PASSWORD



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PASSWORD

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THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY dedicates this issue of PASSWORD to the memory of CHARLES LELAND SONNICHSEN

(September 20, 1901-June 29, 1991)

This issue's "title-page insignia," depicting Mexican pots and ears of corn, is the work of El Paso artist Winifred M. Middagh, a member of the Password editorial board.

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EL PASO del NORTE

Regional Election Center, 1813-1821

by Richard Baquera



TUDENTS OF THE SPANISH COLONIAL ERA ARE well acquainted with the atmosphere of change and uncertainty created by Napoleon's direct intervention in

Spanish affairs in 1808. They know that the French emperor's subsequent invasion of the Iberian peninsula was an early link in a chain of events leading directly to independence for Spanish colonies in the New World. Not well known, however, is how this early link-or, rather, its immediate consequences-affected a far northern province of New Spain, namely the province of New Mexico.

The proceeding that would touch New Mexico and that in time would involve significantly the village of El Paso del Norte took place in 1810. As a result of a general uprising in Spain against Napoleon, a Regency Council called for a meeting of the national assembly, the *Cortes*, which would accord representation from the Spanish colonies. The *Cortes* duly met in 1812 and promulgated a Constitution whereby the farthest reaches of the far-flung empire received instructions to reorganize their administrative systems and to hold regular elections for representatives from each colonial province to the *Cortes* in Spain.

In these early years of the nineteenth century, the governor of New

Mexico administered an area stretching from the headwaters of the Rio Bravo del Norte to, but not including, the presidio of Carrizal (in present-day Chihuahua). Although a large area, it was nevertheless, as Alexander von Humboldt wrote, "inhabited by a few poor colonists." Administrators had to contend with poor communication and transportation coupled with a lack of revenue and the seemingly endless Indian problem. The only link with the other provinces and the royal government was through the Camino Real, which wound its way down the banks of the Great River from Taos to a collection of villages and missions known as El Paso del Norte and from there southward to the villa of Chihuahua and beyond. This artery dramatized the geographic and economic importance and the strategic location of the Paso del Norte settlements. Missionaries had established the first European settlements in that location in 1659. Then, when several hundred Spaniards and Indians arrived in 1680 as refugees from the Pueblo Revolt, the settlement's permanence was insured.

Although located in the province of New Mexico, the Paso del Norte settlements were administered by a lieutenant governor responsible to the governor at Santa Fe and also to the commandant general of the Interior Provinces.² These settlements included the main village of El Paso del Norte, four missions located at short distances downriver (Senecú, San Lorenzo, Ysleta, and Socorro), and the presidio of San Elizario.³ At the close of the eighteenth century, the 6,200 inhabitants of the El Paso del Norte area were engaged mostly in farming (grain and corn), in fruit growing,⁴ and in an expanding cattle- and sheep-ranching industry.⁵ But the best known product was the celebrated wine or brandy, which never failed to bring forth comments from visitors—as, for example, this observation by Alexander von Humboldt:

Travelers stop at the Passo del Norte to lay in the necessary provisions for continuing their route to Santa Fe. The environs of the Passo are delicious and resemble the finest parts of Andalucia. The fields are cultivated with maize and wheat; and the vineyards produce such excellent sweet wines that they are even preferred to the wines of Parras in New Biscay [Nueva Vizcaya].⁶

Communications with *tierra afuera*, the south, had been facilitated by including Paso del Norte in the royal postal service originally organized in 1779 by the first Commandant General, Teodoro de Croix. Activities

Richard Baquera, a lecturer in American history at El Paso Community College and The University of Texas at El Paso, is a native of Ysleta. He holds a Master's Degree in History from The University of Texas at El Paso. His Master's thesis, from which this article is taken, reflects his special interest in Northern Mexico of the the colonial and early national period.

were begun in 1783 to extend the route to Santa Fe. However, according to a historian of Spanish administration, it was not until "the summer of 1815, that the acting governor [of New Mexico], Alberto Maynez, announced...that, under orders of the commandant general, a monthly postal service would be organized to carry both public and official mail [from Santa Fe] to El Paso [del Norte]." The postal service was the only official means of communication with Spain, inefficient and inept as it was. Thus, events in Spain did not become known in New Mexico until several months after their occurrence.

The cultural life of the Paseños was very limited also. Pedro Bautista Pino, in his *Exposición* of 1812, pointed out that only those children whose parents could afford to pay the salary of a teacher were able to acquire rudimentary education. However, H. H. Bancroft stated that in 1806-1807 a school with about 500 children seemed to be operating. In addition, an 1809 report from Paso del Norte showed that approximately 350 children were receiving various levels of instruction from seven teachers in four of the communities (the central pueblo, Senecú, Ysleta, and Socorro). Because the literate population was small, there was little demand for books or other printed works. For the most part, Paseños relied on official news from the lieutenant governor.

But the news that did arrive from Spain in 1810 was destined to change the life of New Mexicans. In May, 1808, Napoleon had forced the abdication of both Spanish monarchs, Charles IV and Ferdinand VII, and had placed his brother Joseph Bonaparte on the throne. Almost immediately, Spain rebelled against this imposition. Provincial juntas (committees), then a central junta in Seville, and finally a Regency Council organized the resistance. In February, 1810, the Council issued a decree calling for the convening of the Spanish assembly, which for the first time would include widespread representation from ultramar (overseas colonies). Under terms of this decree, the ayuntamiento (municipal council) of each provincial village in the New World colonies would nominate three qualified men as delegates to a provincial meeting. One of the delegates would be selected by lot as a deputy to the Cortes. After an official certification of his election, he would proceed to Mallorca, where the delegates were to convene prior to the initial session of the Cortes in September, 1810, at Cadiz.11

Since New Mexico had no municipal councils, Governor José Manrrique summoned *alcaldes* and other influencial men of the province to a meeting in Santa Fe on August 11, 1810. Here, six names were placed in nomination for deputy to the *Cortes*. After ballots were cast, Antonio

Ortiz, Juan Rafael Ortiz, and Pedro Bautista Pino had received the most votes. By drawing, Pino was selected to go to Spain; but he did not leave New Mexico until the middle of October, 1811, and did not arrive in Cadiz until August, 1812.¹²

Pino recognized a responsibility to petition for remedies to the province's urgent problems, and in his Exposición, published in November of 1812, he made many observations on conditions in New Mexico. But, he condensed his recommendations to the Cortes to four: first, to separate New Mexico from the diocese of Durango and to establish a bishopric in Santa Fe; second, to provide better educational facilities for the province in the form of a college of higher education and public schools for the younger children; third, to reorganize the defense system with a uniform military service and increase the number of soldiers; and fourth, to establish a civil and criminal court (audiencia) in Chihuahua. To bolster his recommendations, Pino added: "Which other province of the monarchy can count fifty years since it last saw its bishop? Which province is 600 leagues from the administration of justice?" Although the Cortes did decree some changes, Pino's efforts failed to meet with much tangible success. 14

Pino had arrived too late to participate in the debates which had led to the promulgation of a new Spanish constitution. This "Political Constitution of the Spanish Monarchy" was proclaimed in March, 1812, while Ferdinand was still in France. According to the Constitution, representation of the colonies in the *Cortes* would be based on the total number of Spanish citizens residing in each province as of the 1797 census. The Constitution defined Spanish citizenship, though, in vague terms. It seemed to include *mestizos* and Indians who lived in or near a parish (*vecinos*), but excluded those of African descent and naturalized Spaniards. To be eligible for representation, a province had to show 70,000 Spanish inhabitants, although exceptions would be made for a province with a population approaching this figure. Provinces with fewer than 60,000 would be allowed to annex neighboring districts in order to become eligible to choose their own deputy.¹⁵

Elections for representatives would be held on three levels: *Parroquía* (parish), *partido* (district), and *provincia* (province). At the district meetings the parish delegates would elect one man to attend the provincial meeting, where the deputy or deputies would be elected by the district representatives not only for the *Cortes* in Spain, but also for the Provincial Deputation, the province's governing council. All elections were to be on a majority basis with nominations not restricted to electors. Dates for the

elections were designated as the first Sunday in December, January, and March for the parish, district, and provincial meetings respectively.¹⁶

Since New Mexico did not have enough inhabitants to select its own deputy outright, provincial officials decided that Chihuahua and other immediate districts would be added to New Mexico for the purpose of these elections only. This gerrymandered area was entitled to one deputy and one alternate to the 1813-1814 Spanish *Cortes* and two delegates and one alternate to the Provincial Deputation. Because of poor communication and logistical problems, initial elections were not begun until early 1814. 18

Sites for the parish and district meetings were not a problem, but the site for the provincial meeting required a choice. The two most important towns in the gerrymandered area were Santa Fe, the provincial capital of New Mexico, and Chihuahua, located far to the south but nominally the capital of the Interior Provinces. For reasons not definitely known (but probably dictated by political expediency as well as convenience of location), Governor Manrrique chose El Paso del Norte as the place for the 1814 meeting.¹⁹



A mid-19th century rendition of the "Church and Plaza, El Paso [del Norte]," a village feature very likely little changed from the one seen by the delegates some 35 years earlier, in 1814. The drawing appears in John Russell Bartlett's Personal Narrative of Explorations and Incidents in Texas, New Mexico, California, Sonora, and Chihuahua (New York: D. Appleton & Company, 1854).

During March 11-14, 1814, twelve district electors met in Paso del Norte to select their deputy to the *Cortes* and their representatives to the provincial council. Delegates from New Mexico and its "borrowed" districts came from as far north as Taos and as far south as Cosiguriachic. Eight of the men came from New Mexico proper; three came from Nueva Vizcaya; and one, Antonio Ponse de Leon of Carrizal, represented all the presidios and military posts in the area.²⁰

As prescribed by the "Constitution Politica," the first act of the delegates was to hear a Mass of the Holy Spirit with a homily that would appropriately remind each man of his responsibility. Afterwards, the group retired to the casas consistoriales (village meeting hall) and began the selection process in an open session. Rafael Montes, the Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico and ex-officio presiding officer, following required procedure, read the pertinent articles of the law to the delegates. He then inquired whether any attempts had been made to bribe the delegates or whether there were any complaints in general. There being none, a secretary (Francisco Xavier Chaves from Albuquerque), and two escrutadores (Estevan Aguirre from San Geronimo and Antonio Ponse de Leon from Carrizal) were elected. Obeying constitutional directives, these three men became a credentials committee to read and report on the propriety of each delegate's acta (certificate of election). They decided that all actas were in constitutional form except the one for the La Laguna, New Mexico, delegate, Jose Vicente Ortiz. It seemed that Ortiz's certificate had neither been executed in the proper (constitutional) form nor properly signed by the president of his district meeting. However, to expedite matters, the entire junta decided to seat Ortiz as a delegate.21

On the morning of March 13, the delegates proceeded to the election of the deputy. By a majority vote, Francisco José de Jáuregui, a parish elector from the *villa* of Chihuahua, was elected deputy to the 1814 *Cortes*; Simon de Ochoa, also a parish elector from Chihuahua, was selected *suplente* (alternate).²² Three factors apparently worked jointly in Jáuregui's favor: he was only twenty-seven years old, young enough to undertake the long trip to the mother country; he was financially able to make the journey, for he was a rancher and had even been described as a "vecino pudiente," a resident of means, in a Chihuahua census; and, more importantly, he had just come to Chihuahua from Spain in 1803.²³

On the last day of the meeting, a vote was held to choose the delegates to the Provencial Deputation. Juan Rafael Ortiz of Santa Fe and Mateo Sánchez Alvarez from Chihuahua were chosen as representatives with Francisco Xavier Chávez from Albuquerque as the alternate.²⁴

DISTRICT ELECTORS AT PASO DEL NORTE PROVINCIAL MEETING, MARCH 11-14, 1814

DISTRICT **ELECTOR** Real de Cosiguriachi Francisco Ignacio de Herrera Pedro Ignacio de Irigoyen Villa de Chihuahua Estevan Aguirre San Geronimo (Aldama) Antonio Ponse de León San Fernando del Carrizal Juan Estevan Pino Santa Fe San Felipe de Albuquerque Francisco Xavier Chaves Santa Cruz de la Cañada Diego Antonio Romero San José de la Laguna José Vicente Ortiz San Diego de los Gemes Tomas Sandobal San Carlos de Alameda Pedro José Perea Antonio Severino Martines San Gerónimo de Taos Paso del Norte Tomás Bernal

Source: Spanish Archives of New Mexico, Roll 17, frames 891-930

So it was that the village of El Paso del Norte provided the setting for an unprecedented event—the election of a delegate from the province of New Mexico (and its annexed districts) to the *Cortes* in Spain and two delegates to the ruling council of the province. However, within six weeks of this momentous action, there was no *Cortes* at all for Francisco José de Jáuregui to attend.

Ferdinand VII returned to Spain in April, 1814, to an enthusiastic reception by the people. But very shortly opposition to the Constitution of 1812 manifested itself to a king who had probably already decided to act against the document that limited his power. In a decree signed on May 4 but not published until May 11, Ferdinand VII declared that it was his "royal will not only not to take the oath to the said Constitution, nor to any decree of the general and extraordinary Cortes or of the Ordinary Cortes now in session,...but to declare that Constitution and those Decrees nil and of no value or effect....." Consequently, as one Spanish historian has written, "The clock was turned back." For the time being, at least, the New World colonies would not have representation in Spain.

But an election procedure, however cumbersome, time-consuming, and temporary, had actually taken place. As regards the remote northern province of New Spain, the lowest levels of New Mexican and Chihuahuan communities had been given a chance to participate and had done so. After decades of political quietude, some change had taken place.

This brief period of Constitutional government ended in Paso del Norte in October, 1815, with an official celebration of the king's restoration: a parade of the royal banner and a public denunciation of José María Ponce

RICHARD BAQUERA

de Leon and José María Sotelo, who refused to abandon the 1812 Constitution.²⁷ Four months later, in February, 1816, Paso del Norte's municipal council, which had been created under the 1812 Constitution and which had been functioning less than two years, was dissolved.²⁸

Official celebrations notwithstanding, affairs did not proceed smoothly in Spain. Ferdinand's failure to recognize the liberal movement and its major accomplishment, the Constitution of 1812, provoked strong opposition. The inevitable uprising came early in 1820. Troops gathering at Cadiz for service in the colonies mutinied in January under the leadership of Major Rafael Riego and in March forced the monarch to restore the Constitution. The leaders, supported by a liberal *Cortes*, now swung the pendulum back completely in the opposite direction.²⁹

Instructions for the resumption of Constitutional elections in the northern provinces of New Spain were issued from Durango early in July of 1820. For the *Cortes* of 1820-1821, New Mexico (again with the northern Nueva Vizcaya districts) would select one deputy. Presumably the parish meetings were held fairly promptly, for the district meetings took place in August.³⁰

As a result of these district elections, about a dozen delegates assembled on September 25-26, 1820, at the same pueblo where twelve district representatives had met in 1814: El Paso del Norte, so conveniently located on the Royal Highway approximately midway between the provincial capital to the north and the town of Chihuahua to the south. Using the same methods and procedures as had been followed in 1814, Pedro Bautista Pino was elected the province's deputy to the Cortes, the very same man chosen by lot in Santa Fe ten years earlier. Pino set out for Spain but was forced to return north from Veracruz when he could obtain

DELEGATES FOR PASO DEL NORTE PROVINCIAL MEETING, 1821

DISTRICT DELEGATE Villa de Chihuahua Pedro Ignacio de Irigoyen San Gerónimo Estevan Aguirre Sta. María Cosiguriachi Julian Cano de los Rios Presidio de Carrizal José Anto. Arrovo Paso del Norte Julian Bernal San Felipe de Albuquerque Anto, Sandoval Sta. Cruz de la Cañada Juan Tomás Terrazas Nstra. Sra. de los Dolores de Sandia Alexandro Santiesteban San José de la Laguna José Antonio Pino San Gerónimo de Taos Pedro Ignacio Gallego Sta. Ma. de Belen Bartolome Baca

Note: This list is probably not complete. There is no delegate from Santa Fe. Source: Archives of Ayuntamiento of Ciudad Juarez. Roll 2.

only half of the six thousand pesos which the provincial government had remitted to Mexico City for his expenses. In a letter to the *Cortes*, explaining his absence, Pino, whom some in Spain had called the "Abraham of New Mexico," expressed his regret.³²

Although unsuccessful in their efforts to achieve representation in the 1820-1821 sessions of the *Cortes*, the people of New Mexico were apparently not discouraged. Archival records in Paso del Norte indicated that another provincial meeting was probably held in September, 1821, and that one José Antonio Chávez was chosen deputy-elect to the 1822-1823 sessions of the *Cortes*.³³ However, the question of an election became academic when news of the victory of Agustín de Iturbide's insurgent army was received in September, 1821.³⁴

Despite the constant turmoil in Spain and Mexico City, the Chihuahua area had continued to be subject to military authority, that of the Commandant General of the Interior Provinces. Initially, military leaders in Chihuahua had resisted capitulating to the independence movement, but by August, 1821, even the Commandant had defected, and the Treaty of Cordoba was published in the North within weeks. Gradually most of the cities, towns, and villages of the interior provinces had joined the Iturbide movement. In a proclamation dated August 27, 1821, Commandant Alejo García Conde, now in Chihuahua, announced: "Beloved fellow citizens, the fortunate day destined by Providence in which you swear independence before the altars [of your churches] has arrived...." City leaders in Chihuahua informed García Conde that they had already sworn allegiance to the new order and solemnly proclaimed independence. New Mexico celebrated independence on December 26 when word of Iturbide's entry into Mexico City was received in Santa Fe. 17

Independence as such was an ambiguous idea for Chihuahuenses and Paseños. For over ten years thay had been warned to have nothing to do with the insurgents. The *Junta de Seguridad* in Chihuahua had tried to make certain that anyone who uttered a disloyal word would be punished. Furthermore, locally organized militias patrolled to forestall any surprise rebel attacks. However, popular opinion and even popular verses indicated the lowest *mestizos*, *coyotes*, and *indios* understood that a struggle was in progress. Now in 1821 they were told that the day of liberation had arrived.

In one sense it meant not having to look to Madrid for leadership. On the other hand, the Irigoyens of Chihuahua and the Garcías of Paso del Norte no doubt wondered whether a new government could handle their long-standing problems any better than the mother country had attempted to do for the better part of two centuries. Most likely these norteños viewed independence as merely the end result of a power struggle between remote insurgents and the royalists-that is, between Mexico City and Madrid. Located as they were at a great distance from the new center of government, the New Mexicans may have felt that their "orphan" status would continue: more taxes and the same hard life.

However, a glimmer of light appeared to them with the elections instituted by the Regency Council's decree of 1810 and the Constitution of 1812. It was a feeble light, to be sure, in the sense that only one New Mexican, Pedro Pino, ever reached Spain as an official representative (and he had been selected by lot from an exclusive group of gentlemen handpicked by the Governor). But in that year of 1812 he had raised his voice eloquently on behalf of New Mexico, making clear to the "extraordinary" session of the Cortes several reforms much needed in his far-off province. It can also be argued that the regional elections of 1814 and 1820-"hollow" as they turned out to be-were solid achievements. They were the closest these Spanish subjects ever got to free and open elections and to duly constituted representation. They gave the people of New Mexico a practice-run at the exercise of representative government. The insurgent leaders, in fact, adopted a slightly modified form of the system delineated by the 1812 charter. Remnants remained on into the first years of an independent Mexico.38

A recent major research effort into the effects of Spain's unrest on New Spain failed to uncover the elections of 1814 held in El Paso del Norte for the New Mexico-Chihuahua area. Only now is the true story of the decade of the 1810s being found in local archives. We are discovering that, despite being isolated, Chihuahuenses and Paseños were aware of and very definitely affected by Napoleon's invasion of Spain and its early repercussions.

NOTES

1. Alexander von Humboldt, trans. by John Black, Political Essay on the Kingdom of New Spain, II (London: 1811), 307.

2. Marc Simmons, Spanish Government in New Mexico (Albuquerque: 1968), 81-84.

3. Charles W. Hackett, ed., Historical Documents Relating to New Mexico, Nueva Vizcaya, and Approaches Thereto, to 1773, III (Washington, D.C.: 1923-37), 460-62; H. H. Bancroft, Arizona and New Mexico, 1530-1888 (San Francisco: 1889), 191n.

4. Bancroft, 300n; Timothy Flint, ed., The Personal Narrative of James O. Pattie (Chicago: 1930), 175; Enrique Florescano and Isabel Gil Sánchez, comp., Descripciones económicas regionales de Nueva España, Provinicas del Norte, 1790-1814 (México: 1916), 88, reprints an 1803 census taken by Bernardo Bonavia showing that the San Elizario presidio was responsible for seven villages and 16,500 people. The figures seems to be too high by about 10,000 and may be the result of a typographical error.

5. Elliot Cous, ed., The Expeditions of Zebulon Montgomery Pike, II (New York: 1895), 641-47.

... Notes continued on page 123.



The BUNGALOW and its Place in El Paso

by Patrick Rand

HERE ARE MANY STYLES OF RESIDENTIAL architecture in El Paso, but perhaps the most dominant style in the older areas of the city, because of the number of homes involved, is the bungalow. The bungalow was built in America within a time frame of only about fifty years, but those years were from 1880 until 1930—a time of major construction activity in the El Paso area.

The bungalow was the ideal middle-class dwelling. Generally it was a house of limited size, adequate for a small family and suitable for a lot of modest proportions. It had the effect of roominess with a price the average family could afford. The plans stressed simple arrangements with emphasis on utility, convenience, and informality.¹

The bungalow style was symbolized by the design importance given to the roof, which was usually low pitched with wide projecting eaves and exposed brackets and other supports. A large front porch, a prominent chimney, and many windows were also featured.² The windows generally had a number of panes in the upper sash but only one or two in the lower.³ Natural materials were emphasized: rough-cut stones or cobblestones were used for the foundations; and unfinished boards, stucco, brick, and shake shingles for the wall surfaces. The design was intended to blend indoor and outdoor spaces. Porches were often enhanced by trellises for vines.

The more public indoor spaces were designed to flow together and onto the porch, which became an outdoor living space when weather permitted.⁴ The bungalow was generally landscaped with evergreens and shrubs set near the house, often located to provide corner accents.⁵

The front door usually opened directly into the living room, which connected along one side of the dwelling through a broad arch to the dining room. The dining room, in turn, was connected (sometimes by a small pantry) with the kitchen. Bedrooms were located down the other side of the house with a minimum of connecting hallway space.⁶

The word "bungalow" originated in India. "Bánglá" means a low house with galleries or porches all around. The Indian government built a number of them at intervals of about fifteen miles along major roadways in many parts of the country to be used as travelers' rest houses. The English used them in their journeys, and the name was gradually changed from "bánglá" to "bungalow," which came to be applied to any small European house in India.

The style moved to England with the return of Englishmen to their native soil. At its start, the bungalow in England was used only as a small seasonal or seaside second home. In time it grew larger and became the family home, usually located in the suburbs.⁸

The first bungalows in the United States were built on the East Coast, where they were introduced from England about 1880. The style took root and rapidly spread throughout the country, particularly in the western states that were still being settled and where new cities were springing up.9

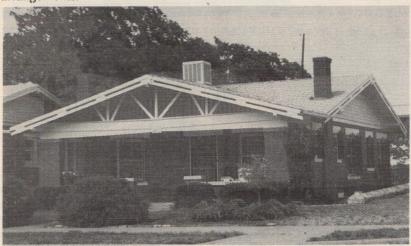
About 1900, architects Charles and Henry Greene developed what became known as the "California bungalow," which they brought to a high state of art. Greatly influenced by Japanese details, this type of bungalow used vertical boards, generally redwood, which were left exposed and stained inside and out. Slender posts and exposed rafters were used in the galleries, and foundations and piers were often constructed of rounded boulders or cobblestones. Verandas and porches were used as transition spaces between indoors and outdoors. The interior depended more on arrangement and proportion rather than on finish. A large living room was a must, and materials were kept in their natural texture and color as much as possible. The roof was designed to cast heavy shadows for the practical purpose of shading the windows and also to provide a sharp contrast in line and shade. 10 The Greenes, in the Japanese style, also carefully blended their buildings with outside planting. The design was so simple, practical, and attractive that it soon became the dominant bungalow style. Variations on the style have been linked to Japanese temples, Indian rest houses, Swiss

shepherds' huts, Spanish haciendas, pioneer log cabins, and even Mississippi steamboats.¹¹

As stated by Clay Lancaster in his book on American bungalows, "The bungalow in the United States was a type of house, a period of architecture and a movement.... Its form is low, overshadowed by the roof, restrained in the matter of style, subdued in color, and blended with its setting.... The period can be given to the first quarter of the twentieth century.... The movement...was governed by principles such as simplicity, vitality and straightforwardness." Lancaster goes on to say that "The informal living room...originated with the bungalow.... It was the very heart and core of the house...."

Recently, another writer similarly extolled the early twentieth-century bungalow as "economical and efficient, embracing its environment naturally and offering an easy-care setting for a warm, informal family life." 13

It has been stated that "Our nation's coast-to-coast wealth of bungalow neighborhoods are, in a way, living history." El Paso is fortunate to possess a substantial share of that historical wealth. A number of bungalows are still in existence in El Paso and functioning in the intended manner, despite fires, wrecking crews, and renovators that have taken their toll over the years. Kern Place, Manhattan Heights, and the Austin Terrace/Government Hill areas contain many representative samples, as shown in the photographs which follow. Readily observable is the similarity of the houses, as well as the diversity of materials, shapes and arrangements.



The house at 2000 North Campbell was built for Harry T. Craps, who

was erecting shop foreman for the Galveston, Harrisburg and San Antonio Railway Company.¹⁵ It was constructed in 1913. The gabled porch is framed by open trussed wood members supported by a heavy wood beam spanning between brick piers. The gable at the side of the house is faced with shingles.



Charles S. Given of Given Brothers Shoe Stores built the house at 800 Cincinnati in 1916.¹⁶ The foundation, piers, porch railing and chimney are all of cobblestone, while the rest of the house is of brick. The rounded ends of the beams and rafters show the Japanese influence. To the left is a terrace with exposed rafter framing supported by cobblestone piers. The house is typical of its period also in the extensive use of evergreens against the house.



The house at 3021 Aurora, built in 1917 for J. Harry Henderson, cashier for the Security Bank and Trust Company, ¹⁷ features a gabled porch with double attic windows. Wood brackets support the porch overhang at the ridge and piers. Cobblestone is used on the foundations and lower portion of the piers.



The bungalow at 4131 Cambridge was the home of rancher Jack Mulligan. Built in 1920, it features a cut-stone foundation and brick piers with concrete caps which support beams having decorative end cuts. The porch gable is open with stick framing supported by a wood beam spanning between piers. The front of the house also features a smaller second gable with heavy overhang. Rounded steps at the corner are set between the porch and a pier-supported pergola at the right side.



Among the attractive smaller bungalows constructed in El Paso during the early part of this century is the dwelling built in 1921 for Ralph S.

Patrick Rand, a partner in the El Paso architectural firm of Carroll, DuSang and Rand, holds a B.S. degree in Architectural Engineering from the University of Colorado at Boulder. A leader in many professional and civic organizations, he is also an occasional contributor to Password and was a collaborator in the authorship of Portals at the Pass, published by the El Paso chapter of the American Institute of Architects.

The photos accompanying this article were supplied by Mr. Rand.



800 CINCINNATI



3021 AURORA



4131 CAMBRIDGE



Armstrong, owner of the Montana Grocery.¹⁹ Located at 1287 Elm, it features a gabled porch supported by decorative brick piers with double wood posts at the top. A small attic louver was placed in the center of the shingle-faced gable.





The bungalow at 3031 Wheeling was the home of William S. McMath, president of McMath Printing and Lithographing Company. Built in 1919, it features an arched soffit on the porch and decorative wood columns set atop heavy brick piers. Four cantilevered beams support the porch overhang and an attic louver is placed between the two center beams.

Many of the "over-sixty" crowd in El Paso can recall fond memories of the bungalow that was their childhood home. They remember the spacious living room as the hub of family activities and as a hospitable gathering place for friends and neighbors. They also remember summer evenings on the large front porch, the children playing games while the adults exchanged stories and small talk as they slowly glided back and forth on the porch swing. The occasional breeze picked up the gentle scent of honeysuckle climbing up the wooden trellises that framed the sides of the porch. The only sounds were the hum of conversation and the songs of birds, sometimes interrupted by the shout of one youngster to another. The time and style were of a simpler period.

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- 15. Worley's Directory of El Paso, Texas (Dallas: John F. Worley Directory Company), 1914.
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REGIONAL ELECTION CENTER...from page 116

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RICHARD BAQUERA

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- 32. Diario de las sesiones de Cortes, Legislación extraordinarias, October 21, 1821, 331. Microfiche Collection, University of Texas at El Paso Library; Florescano and Sanchez, 203. The "three chronicles" of Pino, Barreiro and Escudero are reprinted in the Florescano and Sanchez work.
- 33. Carroll and Haggard, Note 161, 179. Also various actas in Roll 2, Juarez Archives. The fact that these actas are in the archive indicates the meeting was probably held. And Pedro Ignacio de Irigoyen to Conde (?), August 29, 1821, Chihuahua Archives 140. The first document mentioned the Paso del Norte meeting scheduled for March; the second said the meeting was to be on the 24th of September in Paso del Norte. No reason is given for the postponement of the meeting.

34. Bancroft, 308.

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The EL PASO COURT of APPEALS

Eighty Years of Judicial Service 1911-1991

by Hon. Charles R. Schulte and Hon. Max N. Osborn

XACTLY EIGHTY YEARS AGO, THE TEXAS Legislature created the Eighth Court of Civil Appeals, which was to be located in El Paso. The twenty counties placed within the Court's jurisdiction included Andrews, Borden, Brewster, Crane, Ector, El Paso, Gaines, Glasscock, Jeff Davis, Loving, Martin, Midland, Pecos, Presidio, Reagan, Reeves, Terrell, Upton, Ward, and Winkler Counties. Fourteen years later, in 1925, the Legislature added Culberson and Hudspeth Counties and removed Borden County from the Court's jurisdiction. In 1963 Crockett County was added to the territory served by the Court. Thus the Court now serves twenty-two counties in West Texas, an area of 45,771 square miles. The combined population of the twenty-two counties is approximately one million people with about 1,500 lawyers in the area. Surprisingly two counties have no attorneys as residents, and ten of the counties have fewer than five attorneys in each of them.

The Court as originally created was an appellate court hearing only

civil appeals and was comprised of three justices. All three justices would sit as a panel to hear and decide each case appealed. One of the justices would have the responsibility of preparing a written opinion as the basis for the Court's decision. In 1981 all fourteen Courts of Civil Appeals in Texas were given criminal jurisdiction and changed to Courts of Appeals. At that time the El Paso Court became a four-judge Court, but cases are still heard and decided by a panel of three judges, as one judge rotates off each month and handles all of the administrative duties for the Court.

The First Court

W. M. Peticolas, James Franklin McKenzie and E. F. Higgins were appointed to serve on the new Court of Appeals for West Texas. They met and took their oaths of office on June 14, 1911. The first session of court was held on October 2, 1911. In its first year the three justices wrote 106 original opinions in addition to several opinions on motions for rehearing and several concurring and dissenting opinions.

W. M. Peticolas was the first Chief Justice. A native of Victoria, Texas, and a graduate of the University of Texas Law School, he was 39 years old when he took office. He served on the Court for only two years and then practiced law in El Paso until his death on April 28, 1941. The first opinion he wrote concerned the question of the jurisdiction of the trial court to grant a divorce to a wife whose husband had abandoned her prior to her moving to Texas. Citation was had upon the husband by publication, and he failed to answer. Relying upon the holding by the United States Supreme Court in Pennoyer v. Neff, the court held that the matrimonial domicile was in Texas and that the judgment was entitled to full faith and credit under the federal Constitution. (Montmorency v. Montmorency, 139 S.W. 1168 [1911])

James Franklin McKenzie served as an Associate Justice on the new Court of Appeals. Born in Prairie Lea, Texas, in 1873, he attended Texas A & M College and studied law at Vanderbilt University. Before his appointment to the Court of Appeals, he had served as Pecos County Judge and had also been a member of the Texas Legislature. Justice McKenzie resigned from the Court in 1914 to enter private practice. He died in El Paso on March 4, 1939. His first opinion for the Court involved a default judgment entered in a suit on a promissory note. His opinion not only

Hon. Charles R. Schulte, a graduate of The University of Texas School of Law, held several judicial positions prior to his appointment in 1981 as an Associate Justice of the Eighth Court of Appeals, which he served until his retirement in 1988. Hon. Max N. Osborn, Chief Justice of the Eighth Court of Appeals, was first appointed to the Court in 1973 as an Associate Justice. He is a graduate of Southern Methodist University Law School.

affirmed the judgment of the trial court, it also awarded damages for delay. (Connellee v. Latham Co. 140 S.W. 368 [1911])

The other Associate Justice, E. F. Higgins, was also a native Texan. He was born near Bastrop on July 28, 1875, and had attended

The three Justices who initially comprised the Eighth Court of Civil Appeals, created in 1911 and located in El Paso: right, W. M. Peticolas, Chief Justice, 1911-1912; bottom left, J. M. McKenzie, Associate Justice, 1911-1914; bottom right, E. F. Higgins, Associate Justice, 1911-1940. (Photos from Ocie Speer, Texas Jurists 1836-1936, courtesy Judge Max N. Osborn and Col., Ret., James W. Ward)







Southwestern University at Georgetown. After developing tuberculosis, he moved to Alpine and served as Brewster County Judge until appointed to the Eighth Court of Appeals. Unlike the other members of the original Court who resigned to enter law practice, Justice Higgins served until December 31, 1940. His twenty-nine and one-half years of service have not been matched by another judge on the Court. In his first opinion he

affirmed a judgment in a land title suit brought "to recover a 17-acre tract of land 6 miles east of the city of El Paso, in the Rio Grande valley." (Stevens v. Pedregon, 140 S.W. 236 [1911]) Justice Higgins died in El Paso in 1949.

Chief Justices

James R. Harper was appointed to succeed W. M. Peticolas as Chief Justice. He was born in 1867, and he had studied law at the University of Texas and had served as El Paso County Judge and Judge of the 34th District Court. Judge Harper left the Court of Appeals in 1925 and practiced law until 1945 in El Paso, where he died on December 19, 1955.

The next Chief Justice was William H. Pelphrey. He was born on December 8, 1891, had attended college in New Mexico, and had received his law degree from Cumberland University in Tennessee. Prior to his election as Chief Justice in 1925, he had served as El Paso County Attorney. Judge Pelphrey served two six-year terms on the Court. He died in Washington, D.C., on May 28, 1938.

Joseph M. Nealon was elected as the next Chief Justice and served from January 1, 1937, until his death on June 30, 1939. A native of Dalton, Georgia, he had practiced law in his home state prior to moving to El Paso in 1904. He had then served as El Paso's District Attorney and as El Paso City Attorney.

Perry R. Price was appointed to succeed Judge Nealon. A native of Missouri, he had received his law degree from the University of Missouri and had done post-graduate work in law at the University of Michigan. Later, he served as El Paso County Attorney and as Judge of the 41st District Court. Judge Price was Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals from July 7, 1939, until his death on October 6, 1953. During his tenure, Mildred Baker became the Court's secretary, a position she held from 1948 to 1955. She still resides in El Paso and celebrated her 106th birthday on April 9, 1991.

It will be observed that Chief Justices Harper, Pelphrey, Nealon, and Price all came to their positions on the Court from El Paso County. The next six Chief Justices, however, came from other Texas counties. Robert W. Hamilton was serving as Judge of the 70th District Court when he was appointed to replace Judge Price. A native of Nashville, Arkansas, he grew up in East Texas, graduated from the University of Texas School of Law, and practiced law in Midland before becoming a District Judge. Following his service in El Paso, Justice Hamilton served on the Texas Supreme Court for twelve years. He died on August 9, 1981, and was survived by his wife, Lois, and a daughter, Emily Gunning of El Paso.

Jim Langdon of McCamey was elected to replace Robert W. Hamilton as Chief Justice in 1959. He was a native of Stephenville, Texas, and received his education at Tarleton State University and the University of Texas School of Law. Before moving to El Paso, he had been a special agent with the FBI, had served in the South Pacific during World War II, and had served as judge of the 112th District Court. In 1963 Governor Connally appointed him to the Texas Railroad Commission, and he held that position for fourteen years.

In 1963 Alan R. Fraser succeeded Jim Langdon as Chief Justice. He had served as an Associate Justice on the Court from 1953. After receiving his law degree from the University of Texas, he had practiced law in Alpine and had then served as District Attorney and as District Judge of the 83rd District Court. He retired from the Court of Appeals in 1970 and died in El Paso on December 29, 1981.

The next Chief Justice was Max Ramsey from Andrews, Texas. He had attended Baylor University and had received his law degree from George Washington University. After a stint in the Navy, he opened a law office in Andrews, where he subsequently served as City Attorney, County Attorney and District Attorney for the 109th Judicial District. Justice Ramsey resigned from the Court of Appeals in El Paso in July, 1973, and opened a law office in Odessa, where he still resides.

Stephen F. Preslar was next appointed as Chief Justice. A graduate of George Washington Law School, he had served in the Naval Air Corps during World War II, had practiced law with Jim Langdon, and had served as McCamey City Attorney and as Upton County Attorney. In 1960 he became Judge of the 112th District Court, and in 1963 he became an Associate Justice on the appellate court in El Paso. At the completion of his twenty years on the Court, Judge Preslar was honored in a public ceremony of the Court at which time photographs of all former Justices were unveiled and displayed on the walls of the Courtroom.

Max N. Osborn became Chief Justice and took his oath of office from Governor Mark White on July 21, 1986. Judge Osborn was first appointed to the Court by Governor Briscoe in 1973 to succeed Justice Preslar, who became Chief Justice at that time. He is a graduate of Texas Tech University and Southern Methodist University Law School. He practiced law in Midland for eighteen years and was selected Outstanding Young Lawyer in Texas in 1966.

Justices - Place One

Justice McKenzie was succeeded on the Court by Justice Anderson Miller Walthall, who served for twenty-nine years and two months. A

graduate of Westminster College in Missouri, he was licensed to practice law in Texas in 1876. He was Judge of the 34th District Court in El Paso from 1911 to 1914, when he was appointed to the Court of Civil Appeals. At the time of his death in 1943 Judge Walthall was 92 years old. That must be a record for the oldest sitting Judge in this state.

Joseph McGill was appointed to the Court in 1943 and served until his death on June 9, 1957. A native of Thurmont, Maryland, he had attended Harvard Law School. After service in the United States Army Air Corps during World War I, he moved to El Paso and was a member of the Texas House of Representatives from 1925 to 1932, when he was elected El Paso County Judge. His daughter, Mrs. Lloyd Borrett, lives in El Paso.

Holvey Williams served on the Court from 1957 to 1958. He was born in 1894, attended Southern Methodist University, graduated from the University of Texas School of Law, and served in the United States Attorney's office for sixteen years. Following his service on the Court, he resumed his law practice until he retired in 1984 at the age of 90. Judge Williams and his wife still reside in El Paso.

William G. Abbott began his service on the Court in 1958 and continued until his death on May 31, 1961. He was born in El Paso in 1914, attended the United States Military Academy, and graduated from Southern Methodist University School of Law. He practiced law in Abilene and Midland for eleven years. His wife, Bernice, still resides in El Paso. His son, Robert, worked as a briefing attorney for the Court in 1981.

A former District Attorney, William E. Clayton, served on the Court from 1961 until his retirement in 1969. He was a graduate of El Paso High School and received his B.A. and LL.B. degrees from the University of Texas. He served in the Texas House of Representatives from 1933 until 1936. Justice Clayton died in El Paso on October 19, 1970.

The vacancy on the Court in 1969 was filled by the appointment of William E. Ward. Like Justice Abbott, he was a native El Pasoan (born in 1916). He attended public schools in El Paso and then graduated from the University of Texas and its law school. During World War II he served with the 45th Artillery in the European Theater. He served as Judge of the 34th District Court from 1955 until his appointment to the Court of Civil Appeals. He was still serving on the Court at the time of his death on February 22, 1986.

Albert Armendariz, Sr., was appointed to fill Justice Ward's unexpired term. A graduate of El Paso High School and a vertern of World War II, he had attended Texas Western College and had received his law degree

from Southern California School of Law. Prior to his appointment to the Court, he had served as a United States Immigration Judge for six years.

Jerry Woodard was elected to succeed Justice Ward, and he presently serves as a Justice on the Court. After graduating from Ysleta High School, he attended Texas Western College and graduated from Baylor University School of Law in 1959. He served as Judge of the 34th District Court from 1969 until he became an appellate judge.

Justices - Place Two

Following the retirement of Justice Higgins after more than twentynine years of service, his place on the Court was filled by C. R. Sutton, who was born in 1887 in Llano, Texas. A graduate of the University of Texas Law School, he was licensed to practice law in 1912. He was Judge of the 83rd District Court from 1922 until 1940. Judge Sutton served two full terms on the Court of Civil Appeals in El Paso and retired on December 31, 1952.

The next three Associate Justices to fill Place Two on the Court-Alan R. Fraser of Alpine, Stephen F. Preslar of McCamey, and Max N. Osborn of Midland-were subsequently appointed and then elected to serve as Chief Justice of the Court.

Larry L. Fuller, who presently serves as a Justice on the Court, was appointed in 1986. He is a graduate of Austin High School and the University of Texas Law School. During World War II he served in the Navy, and after the War he served as an Assistant United States Attorney. Later he was elected Dictrict Attorney and then Judge of the 143rd District Court.

Justices - Place Three

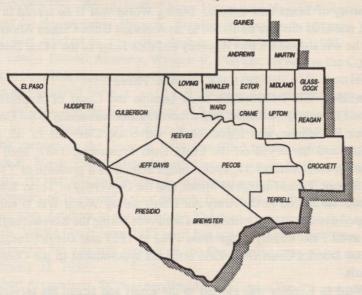
In 1981 this intermediate court became the Court of Appeals; it assumed criminal jurisdiction, and a fourth Justice was added to the Court. Charles R. Schulte was appointed by Governor Clements to fill this position, and he served on the Court from September, 1981, until his retirement on December 31, 1988. Judge Schulte is a graduate of Ysleta High School, Texas College of Mines, and the University of Texas School of Law. He served in the Army Air Corps during World War II and as a Judge Advocate in the United States Air Force during the Korean conflict. He was El Paso County Judge from 1962 to 1963 and District Judge of the 41st District Court from 1966 until his appointment to the Court of Appeals.

Ward L. Koehler was elected to the Court and began his service as an appellate judge on January 1, 1989. A graduate of the University of Michigan School of Law, he practiced law in El Paso prior to serving for eight years as the Judge of the 168th District Court. He is the first Republican to serve on the Eighth Court of Appeals.

Geographical Balance

For many years an effort has been made to see that all areas of the twenty-two counties within the jurisdiction of the Eighth Court of Appeals are represented on the Court. When the Court was a panel of only three judges, it was customary to have one judge from El Paso, one judge from the southern group of counties and one judge from the northern group of counties. In the early years the southern counties were served by the Southern Pacific Railroad and the northern counties by the Texas & Pacific Railroad. Thus, the judges from the southern counties became known as the "S. P. judges" on the Court. These included Justices Higgins from Alpine, Sutton from Marfa, Fraser from Alpine, Langdon from McCamey, and Preslar from McCamey. Those judges from the northern counties became known as the "T. P. Judges." These included Justices Walthall from Pecos, Hamilton from Midland, Abbott from Midland, Ramsey from Andrews, Osborn from Midland, and Fuller from Monahans.

In 1981 when Justice Schulte of El Paso was appointed as the fourth member of the Court, it became a Court with two judges from El Paso-Justices Schulte and Ward-and two from the eastern end of the district-Justices Preslar and Osborn. Today, that tradition still holds, with



A map showing the twenty-two West Texas counties served by the Eighth Court of Appeals.

Justices Woodard and Koehler from El Paso County and Justices Osborn and Fuller from the eastern end of the district. Hopefully that geographical balance can be maintained in the future.

The Filing and Disposition of Cases

During the 1970s there was an average of 78 cases per year filed in the Eighth Court of Civil Appeals. In 1980 a total of 134 civil appeals were filed in this Court. With the addition of criminal jurisdiction, the case filings increased rapidly. In 1981 a total of 412 cases were filed, including 148 civil cases, 99 criminal cases, 75 cases transfered from the Court of Criminal Appeals, and 90 cases transferred to this Court from Dallas and Houston. In 1982, 367 cases were filed; and in 1983, 407 appellate cases were filed in the El Paso Court of Appeals. By the end of March, 1984, the Eighth Court of Appeals had the highest case load of any intermediate court in the state with 103 cases pending per judge. By the end of fiscal year 1990, the case load in El Paso was 63 cases per Justice. In 1989 the Court disposed of 411 cases, and in 1990 the Court disposed of 394 cases. In the last three years 167 cases have been transfered to the El Paso Court of Appeals from Courts in Dallas and Houston. Currently about 55 percent of the cases filed are criminal appeals and 45 percent are civil appeals.

Court Sessions

This Court sits in panels of three judges and normally hears oral arguments on Fridays. The normal setting of cases will include six cases on a given Friday or as many as nine criminal cases. For sixty-five years the Court always heard oral arguments in El Paso. Then, on September 20, 1976, the Court for the first time set cases for submission in Odessa, Texas. Since that time the Court has tried to have submissions in Odessa

at least four times a year. On those occasions the Court normally hears about fifteen cases over a period of two days. On September 13, 1990, the Court had its first session in Midland County, and now its trips to the eastern end of the district find the Court in both Midland and Ector Counties to hear oral arguments.

The Eighth Court of Appeals is proud to celebrate eighty years of service in West Texas.



On the following page is a chronological listing of all the Justices who have served and now serve on the Court as well as a similar listing of the Clerks of the Court.

Chief Justices	Fron	n	To
W. M. Peticolas	June 14,	1911	November 1, 1912
James R. Harper	November 6,		December 31, 1924
William H. Pelphrey	January 1,		December 31, 1936
Joseph M. Nealon	January 1,		June 30, 1939
Perry Riley Price	July 12,		October 6, 1953
Rober W. Hamilton	October 17,		December 31, 1958
Jim C. Langdon	January 1,		May 28, 1963
Alan R. Fraser	July 19,		December 31, 1970
Max E. Ramsey	January 1,		July 10, 1973
Stephen F. Preslar	July 11,		July 20, 1986
Max N. Osborn	July 21,		Present
Wax IV. OSBOIII	July 21,	1700	Trosont
Justices - Place One			
James Franklin McKenzie	June 14,	1911	October 8, 1914
Anderson M. Walthall	October 8,		December 5, 1943
Joseph McGill	December 11,		June 9, 1957
Holvey Williams	June 19,		October 31, 1958
William G. Abbott	November 21,		May 31, 1961
William E. Clayton	June 12,		May 31, 1969
William E. Ward	June 1,		February 22, 1986
Albert Armendariz, Sr.	July 7,		November 30, 1986
Jerry Woodard	December 1,		Present
	a hat marketing from		
Justices - Place Two			
E. F. Higgins	June 14,	1911	December 31, 1940
Claude R. Sutton	January 1,		December 31, 1952
Alan R. Fraser	January 1,		July 18, 1963
Stephen F. Preslar	August 1,		July 10, 1973
Max N. Osborn	August 15,		July 20, 1986
Larry L. Fuller	July 21,		Present
Daily D. Tullor	July 21,	1700	
Justices - Place Three			
Charles R. Schulte	September 1,	1981	December 31, 1988
Ward L. Koehler	January 1,		Present
11 44 25 11001101	Junuary 1,	1707	Tiosont
Clerks of the Court			
J. I. Driscoll	June 14,	1911	January 31, 1949
E. J. Redding	February 1,		December 31, 1968
Sam Florence	January 1,		December 31, 1976
Anna D. Ray	February 1,		February 18, 1982
Martha S. Diaz	March 1,		May 31, 1987
Barbara B. Dorris	June 1,		Present
Darouta D. Doills	Julio 1,	1701	Tiesent



HISTORICAL MEMORIES CONTEST
 1990

The PLAZA THEATER

by Arnalda H. Coppenbarger

Editor's note: Password is pleased to publish the following article, which was awarded first prize in the 1990 Historical Memories Contest. Sponsored annually by the El Paso County Historical Society, the contest is open to people fifty-five years of age and up. It offers prizes of \$250 (first place) \$150 (second place), and \$100 (third place). Twenty-three entries were submitted to the 1990 contest, which was directed by Dr. Robert L. Tappan.

S A CHILD OF THE DEPRESSION YEARS, I have many cherished memories of my visits to downtown El Paso and the glamorous Plaza Theater.

Saturday was the big day. My friends and I would begin the journey by boarding the streetcar. Like a magic carpet-fitted out with electric sparks, grinding wheels, and occasional clang-clangs-it transported us down the hill to the center of the universe.

When the streetcar let us out at San Jacinto Plaza, we would run at breakneck speed, hearts pounding, to the alligator pond. Breathlessly, we would watch for a 'gator to move or for a keeper to feed the lazy creatures with chunks of meat. Then we would stroll through San Jacinto under a canopy of trees so dense that light pierced through boughs like shafted arrows. Birds would rise in clouds of feathered frenzy and then settle into drifts of song. Our next stop was at Hansons' Candy Shop, near the Mills Building, where we would each buy a bag of hard candy.

As we approached the Plaza Theater's luminescent glass booth where tickets were sold, we'd untie handkerchiefs wrapped around the dime that would purchase our passport to paradise. The lady who pushed the magic button was always beautiful and smiling. Her question never varied: "Are you under twelve years old?" Flattered that she would consider me anywhere near that exalted age of maturity, I would nod and be on my way. A handsome usher of at least sixteen would take the ticket, tear it in half, and return the stub, which I then carefully knotted into my handkerchief. As we walked down the long tiled corridor, polished and gleaming, Mr. Frias, the manager, would greet me with a "Hi, Winnie, how's your mother?" It gave me a thrill to know that he remembered my mother, who had been a cashier at the Plaza before she married Daddy. He would pat my head and as I grinned ear to ear he would wave us on our way.

A few steps up and through portals guarded by handsome youths attired in uniforms that would rival the "Queen's Guard," we were in the inner sanctum, or the lobby. Before entering the auditorium, we descended the wide staircase to the Ladies Room. Regal postures straightened our bodies as each step was accompanied by an imaginary royal anthem that beat in our temples. Through the arched doorway marked "Ladies," majestically draped with heavy brocade curtains tied back on each side with a stiff sash, was a lounge furnished in such splendor as always took our breath away: velvet chairs, gilded lamps, and pictures of beautiful women in various forms of repose. We would sit at vanities that reflected impish faces and straggled hair which had been cut at home.

Now it was time to ascend the staircase and enter the theater, for the "picture show" was about to begin. The aroma of popcorn permeated the air, and subdued whispers ruffled the spacious semi-darkness. The decision of seating was a brain-wracking process. Finally, after several trials, we settled into soft seats upholstered, as I remember, in a plushy velvet-like material. Then, turning our heads upward, we beheld the "sky." It seemed like fairyland. Delicate clouds drifted across celestial fireflies that winked from the dark recesses of space. Outlining the boxes upstairs were trees and plants that surely had been brought from a mythical forest.

As the lights began to dim, heraldic chords thundered from the pipe organ played by Dayton Payne. The blackness deepened, the music faded away, the brightness of the screen focused, and the show began. The movie iteself was inconsequential. It didn't matter whether it was a western, a slapstick comedy, or a love story. We sat entranced, the aura of the Plaza

Arnalda B. Coppenbarger, a native of El Paso and a fifth-generation Texan, is retired from the El Paso Public Schools.

taking us out of our bodies for an hour or so and transforming that time into a dream fantasy.

After hugged goodbyes and vows to save another dime, we would all go home. Mama would be fixing liver and onions for supper (liver was ten cents a pounds), and as we ate, the film story was retold, sometimes even reenacted. And every detail of the Plaza's sumptuous appointments was described, Mama trying not to look bored at hearing the recital for the umpteenth time.

There were many downtown theaters in the El Paso of those years, and each had its own mystique. The Wigwam had the best serials, the



A reproduction of the front cover of a Plaza Theater program, courtesy Robert L. Reid, Professor of History, Baylor University.

episodes of Flash Gordon sending us home to make space ships out of cardboard boxes. The Ellanay (named for the initials of two owners, Louis and Andreas) had Charlie Color's confectionary next door and a real magician, Dave Mishel, who performed tricks as he served ice cream. The Texas Grand had Talent Night, and once I received first prize and a fortune of ten dollars for performing an accordion solo.

But the Plaza was our favorite theater and truly the hub of our youthful activities. Forever memorable are the Saturday matinees with handsome "Uncle Roy" Chapman from "Karl the Kowboy" Wyler's radio station, KTSM. And it also seemed to me that the Plaza Theater was the hub of the grownups' activities too. It was often the site of charity events, and you could be sure that Anthony Quinn, our hometowm boy, would return to boost the cause. Also, Mabel Moody's All-Girl Band played top tunes on the Plaza stage, and Leo Carrillo twirled his lariat as the famous "Pancho." Sometimes movie stars appeared in person, and there were grand openings for "Gone With the Wind" and "The Wizard of Oz." Once in a while, there was a stage play ("direct from Broadway") or an opera performed by the San Carlo Opera Company.

As I grew older, I was permitted to attend such special events as these, and I was always thrilled to see people I knew-or knew about. Usually on hand was Chris Fox, the popular sheriff, with a ready handshake for everybody; maybe, too, former mayor R. E. Thomason, chatting with friends as he walked toward the lobby; and also, perhaps, the doctors Schuster, so well liked and so highly respected. All of El Paso thronged to the Plaza on these occasions-the great and the small. People jostled one another merrily as they located their seats-the whole place a wonderful melting pot flavored with the culture of many families-Hernandez, Galatzan, Chew, Smith, Ayoub, McGregor. And in my mind the Plaza still throbs with the spirits of thespians, movie stars, and awe-struck spectators.

To us children of the depression who lived in plain little houses and dined on liver and onions at plain little kitchen tables, the Plaza Theater gave us a weekly experience of luxury (provided we could manage the dime). It enabled us to sink almost to our ankles into thick carpeting, to brush casually against brocade drapery as we swept grandly into the ladies' lounge, to snuggle comfortably into the magnificence of plush velvet seats, to gaze raptly at the "stars"—the ones twinkling overhead and the ones sparkling on the silver screen. During a recent tour of the Plaza, I was deeply saddened by the decay and the disrepair of the place. And I was all the more grateful for my vivid memories of the elegance and grandeur that used to be.



SPY on the BORDER

Horst von der Goltz

by Nancy Hamilton

HE SHOTS OF A FIRING SQUAD RANG OUT AT the Tower of London in early November, 1914, effectively ending the espionage career of a thirty-five-year-old German officer, Karl Hans Lody, who had entered Britain on an American passport issued to Charles A. Inglis of Chicago. The incident pointed up a serious failing within the State Department, a laxity in issuing passports which made it possible for foreign agents to obtain United States credentials with minimal effort.¹

Coincident with the culmination of the Lody case, President Woodrow Wilson announced a new policy tightening the rules for the obtaining of passports. But his action came too late to deter another German spy, Horst von der Goltz, who had only lately left Mexico via El Paso in order to take on new assignments for his homeland and who was arrested in London at about the same time as Lody's execution. Goltz's passport read "Bridgeman H. Taylor" and had been issued on August 31, 1914, in Baltimore. It described him as being twenty-seven years old, five feet, ten inches tall, with blonde hair and blue-grey eyes. The signature of Secretary of State William Jennings Bryan, modestly condensed to "W. J. Bryan," was affixed. It was Secretary Bryan who had alerted the President to the need for a new passport policy.²

Press reports from London described Taylor as a native of San Francisco, born there July 16, 1887. His parents were listed as a German mother and a father who was either American-born or a naturalized citizen from Germany. He spoke with a decided German accent, leading to his invention of an American birth with some years spent in German schools.³ In truth, Goltz had been born and educated in Germany. News of his arrest also included his claim of having served in Villa's army in the Mexican revolution.

Soon after his confinement in England, a November 16 report datelined El Paso affirmed that Goltz had, indeed, been an officer with Villa "until the outbreak of the European War." It further stated that he had been arrested in Mexico as a spy in 1913, when federal officials held him at Chihuahua City under the death penalty until German consular officials intervened and secured his release. And it added that Goltz had passed through El Paso "several weeks ago. He said he was on his way to Germany where, he asserted, he was an officer in the reserves. He also claimed relationship to Field Marshal von der Goltz of the German army and said that he was a baron of a noble family."

The British had no greater charge against him than his failure to register as an alien from a nation at war; and Goltz, greatly relieved to avoid Lody's firing squad, accepted a sentence of six months at hard labor. By December he was trying to persuade the American Embassy officials that he had somehow forfeited his American citizenship upon accepting the title of "baron" back in 1901. Now the news reports called him "Baron von Horst." His efforts failed to gain his release, however, and his imprisonment was prolonged for a total of fifteen months.⁵

It is probable that during this period he began work on a remarkable memoir, My Adventures as a German Agent, which won the attention of major American publications upon its release in the fall of 1917. The Literary Digest quoted liberally from the book in its prominent review, and the New York Times followed its review with an editorial urging "serious consideration" of charges made by the author regarding the involvement of non-Germans as espionage agents, working for the Kaiser more "out of fear than because they are paid."

The El Paso border area figured importantly in several of Goltz's escapades described in the book. One of these centered on a mysterious document which, wrote Goltz, led not only to his career as a secret agent

Nancy Hamilton, a former editor of Password and recently retired from her position as Associate Director of Texas Western Press, is currently the president of Western Writers of America.

but to the murder of an El Paso man entrusted with its care while the owner (Goltz) was soldiering in Mexico. The document was a letter, discovered by Goltz in his youth, which had been written to his aunt years earlier "by one of the most exalted personages in all of Germany"; and it cast serious doubts on the legitimacy of Kaiser Wilhelm II. Its authority was such that, through a series of intrigues, Goltz's possession of the letter enabled him to be trained in espionage and to engage in nefarious activities including posing as a Russian prince. After quitting the service of his government, he brought the letter to the United States, where he posed as an army recruit named Frank Wachendorf. He was stationed at Fort Slocum and later at Fort Leavenworth with the 19th Infantry. Transferred to Galveston, he was discovered there by German agents who asked him to resume his work for his government in Mexico.⁷

Goltz reported to the German consul in Ciudad Juárez, where he was given documents to carry to Consul Kueck in Chihuahua City; Kueck, in turn, gave him documents to take to Parral, where a German official gave him other papers to carry back to Kueck. Upon returning to Chihuahua from Parral, Goltz was arrested by the Huertista forces then in control of the city and was charged with being a spy. Confronted by General Salvador Mercado, head of the military forces in the area, he was placed in a cell in the Chihuahua penitentiary. Fellow prisoners advised that, should he ever be released, he should look for Trinidad Rodriguez, a revolutionary colonel, or cross to El Paso and find a man named Labansat.8

After several weeks of imprisonment, Goltz was visited by Consul Kueck, who asked him to surrender the letter in exchange for his life. Goltz refused. A court-martial sentence of death was rendered on July 23, 1913, during a period when the Constitutionalists were attacking the city. A battle in which they suffered defeat led Goltz to realize that his execution would not be postponed much longer. Consul Kueck returned, demanding that he be given authority to pick up the incriminating letter from a man who was keeping it in El Paso. The prisoner reluctantly complied. The memoir goes on to relate that Kueck escorted Goltz out of prison on September 12 and put him on a northbound train, having given him letters recommending "Baron von der Goltz" to German consular officials throughout the United States and asking them to supply him with funds.9

Once in El Paso, Goltz sought out Labansat, the Constitutionalist mentioned by his friend in the Chihuahua penitentiary and also met Pancho Villa's personal physician, Dr. L. A. Raschbaum, then a fellow guest at the Orndorff Hotel. He also looked up E. E. Koglmeier, who operated a harness and saddlery shop at 219 South Santa Fe Street. Koglmeier was

a German-born fifty-two-year-old businessman. He had lived in El Paso about twenty years and was a volunteer fireman, vice-president of the local order of the Sons of Hermann, and chairman of the board of stewards of the Fraternal Union of America. According to the memoir, Koglmeier told Goltz that "a man he did not know had come with my written order for the papers I had left in his safe and he had turned them over." 10

In November, 1913, Goltz took a trip to Los Angeles, where he soon received a telegram summoning him back to El Paso: "Dr. Raschbaum's proposition accepted; come at once. Francisco Villa." Returning to El Paso on November 27, he went immediately to Chihuahua City, which now was controlled by the Constitutionalists. His former fellow prisoner introduced him to Colonel Trinidad Rodriguez, commander of a cavalry brigade, who promptly commissioned the German a captain. In mid-December they organized an attack on Ojinaga, where the Federalists had retreated. "During four days of marching in the desert," observed Goltz, "I made acquaintance with Mexican mounted infantry, the most effective army for such conditions and country the world has seen."

In his memoir, Goltz states that during the devastating battle for Ojinaga he was nearly killed by a peasant who confessed to having been given 500 pesos by Kueck's secretary to fire at Goltz. In early January, 1914, Goltz returned to Chihuahua in search of Kueck, only to discover that the sly consul had just fled to El Paso. He looked up Kueck's secretary and, through "persuasion," was able to obtain various documents from the consular archives, including "the letter Kueck had written the American Consul affirming himself to be fully responsible for my safety, at the very time when he was setting Mercado on and telling me that he could and would do nothing for me. Once I got hold of that, I felt fairly certain that Kueck would be moderate in his dealings with me thereafter." 12

Goltz was then invited by Raul Madero, brother of the former president of Mexico, to accompany him and Villa to Juárez for the winter races. Donning a new unifrom with a pocketful of pay for his military service, the German gladly accepted. After arriving in Juárez, he once more crossed the Rio Grande to visit his friend Koglmeier in El Paso, and also the detention camp for Mexican refugees at Fort Bliss.

"I chose to see the camp first," he wrote, "and had the forethought to fill one of the pickets of my overcoat with Mexican gold pieces." He slipped the money into the hands of the detainees, whose "faces were wan and meagre" and who were clad in the "tattered clothing they had worn when captured." He was invited to greet General Mercado, the ranking officer in the assemblage, whom he remembered from grimmer days when

their roles were the reverse. They exchanged a few words, but Goltz declined to offer his former captor a gold piece.¹³

Returning to South Santa Fe Street, Goltz found the front and rear doors to Koglmeier's establishment standing open. At the rear of the building, he could see the proprietor's horse in its stable. He entered the store calling, "Koglmeier! Oh, Koglmeier!" A man stepped out and advised him of Koglmeier's inopportune death on December 20-murdered by having his head bashed in by a hatchet. The sound of the attack had evidently been obliterated by the noise of a carousel operating in a vacant lot next door.

The news report of the event mentioned five wounds to the back of Koglmeier's head and four at the front, inflicted between 7:30 and 9:00 p.m. on that fateful Saturday night. William Gieseler, a merchants' policeman, discovered the wounded man, who lived only a few minutes after the attack. Gieseler was joined by Patrolman Letcher, after whose arrival Koglmeier died, then by Chief of Detectives O. W. Smith and Fred Delgado. After the body was removed to a local undertaker's, it was examined by Coroner E. B. McClintock. The officers concluded that robbery had not been the motive in the killing, since the safe evidently had not been tampered with and Koglmeier's pockets had not been turned inside out; a pair of trousers hanging on the wall held a silver dollar dated 1879, thought to be a good luck piece.

Although the murder continued to mystify the El Paso authorities, to Goltz it was clear: the killers had been seeking the papers which Goltz had entrusted to the man and had slain him in the effort to find them. But the documents had already been taken away by Kueck.

"His end subdued the festive spirit in me," recalled the agent in his memoir, "and I was not sorry when we started back for the interior of Mexico." 14

Goltz returned to duty with Villa, Raul Madero, and Trinidad Rodriguez. The last-named put him in charge of training crews for twenty machine guns obtained in the United States. Being a complete novice in that skill, Goltz enlisted the help of a bank robber/gun authority incarcerated at the time in the Torreon jail. He arranged for the man's freedom and for the transfer from another brigade to his own of several men already skilled as machine gunners. He also traded some wild mules for more affable mounts, thus creating a successful military unit for the next encounter.

For six weeks, he served as a member of the staff of Raul Madero, whom he described as having "clarity of intelligence, an encyclopedic

grasp of Mexican affairs, social, religious, political and financial, and a winning personality that masks abundant energy and determination."15

Then on June 28, 1914, occurred the event that clarified the war situation in Europe: Archduke Francis Ferdinand of Austria was assassinated. A few weeks later, a messenger approached Goltz, bearing credentials from Consul Kueck. "In case your government wished your services again," he was asked, "could she expect to receive them?"

"In case of war-yes," responded Goltz. Soon thereafter, he received a one-word telegram from Kueck: "Come." 16

Goltz departed his troops on August 3, 1914, and went to El Paso, where he encountered Kueck at Hotel Paso del Norte. He was given letters and instructions to proceed to New York, where he would work under Captain Franz von Papen, the German military attaché at Washington.

Goltz's memoir relates that during his last few days in El Paso he learned more "facts" about Mexico "than I could have acquired in Mexico itself in a lifetime. 'There are lies, damned lies and El Pasograms,' someone has said. I collected enough of the last-named to cheer me on my way to Washington and to make me marvel that Rome had ever been called the father of lies. No wonder newspaper correspondents like to report Mexican news from El Paso." 17

An El Paso physician, Dr. R. H. Ellis, who served as medical chiefof-staff for Villa and also as a personal obersver for President Wilson during the revolution, was impressed by Goltz's role in a plot by German agents to blow up the Welland Canal, a navigable waterway linking Lakes Erie and Ontario. His recollection of Goltz's role appears in a book about Villa which was published in 1977. "According to Von der Goltz' statement on August 22, 1914," the doctor related, "he, on six months' leave from his post as captain with the Mexican Constitutionalist Army, was ordered to meet Captain [Franz] Von Papen, a jointly accredited military attaché of the German Embassy in both Mexico and the United States, at the German agents' New York headquarters, the old Mexico North Western Railway offices under control of German military assistant director, Von Ezell. This narrator in capacity of observer accompanied Von der Goltz and Luther Wertz, and facilitated their entry into the United States at El Paso, Texas." At this time, Dr. Ellis continued, the plot was developed for blowing up the locks of the canal. The goal was to disrupt Canadian shipments, especially of foodstuffs to England. Goltz was using the Bridgeman Taylor passport, "In New York," Dr. Ellis said, "Captain Von Papen gave him a check for \$200 to pay the German sailors he had recruited to help him carry out the mission. He bought explosives from Hans Tauscher, American representative of Krupps Arms, saying that it was to be used for mining in Mexico."18

Goltz and four others took their dynamite, guns, detonators, and other implements to Buffalo but failed in their mission and returned to New York. Goltz contended that their true purpose was to distract attention from other more crippling espionage activities. He then was given a new assignment, sailed for Europe where he consulted with the Kaiser, and ended up in England, where he was arrested. The \$200 check given him by Papen several months earlier, made out to Bridgeman Taylor, was found by British agents in Papen's papers and served as the link between Goltz and the German government that brought him under suspicion. ¹⁹

Goltz finally was released from the English prison in April of 1915 and was deported under the Alien Restriction Act.²⁰

After the publication of his book in 1917, Goltz faded from sight, at least in America. He has been mentioned from time to time in histories of the Great War, but only as a very minor player. In *The Zimmerman Telegram*, Barbara Tuchman questions Goltz's story that in 1911 he had stolen documents in Paris from the Mexican finance minister, José Yves Limantour, and that photographs of the document were then taken to Henry Lane Wilson, American Ambassador to Mexico. In her bibliography, Tuchman advises, after the listing for Goltz's book: "Would be invaluable



Horst von der Goltz, center, a German secret agent during World War I, was a Villista officer at the time this photo was taken by Otis Aultman. The man in the car is unidentified. In his war memoir, Goltz identified the man at the right as Captain Leiva, who later was killed in action. (Courtesy El Paso Public Library)

if the reader could persuade himself to believe it."21

Similar doubts are cast by Friedrich Katz in his award-winning study The Secret War in Mexico, where he also recounts the Limantour incident which was followed by the massing of United States troops along the Mexican border. "While Goltz's assertions do indeed coincide with the general objectives of German policy during that period," he contends, "there is no documentary evidence to support them." In the notes, Katz further explains: "While many of Goltz's statements cannot be proven and seem exaggerated, his claim that he worked for German intelligence is confirmed by German sources." Katz notes that in February, 1918, Henry Lane Wilson wrote a letter denying Goltz's allegations which appear in the memoir, with the letter's recipient, Philander Chase Knox, confirming this stance in his own letter to Secretary of State Robert Lansing. "Lansing fully agreed with Knox's letter and wrote the latter that the search of records of the department failed to disclose any mention of such a treaty."

Horst von der Goltz was photographed at least twice by El Paso photographer Otis A. Aultman. In one photo, he stands next to a large touring car, his left arm leaning against an open door, a cigarette dangling from the hand. His right hand is in his pocket. His wide-brimmed hat and black boots hint at a military bearing, belying his casual pose. Two other men are in the picture, one at the wheel of the car and another standing near Goltz, with a crutch under his left arm and wearing a black armband. They are identified as "American newsmen" in Photographs from the Border, a collection of Aultman's work that includes some of his coverage of the revolution.²³ In Goltz's book is a photo, obviously taken at the same time and surely also by Aultman, which the author identifies as himself and a Mexican officer, a Lieutenant Leiva, the man with a crutch, who was later reported killed in battle. They are, he said, standing outside the Cuartel at Juarez. For this photo, Goltz buttoned his jacket and looked much more the major that he was at the time, though still holding a cigarette in his left hand.

Goltz would have been a good model for a film hero-young, hand-some, daring, skilled in espionage, and able to apply humor to situations where plans went awry. He could even spin his own yarns skillfully enough to provide a script and might even have used his gifts of persuasion to talk "angels" into backing a movie venture. He operated on an international scope and did not need trick cars or planes to achieve his ends. He was a pre-James Bond operative who was not important enough to be hanged, but a likable fellow who once had a role, however small, in El Paso's history.

NOTES

1. New York Times, November 14 and 21, 1914.

2. New York Times, November 14, 1914; Horst von der Goltz, My Adventures as a German Secret Agent (New York: Robert M. McBride & Co., 1917), frontispiece. The Times gave the name as "Bridgeman" or "Gridgeman" and the initial as "W.," but the passport, reproduced in the book, clearly has it "Bridgeman H."

3. New York Times, November 15, 17, and 22, 1914.

4. New York Times, November 17, 1914.

5. New York Times, November 24 and 27, December 9 and 12, 1914; Goltz, 190.

6. Literary Digest, November 24, 1917 (vol. 55, no. 21), 44-50.

7. Ibid.; Goltz, 111 ff.

8. Goltz, 116-21.

9. Ibid., 123-25

10. Ibid., 125-26. Goltz misspelled the hotel name as Ollendorf.

11. Ibid., 126-27.

12. Ibid., 136-37.

13. Ibid., 137-38.

14. Ibid., 140-41; El Paso Herald, December 22, 1913.

15. Goltz, 141-46.

16. Ibid., 149-50.

17. Ibid., 151-52.

18. Jessic Peterson and Thelma Cox Knoles, Pancho Villa: Intimate Recollections by People Who Knew Him (New York: Hastings House, 1977), 138-40. Jim Tuck, in Pancho Villa and John Reed (Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1984), 95, cautions that Dr. Ellis "makes serious errors of fact" in some portions of his narrative. His references to Goltz, however, generally comply with information found in the memoirs.

19. Goltz, 168-69, 171, 173.

20. The deportation order is reproduced in Goltz's book opposite p. 240.

21. Barbara Tuchman, The Zimmerman Telegram (New York: Viking Press, 1958), 34-35, 207.

22. Friedrich Katz, The Secret War in Mexico: Europe, the United States, and the Mexican Revolution (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1983), 77, 586.

23. Mary A. Sarber, *Photographs from the Border* (El Paso: El Paso Public Library Association, 1977), 70; Goltz, opposite p. 28.



El Paso's Blue Grosbeak is often seen on the edges of the town along the much frequented country roads in the Valleys. He wears bright blue with a small crest to do him proud, has the thick decisive family bill and commanding eye. He has reddish bars on his wings. His wife wears clothes of the same design but in two or three shades of brown, with bluish lights.... He is not operatic like his Cloudcroft kin but has a nice voice and good song theme.

-Elsie McElroy Slater, El Paso Birds (El Paso: Designed and Printed by Carl Hertzog, 1945)

OUR READERS WRITE

Two informative letters pertaining to Kenneth K. Bailey's "Three Blocks of Federal Avenue" (Summer 1991) were received in July. The letters appear below, each one followed by Dr. Bailey's reply to the readers of *Password*.

July 3, 1991

Kenneth Bailey mentions, at p. 81 of the Summer 1991 issue, that the Harry A. Day Lazy B Ranch was in Southeastern Arizona.

I believe that a large part of the ranch and the headquarters are located in New Mexico between U.S. 70 and I-10 near the state line.

I was a drop-in at the wedding reception barbecue for then Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor at the ranch headquarters. I was visiting at the Rex Kipp ranch at the time. I was uneasy about crashing the gathering, but Rex insisted that so many would be there that I wouldn't be noticed—which I wasn't.

E. L. Mechem
Senior Judge
United States Court,
District of New Mexico

Dr. Bailey replies:

The headquarters and ranchhouse of the Lazy B are in Greenlee County, Arizona, approximately thirty miles from Lordsburg, but the ranch's grazing lands are in both states.

Almost thirty years after the memorable wedding to which Judge Mechem refers, a feature article in the El Paso Herald-Post (July 8, 1981) recounted that Governor Mechem (who was returned to the gubernatorial office three times subsequently, served in the United States Senate for a time, and then became a federal judge) was the "most notable guest" at the 1952 event. We may be certain that the party crasher was both noticed and heartily welcomed.

July 20, 1991

Re. story "Three Blocks of Federal Avenue," p. 74, B/Gen Walter C. Short was not the general at Pearl Harbor. It was Lt. Gen. Walter G. Short, whose son Col. W. Dean Short lives in Las Cruces. However, the story was very interesting. I well remember most of those mentioned.

Martin J. Gemoets
COL AUS Retired
Las Cruces, New Mexico

Dr. Bailey replies:

"C" was in fact the middle initial of both men, but I erred in assuming that there was only one Brigadier General Walter C. Short in the diminutive U.S. Army of the 1930s. After additional investigation, including a conversation with Colonel Walter Dean Short (Ret.), I now know that the Brigadier General Short with whom Otto H. Thorman had interchanges was Walter Cowen Short (1870-1952) rather than Walter Campbell Short (1880-1949), the future Commander of the U.S. Army Hawaiian Department. Thanks to Colonel Gemoets for calling this misidentification to my attention and to the attention of other Password readers.



A TROLLEY MISCELLANY

by John O. West

BOUT ONE YEAR AGO, THERE ARRIVED IN OUR city a happy reminder of an El Paso that used to be: a rubber-tired "trolley" making its way through the downtown streets along a regularly scheduled route, its tinny bell clanging merrily every now and then. Not long after the inauguration of this "trolley" line, there came another welcome sight (also a rubber-tired vehicle). Victorian-styled and brightly painted, it is dubbed "The Border Jumper," and it calls to mind a once-famous "landmark": the trolley (muledriven at first and later electric-powered) that for some nine decades carried passengers to and fro between the two communities at the Pass.

These new "trolleys" bring back pleasant memories and also prompt me to review some notes I took several years ago while researching the history of El Paso's streetcar system.

On January 1, 1902, the wheels of progress—in the form of an electric trolley—began rolling through El Paso, traveling the popular El Paso—Juárez route which had been established for mule cars in 1882. (In the middecades of this century, that route became a special point of bragging: in the 1960s, a Chamber of Commerce handout described it as "the world's only international streetcar line.") By the end of 1902, the El Paso streetcar system had eight miles of track and was proud of its fourteen cars, which

had that year transported the staggering sum of 2,154,035 passengers.

New routes were added—these routes going hand in hand with El Paso's geographical expansion. The building of the Government Hill line, for example, allowed people to live away from the congestion of central El Paso with its rapid business growth. This line was designed to serve a new subdivision of small homes developed especially for health-seeking newcomers, and it inspired the Company claim (if not always the performance) of "streetcar service from town to your home in eight minutes."

In 1923, there were 98 cars operating over 19 routes, covering 52 miles of track. The peak year for streetcar passengers, 1920, tallied 21,301,389. But again progress was bringing changes. Automobiles, jitneys, and eventually buses (starting in 1925) caused a decrease in the number of streetcar riders. In 1941, bus riders totaled more than those on streetcars for the first time. And by 1980, years after the streetcar had passed into history, buses carried only 9,400,000 passengers—in a city that had more than six times its 1920 population and a vastly larger geographical area.

But the story of El Paso streetcars is far more than the record of miles of track and number of passengers carried. For after all, it was people who were riding those streetcars. And people have memories.

As a boy, I lived down the valley, and therefore I remember best the Washington Park route, which-by the way-had earlier supplied some of the tracks for the short-lived interurban line to Ysleta. During my streetcar years, the Park line ended a mile to the west of my street, Glenwood Drive. Before beginning the walk home, we youngsters would always help the conductor reverse the seats for the trip back to town, and then we would dawdle a bit as we admiringly watched him pull down one trolley runner and let up the other so as to make contact with the overhead power source.

I always had tremendous respect for the streetcars (they were my transportation from "the country" to the big downtown of El Paso). But I heard of boys who were not above greasing the tracks—especially on Hallowe'en—or even cutting the trolley ropes. W. S. Casey, who piloted streetcars from 1921 to 1946, reminisced several years ago about some of his experiences: "Many's the time I had to climb up on top of the car and tie the rope back together so I could get on with my route."

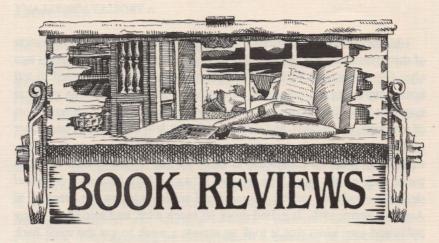
John O. West, Professor of English at The University of Texas at El Paso, specializes in the folklore of the United States-Mexico border area. Among his published works are Mexican-American Folklore (Little Rock: August House, 1988) and Cowboy Folk Humor (Little Rock: August House, 1990). He is currently writing the text of a sequel to José Cisneros' Riders Across the Centuries (Texas Western Press, 1984), the sequel to be illustrated by Mr. Cisneros.

Mother Nature also interferred sometimes with the smooth operation of the streetcars. J. A. ("Joe") Armendariz, who retired several years ago after fifty years with El Paso's public transportation system, used to tell some interesting stories about unscheduled occurrences. One of them concerned the Hipódromo line, which served the race track in Juárez. Part of the route, Joe related, had a stretch of track laid on clay, and once after a heavy rain the roadbed became so unstable that the car—a small, single-truck Virney—turned completely over. "We had a helluva time trying to put it back on the track," he recalled. "And a high load on a Nacional de México railroad car hit the overhead trolley wire on the crossing at Avenida Ferrocarril. It pulled down so much wire, and tore up so many poles and guy wires that it took us almost a week to get the route back into service. In a way, buses are more flexible in that connection," he admitted. "If one of them goes out, you just push it to the curb and get another bus."

More flexible, true, but not an unqualified improvement—as the exhaust fumes attest. To my way of thinking, something wonderful went out of El Paso with the electric trolleys. And the growing popularity of these new "trolleys"—their number now increased to 31 cars and their routes expanded to include tours of the Mission Trail and seasonal excursions to ...Continued on page 156



An electric streetcar glides across the old Santa Fe Bridge en route to Juarez, 1902. (Courtesy M. G. McKinney)



THE GREAT WESTERN: LEGENDARY LADY OF THE SOUTH-WEST by Brian Sandwich. El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1991 (Southwestern Studies No. 94), \$7.50

Her true name is uncertain, her birthplace and birthday are in doubt, but her niche in history is secure. Sarah Bowman (Bourjette, Bouget, Borginnis, Phillips, or Davis), the "Heroine of Fort Brown," became the first Anglo-female resident of El Paso.

In 1845, she appeared on the scene as a laundress with General Taylor's force as he came to Texas in preparation for the war with Mexico. Towering more than six feet in height, she was dubbed a "giantess" and an "Amazon." The name that stuck, though, was "The Great Western," after the largest steamship afloat at that time.

She earned national attention in 1846 during the Mexican bombardment of Fort Brown, when she served meals and administered to the wounded and dying. One witness noted that "a bullet passed through her bonnet and another through her bread tray." Later, at Matamoros, she was credited with manning a cannon with devastating results and slaying a Mexican who had given her a saber cut across the cheek.

The Great Western was dedicated to the army. In Monterrey, Mexico, when told that the only way she could accompany the unit was to marry a dragoon and be mustered in as a laundress, she rode across in front of the assembled troops and called out, "Who wants a wife with fifteen thousand dollars, and the biggest leg in Mexico? Come my beauties, don't all speak at once—who is the lucky man?"

A trooper named Davis volunteered if a clergyman could be found to "tie the knot." The Great Western replied, "Bring your blanket to my tent tonight and I will learn you to tie a knot that will satisfy you I reckon!"

Davis was one of several of the Great Western's partners as she followed the army through Mexico and across the Southwest.

In April of 1849, she was in El Paso del Norte when Lieutenant Henry Chase Whiting arrived with the U. S. Corps of Topographical Engineers. She was so glad to see American officers that she embraced them. "Her masculine arms lifted us one after another off our feet," Whiting wrote in his journal.

The Great Western moved to the American side of the river and joined Benjamin Franklin Coons in the ownership of a hotel-restaurant-store located on the plaza. H. Gordon Frost, in his history of prostitution in El Paso, referred to her as "the first madam/prostitute of record to appear on the El Paso scene."

She left El Paso in 1850 and turned up in Socorro, New Mexico Territory, where she teamed up with Sergeant Albert Bowman, whose tenure lasted for sixteen years. No record of marriage has been found, but Sarah took Bowman's name, and they followed the army to Arizona Territory.

During her service to the military and in settlements adjacent to military posts, she was a laundress, cook, nurse, hospital matron, camp follower, madam, wife, mother (of adopted children), hotel proprietress, and businesswoman. She died on December 23, 1866, apparently from the bite of a poisonous spider. She was buried in the Fort Yuma cemetery in a "splendid funeral with full honors." Subsequently her body, along with the tombstone inscribed "Sarah A. Bowman," was moved to the National Cemetery at San Francisco.

Brian Sandwich has traced the Great Western's progress through a maze of official documents, census records, letters, and journals. The resulting account not only chronicles the career of this unusual woman but paints a revealing picture of military life in the Southwest during more than two decades.

FRANCIS L. FUGATE
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PIONEER JEWISH TEXANS: Their Impact on Texas and American History for Four Hundred Years, 1590-1990 by Natalie Ornish. Dallas: Texas Heritage Press, 1990, \$45.00

Texans otherwise familiar with the history of their state probably do not know that the first Jew set foot in Texas in 1590 (Gaspar Castaño de Sosa, a convert to Christianity who explored along the Pecos), that there was a Jewish buccaneer (Jao de la Porta) in the Galveston Island camp of pirate Jean Lafitte, that a London-born Jew (Anthony Wolf) died at the Alamo, or that a Dutch-born Jew (David Levi Kokernot) established the

first Texas Navy in 1832 and later the famous ranch near Alpine. The stories of these and many other Jews who played a role in Texas history are detailed in Natalie Ornish's handsomely-produced volume.

The author points out in her Introduction that "the Jews who settled in Texas....penetrated every section, every occupation, and profession." In support of this observation, she devotes separate chapters to Jewish adventurers, soldiers, colonizers, statesmen, ranchers, financiers, wildcatters, humanitarians, merchants, artists, lawyers, and doctors (the latter category including such modern-day pioneers as 1985 Nobel Prize winners Joseph Goldstein and Michael Brown of the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center who opened new medical frontiers).

Pioneer Jewish Texans fulfills the promise of its title in that it presents the "impact on Texas and American history" of a great many Pioneer Jewish Texans. Nevetheless, some readers may find the book disappointing in its somewhat incomplete treatment of the Jewish pioneers' lives and in its omission of several influential pioneers. The book virtually ignores, for example, the role of synogogues or temples, which in urban areas provided centers of Jewish communal life. Few rabbis or congregations are mentioned. Rabbi Martin Zielonka, who served El Paso's Temple Mt. Sinai for 38 years, is pictured, but not mentioned in the text. Dr. Henry Barnston, rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel in Houston for nearly half a century, is pictured, but no reference is made to his History of the Jews in Houston, a major source for the centennial history of Beth Israel, found in the Barnston collection at Rice University.

Local readers will be disappointed to find very few El Pasoans discussed in detail. These include only Haymon Krupp, whose oil profits increased the permanent fund of the University of Texas by millions of dollars; Henry Lesinsky and his nephew, Samuel Freudenthal, who started the Chamber of Commerce in El Paso; Ernst and Olga Kohlberg, who opened the first free public kindergarten in Texas; and Albert Schwartz, the Merchant Duke who founded The Popular Dry Goods Company. Disappointment will deepen when local readers note that Rabbi Floyd S. Fierman's two books dealing with some of El Paso's Jewish families are not listed in the extensive bibliography.

As long as readers hold in mind that Ornish's book is not intended as a definitive history of the Jews in Texas, but only as an introduction to (some) Pioneer Jewish Texans who impacted on state and national history, they will be pleased by its wealth of information and its abundant illustrations and photographs.

MARY ANN FOX PLAUT

Librarian, Temple Mt. Sinai and Congregation B'nai Zion

THE COWGIRLS by Joyce Gibson Roach. Denton: University of North Texas Press, 1990, \$15.95

First published in 1977, Joyce Gibson Roach's book traces the cowgirl in her roles from the frontier to the footlights and shows her images in fact, fiction, and folklore.

The original cowgirls were the ranch women of the Amerian West whose activities, usually by necessity, expanded beyond domestic duties. After the first pioneering generation, others did what was called "a man's job"-including roping, branding, herding, shooting-because they were good at it, liked it, and grew up with it.

Roach perhaps claims too much when she contrasts the cowgirls with "Susan B. Anthony and the rebellious ladies who wished to have the right to do exactly what the cowgirls were doing," although certainly the late nineteenth-century range women expanded the scope of what women did. One could argue that independently successful western women were viewed as aberrations and that even in their success they conformed to and validated the values established by western men. But Roach rightly shows that women were a more active part of the development of ranching than history generally acknowledges. The same could be said of pioneer farmwomen and businesswomen, but these women failed to capture the popular imagination in the same way as the cowgirl, who, like the cowboy, became an almost immediate symbol of freedom and toughness.

The chapters on the cowgirls of the rodeos and the Wild West Shows pay tribute to the talent and sheer image-building of women riders and performers. Tad Lucas from Ft. Worth was the all-around champion and trick-riding champion at Madison Square Gardens for eight consecutive years, an unparalleled record. Most of the photographs in the book are of these women: Tad Lucas performing the "suicide drag" over the flying back feet of her horse, Lucille Mulhall of Oklahoma in a steer-tying event in her long skirt, Ruth Roach in satin bloomers riding a bucking bronc. Although the author says only two women are in the Cowboy Hall of Fame in Oklahoma City, over a dozen are honored in the rodeo category alone. The Cowgirl Hall of Fame in Hereford, Texas, also honors many others.

Roach also explores the variety of images of cowgirls in popular fiction (particularly in the heydey of the dime novels), in early movie serials and films through mid-century, and in songs, jokes, and stories. The interpretations of the cowgirl of the past are very much a part of our heritage: "She remains our foremost genuine American heroine.... Because she is a horsewoman, she always seems a little above us, someone to look up to, someone moving elusively away."

And the story isn't over. Some women still run ranches, ride in rodeos,

BOOK REVIEWS

and snap out broncos.

LOIS MARCHINO

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WHEN SIX-GUNS RULED: OUTLAW TALES OF THE SOUTH-WEST by Marc Simmons. Santa Fe: Ancient City Press, \$20.95/ \$9.95

Marc Simmons is well known to El Pasoans for his many books about the region, his weekly column in the *El Paso Times*, and as a past lecturer for the Historical Society. He is the history buff's ideal—a meticulously correct historian who can spin a yarn with clarity and sustained interest.

This collection of vignettes is grouped according to the parts of New Mexico in which they occurred. Lawlessness did not favor one section over the other; hangings, train and stage holdups, cattle rustling, and the like could be found pretty much across the landscape in territorial days.

Some of the outlaws are familiar-James Kirker, who collected scalps for bounty, Indian or no; "Black Jack" Ketchum, subject of a remarkable hanging; Billy the Kid, who likely did not kill as many men as his reputation claimed. Most of the stories, however, are less well known. An example is the murder of Captain Dumas Provencher in San Rafael in 1888. Simmons evidently is the only historian to pursue this event.

The book is illustrated with numerous photos from major New Mexico archival collections.

NANCY HAMILTON
President, Western Writers of America



A TROLLEY MISCELLANY... from page 151

McKelligon Canyon-tell me that a lot of other El Pasoans look upon the trolley-era as a part of our history worth remembering and celebrating.☆

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Henry J. Leinback, Jr., El Paso Electric Company Transportation Division: A Tentative History

El Paso Electric Company employees Lucky Leverett, Skip Clark, and Warren Skidmore

Karl Tesch, Michael Slaman, and Manny Escontrias-all Sun City Area Transit employees at the time they were interviewd in the early 1980s. *El Paso Herald-Post*, August 15, 1991

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