONQUISTADOR	Bud Newman

Directors, 1979-81: Col. Ken Edwards, Ralph A. Guilliams, Doyle Gaither, F. Keith Peyton, Mary Sarber, Mrs. Maurice Hill, and Ross Borrett.

Many officers and members of the El Paso County Historical Society participated in ceremonies at Fort Bliss, October 28, when a historic marker was placed at the spot where the Texas School of Mines (now the University of Texas at El Paso) was born 65 years ago, in the buildings of the old El Paso Military Institute. A luncheon following the ceremonies honored H. E. Van Surdam, a leading figure in founding the new institution and securing the necessary state assistance.

Chairmen Dr. James M. Day and F. Keith Peyton have reported an

encouraging number of entries in the annual Historical Memories Contest for Senior Citizens, which closed on November first. Winners will be announced in the Spring issue of *PASSWORD*.

At its October meeting, the Board of Directors voted to advise the Planning Department, City of El Paso, of the Society's support for a proposal to make the present Union Depot a transportation museum. The building, constructed during the heyday of passenger-trains in El Paso, is now slated to serve as headquarters for the Sun City Area Transit system, SCAT. It is hoped that sufficient space will be available to also house a complete transportation museum.

A recent contribution honoring the late Mrs. Lillie Staten Williams has been added to the Eugene O. Porter Memorial Fund. This fund, honoring the founding Editor of *PASSWORD*, finances the annual award of \$100 for the best article published by *PASSWORD* during the year. Members are urged to consider such contributions to the Society as a worthy memorial to deceased friends and relatives.

Necessary shelves have now been constructed at the Cavalry Museum and will house all past issues of *PASSWORD*. Members wishing to complete their file and possess a rich and varied record of El Paso history are invited to order back issues from the Society. Most issues are available. Volumes 1 and 2, 1956 and '57 are priced at \$5 per issue. Subsequent issues are \$3 per issue. Address orders to El Paso County Historical Society, Box 28, El Paso, Texas 79940.

NEW MEMBERS

The annual membership campaign of the El Paso County Historical Society is now under way. Membership dues are \$10 per year, which includes subscription to *PASSWORD*. Memberships should be submitted to Membership Secretary, El Paso County Historical Society, Box 28, El Paso, Texas 79940. New members enrolled since our last issue are:

G. L. Christian, Houston, Texas

Mr. and Mrs. Paul V. Clement

Mr. and Mrs. Robert B. Crippen, Horizon City, Texas

Mrs. Edward Egbert

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fouts

Mr. and Mrs. Irving Gourley

Mr. and Mrs. David Hilles

Ronda J. Hoak

Col. John M. Longbottom

Hesper N. MacMillan, Claremont, California

Fern H. Milchen

James H. Polk

Mr. and Mrs. John R. Rakes

Mrs. Barbara Rhett

Mr. and Mrs. H. I. Zimmer, Jr.

BOOK SALES

Book Sales Chairman Millard G. McKinney reports that three more books have been added to the list of those sold by the Society. On books priced at \$10 or more, members receive a ten percent discount, except for certain rare books. The three added books are:

Paradox of Pancho Villa, by Haldeen Braddy \$10

Border Patrol—U.S. Immigration Service, by Clifford Perkins \$10

Teresita, by William Curry Holden, illustrated by Jose Cisneros

hard cover \$14.95

paper back 8.95

The State National—Since 1881, by Sonnichsen and McKinney, is out of print and no longer available. Books may be ordered by mail from Book Sales, El Paso County Historical Society, P.O. Box 28, El Paso, Texas 79940. For urgent needs telephone Commander McKinney, 565-8784.

BOOK REVIEWS

BORDER PATROL

by CLIFFORD ALAN PERKINS

(Texas Western Press, University of Texas at El Paso)

The author of this work, a retired Immigration Service Chief, died shortly before his book was published. One chapter appeared in *PASSWORD*, Summer, 1977, under the title "The Revolution Comes to Juarez."

Perkins's book is made up of his memoirs, carefully edited by one of the Southwest's finest writers, C. L. Sonnichsen.

We accompany the author as he moves up and down the U.S. Mexican Border and steadily upward in the organization of the newly created Border Patrol.

In the early years, firearms were used much more freely than today, both by the Inspectors and their prey the alien smugglers and, during prohibition, the liquor smugglers. Shootouts were common and many aliens and not a few Inspectors were killed or wounded. The reader gets the feeling that the whole thing was something of a game for the members of both sides. Perkins tells of the Mexican who came to the office one day and insisted on seeing the Chief. When they were alone the other said, "Mr. Perkins, you know you shoot me?" Then he pulled his pants down and proudly showed the Chief the scars on both sides of his buttocks where the rifle bullet had entered and exited, an inch or so under the surface. It was obviously a mark of distinction. There was some conversation about their positions during the fight (they were all shooting at sounds and vague outlines) and Perkins agreed that he was responsible for the wounds. They shook hands and parted friends.

The author states categorically that influence peddling and the spoils system were worse in Texas than perhaps any state in the Union, and in Texas Laredo was the worst. The frauds perpetrated by alien smugglers and other criminals were usually matched or exceeded by those of the officers appointed to control them, especially if they "knew" a politician—and most of them did. That's the way they got their jobs.

It is evident that Perkins sometimes sympathized with the aliens he arrested, feeling that they were the victims of unreasonably discriminatory

legislation, but he was hired to enforce the laws passed by the Congress—and he did.

The book is very well designed, thoroughly indexed, and generously illustrated with old photographs, beautifully preserved and duplicated, from the Smithers Collection in the Humanities Research Center at the University of Texas at Austin. It is a most worthwhile contribution to the history of El Paso and the entire U. S.—Mexican Border area.

El Paso, Texas

—VERDON R. ADAMS

THE PARADOX OF PANCHO VILLA

by HALDEEN BRADY

(Texas Western Press. \$10.00)

In this, his latest book about Pancho Villa, Dr. Brady examines the "seemingly contradictory qualities or phases" (Webster's definition of paradox) of Mexico's legendary hero-villain who one hundred years after his birth is assuming increasing historical importance. Backed by fifty years of study, research trips into Mexico, interviews with Villa's descendants, friends, and enemies, voluminous files of manuscripts, articles, documents, letters, and a genuine interest in his subject Dr. Brady in this work presents some of the most conspicuous aspects of Villa's strange personality.

Eight colorful chapters deal with Villa's origin and the rebellious nature that pushed him up and out of the near slave state of his family's humble living conditions; Villa's *muy hombre* reputation as a lover and husband; Villa's cruelty and his generosity; Villa's rumored treasure caches buried on both sides of the border; Villa's military brilliance that earned the respect of American generals even as his barbaric war practices shocked the civilized world.

This is a very attractive book, distinctively designed by Dr. Evan Haywood Antone, Director of Texas Western Press. Famed El Paso artist Manuel Acosta's illustrations catch the spirit of Mexico and Pancho Villa and even the disciplined sternness of General Pershing. The commemorative stamp on the title page is a special bonus. It is written in a lively, readable style. There are sections devoted to explaining sources of documentation, very full and detailed annotated references, bibliography, and index, attesting to the years of study that have earned Dr. Brady the reputation of being a foremost authority on the subject of Pancho Villa. It will enrich any Southwestern library.

El Paso, Texas

—THELMA COX KNOLES

ANTISLAVERY IN THE SOUTHWEST—

WILLIAM G. KEPHART'S MISSION TO NEW MEXICO, 1850-53

by LAWRENCE R. MURPHY

(Texas Western Press [Southwestern Studies No. 54]. \$3.00, 56 pages)

William G. Kephart exercised an unusual influence on New Mexico politics for a man who spent only a little more than two years in Santa Fe. His impact was due mainly to his role as editor of *The Santa Fe Weekly Gazette* in 1851-52, during the formative years of the territorial government.

Lawrence R. Murphy, who teaches history at Western Illinois University, traces Kephart's activities in New Mexico in this, the latest volume in Texas Press's Southwestern Studies series.

Kephart did not set out to be a newspaper editor when he left ministering to a Free Presbyterian congregation in Ohio in November 1850. He was

sent as a missionary who would take the abolitionist message to the new territory, lest it become a pro-slavery stronghold. His ministry was handicapped by an inability to relate to the local people or to speak Spanish. He was threatened with violence for distributing anti-slavery publications.

In April 1851 he became an editor of the *Weekly Gazette* and soon began espousing the abolitionist cause through its columns. He also launched editorial attacks against the first territorial governor, whose powers were so vast they could be easily abused, and took on Richard H. Weightman, a leader in the statehood movement, and Grafton Baker, the territory's first chief justice. His political feuds continued for months.

Ultimately the missionary groups that had sent him there could no longer pay the increasing costs of the *Gazette* operation and Kephart left Santa Fe in February 1853. He served as a chaplain during the Civil War and, after many years as a minister, spent his last years with a daughter in Deming. He died in New Mexico in 1894.

Murphy combines excellent research with entertaining writing style. He has written extensively about New Mexico, including "Philmont: A History of New Mexico's Cimarron Country," which won the Best Southwestern Biography Award of the Border Regional Library Association in 1972.

University of Texas at El Paso

—NANCY HAMILTON

BORDER BOOM TOWN: CIUDAD JUAREZ SINCE 1848

by OSCAR J. MARTINEZ

(University of Texas Press. \$12.95)

At last we have an economic history of the city of Juarez written by a scholar who calmly and systematically has researched El Paso's sister city, then chronicled and evaluated the changes which have taken place during the last 130 years. Not that Professor Martinez can be completely objective (for he was born in Juarez and was directly affected by many of the conditions he details), but he certainly sees the story as an historian and an economist who can relate cause to effect and vice versa.

In its beginning, Juarez was El Paso del Norte and until the last two decades of the nineteenth century, it was the principal center of population and trade. What the author calls "the subordination of Juarez to El Paso" dates from the arrival of the railroads and the abolition of the free trade zone. With the disappearance of free trade, Juarez turned to tourism and its dependency on El Paso began because the city North of the Rio Grande had grown rapidly and emerged as the United States' major bordertown. Interestingly enough, a "border paradox" existed because "from the American viewpoint, the border region represents economic hardship. To the people of Mexico, however, the frontier cities appear as centers of wealth and opportunity."

Juarez' plight seemed to go from bad to worse as political unrest brought revolution; mass migration resulted with El Paso as the haven for the refugees. "Half of El Paso's contemporary Mexican-American residents trace their presence to the 1910-20 decade" in which the rise of South El Paso as a barrio began.

Juarez itself emerged as an "unsavory city" in the eyes of visitors and with Prohibition it became "immoral, degenerate, utterly wicked" because the sale of liquor was its principal source of revenue. Mexicans in the interior

saw the "demexicanization" of their countrymen who were "learning English, forsaking Catholicism, forgetting their past." They also saw extensive exploitation of indigent migrant Mexican workers. The economic depression of the 1930s did little to alleviate the situation; El Pasoans urged the early closing of the international bridge to keep shoppers from the city.

During World War II, Juarez' economy improved as a result of Fort Bliss troops and thousands of tourists, but her reputation remained tainted. By 1960, Juarez had become Mexico's fourth largest city.

Thanks to several factors including the Chamizal settlement, Juarez has experienced dramatic prosperity since 1960 with substantial commercial and industrial sectors. The PRONAF has enhanced the city's image and the parade of Mexicans to American stores has been stopped. The city is still not integrated into its national economy, however, and the author predicts that "the border problems of the future may become overwhelming."

Dr. Martinez' book is one which should be read by every responsible business and professional person (on both sides of the border) because it comes to grips with a situation which everyone knows exists but few people understand: two major cities divided only by a narrow river, different in their languages and divergent in their allegiances, yet interacting on each other every day that passes. The population of this area now exceeds one million people who share a common ground. If the potential is to be realized and the problems to be met and solved, then the background information in "Border Boom Town" needs to be read, absorbed, and heeded.

University of Texas at El Paso

—EVAN HAYWOOD ANTONE

BOOK NOTES

Since its first publication in 1974, a HISTORY OF TEXAS AND TEXANS, by Frank W. Johnson, Eugene C. Barker, and Ernest William Winkler, has been a much used reference work. The five volume work consists of two volumes of historical, statistical and descriptive materials on various portions of Texas; and three volumes of biographies of prominent Texans. There are 1,858 biographies. Many of them include names of two or three generations of the subject's family. All in all, there are some 7,500 names in addition to the principal subjects. The biographies are substantial in length and are well written.

They are not grouped by cities or counties, but a cursory survey of the volumes disclosed the following El Pasoans: J. O. Wyler (father of Karl O.), Ira J. Bush, Warner M. Peticolas, James R. Harper, Joseph H. McBroom, Henry C. Trost, Dr. Hugh S. White, Walter S. Clayton, Sam B. Gillette, J. A. Smith, J. Frank Coles, Adolph Krakauer, Dr. William L. Brown, Joseph H. Nations, William R. Schutz, Harwood J. Simmons, Otto H. Thorman, Aaron Stolaroff, Charles L. Vowell, George B. LeBaron, and Robert F. Campbell. Certainly there are many more, scattered through the pages.

To the researcher, it seems almost inconceivable that such a ponderous and useful work would be issued without an index, but such is the case. The El Paso Public Library has partially remedied the situation by preparing a card index of the 1,858 principal entries, but did not include the 7,500 other names. Now, the deficiency is about to be remedied. The complete work is being re-published by Southern Historical Press, Post Office Box 738, Easley, South Carolina 29640. This time, a complete index is included. The principal indexer was a skilled El Paso genealogist, Flora C. Hendricks (now Mrs. John W. Curd).

The work is offered at a pre-publication price of \$45 per volume, or \$210 for the five volume set. Following publication the price will be \$50 per volume, or \$235 for the set.

The Border Regional Library Association, at its annual Book Awards Banquet, November 4 at the El Paso Civic Center, announced the following Southwestern Book Awards:

BIOGRAPHY: *Yaqui Women: Contemporary Life Histories*

by Jane Holden Kelley

University of Nebraska Press, 1978

FICTION: *Riders to Cibola*

by Norman Zollinger

Museum of New Mexico Press, 1977

FINE ARTS: *Mimbres Painted Pottery*

by J. J. Brody

School of American Research and University of New Mexico Press, 1977

HISTORY: *Border Boom Town: Ciudad Juarez Since 1848*

by Oscar J. Martinez

University of Texas Press, 1978

JUVENILE LITERATURE: *Canyon Summer*

by Jack and Mike Couffer

G. P. Putnam and Sons, 1977

LOCAL AUTHOR: *Down Went McGinty—
El Paso in the Wonderful Nineties*

by Conrey Bryson
Texas Western Press, 1977

NON FICTION: *Canyon de Chelly, its People and Rock Art*
by Campbell Grant

University of Arizona Press, 1978

POETRY: *Meridian of Mesilla*

by Gregory Beene
Puerto del Sol Press, 1977

REFERENCE: *The Horse Soldier, 1776-1943, vol II, The Frontier,
The Mexican War, The Civil War, the Indian Wars,
1851-1880*

by Randy Steffen
University of Oklahoma Press, 1978

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