

# PASSWORD



THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Volume 54, No. 1 • El Paso, Texas • Spring, 2009

THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# Corporate Sponsors

*We appreciate the support of our business and professional sponsors  
and we encourage our readers to patronize these businesses.*

**AINSA HUTSON LLP**

5809 Acacia Cr.  
El Paso, Texas 79912

**BANK OF THE WEST**

500 N. Mesa  
El Paso, Texas 79901

**CGN DESIGNS**

6927 N. Mesa  
El Paso, Texas 79912

**CSJ INVESTMENTS**

El Paso, Texas 79912

**CURREY ADKINS**

200 S. Alto Mesa  
El Paso, Texas 79912

**EL PASO, INC.  
& PDX PRINTING**

100 Porfirio Diaz  
El Paso, Texas 79902

**GADDY CONSTRUCTION**

5875 Cromo Dr.  
El Paso, Texas 79912

**GREATER EL PASO  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**

10 Civic Center Pl.  
El Paso, Texas 79901

**HUNT FAMILY FOUNDATION**

4401 N. Mesa  
El Paso, Texas 79902

**KASCO VENTURES**

1600 E. Fourth Ave.  
El Paso, Texas 79901

**KOHLHAAS CORPORATION**

6831 El Paso Dr.  
El Paso, Texas 79905

**JAN GYNES McNUTT**

ERA  
900 Resler  
El Paso, Texas 79912

**MITHOFF BURTON  
PARTNERS**

123 W. Mills Ave., Suite 500  
El Paso, Texas 79901

**THE NILAND COMPANY**

320 N. Clark Dr.  
El Paso, Texas 79905

**ODESSA ENTERPRISES**

1014 N. Mesa  
El Paso, Texas 79902

**THE SCHATZMAN COMPANY**

200 Bartlett Dr.  
El Paso, Texas 79912

**SCOTTHULSE P.C.**

201 E. Main  
El Paso, Texas 79901

**SMG-EL PASO CONVENTION  
& VISITORS BUREAU**

1 Civic Center Plaza, Santa Fe St.  
El Paso, Texas 79901

**TVO GROUP**

221 N. Kansas  
El Paso, Texas 79901

**UNITED BANK OF EL PASO  
DEL NORTE**

125 Mesa Hills Dr.  
El Paso, Texas 79912



# Password

VOLUME 54, NO. 1  
SPRING, 2009  
EL PASO, TEXAS

## EDITORIAL STAFF

Patricia H.  
Worthington  
*Editor*

Dr. Ann Gabbert  
Claudia Rivers  
*Associate Editors*

## Editorial Board

Rebecca Craver  
Richard Field  
Amy Paschich  
Harvey Plaut  
Mary Ann Plaut

Graphic Artist  
Denise K. Mankin

Historical  
Society Logo  
José Cisneros

ARTICLES APPEARING  
IN THIS JOURNAL  
ARE ABSTRACTED  
AND INDEXED IN  
HISTORICAL ABSTRACTS  
and  
AMERICA: HISTORY  
AND LIFE

## CONTENTS

<b>The Fire Fight at Polvo Ford, Texas, March 22, 1918.....</b>	<b>3</b>
GERALD G. RAUN	
<b>In Memoriam .....</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Hut Brown .....</b>	<b>15</b>
RUTH E. GILLETT	
<b>Corrections .....</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Resisting the Ku Klux Klan in El Paso .....</b>	<b>19</b>
CAROL PRICE MILLER	
<b>For the Record- Correcting Myths &amp; Misconceptions.....</b>	<b>27</b>
RICHARD BUSSELL	
<b>El Paso CAP Courier Patrol.....</b>	<b>35</b>
WILLIAM E. MUELLER, AS TOLD BY JOE R. MYERS	
<b>Lecturas .....</b>	<b>46</b>
<b>Francis Parker Photographs in the Archives of the El Paso County Historical Society .....</b>	<b>48</b>
<b>Editor's Message .....</b>	<b>51</b>



*Parade through Pioneer Plaza celebrating El Paso's anniversary, about 1884. Central, Orndorff and Sheldon Hotels shown.*

See page 48 for more Francis Parker Photographs from the El Paso County Historical Society Archives.

*All photos in this publication not otherwise credited are from the archives of the El Paso County Historical Society.*

© 2009 The El Paso County Historical Society, El Paso, Texas

THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY DISCLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE STATEMENTS AND OPINIONS OF THE CONTRIBUTORS.

Entered as periodical mail at El Paso, Texas

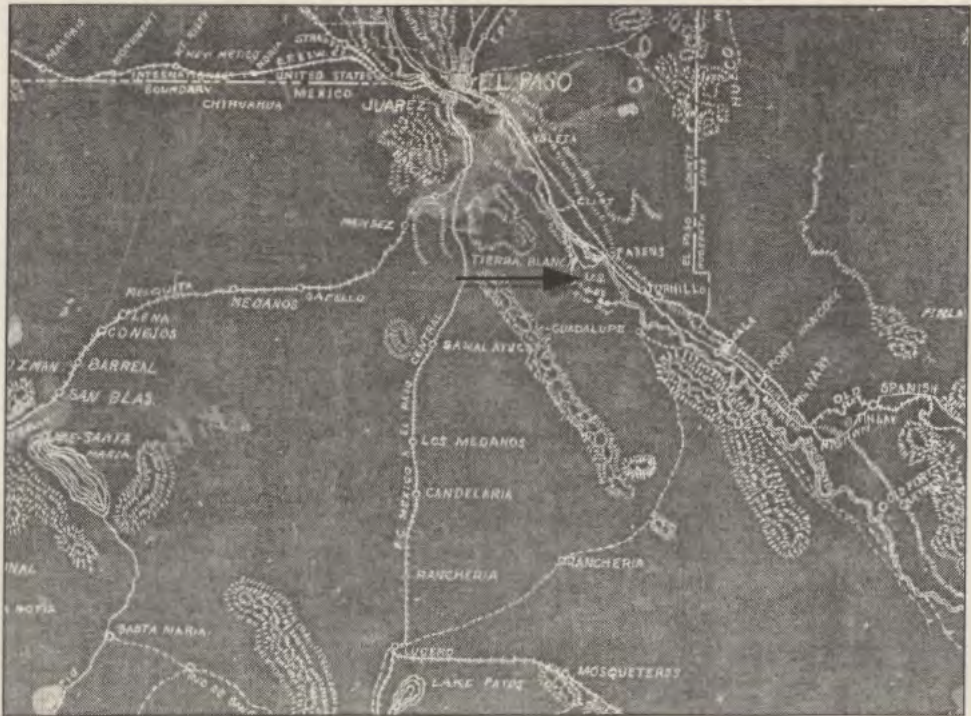
# The Fire Fight at Polvo Ford, Texas, March 22, 1918

By Gerald G. Raun



uring the turbulence of the Mexican Revolution, particularly from 1911 to 1920, events along the U.S.-Mexico border were a continual problem and cause of concern to the United States Army, Federal and State officials, and citizens living on or near the border. There were numerous clashes, mostly minor, between the U.S. soldiers, Border Patrolmen, Texas Rangers, other law enforcement officers, and Mexican troops, rebels, and bandits. Raids into the United States, particularly Texas, were fairly common after 1914. As the continuing battles took their toll on the northern Mexican states, increasingly desperate Mexicans looked to the United States as a source of money, food, arms and ammunition, clothes, and other supplies. For the most part, these items could only be obtained by raids upon isolated ranches, trading posts, and small border villages. It was also not unusual for random shots from Mexico to kill or wound American civilians and soldiers.<sup>1</sup>

One such minor skirmish broke out in March 1918 between a troop of the U.S. 5th Cavalry and Mexican soldiers of Fiscal Guards at Polvo Ford, south of Fabens, Texas.<sup>2</sup> A troop of the 5th Cavalry was stationed at Fabens and maintained regular patrols along the Rio Grande. On March 22, 1918 one of these patrols, consisting of one non-commissioned officer and seven privates, was dispatched to the vicinity of Polvo Ford.<sup>3</sup> At 11:00 A.M. the patrol had dismounted, unsaddled, and was resting about two hundred yards north of the Polvo Ford. One man, Private Tufts, was designated as sentry, and he walked down the river bank about one hundred yards towards the east ford.



*From Footnote 2. This is a 1924 War Department map. Polvo Ford is not on the map. However, please note the old river bed notation south of Fabens and note that the area between it and the town of Fabens is U.S. territory in 1924. It is the only U.S. area directly South of Fabens.*

Private Tufts observed one Mexican galloping along the opposite side of the river. This individual was followed by a group of scattered riders which Tufts was unable to count. When the first rider spotted Tufts, he fired a shot at him. Tufts returned the fire but missed the rider. After firing another shot the Mexican rode behind a bush and as he emerged on the other side, Tufts fired again, and the Mexican fell off his horse into the weeds.

The rest of the Mexican riders halted in the brush and some of them dismounted. All began to fire at Private Tufts who took cover. At that time the mounted Mexicans charged down to the river and crossed into the United States. Private Tufts, wisely deciding that discretion was the better point of valor, ran toward Polvo, being fired upon as he went. Tufts later estimated that the hostile group numbered about 50.

Corporal Arthur G. Halstead, the NCO in charge of the patrol, heard the shots and, leaving one man with the horses, led the patrol toward the river where they discovered the Mexicans com-

ing at a charge across the river firing and shouting. After forming a skirmish line the patrol returned fire but was forced to retreat about fifty yards. Another skirmish line was formed, and the troopers began to return fire.

Seeing that his patrol was in danger of being surrounded, Halstead ordered his men to saddle. While the men were attempting to saddle the horse assigned to Private Tufts, it was shot and killed. The patrol was driven from their horses at which time they formed another skirmish line and succeeded in driving the attackers back. After mounting, the patrol retreated to Polvo with the Mexicans in pursuit and shots hitting around them. Upon reaching Polvo the patrol dismounted, drove the Mexicans back, and then pursued them about three hundred yards toward the river. Halstead detailed a man to report to the troop commander Captain J. K. Colwell by telephone and, with the rest of the patrol, advanced, driving the Mexicans back across the river. Both sides settled into cover in the brush and began sniping.

Upon receipt of the report, at about 11:30 a.m. Captain Colwell with five men proceeded toward Polvo by automobile. Lieutenant J. A. Stansell was ordered to assemble the rest of the troop and follow, leaving two patrols of eight men in camp. On his arrival near the ford, Corporal Halstead reported that the Mexicans were in the brush and behind a small irrigation ditch across the river. "I took my five men and worked west about one hundred yards to get an oblique fire, we could see the Mexicans every so often rise up and look over a brush or run from cover to cover. We did not fire at them."<sup>4</sup>

Captain Colwell determined that there were three Mexican snipers in a ravine west of the ford. They were out of sight and he decided that the only way to stop the sniping was to send a detachment across the river. "I ordered the patrol to cover the Mexicans and sent the First Sergeant and five men over to run the Mexicans out of the ravine."<sup>5</sup>

Protected by the high banks of the river, the detachment managed to cross without being fired upon. Once they crossed and approached the ravine they came under fire from the ravine and from the brush to the east. "They returned the fire, killing one Mexican who was mounted. The other two Mexicans who were in the ravine fell and disappeared in the brush. Whether they were hit or not is not known."<sup>6</sup>

It was at this point that Lieutenant Stansell arrived with the rest of the troop. Standing on the river bank Captain Colwell asked the First Sergeant if the ravine was clear. Receiving an affirmative answer the Captain ordered the detachment back to the United States side and to bring the dead Mexican's horse, "...to see if we could tell whether they were soldiers, river riders, or outlaws." The horse had a bloody stock saddle with a rifle boot and a Winchester carbine. At this point Captain Colwell reported, "While I was standing on the bank I heard some one shout: 'Look out' and saw a Mexican behind a tree ready to fire. Two of the men who were left west of the ford had been watching and fired at the same time. The Mexican fell behind the tree."<sup>7</sup> Colwell turned command over to Lieutenant Stansell and went to Polvo to report by telephone to District Headquarters. "While returning in the automobile I heard shots fired from the Mexican side and then shots from the troops. I jumped out of the car and ran to the river where the troops were engaged."<sup>8</sup>

During the time that the Captain was gone the sentries reported to Lieutenant Stansell that they could see about fifteen or twenty Mexicans among some trees about five hundred yards from the river. Then a party of six or eight charged out of the trees, waving their rifles, shooting and shouting. It would appear that the Mexicans still thought that there was only a small patrol of U.S. Cavalry on the river. The charge led right to the ford at which time the cavalry opened fire. "One Mexican fell, both he and his horse killed, in the open on the river bank. The others fell in the brush and their horses ran off. I believe that they were all killed, none left the field."<sup>9</sup> At about 1:15 P.M. most of the action had quieted down with only shouting from the Mexicans who were riding around in the trees. Colwell reported that he could hear two loudly groaning, wounded Mexicans. Only one Mexican tried to get to the wounded. "We saw him and called in Spanish that he could safely come and get the dead and wounded, but he seemed afraid and took cover."<sup>10</sup>

Following this second engagement Captain Colwell dispatched 2nd Lieutenant Corwin Matthews to report to District Headquarters and to contact, by telephone, Fort Hancock, Fabens, Ysleta, the Lee More Ranch Patrol and to pass the message on to the Gaveling Patrol. Colwell's troop remained at the ford until 5:15 P.M. when a patrol of eight men arrived from Fort Hancock. Since the situation seemed to have calmed down he left a detach-



ment of eight men with two NCOs and returned with the rest of the troop to Fabens. In his report Captain Colwell stated that a number of civilians had joined the troops during the engagement. These included: Customs Inspector H. E. Griffins, Customs Inspector O'Neil, Texas Rangers J. C. Perkins, F. A. Black, and B. L. Pennington, and one unnamed Deputy Sheriff.

On receipt of Captain Colwell's report, Major General Read, commander of the El Paso District, ordered an investigation of the incident. Brigadier General Howze, Headquarters, 2nd Brigade 15th Cavalry Division, Fort Bliss, designated Major W. G. Muller to conduct the investigation. Major Muller obtained affidavits from the officers involved, a number of the enlisted men, as well as some of the civilians who were involved.<sup>11</sup>

Major Muller, accompanied by the Mexican Consul, Mr. Garcia, and his secretary, proceeded to Fabens to conduct an investigation. They arrived at Fabens at about 9:30, March 27 and collected a number of sworn statements of eyewitnesses which had been obtained by Captain Colwell. The team went to the ford at which time Mr. Garcia expressed the desire to cross the river in order to obtain evidence from the Fiscal Guards and to observe the ground wherein Mexicans were killed. "He invited me to accompany him, so I did, taking with me Captain Colwell, Captain [W. H. H.] Morris, Sgt. [John G.] Thompson, and the stenographer, all unarmed. Upon our arrival on the Mexican side of the river we were met by Captain Leogardo Zandejos (Zendejas?) and another officer of the Mexican Army, Vicente Arroyo, Commander of the 'Guardia Fiscales' at San Ignacio, and about twenty armed Mexicans, ten of whom acknowledged to have been in the skirmish..."<sup>12</sup>

According to Captain Arroyo he had only eight men available for duty on March 22, and that two of these, both of whom were killed, were on guard at the ford. He also stated that at about 9:00 A.M. they came on foot to San Ignacio to report that the Americans had opened fire upon them, killing their horse. Arroyo immediately notified, "...Captain Zandejas, who accompanied him to the bank of the river with about 18 men including fiscal guards, rangers, and soldiers not uniformed."<sup>13</sup> Captain Arroyo said,

Upon arrival at the Ford they were met by a volley from the American side which killed one of their horses. They replied to the fire, retired 100 'brazos' from the bank of the river and sent a messenger to advise Lieutenant Colonel at Guadalupe, that this was about 9:30 A.M.,

they then went to San Ignacio, rested awhile and returned to the bank of the river about 10:00 A.M. That when they arrived again one Iscarsiga (*sic.*) a fiscal guard was killed by the American troops firing across the border. That the firing continued throughout the morning and that three more of his men were killed. That his men did not cross nor attempt to cross the river during the skirmish.<sup>14</sup>

The Mexican Army captain corroborated the statement of Captain Arroyo in every detail. He stated emphatically that they never had more than twenty men on the river bank. "He also stated that he ordered his men to fire across the river at the Americans, as the Americans were firing to kill: that he is positive none of his men crossed the river, that four men were killed and one wounded, the latter died at midnight that same night, that some eight Americans crossed to the Mexican side about 11:30 A.M. and that they took with them a horse, complete with saddle equipment, and a carbine belonging to one of the men killed in the skirmish."<sup>15</sup> Other Mexican participants in the incident swore that none of them had ever crossed, or attempted, to cross the river.

Major Muller reported,

"We then visited the various places where the dead Mexicans were found, one Iscarsiga (*sic.*) was killed near the river and about 100 yards up from the ford; Urbano Armiesta was mortally wounded near the ford and died about 50 yards from the bank. Pedro Rivera and his horse were killed about 15 yards from the river bank and near the ford. Corpl. U. Reyes was wounded about 35 yards from the bank and died in San Ignacio that night. All of these men were apparently on the Mexican side when shot."<sup>16</sup>

When Major Muller and his group returned across the river the members of Corporal Halstead's patrol were questioned.

"Corpl. Holstead<sup>17</sup> and Private Tufts were interviewed by the undersigned and declared substantially as shown in their affidavits (Exhibits #12 and # 18). It is my belief that Private Tufts was so excited when he first saw the Mexicans enter the river; that he left his post and retreated into the mesquite. His failure to join the patrol before it left for Polvo and his slight knowledge of the events which took place after he was fired upon, bear out

this belief. He states that he saw a Mexican drop from his horse; all the dead Mexicans were found over 250 yards down the river on the opposite bank."<sup>18</sup>

Investigation on the United States side of the river turned up numerous empty, recently fired shells which, according to Major Muller, established the fact that the Mexicans had, indeed, crossed the river and discharged their rifles. "Four of these shells are being sent with this report together with a Krag cartridge found on the spot where one of the Fiscal Guards was killed, on the Mexican side. I showed these shells to Mr. Garcia and remarked that they were the same as the Mexicans (sic.) guards carried in their belts; he made no comment, however, and remained silent whenever I referred to the subject."<sup>19</sup> In his report Major Muller came to the following conclusions:

1. Shots were exchanged between members of the Guardia Fiscal from San Ignacio, Mexico and Private Tufts of Troop "A", 5th Cavalry at the Polvo ford on the Rio Grande but that it was impossible to determine who fired the first shot.
2. Immediately thereafter a force of approximately twenty-five Mexicans did cross the river and opened fired on the U.S. patrol at which time a horse belonging to the U.S. Government was killed.
3. The Mexicans remained on the American side until they heard the patrol returning from Polvo and that none of the Mexicans were hit during this first skirmish.
4. The Mexican casualties were sustained later when Captain Colwell's troops fired across the river or when Sergeant Thompson's detachment crossed the river to eliminate the snipers in the ravine.

An additional report on the incident was filed by Captain W. W. H. Morris, 34th Infantry, who was assigned to the District Intelligence Office, Fort Bliss.<sup>20</sup> Captain Morris, who accompanied Major Muller and Consul Garcia across the river, made a number of observations which have a bearing upon the final decision regarding this incident.

"Pursuant to instructions from the District Intelligence Officer I went to Fabens, Texas, March 26th, 1918 to investigate the shooting at Polvo, Texas, March 22nd. Knowing that Major W. G. Muller, A.G.D., N.A. had been

detailed to secure documentary evidence, and also to investigate the facts of the case, I limited myself to trying to find sign and indications as to the cause of the fight and who was to blame for the occurrence."<sup>21</sup>

Morris examined the carbine and the stock saddle taken from the Mexican side. The carbine was a Winchester "...model 1895, Cal. 30, Army No. 83108. On one side of the butt the letter W was cut in and on the other side of the butt the letters FB. The saddle had marked on the pommel a large R."<sup>22</sup> After crossing the river at the invitation of Consul Garcia and Major Muller, Captain Morris made a special effort to note and record the types of arms and ammunition carried by the Mexicans.

"...I saw the following kinds: Frankford Arsenal, 1910 (Krag Ammunition), Re. U.M.G. 30, U.S.A., W.R.A. Co. 30 G, 1906, and 39 long W.R.A. pistol ammunition. These men carried the Winchester carbines, model 1895, the same as I examined at Fabens. I asked Consul Garcia, if any of the Mexicans present were soldiers. Two Mexicans spoke up who were dressed with (*sic.*) the rest with no uniform and they carried Mauser Rifles with W.R.A. 7 mm ammunition."<sup>23</sup>

Upon returning to the United States side of the river Captain Morris searched for spent shells and other evidence. His testimony and evidence submitted in support clearly indicated to him that empty shells found on the U.S. side were from weapons carried by the *Guardia Fiscal* and the Mexican Army. He also wrote, "on the Mexican side from where Pvt. Tufts said the first shot was fired, I could see plainly tracks to the river and tracks along the side of the river up to the ford where the Mexicans must have crossed. Consul Garcia (*sic.*) stated "That the one who fired the first shot was responsible for the whole thing."<sup>24</sup> Captain Morris's conclusions, which were based more upon physical evidence than verbal accounts, indicated strongly that the Mexicans did indeed cross the river to the United States side and did engage in combat with elements of Troop "A". He stated that the spent shells which he found on the U.S. side were identical to those used by the Fiscal Guards and the Mexican Army and were not used by the United States troops. He submitted physical evidence to substantiate his findings.

Perhaps more telling were his observations regarding Private Tufts dead horse.

"The U.S. cavalry horse that was shot just above the eye must have died instantly. As the underbrush was so high around the horse to the river, it could not have been possible (*sic.*) shot from the Mexican side, as I could not see Mexico from where the horse was lying. If this horse was shot from Mexico there must have been several un-aimed shots fired and by chance one shot hit the horse just above the eye, as nobody could have possibly aimed a gun at the horse from the Mexican side."<sup>25</sup> Since Consul Garcia had stated that, "...the two Mexican soldiers who were first fired on are dead and that the one (either American or Mexican) who fired the first shot is to blame for the whole fight." Morris concluded that the evidence clearly pointed to the fact that the Mexicans, "...are entirely to blame for the fight."<sup>26</sup>

The reports of Major Muller and Captain Morris and physical evidence were accompanied by a number of sworn statements of observers and participants which corroborated the conclusion that the fire fight was initiated by the Mexicans. Predictably the Division Judge Advocate, 15th Cavalry Division, El Paso, Texas delivered to the Commanding General, 15th Cavalry Division the following opinion. "It is found that nothing illegal was done by any member of the patrol or any of the troops that joined the patrol later. It is found that the officers and men of the United States Troops all acted within their legal rights under all circumstances. It is recommended that no further action be taken in this matter."<sup>27</sup>

While this was a relatively minor incident it was not atypical. Frequent reports of shots being fired across the border from Mexico are found in Army documents and border newspapers. In the Polvo skirmish it would appear that about eight Mexicans were killed while the U.S. casualty list included only one horse. Again, this is not atypical as reports of most of the engagements between U.S. troops and Mexican soldiers or bandits almost invariably indicate significant casualties among the Mexicans and very few U.S. soldiers killed or wounded. One might be tempted to speculate that the "body counts" were being exaggerated as in more modern times. Probably not, because the U.S. military placed very strong emphasis upon marksmanship and soldiers spent many hours and many rounds of ammunition on target ranges. It is unlikely that the Mexican *revoltosos* or the Mexican Army had the time, ammunition, or the inclination during the revolution

to indulge in target practice. It should also be noted that, during this engagement the Mexicans were firing from horseback. A running horse does not make a stable firing platform. The U.S. troops were dismounted during the affray and were able to deliver more accurate fire.

One comment by a Mexican soldier, captured by American troops following the raid on Columbus, New Mexico, may shed some light on this matter. During the Punitive Expedition, after the raid, United States cavalry troops engaged in a minor skirmish with *villistas* at Guerrero, Chihuahua. One of the Mexican captives, relating the story to American interrogators, had the following to say: "In reflecting over the encounter with the American troops it appeared strange that they should dismount to fight, leaving their horses, in contrast with our own usual tactics of fighting mounted."<sup>28</sup> Despite Hollywood histrionics it is almost impossible to shoot accurately while on horseback.

---

**GERALD G. RAUN** was a retired Professor of Zoology and a former Chair of the Department of Biology at Angelo State University, San Angelo, Texas. He lived in Alpine, Texas where he was an Adjunct Professor at Sul Ross State University. His research was about the Mexican Revolution and events along the border during that time. He served on the Publications Committee for the Center of Big Bend Studies at Sul Ross until the time of his death in March 2009.

#### NOTES

1. On September 10, 1919 the Commanding General, Southern Department, Fort Sam Houston, Texas was requested to furnish Washington, D.C. with a report of casualties suffered along the border and whether or not the casualties were caused by firing from across the border. Colonel G. A. Weiser, Headquarters Eagle Pass District, Eagle Pass, replied that between October 1, 1916 and September 11, 1919 that no casualties were sustained between Eagle Pass and Del Rio. The Brownsville District also reported no casualties. The situation was different from the Lower Big Bend region to El Paso. Marfa District reported two soldiers and three civilians were killed and three soldiers and one civilian wounded. All of these casualties were the result of bandit raids on the Tigner, Neville, and Brite ranches. The El Paso District had considerable more problems reporting three soldiers killed along with eight civilians. Sixteen soldiers and four civilians were wounded. Sixteen incidents were the result of shots being fired across the river from Mexico. The majority of these, but not all, occurred during the battle for Juárez June 15-16, 1919. Fire from both *carranzistas* and *villistas* was credited for inflicting casualties. Record Group 407, The Adjutant General's Office, File 580.83 to 853, Box 1373. Copy in the Archives of the Big Bend, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas.

2. There was, at this time, another Polvo (now the village of Redford) on the Rio Grande south of Presidio, Texas. These are two different places. Fabens is about 15 miles downstream from El Paso and neither Polvo nor Polvo Ford appear on modern maps.
3. Captain J. K. Colwell to Commanding General, El Paso District, National Archives, RG 407, Adjutant General's Office, Box 1372. Copy in the Archives of the Big Bend, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas.
4. Ibid.
5. Ibid.
6. Ibid.
7. Ibid. This was corroborated by the sworn statements of the Texas Rangers, Perkins, Black, and Pennington who were present at the time.
8. Ibid.
9. Ibid.
10. Ibid.
11. Muller to Howze, National Archives, RG 407, Adjutant General's Office, Box 1372. Copy in the Archives of the Big Bend, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas.
12. Ibid.
13. Ibid.
14. Ibid.
15. Ibid.
16. Ibid.
17. Captain Colwell's report and the signed statements all spell the Corporal's name as Halstead. Major Muller's report substitutes the a with an o.
18. Mueller to Howze
19. Ibid.
20. National Archives, RG 393, Pt. III, Geographic Districts and Substations, Entry 142, El Paso District, Report of Intelligence Officer. Copy in the Archives of the Big Bend, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas.
21. Ibid.
22. Ibid.
23. Ibid.
24. Ibid.
25. Ibid.
26. Ibid.
27. Captain J. K. Colwell to Commanding General, El Paso District, National Archives, RG 407, Adjutant General's Office, Box 1372, 7th endorsement. Copy in the Archives of the Big Bend, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas.
28. Adj. Gen. Office 52384662 & 52377632, Rec. Gp. 94, National Archives, Wash., D.C., pp.47.

## In Memoriam

**DR. EVAN HAYWOOD ANTONE**

*1922-2009*

President, El Paso County Historical Society

Director, Texas Western Press

Professor of English

Author

Editor

Collector



**BARBARA PRICE CURLIN**

*1924-2009*

Charter Life Member, El Paso County Historical Society

President, R. B. Price Family Foundation

Life-Long, Third Generation El Pasoan

1946 Sun Bowl Queen

Civic Leader

A Kind and Generous Person; Greatly Admired

.....

From a 1941 El Paso High School Spur

Written by a Classmate:

Miss Barbara Price, Football Queen

"The most natural, unaffected girl on the campus.

When you think of the things she could have and doesn't,  
you can readily see why she's got 18 pictures in here."



# Hut Brown

By Ruth E. Gillett



With the 2007-08 school year came the opening of Hut Brown Middle School, named after Harry Stavley Brown. Mr. Brown was born in Del Rio, Texas, on May 28, 1929. His

little sister could not pronounce Harry and called him "Huttie," which evolved into "Hut." A school bus driver noticed a very young Hut playing on a cattle guard and stated, "You are big enough to go to school." Hut got on the bus and began his formal education at the age of four. On the first day of school, a neighbor asked "Did you learn anything?" He replied, "I guess I didn't; I have to go back tomorrow." Hut graduated from Sanderson High School at the age of 15. He then went to Texas Christian University and received his BS with a major in Physical Education and minors in Biology and History. Later he received his Masters in Education from Texas Western College (now UTEP) and lacked only his dissertation from completing a Ph.D. in Education from New Mexico State University.

His first teaching job was at Fabens at the age of 20. In 1952 he took a job at El Paso High School; that is where I met Mr. Brown. In the 1950s he was assistant football coach, assistant basketball coach, and assistant track coach. In his spare time he taught "Civics and Modern Problems." He was chairman of the Social Studies Department and EPHS's annual, *The Spur*, was dedicated to him in 1960.

Mr Brown had many characteristics that made him an outstanding educator. First, in his civics class, he taught responsible citizenship. All students were encouraged to vote and to be con-



*Hut Brown as Coach*



*Hut Brown's Sanderson High School graduation picture*

tributors to their local community. Second, Mr. Brown was a problem solver. When he became assistant principal at Andress High School in 1961, he realized that there were more students than classrooms to accommodate them. Mr. Brown spent the entire weekend before the opening of Andress to combine classes. When school opened, the problem was solved; each student was assigned to a teacher and had a classroom seat.

A third characteristic was that Mr. Brown knew how to mentor teachers. In 1961, I started my teaching career at Andress and Mr. Brown was my mentor. He encouraged me and helped me see the humorous side of

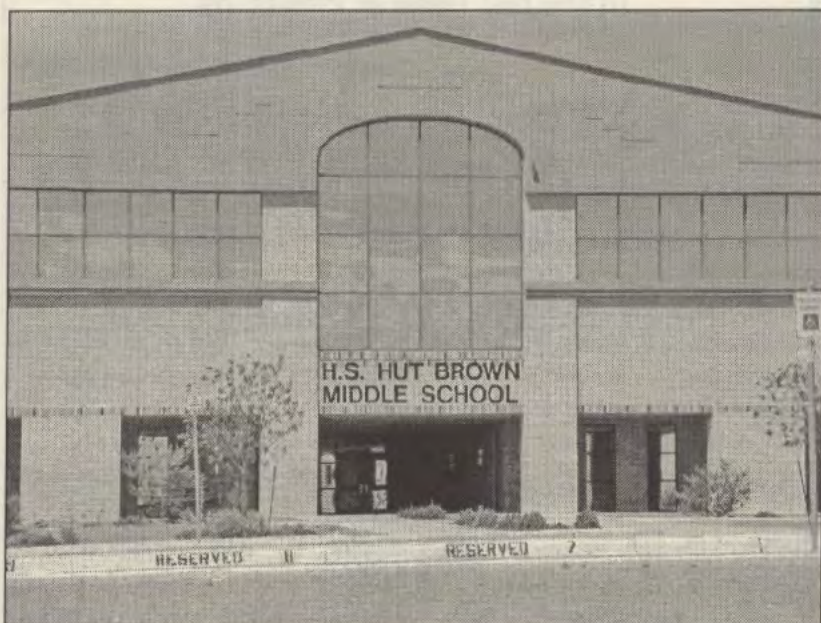
problems. One day in 1963, a student lost his breakfast in my classroom. Mr. Brown later said when I went to lunch, "I see you got some instant feedback on your lesson today!" He demonstrated daily the importance of having a sense of humor. Fourth, Mr. Brown wanted students to understand the importance of discipline. He knew that responsible adults must have discipline to succeed; therefore, the only way to learn was to have discipline in the classroom. He had his own "board of education." I remember a student who started a fight before the bell. I sent him to Mr. Brown and he received several swats. For the rest of the year, that student behaved. A fifth characteristic was that Mr. Brown had the strength and integrity to be a successful administrator. One time when Mr. Brown was principal at Andress, factions of students were in conflict with each other. Mr. Brown had the strength to call the factions together. He also called in the parents. Together they worked out the disturbance.

After his service at Andress, he was promoted to Associate Superintendent of the Northeast Area of the El Paso ISD. Hut Brown retired in 1990. Mayor Susanne Azar honored him by proclaiming May 13, 1990, as "Hut Brown Day."

Throughout his life he was active in the community. For 35 years he was Commander of the El Paso County Sheriff's Reserve. He and his wife were members of the Sun Bowl Host Committee for several years. They participated in CASI, Chili Appreciation Society International, which contributes funds for college scholarships. One of Mr. Brown's great joys was to read at elementary schools which was enjoyed by all.

In appreciation for Mr. Brown's many achievements as an educator, Hut Brown Middle School opened on El Paso's west side and was dedicated on Nov. 20, 2007. Mr. Brown helped with selection of the bulldog mascot and the school colors of teal, silver, and black. Students were so thrilled to meet him at the dedication that they asked for his autograph.

Mr. Brown died at the age of 78 on December 14, 2007. Much of his strength came from his wife, Jackie Bramwell, of Fabens. He was very proud of his son, Jeff, his daughter, Debbie Overby, son-in-law, Steve Overby, and grandsons Peter and Andrew Overby. Debbie has the passion of her parents and is now a teacher in Rowlett High School in the Dallas area. Steve, her husband, is assistant director of purchasing for the Dallas County Community College District.



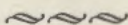
*H. S. "Hut" Brown Middle School, front entrance*

Mr. Brown stated that he taught at a unique time in the El Paso Public Schools. He had the respect of the students, teachers, and parents, and knew how to instill excellence in education.

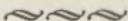
**RUTH E. GILLETT**, a native of El Paso, graduated from El Paso High School and received her bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at Austin and a master's degree in education from The University of Texas at El Paso. She was part of the original faculty of Andress High School where she taught for thirty-nine years and was "Teacher of the Year" in the year 2000. She currently is a docent at the Magoffin Home and a member of First Baptist church. She is a fourth generation Gillett.

## CORRECTIONS FOR PASSWORD, WINTER 2008

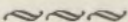
My sincerest apology for the following errors  
in the last issue of *Password*.



Joseph P. Hammond made the tribute to  
J. Sam Moore, Jr. This correction applies to  
the Table of Contents, the article beginning  
on page 167, and the Index to volume 53.



Frank Mangan died on February 7, 2009.



# Resisting the Ku Klux Klan in El Paso

By Carol Price Miller



El Paso artist Eugene B. Thurston first realized in high school that he liked to draw, and he started cartooning for the El Paso High school newspaper, the *Tatler*. He even stayed an extra year at El Paso High to enjoy being the editor of that paper, as well as the main cartoonist.

This allowed him to join the first graduating class of the brand new school on Schuster Avenue in 1917. After high school Thurston continued drawing and produced greeting cards to sell at the Popular and White House department stores. He did not have his own press until after I was born.

In 1923, Eugene Thurston's skill as a cartoonist caused him to become involved in a local situation that had kept the political pot boiling for many months. He used his cartooning skills to help fight the Ku Klux Klan when it tried to take over El Paso's government. In 1922, the Frontier Klan gained a hold on the public school board and was trying to gain control of the city government. Frontier Klan No. 100 had been steadily gaining strength because there was some concern that the "Roaring Twenties" were the beginning of the end for El Paso's conservative values and traditions. The local Klan, insisting it was neither racist nor intolerant, promised to make El Paso a better place in which to live, with more law and order and less crime, like prostitution and home burglaries.

On March 10, 1922, a thousand Klansmen in full regalia gathered in the western foothills near the present day Kern Place to initiate three hundred new members. Small groups clustered around scattered fires that radiated out into the desert cactus and

yucca for more than a mile from a central bonfire. License plates were covered and incoming roads guarded. A similar initiation took place in the Upper Valley on May 30, 1922. It was rumored that many of El Paso's leading citizens belonged to the Klan for a short time.

Following their success with the school board election, the Klan backed the Preston and Gardner ticket on the municipal election ballot against State Senator Richard M. Dudley for mayor and A. B. Poe and others for city council. Thurston produced at least five large anti-Klan cartoons. He illustrated one newspaper article, "Shall El Paso Be a Ku Klux Town," with a picture of a Frontier Klansman/politician full of hot air. Dick Dudley, who used to say he "never ran away from a fight," vowed to expose this "endless chain of hate" with its "high sounding principles," and did, in fact, prevail with a vote of 7,572 to 5,432, helped in part by the Thurston drawings ridiculing the Klan. Thurston's daughters later attended Dudley school, named after El Paso's mayor Richard M. Dudley.

*All the drawings and the political newspaper are from the collection of Holly Cox, one of Eugene Thurston's daughters.*



# GREATER EL PASO

EL PASO, TEXAS, MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1923.

## Shall El Paso Be A Ku Klux Town?

El Paso is just now confronted with what amounts to a political crisis in her history. More is at stake this week for the good or ill of the future El Paso than has ever been put into any one week of her history.

In the past El Paso has grown and prospered; her people have been happy and contented, for men of all faiths and creeds have mingled together as public spirited citizens. Such a spirit among us has in the past made El Paso a good place to live in. If it has not been a city of brotherly love, it has at least been free from the blighting spirit of suspicion, hate and discord.

No man in the past has had cause to fear his neighbor, to suspect his neighbor of secret plotting, to wonder whether or not his neighbor was aligned covertly with the covert purposes of a clandestine organization of any character.

Now for the first time in the history of El Paso a secret political organization has put forth candidates for municipal offices and upon whose election or defeat the people at large are charged with a great responsibility to themselves, to their neighbors and to the city as a whole, for if the Ku Klux candidates are elected no man knows or can not know what the future may develop, because it is as certain as anything in this world can be that if the Klan ticket is elected El Paso will not be governed by the mayor and city council in open session, but by the invisible organization of Klansmen back of the Gardner ticket and who have secretly but deliberately conspired to take the city government from the people as a whole and to use the machinery of the municipality for its own veiled and masked purposes.

We have a great deal of PUBLIC assurance as to the principles the Klan stands for—Americanism, law enforcement, the upholding of the courts, and a lot of other high-sounding things that the Klan is SUPPOSED to stand for. But the Klan professes to be one thing while it is in fact something entirely different.

It is not what the Klan PRO-FESSES to be that people object to; it is what the Klan DOES and the way of doing things that people object to. Not even the rank and file of the Klan is permitted to know of the workings HIGHER UP of the Klan.

As a matter of fact the Klan does not seem to have any fixed set of principles, and the great fascination it has for certain people is in its FLEXIBILITY. It stands for anything its local membership desire. In one locality it is anti-negro; in another place it is anti-Jew; in another anti-Catholic. In El Paso it is a secret political organization endeavoring to

## Americanism Then And Americanism Now



The Mexican Vote Then and the Klan Vote Now, Or How Things Do Change.

If the members of the Ku Klux Klan in El Paso are willing to have themselves delivered to the Gardner ticket by a few shrewd leaders who have CEMENTED THEM IN for the Gardner ticket, that is THEIR business. THEY have a perfect right to be led to the polls on election day and to be voted by the political quines who are using them for political purposes, if they are willing to be led; and the leaders who are boasting that they have this Ku Klux vote in their vest pocket, as Gardner and others have said they have, are probably going to make good their boast.

In the years that have gone by, the business of herding the Mexican vote has gradually fallen into disrepute. Not only has it fallen into disrepute, but the Mexicans themselves have gradually asserted their self respect. They in time came to know that they were being made dupes of by shrewd politicians.

But then there is always something NEW IN POLITICS. There is no longer a Mexican vote, as we used to know it in the old days, but there is now a KLAN vote.

Think of it, ye patriots who have so warmly commended the old habit of "voting" the Mexicans in years ago!

The Klan vote is now the vote that shrewd politicians have CORELATED for election day. They will hold the Klansmen in a solid phalanx, they claim.

How has this been done? Why, the simplest thing in the world. The LEADERS have been having their meetings every Friday night and in the meetings they have whooped things up for the Klan candidates. They have done the THINKING for their "votes," have done their TALKING for them, and have led them to believe that THEY, the rank and file, are the saviours of their country.

### THE PROVOKED GARDNERITES.

The Gardnerites are much provoked because Senator Dudley is spending a couple of weeks in El Paso prior to the primary. If Dudley had remained in Austin while the campaign was on these same people would have been telling you that Dudley was afraid to come here and face the music; that he had turned his back and ran, and all that sort of stuff. But there is one thing sure—Dix

personal prejudices against all three races. It is a disseminator of political clap-trap; an incubator of racial and religious prejudices; a fomentor of HATE.

It causes people to hate who have never hated before. It has caused the Catholic, the Jew, the Mexican and the negro in El Paso to hate the men who are in the Klan.

Read the local Klan paper. It breathes only HATE. There is nothing of charity or judgment anywhere in it. Every paragraph is something that hurts SOMEBODY. It causes the man who otherwise is disposed to get along with all people to hate the man who publishes such a paper, and one hate produces another until finally people who never thought of hating before are hating SOMEBODY NOW.

This spirit of hate becomes an endless chain. It at last gathers all people into its coils. All become victims of an evil spirit that did not exist before.

Many good men were lured into the Klan in El Paso by reason of its high-sounding principles. Nearly all of these have withdrawn. Numbers of those who remain are good-intentioned people, of course. But the good-intentioned members have not the faculty for fundamental thinking; they have no faculty to reason from cause to effect. But they have been led to believe that the Klan is going to rectify some evil, fancied or real.

The Klan is fundamentally wrong in principle. It is out of place in a country which has been a land of refuge since the day the Pilgrims landed on our shores.

This is no country for clandestine political organizations, and such an organization CANNOT SURVIVE. It will go the way of numerous organizations which have already died in free America.

No party, no organization can survive, whose purpose is to antagonize another part of our citizenship. We all have a right to be here, and the right of the Klansman ends where the right of the Jew, the Catholic, the Negro or the Mexican begins. This is fundamental.

Thinking and informed men know this to be true. Ninety per cent of the newspapers of the country are opposed to it; practically all public men and statesmen are against it, and some of the most powerful and convincing arguments uttered against it have been uttered by Protestant preachers who see disaster to the peace of the country if the operations of the Klan are pursued in their logical culmination.

For these reasons it is all-important to El Paso that the word should go out to the world on next Saturday that El Paso is not a Klan town with a Klan mayor and a Klan city council. It should be made known to the world once and for all that FREE

(Continued on page 2)

## GREATER EL PASO

An Appreciation of  
Hon. R. M. Dudley

"Give Me a Man of Human Interest If You Would Give Me a Man to Trust."

Famous words by fools like me,  
But only God can make a true.

(Contributed.)

Long before an American poet, who died on the battlefields of France, had written his immortal poem to a tree, on the ground where he gave his life to his country, a citizen of El Paso had evinced his love for a tree that stood in the old court house yard where, tucked by lock, it had raised itself from struggling sapling to spreading leader. It was a beautiful tree that looked God in the face all day, and among whose bounteous boughs of green thousands of birds had built their nests through the loving season of many summers. But the insatiable demands of progress had decreed that the stately tree should be cut down and its trunk and branches hauled into stove wood. There seemed nothing else to be done with it.

The tree was 25 or 40 years old. Could it be transplanted and saved? Horticulturists said no. However, it was a tree to love. Eaten down, the nesting birds would be robbed of many homes. Children could no longer run upon the grass beneath its shade-spreading arms. The summer breeze could no longer pass to play among its rustling leaves. The passerby could no longer find someone for his gaze as he turned his eyes from the madcap of the street to the throbbing branches above the crowd.

Dick Dudley loved that tree, for it was such a tree as only God could make. He employed a force of men to transplant it. Deep and carefully they dug down beneath its roots. Carefully and laboriously they transported it dozens of blocks across the city to Kern Place.

The tree made an effort to live, but did not. However, it was no fault of Dick Dudley's that it died, for he had spent hundreds of dollars in this expression of love for nature; and I come now to say that a man who so loved a tree is, in the nature of things, a man who loves his fellow-men.

Give me a man of human interest if you would give me a man to trust; and if you would know why Dick Dudley is popular with his fellows, why he creates enthusiasm among them, know now that it is because he is full of human interest; because he believes in something; because he is unselfish; because he does not love a dollar more than he loves the things that a dollar will do.

Rough-spoken at times, it is said, he never speaks to hurt, but to convince. And his love for a tree is not by any means an isolated incident in his life. A man of large physique and of big thoughts, he is loved by the children everywhere.

If a child loves a man you will not look in vain for the diamond that his exterior conceals. Dick Dudley's house out at Kern Place is the play-

could vote they would vote for him as a unit.

Time and again during his visits to Austin, while in the legislature, Dick Dudley has assembled the El Paso students in the State University and given them a royal banquet. And if the university students could vote for him they would vote for him as a unit. He is the university student's friend because he is a man of human interest. He has spent his money freely where it would produce happiness in childhood or save a true. And Senator Dudley is by no means a rich man!

I have seen him stop and watch a train as it passed. Have you ever stopped to watch a train? Have you ever studied the turning wheels, the puffing, the throbbing of the great locomotive as it labored with its load? Have you ever thought of the men in the locomotive cab, the duties they have to perform and the responsibility devolving upon them; the man in the caboose and the vigilance imposed upon them? Have you ever paused to consider these things as the ground trembled beneath your feet and the roar of it all fascinated you? Have you ever wondered upon the wonder of it all—what man can do—the discovery of steam power—the vast amount of labor, skill, science, finance—all that is involved in the making of an engine and the operation of a railroad? I have. No doubt you have. I know that Dick Dudley has. I have seen him sleep and study and think about all these things. I have heard him say that a railroad train has never ceased to interest him. Perhaps you have had the same feelings; the same thoughts. If so, you are a person of human interest. Dick Dudley is, and I pin my faith to a man of human interest, a man who takes an interest in the things that are about him; a man who is alive; a man who breathes of his environment—and thrives in response to the things that the Creator made possible for man to do.

Dick Dudley is a big-statured, big-hearted, honest and patriotic American; a man who was never known to compromise with wrong; who is incapable of small things; who recognizes the rights of all people; who holds as sacred a public trust; in short, a man who is humanly interested in humanity and who has demonstrated abundantly that he knows how to efficiently and unselfishly serve human interests.

## PREMATURE PRAISE!

The Gardner ticket had hardly finished its ascent of the fair and just policy of the El Paso Herald in the present campaign when the broadside of its editorial of February 14th came along. There has been a silence in the camp since that date as to praise for the press.

WHO COULD THE PRESIDENT  
HAVE HAD IN MIND?

"My one outstanding conviction after 16 months in the presidency is that the greatest traitor to his country is the one who appeals to prejudice and inflames passion." — From speech of President Warren G. Harding, at Marietta, Ohio, July 4, 1921.

## THE FUNNIEST YET.

The funniest thing so far developed

## CAMPAIGN CANARDS.

For an example of small politics and persistent efforts to arouse personal prejudices and hatreds, the numerous tricks resorted to by the politicians supporting the Gardner ticket have never been outdone. They have repeatedly charged that Dudley supporters have called up Gardner supporters and insulted them with a view to alienating them from the Gardner ticket. Nothing of the kind has been done by the Dudley people, of course. It is to be questioned whether any Gardner supporters have been called over the phone, as stated. We have heard of no such incidents except as we have read of them in the Gardner publications. As a matter of fact the Dudley campaign committee decided weeks ago to wholly refrain from answering people over the telephone. It has been a practice for several years in El Paso to use the telephone for canvassing the political situation. The Dudley campaign committee decided even against this practice, feeling that people do not want to be annoyed by answering the telephone, only to be interrogated as to whom they might be supporting for office. The Gardner people are using the telephone for canvassing and other political purposes. The Dudley people are not, and have not. The Gardner people have been using the telephone to invite people to the Gardner meetings. The Dudley people have not.

MUCH ADO ABOUT THE  
CATHOLICS.

There are perhaps less than 3000 Catholic votes that will be cast in the primary Saturday out of an estimated vote of 11,000, or 15,000. This does not seem very much like Catholic domination of ANYTHING in El Paso.

There is nothing and has been nothing to indicate that the Catholics have any designs on the city. But the word "Catholic" is being passed around for political purposes. It has been assumed by supporters of the Gardner ticket that this or that candidate on the Dudley ticket is a Catholic. It seems to be anything to make a vote for Gardner and his ticket.

When Senator Dudley was being impudently by his friends to make the race for mayor he finally announced that he would become a candidate if he could induce certain men to make the race for the city council on the ticket with him. His idea was, as he then stated, to make up a ticket that could stand on a platform of a bigger, better and united El Paso. He wanted to do something that would help quiet racial and religious antagonism in the city, and his idea was to formulate a ticket upon which there would not be a representative of any of the sectarian-racial contentions.

He made up such a ticket, and the ticket was announced to the people of El Paso for their support in the interest of harmony.

Mr. Dudley, Mr. Poe, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Emmsay and Mr. Tracy are all Protestants, but no one of them belongs to the Klan. It was considered by Mr. Dudley that such a ticket, upon which there was neither Klansman, Catholic or Jew would be best calculated to bring about the civic harmony that is so much desired in this city at this time.

Shall El Paso Be  
A Ku Klux Town?

(Continued from page 1.)

PEOPLE EVERYWHERE may come to our city and live here in PEACE; that they may have homes here, invest their money here and raise their children here along with other people's children, free from the fear of religious or racial persecutions from any source whatsoever.

If the United States is not a FREE country it OUGHT TO BE, for that is what it was INTENDED to be from the beginning and down until now; and if the balance of this nation is not a free country, as it was intended to be, let us hope that this one spot—THE CLIMATIC CAPITAL OF THE WORLD—is at least FREE—a place where the sick and despairing may come in search of health and fortune, free from the fear of conspiring invisible Klans or organizations of every shade, form and kind whatever.

DICK DUDLEY AND THE  
DOPE FIDDLEERS.

With the characteristic Dudley attitude, Senator Dudley in his Friday night speech at Lamar school gave evidence of the sort of man that he is when there is an issue to meet.

When there are issues to meet and problems to be solved Senator Dudley has never failed to rise to the occasion. Friday night he told his hearers that if he is elected mayor of El Paso he will use every power at his command, every bit of police authority the city has, to crush out at once and with "rollers" and "the" "damnable" dope business that has taken root in El Paso; and those who know Senator Dudley know that he will do it, for he has a record of achievement behind him to back up his promises.

Those who heard Senator Dudley Friday night, and who helped him in the fight against the old country ring, fully appreciated his characteristically determined method of going after things.

Senator Dudley never was a temperance. So encompassing has been his attitude toward all things, which he has deemed to deserve condemnation that he is well known as a most determined man when he strikes, and no stronger man could be thought of in connection with the destruction of the dope evil in El Paso.

Put an issue up to Dick Dudley and it will not take him long to tell you where he stands and what he will do about it; and if he promises to do it he will do it.

## WHAT WAS IN HIS MIND?

Possibly Pete Gardner did not mean anything in particular when he gave out an interview a couple of months ago in which he stated that if he were elected mayor he did not intend to persecute informants, by which he evidently had reference to that class of people who have been his clients for a number of years.

Just why Pete felt himself called upon to make this statement no one seems to know. He had not been asked about the matter, and it certainly was not then an issue in the campaign. It is not an issue now.



## GREATER EL PASO

## Come Clean, Mr. Gardner

Tell the People Where You Stand on This Vital Issue.

Are you a member of the Ku Klux Klan?

If you are why don't you say so? If you are not why don't you say so?

Are you in sympathy with the Klan?

Are you endorsed by the Klan? Are members of the Klan instructed to vote for you?

Be candid Mr. Gardner! Come out with it! Meet the question like a man!

You say the Klan is not an issue. Mr. Gardner, the press and the public in El Paso have made it an issue. It stands clear as an issue before the people in this campaign. To deny it is futile and useless.

Do not deceive yourself. You cannot "passfoot" through this campaign. Tell the voters where you stand. Give evidence that frankness to which you lay claim. The voice of the people is clamorous and insistent. They have a right to know. They have the right to demand of you an answer.

Come clean Mr. Gardner. Lay bare your connections. You are asking the highest office within the gift of a city of 100,000 people. Candid is something to which they are entitled from any man that seeks such a position.

Why vacillate and squirm? Why not come out in the open? Liable you do your native in seeking the office of mayor are on trial in the hearts of thinking men. Don't evade any longer. Give us the literal and naked truth. The people will respect you for it.

Don't pass as sincere and public spirited in your quest for this office unless you can frankly take the people into your confidence. They will repudiate you if you do not. Meet the issue, Mr. Gardner, and if it defeats you now, your record will at least be clear and you may be able to come back another time.

The day when platitudes and generalities will pass the discrimination of the public is over in El Paso. Evasion of the Klan question has not and never can raise you a notch or a peg in public estimation. You can't get by with it. The public will furnish ear drums for this deafness with which you are afflicted on this question. Their rights will not be denied.

Come out with it Mr. Gardner. Put something wholesome into your campaign and give the voters a clear, clean, truthful statement. Have the strength of your convictions, "though the heavens fall." Give the public a square deal before election or they will know they cannot expect it in any eventuality that might take place.

The American people are quick to recognize artifice in candidates for public office, quick to see any "phony" play. The people of El Paso have your number as an evader and a passfoot on the question of the Klan. Come clean Mr. Gardner! Tell them where you stand.

Stand by your guns Mr. Gardner! No man who stands in the

this good hour you have not given an answer. Can the man who seeks comparison with Abraham Lincoln consistently refuse to answer a plain and open question?

Come on Mr. Gardner! Where do you stand with the Invisible Empire? You may keep silent on your record. That is a thing of the past; but the Klan is here NOW. You may get away with a claim of public spirit not proven by past performance. The public is rather lenient in such matters. But on the matter of Klan sympathy and Klan affiliation they want your stand from your own lips or above your signature.

Be outspoken Mr. Gardner! Just once in this campaign let us hear from you in language that cannot be misunderstood. The people may be guessed where you are on this question but it would be really refreshing to have a clean, honest statement from you confirming or denying the general belief.

Come clean Mr. Gardner! The people await your answer!

### THE EL PASO-RANGER COMPANY

One of the absurdities of the political situation is the attempt of the Gardnerites to smear Dick Dudley with evil intentions. Dick Dudley never sold a dollar's worth of oil stock in his life; neither was he ever in on any oil deals with Gardner.

The El Paso-Ranger Oil Company was organized in El Paso during the Ranger oil boom by a man who died a few months later. He organized the company to drill on a lease he had secured in the Ranger field. The company was headed by Robert Krakauer, as president, who sold before the company's lease was fully worked out. The company's lease was supposed to be to prove oil territory, and a well was begun, but, as we recall, the matter, the well was abandoned because an adjoining lease had demonstrated that the lease of the El Paso-Ranger Company was not in oil territory. Another lease was then acquired, and after the death of Mr. Krakauer, and Mr. Dudley was employed by the company to prosecute the drilling of the well.

A well was brought in, but salt water was by that time in the field and the well did not prove a paying proposition. Mr. Dudley was then directed to investigate an oil lease in Louisiana. He did investigate and did not buy, and his judgment saved the company and its stockholders about \$50,000, for it was afterward demonstrated that the lease attempted to be sold to the company was not in oil territory.

All these matters were fully published in the El Paso papers at the time, and until THIS political campaign no one has ever thought of Senator Dudley as an OIL STOCK promoter, as the Gardnerites are now attempting to have some people believe. He was not the promoter of the El Paso-Ranger Company.

### THERE'S A DIFFERENCE.

There is a big difference between secret societies and clandestine societies, between fraternal orders and out-band political organizations seeking political control. The cloak

### EL PASO BARE ALMOST SOLID FOR DUDLEY.

No class of people get to know a man as well as the members of his own profession. No body of men are brought into so close contact or are so well equipped by judgment and personal experience to sift a man down, weigh his character and his capabilities as those who follow his own line of business and are brought into intimate association with him in the conduct of his business or profession. If there is a yellow streak in a man, a weakness, a vacillating trait they are quick to see it. No camouflage can possibly hide it from their eyes, trained to a discrimination that the general public does not possess.

Therefore it is usually a high tribute to any man for members of his own profession to hold him in high regard. That they believe in him and trust him, and respect his ability is frequently regarded as conclusive evidence of his character and capacity. It sometimes happens that a man possesses high qualities, not generally known to the public because of modesty or because temperament and personality have not equipped him to give outward evidence of their possession. But they are almost invariably known and recognized in the inner circle of his own profession or calling. On the other hand many men are enabled to make an apparent showing of qualities they do not possess, and are credited by the world at large with greater learning, skill, or perhaps higher character and nobler traits of citizenship than is actually theirs.

P. E. Gardner has practiced law in El Paso for 15 years. He is quite well known to all the members of the El Paso bar. Senator Dudley is not a lawyer. It is a well known fact that over 90 per cent of the members of the El Paso bar are supporting Dudley for mayor. Of the lawyers that are for Gardner there are Geo. Wallace, his brother-in-law; E. F. Cameron, Mr. Wallace's partner; Mr. Scarborough, Mr. Gardner's partner; the Isaacs firm, and it is believed, only a scattering of four or five others. The 1923 city directory of the City of El Paso publishes the names of 178 El Paso lawyers.

### IT'S FACTS MAKE MUD LET'S HAVE THE MUD

It is funny to hear the Gardner people talk about mud-slinging. Ever since the campaign opened the Gardnerites have talked loud and vociferously about thieves and grafters, as if Dick Dudley, A. B. Poe, H. P. Jackson, and Milton Tracy were a bunch of thieves and political pirates. The Dudley people have ignored this sort of talk, assuming that people would know better. Surely the people do know better.

The "mud-slinging" engaged in by the Dudley people has amounted, to this good day, to nothing more or less than the mere publishing of the fact that in all the years of his residence in El Paso Pete Gardner did nothing for anyone but himself until he began running for mayor two years ago. That prior to that time he had never been identified with anything of a public nature in El Paso; that he had never been identified with any

been anywhere, seen everybody, been all things to all men; that he launched his campaign without issues and without definite ideas except the issue and the idea that he would be a good man for mayor because he wanted that honor; that ever since he began appearing before the public as a speaker he has demonstrated his inefficiency for the office for the reason that his conception of things is wholly superficial and without any real understanding of the nature of the problems which now confront the city.

While the Gardnerites have made their speaking ventures to disseminate and create false impressions wherever possible among people who do not personally know the candidates, a propaganda is being spread in behalf of Mr. Gardner and the impression created that he is a pious man and an uncompromising enemy of everything that is evil.

It is told with great assurance by Gardner speakers that if Gardner is elected mayor no more automobiles will be stolen, that gambling will be closed, and that street-walkers, who are supposed to swarm our streets, will no longer be permitted in the city.

Without arguing the absurdity of the impression sought to be created that our city is infested with gambling joints and street-walkers, it is sufficient to say that many people have come to us and with amazement have exclaimed: "Gardner is being held up to the church people as a man of great religious piety, and you are letting him get away with it! You have done nothing to make known the truth!"

Supporters of the Dudley ticket are depending that the truth be made known.

Now, if Gardner can get away with his police court record; if he can hoodwink and fool the church people and make them believe he is a pious man and that, for that reason, he ought to be mayor, he will have accomplished one of the most amazing things ever put over El Paso people in an election.

Can he do it? Can he get away with it by warning you not to pay any attention to the "poison gas squad" that RE CLAIMS is trying to ruin the reputation of a good man?

Has he so fortified himself that people will refuse to believe the truth?

We don't think he has.

A lot of people have threatened to leave El Paso if Gardner is elected mayor. A lot of other people have laughed at the threat as being all nonsense. Is it?

You have not heard anybody threaten to leave town if Gardner is elected mayor, have you? And perhaps you will figure that it won't hurt you if some people leave town if Gardner should be elected mayor. But, if there are ANY PEOPLE who threaten to leave town if Gardner is elected mayor, is that not pretty good evidence that a lot of people know Gardner and his record pretty intimately, and that they are sensitive as to the good name of EL PASO?

### THEY WILL OBEY!

The galley slaves of Invisible oppression will obey the imperial mandate

GREATER EL PASO



H. P. JACKSON  
For Alderman

FIGHTING FOR THE CAUSE.

Read the Frontier Kланman if you would know what the cause is! Read the Frontier Kланman if you would know what perils our country is in! Read the Frontier Kланman if you would know what latter-day patriotism is! Don't don't read the Frontier Kланman if you are looking for information as to where Pete Gardner and C. L. Sirmans were during the late war, when there was REAL FIGHTING to do. They were not editing papers and running for office in those days. There was a lot of real work in El Paso and all over the country about fighting Germany and all that sort of thing, but these present-day political patriots were not even making a noise then, let alone doing any fighting. But pahaw! The war is ancient history and people ought to forget about the four millions of boys we had in the country's uniform.

It was all right to call on Mexicans and Jews and Catholics to fight REAL fights, but when it comes to POLITICAL fights, led by such military strategists and generals as Isaccia, Sirmans, Gardner, Kirkland et al., we find ourselves in the midst of an entirely different conception of Americanism, for Americanism NOW means Gardner, Isaccia, Sirmans and other notable defenders of the FAITH and the THINGS that they want

"ANY TIME."

J. D. English, a gentleman of color, has a card in the "Southwest Review," colored newspaper, in which he calls the "attention" of his people to Mr. Gardner, assuring them that "he is a gentleman to be approached at any time."



THIEVES AND GRABBERS.

Have you noticed that in all the Gardner meetings, a great deal of vitriolic denunciation of grabbers and election thieves is indulged in?

Have you ever stopped to analyze the sincerity of these denunciations and at whom they are aimed?

Have you heard anyone in any of the Gardner meetings name Senator Dudley, A. B. Poe, H. P. Jackson, W. K. Ramsey or Milton Tracy as grabbers or election thieves?

You have not. Then who are the grabbers and thieves the Gardners are talking about? They are not Dudley, Poe, Jackson, Ramsey or Tracy, are they?

Do you know the men on the Dudley ticket? If not, it is your duty to yourself and your fellowmen, it is your duty to your laws to ascertain who these men are. Don't take our word for it; don't take the word of the Gardners. Ask some one outside of the political sphere. Ask any citizen who personally knows any of these men if you are satisfied from inquiry in responsible sources that these men are not grabbers and

GARDNER AND THE POLICE COURT.

You have heard a great deal of blustering talk by the Gardner speakers about cleaning up El Paso morally and otherwise. A lot of people no doubt have been led to believe that Mr. Gardner is the Apostle of all that is good. On the other hand a good many people have come to Dudley headquarters and inquired if the Dudley ticket intended to longer tolerate the misrepresentation resorted to by the Gardner campaigners.

After mature deliberation, and consultation with many people, the verdict of nearly everyone seems to be that the Dudley people are being too easy on Mr. Gardner, who has been trying to forestall the truth with warnings to his hearers not to pay any attention to what he characterizes as an attempt to "besmirch" him. It is all right for him to attempt to besmirch his opponents as thieves and grabbers; but his opponents, having ignored such talk, are not going to longer ignore these attacks upon them. From now on they are going to tell the truth.



A. R. POE  
For Alderman

ANOTHER QUESTIONAIRE FOR GARDNER.

The Dudley campaign committee has propounded several questions to Pete Gardner in the daily newspapers. One of these questions relates to Pete's palmy days as a police court lawyer and inquires whether or not he made some hundreds of appeal bonds for people of the underworld. It occurs to us that another vital question yet remains to be propounded to Pete. For fear it may be overlooked we propound it now.

Mr. Gardner, if you are elected mayor, do you intend to CONTINUE your practice of making bonds for people of the underworld?

HOW ABOUT THE WINDS?

F. E. Gardner has promised the people of El Paso, "pelted" from almost every trouble that afflicts the community. Now it is a well known fact that the only drawback to our climate consists of the spring winds and sandstorms that at times sweep down upon us. Please, Mr. Gardner, can't you do something about it? Nothing else has seemed impossible to you.

NEVER IN PUBLIC.

The Frontier Kланman assures us that hoods and masks are never worn in PUBLIC, but only in the privacy of the lodge room. Why on earth do they disguise themselves in the LODGE ROOM? Are they ashamed of one another? Or do they do branding and tarring and feathering in the lodge room?

This paper is published by the Dudley campaign committee. It has nothing to sell, and what's more important, it has nothing to CONCEAL.



Vindicate the good name of your city.  
Obtain clean, efficient officials.  
Tread out the fire of discord and hate.  
Enlist for a United El Paso.  
Further the cause of clean government.  
Obliterate factional strife.  
Re-deem the future of your city.  
Don't be misled by false issues.  
Unite the fragments of old time spirit.  
Deliver this city from the menace of secret rules.  
Line up for the square deal to all.  
Encourage local patriotism.  
Your confidence will not be misplaced.



For Mayor

thieve, but that they are honorable, patriotic, public spirited men in whose records as private and public citizens there is no blemish or tarnish, but who have at heart only the best interests of El Paso, then vote for them.

Repudiate by your vote the denunciation of the mud slingers and the insidious propaganda of the political party-folks.

It is high time for El Paso as a city to rise above the sort of politics that the Gardner supporters are giving the people.

A BOOMERANG!

The expression, "Dick the Dog," is proving a boomerang. When the polls close on February 24 it will be found that Dick was the least, high-powered dog, that ever threw consternation into an opponent's ranks.

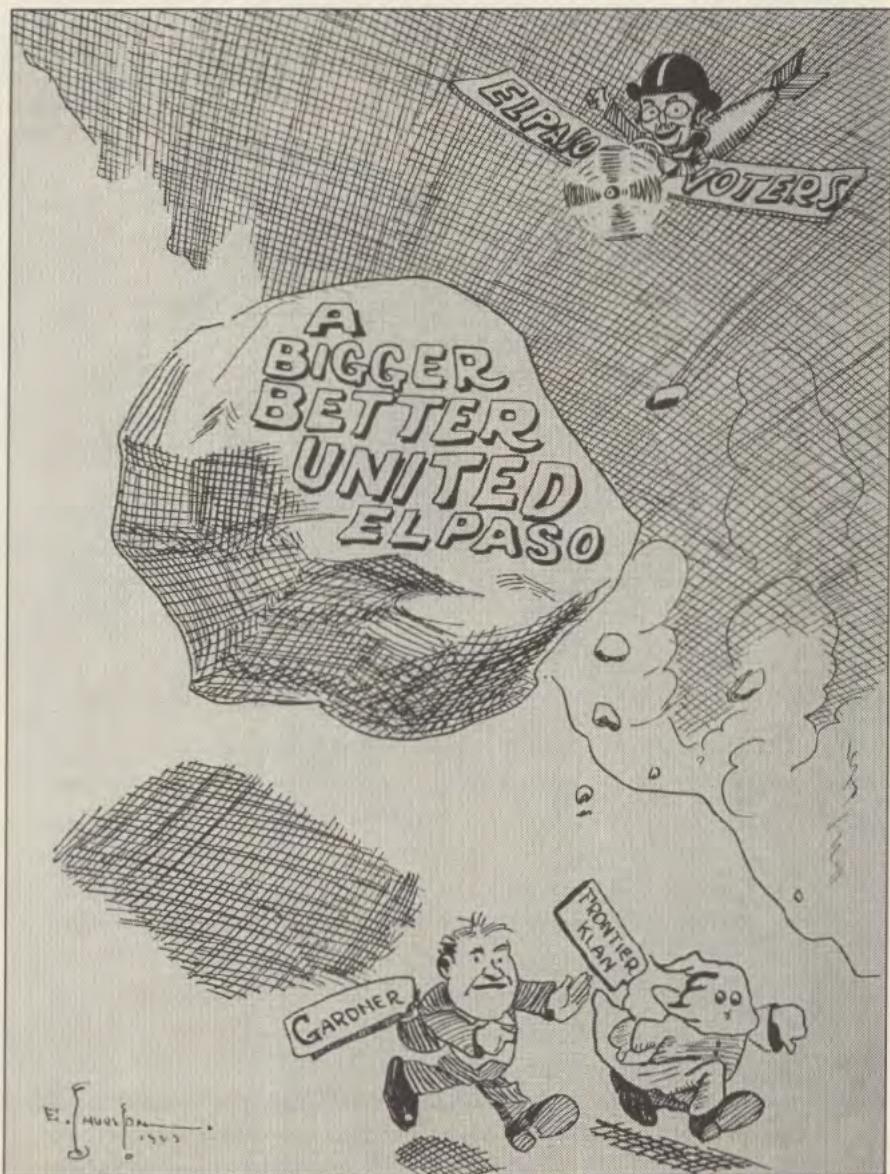
LED BY THE NOSE!

There is one vote that will go for Gardner en bloc and en masse. Those that have delivered up their right to

Is Mr. Gardner a pious man? Is he the great lawyer you have been told about? Is he a proper man to be mayor of El Paso? Do you know why the best informed men and women in El Paso are unrelentingly opposed to his being mayor of this city? Have you investigated his practices in the police court for ten years? Do you know how many of the people he is now professing to be opposed to, and who he has told you he will cast if elected mayor, are his present or former clients? If this is mud, let's have more of it.

SIRMANS IS THRILLED.

Sirmans, chief maker of the Klan poison squad, and "editor" of the Kланman, felt so complimented because of the mention of his paper in these columns last week, that he even counted the number of times the name of his paper appeared in print. It was the first time he had ever experienced such a thrill. However, we have no apology to make for so much con-



**CAROL PRICE MILLER**, the oldest grandchild of Eugene Thurston, is the author of *Early El Paso Artists* (Texas Western Press). She has an M.A. in English and has been teaching English at The University of Texas at El Paso and the El Paso Community College for several years. She is now working toward a Ph.D. in Professional Communication and Rhetoric at New Mexico State University. Holly Thurston Cox and Carol Price Miller (his daughter and granddaughter) are working on a book about Eugene Thurston called, at least for now, *Eugene Thurston: His Life and Times*.



#### END NOTES

Carol Price Miller, "Eugene Thurston, Cartoonist, Portrait of An Artist Getting Started," *Password*, XXXVII, No. 4, 159-170.

Wilbert H. Timmons, *El Paso: A Borderlands History*. El Paso: Texas Western Press, 1960: 231-235.



# For the Record- Correcting the Myths & Misconceptions

By Richard Bussell



hrough the years, stories of El Paso's history have been told and re-told so everyone knows these tales are just so. Thing is, some of these stories "... just ain't so." Here's one of my favorites.

## **The Grand Central Hotel Replaced (or was built on the ruins of) the Central Hotel**

Actually, the Central Hotel outlasted the Grand Central by two years, and each property was owned by separate groups of individuals.

As is generally know, in 1827, Juan Maria Ponce de Leon established a ranch in what was to be the heart of downtown El Paso. In time, his main ranch house for the workers was a typical, one-story adobe which was located approximately where today's Centre building (originally called the second Plaza Block, 1912) is located, between today's Mills Building and the Plaza Theatre. Circa 1853, following the death of Ponce, this property was purchased from his heirs by one William T. Smith, who intended to develop it. Too occupied with his highly successful freighting business to be a full-time land developer, "Uncle Billy" sold the property in 1858 to various persons, including Josiah Crosby, the Gillett brothers and Vincent St. Vrain.

In 1854, Anton B. Rohman came to the Pass and established a hotel<sup>1</sup> in what had been Ponce's ranch house, being at this time, or soon to be, part of Vincent St. Vrain's property.<sup>2</sup> Rohman sent for his wife Mary, their daughter Amelia, and their niece Elizabeth. Amelia married St. Vrain and following his death sometime



*The Original Central Hotel*

in the 1870s, she returned to El Paso from their home in New Mexico and married John B. Tays, younger brother of the famed "Parson" Tays.<sup>3</sup>

In 1872, Anton Rohman died, and the property, generally known as Mrs. Rohman's Boarding House, was in the possession of Mrs. Rohman, her daughter Amelia, and Amelia's husband John B. Tays.<sup>4</sup> By the late 1870s, the eminent coming of the railroads to the southwest brought new citizens to the little village of El Paso. 1880 brought the arrival of one John Dougher, his wife Annie and their children Susie, Joe, and John. John, Sr. took the lease on Mrs. Rohman's boarding house, now known as The Central Hotel.<sup>5</sup> John's success and prominence then led Anson Mills and Josiah Crosby to select him to lease and operate their newly planned hotel,<sup>6</sup> a three-story structure which was to be located next door to the Central (location of the present Mills Building) and was formally opened for business on March 3, 1884 as the Grand Central Hotel.<sup>7</sup>

John and Annie were among our most popular and admired citizens and were excellent hosts. However, it was to be a short-lived 'Camelot'. John Dougher operated both hotels until 1885 when financial hard times caused him to lose his leases. All furnishings were sold at a sheriff's sale to satisfy creditors.<sup>8</sup>

Both hotels were afterward leased and operated, usually simultaneously, by various individuals, although appearing on the 1888

*Sanborn Fire Insurance Company* map as one "Grand Central Hotel," even though the two separate structures are clearly evident.

The glory of the Grand Central was enhanced in 1889 when 48 rooms were added, with a second addition (northward, up Oregon Street) a fourth story, and the bay windows.<sup>9</sup> A grand opening for the new Grand Central Hotel was held New Year's eve 1889 with a "...grand opening ball and supper which will be attended by prominent men, their wives and daughters from all over the state."<sup>10</sup> However, the *real* grand opening was a gala affair held on February 14, 1890, with proprietor Sam Ecker hosting ninety guests including Judge Josiah Crosby as toastmaster and special guest Mrs. Major Mills.<sup>11</sup> (A popular photo of the hotel with the addition usually has a caption which implies the new structure was the entire hotel built in '1883').

The end of El Paso's "...handsomest structure" came in the early morning hours of February 11, 1892. A small blaze in the cupola, located on the southeast corner of the building (Mills & Oregon) gradually became an inferno that reduced the grand, "Grand Central Hotel" to ashes.<sup>12</sup> Fortunately, no lives were lost, but much valuable property was destroyed, and many residents displaced. One victim was Miss Ella B. Meekins, principal of the high school, who lost jewelry, clothing and the prized possession of her library worth \$1000.<sup>13</sup> It would be twenty years before El Paso had another fine hostelry such as the Grand with the opening of the Hotel Paso del Norte on November 25, 1912.

Speculation was that Mills and Crosby would simply rebuild a larger, finer hotel but it was not to be. This corner property was



*The Central Hotel at its Peak*



*The Central Hotel Fire*

composed of several lots, some owned by Mills, some by the Crosbys (Josiah & Josephine), and some lots by others. Not being able to agree on the disposition of the properties, Mills erected a small building on his lot which today is the westernmost corner of our Mills Building, on Mills street, and Crosby erected a building on his property which is today's northernmost corner of the Mills Building on Oregon Street.<sup>14</sup> During 1895 the 'Mills' Building was used as a 'hall' by various social groups, then became the new home of the El Paso Herald January 1, 1896.<sup>15</sup> The Crosbys finally sold their property to Mills in 1899.<sup>16</sup> Mills proceeded to erect more buildings on the lots, culminating in the first 'Mills Building,' a two-story structure that stood until April of 1910 when it was wrecked to be replaced by the 'Anson Mills' building that stands today.

### **The Central Hotel Plugs Along**

Certainly, no one expected the Grand to suffer such an early demise, reduced to a pile of rubble, while the old pioneer, the Central plugged along, gradually sinking to disrepair and disrepute. Comments on its undesirable quality were beginning to surface even as early as May 25, 1887, when the El Paso Times called the Central "...a fire trap, an eyesore and a nuisance, generally."

Other attempts were in the works to tear down the old adobe. Sam Ecker, proprietor of the Grand Central also had the lease on the Central, and in October 1889 he too was of the opinion that the



building should be condemned and torn down.<sup>17</sup> Following up on this statement, a committee of aldermen visited the site the next day and found it to be worse on the inside than the outside, calling it a fire trap and labeled by the newspaper as a "death trap."<sup>18</sup>

Again, in 1890 another effort was made to condemn the old building.<sup>19</sup> Sam Ecker removed his furnishings and refused to pay further rent. A new effort was made in 1891 to demolish the building, with those involved pointing out the failure of the 1890 attempt having been thwarted due to poor wording of the city council resolution ordering its destruction and a resulting injunction by the owners to stop the proceedings.<sup>20</sup>

The 'old eyesore' must have grated upon many persons' sensibilities. In August of 1893 Alderman Solomon called attention to the fact that he and Alderman Kohlberg had for months been trying to get something done with the old building of which Councilman Stanton was agent, but failed.<sup>21</sup> As 1893 faded into memories and the Spring and Summer of '94 turned young (and not so young), men's fancies to other pursuits, the frustration of 'doing something' with the old building must have been placed on the back burner, for no mentions of any further serious efforts are reported.

On the morning of June 14, 1894 the question was resolved. As H. T. Bossonge, lessee, was passing by a closet at the head of the front stairway he was caught in the face by "...a puff of smoke and a burst of flames!" Sounding the alarm of fire, Bossonge then began arousing the residents, some seventy-five families scrambling out with what possessions they could carry.<sup>22</sup>

According to the events as reported in the El Paso Daily Times on the following morning, Fire Chief Powers "...managed his men well and the streams of water were kept in their proper place." The firemen "...worked gallantly," but they could not save the 'tinderbox' of a building and their efforts were concentrated on saving lives and any property they could, especially the Center Block, the historic structure next door (west side).<sup>23</sup>

Unlike high school Principal Miss Ella Meekins from the Grand Central disaster, Judge J. E. Townsend, who had an office in the building, was able to retrieve his papers and library. Not so fortunate was our first baseball coach. Charles F. 'Give-a-Damn' Jones, coach of our highly successful El Paso Browns baseball team, lost cherished mementoes including two team photos, a ball and two bats.<sup>24</sup>



*The Grand Central Hotel (Courtesy of the C. L. Sonnichsen Special Collections Department, The University of Texas at El Paso)*

The historic building that had been the starting point for the City of El Paso had come to its end. Ponce's "...casa grande," Rohmans' Boarding House, the Central Hotel, one building, so much history, now a pile of rubble, "...no loss to El Paso. Its destruction may prove a benefit."<sup>25</sup>

The benefit was yet to be. Speculation regarding the site was rampant. Some citizens, such as Lucius Sheldon, owner of the Sheldon Block across the street, attempted to buy both the Grand Central and Central Hotel sites to erect a grand new hotel, but, as the *El Paso Herald* reported on November 3, 1897, the asking price of the Mills/Crosby property was too high. There were others who insisted that all this rubble be cleared away and El Paso Street be opened through to Main.

The events leading to the development of the site probably began with the death of Mary Rohman in 1896; for in August 1897, the *El Paso Herald* reported that Amelia and John B. Tays had given power of attorney to August Andreas, German by birth, and a player in El Paso real estate development. Andreas would be agent for their properties.

Andreas built a one-story building on the site, then capped it off in 1899/1900 with a second story to the "Tays-Andreas' or 'Plaza Block.'<sup>26</sup>

As reported in the El Paso Herald on June 9, 1900 Amelia and John Tays transferred it to Andreas. This occurred shortly before the death of John Tays in a boating accident in the British Guianas.

In 1907, another relative newcomer to the El Paso real estate development scene, Felix Martinez, with other investors, acquired a controlling interest in the property. The next stage of benefit was soon to be. On January 4, 1911 Martinez and his investors, a group including Zach White and the Mundy brothers announced plans for a new 'skyscraper' to light the downtown skyline. Trost and Trost would be the architects, Otto Kroeger the contractor.

The first occupant of the new plaza Block opened its doors on March 14, 1912. Felix Braunschwig's The White House department store celebrated its gala opening in its new location, and the store, along with the building itself would for many hears and several generations become an El Paso institution, today known as the 'Centre Block.'

The second tenant would open its doors in May, the name also associated with a Trost and Trost creation, the McCoy Hotel, occupying the upper floors.

I believe it would be appropriate to close by pointing out that William B. McCoy, proprietor of the hotel, had a very personal interest in the property, for, you see, he was married to Susie, daughter of our pioneer innkeepers, John and Annie Dougher.

---

**RICHARD BUSSELL** is a native El Pasoan who is a volunteer at the Historical Society. He is a tireless reader of microfilm and has provided an outstanding obituary file for the researcher.

## END NOTES

1. *El Sabio Sembrador*, June 1854.
2. Mills Map, 1859, Block 17, Lot 176.
3. Earl W. Heathcote, "Business of El Paso", *El Paso: A Centennial Portrait*, El Paso County Historical Society, 1973, p. 191.
4. Nancy Hamilton, "Diary of C. R. Morehead, *Password XXX*, No. 3, 112.
5. *El Paso Times*, April 2, 1881.
6. *Lone Star*, January 6, 1883.
7. *El Paso Herald*, March 2, 1884.
8. *Ibid.* April 26, 1885.
9. *Ibid.* January 25, 1889.
10. *Ibid.* December 13, 1889.
11. *El Paso Daily Herald*, February 15, 1890.
12. *El Paso Daily Times*, February 12, 1892.
13. *Ibid.*
14. *Ibid.* June 21, 1894.
15. *El Paso Herald*, December 31, 1895.
16. *Ibid.* June 27, 1899.
17. *Ibid.* October 9, 1889.
18. *Ibid.* October 10, 1889.
19. *El Paso Times*, February 18, 1890.
20. *Ibid.* July 9, 1891.
21. *El Paso Daily Times*, August 19, 1893.
22. *Ibid.* August 14, 1894.
23. *Ibid.* August 15, 1894.
24. *Ibid.* June 15, 1894.
25. *Ibid.*
26. *El Paso Herald*, September 9, 1899.





## El Paso CAP Courier Patrol

By William E. Mueller,  
as told to Joe R. Myers



his is my recollection of the events leading up to the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) being started in El Paso, Texas. I am William E. Mueller of the Southwest Air Rangers. We were in the airplane business starting in September 1940, and the next year, World War II broke out on 7 December

1941. James Camp was the operations officer for Colonel Harold Byrd and ran the Dallas office. He was a paid volunteer and operated the office full time for the CAP of Texas. His adjutant was Lt. Mary Royce who was also a full time paid employee and who kept the record of all the members of the State of Texas. Some of the members of our squadron were the four Mueller Brothers, of which Al and I did most of the flying between El Paso, Pyote and Pecos, Texas. Other members were Flake Well, Winston (Buddy) Black, Lyle Dacy, Carl Vorce, Colonel Hubbell and Wilbur McGill. We were operating four Luscombe airplanes on flight training.

Immediately after the war broke out, general aviation was grounded until all the pilots, or anyone who wished to fly, was issued an identification card from the federal government. This required a picture and a set of fingerprints plus new pilot licenses and was issued by the Civil Aeronautics Administration. It was probably a week to two weeks before the requirements were laid out; then, the CAA had to come from Albuquerque to institute the ID card process.

My first recollection of the CAP was sometime in February or March 1942 when we were invited to a meeting in Kerrville or Bandera, Texas. All the aviators in the state met to discuss the formation of the Civil Air Patrol. I attended that meeting with a Border Patrolman who had a license and flew me down there in

one of our Luscombes. The exact contents of the meeting are fuzzy, but I do remember George Haddaway who was one of the main participants in this program. It seemed to me that it lasted a day and a half, all day Saturday and part of Sunday morning. We returned to El Paso on Sunday afternoon. The upshot was that the Texas wing of the Civil Air Patrol was started at that time, and I was designated the Commander of the El Paso Group. I was commissioned to form and enlist as many qualified people as I could in the CAP.

There were no specific programs at that time but there was talk of different programs that could be implemented. One was a submarine patrol along the Gulf of Mexico. Another was the possi-

bility of Search and Rescue in the case of downed military aircraft. A third possibility was a courier service between military bases. Another possibility involved special missions that might be called for by various military bases.

Approximately seventy-five to one hundred members enrolled, most of whom were pilots or student pilots in the El Paso area. We were given a minimum amount of military training, close order drill and discipline training, but the main thrust was a first aid course so that we would all be qualified to help somebody in case of an accident.

We formed our group and coordinated with the Wing Headquarters which was set up in Dallas, Texas. Harold Byrd, who was an oilman in the Dallas area, was appointed Commander of the Texas Wing. His adjutant was R. L.

Bowen, a businessman who was known to us because of his frequent flights through El Paso and his prominence in general aviation. Colonel Byrd flew a Lockheed Loadstar and R. L. Bowen had a Howard DGA-15. During the formative period, all the paperwork was set up and contacts were made between the various Wing Commanders and National Headquarters as to where the Texas and other wings could participate in helping the war effort.

One of the first things that the El Paso group participated in was search and rescue missions for lost military aircraft in the

*One of the first things that the El Paso group participated in was search and rescue missions for lost military aircraft in the El Paso and Southwestern area. Usually these searches would take twenty-four to forty-eight hours, but on one occasion there was one airplane missing from Alamogordo, New Mexico.*



*B-17. The plane was tested at Pyote, Texas. This picture is used by permission of [aerofiles.com](http://aerofiles.com).*

El Paso and Southwestern area. Usually these searches would take twenty-four to forty-eight hours, but on one occasion there was one airplane missing from Alamogordo, New Mexico. The plane was a P-47 that had taken off from Biggs Field, Texas and failed to show up at its New Mexico destination. It had gone down somewhere in the Guadalupe Mountains area. The search lasted for over three weeks. I was the Coordinator for the El Paso Group, the Roswell Group, and, it seems to me, another group from either Alamogordo or Las Cruces. We measured the entire southwestern area and prepared a grid. Designated individual airplanes combed each grid. Each night we would report to our various bases so those areas could be eliminated. We operated out of Van Horn for several days, looking in the area of the Guadalupe Mountains.

The airport at Van Horn at that time was not really good. So we landed on the highway into Van Horn. Since there was no aviation fuel there, we each taxied into a different filling station and put car gas into our planes. I can remember the expressions on the faces of the people in a Greyhound bus full of passengers when they saw these airplanes parked at filling stations. After several days of searching the Van Horn area, we moved back to the Guadalupe Mountains area since it was fall of the year and hunting was just starting. We decided to re-grid the area.

One evening Captain Mueller probably wrote a hundred notes asking for information about any aircraft that might be seen by any of the hunters in their pursuit throughout the woods. His idea was to enlist the aid of hunters he had seen on previous flights over the area. The next day the pilots took the messages wrapped around a rock with a banner or trailer attached to it and flew over any hunting party and dropped the messages asking the hunters to be on the lookout for possible airplane wreckage.

Going back to the search mission in the Guadalupe Pass area, we had a number of instances that were of interest. One of the airplanes from Roswell, New Mexico, a two place side-by-

side Piper Cub Coupe, a rare aircraft, was being flown by several Roswell group members over Guadalupe Peak when they hit a terrific up-and-down draft. Upon returning to Salt Flat to check their aircraft, they found that several longerons [fabric strips along

the fuselage] had been bent because they had hit such a terrific bump.

Biggs Air Force Base got a call from one of the hunters saying that he had found a piece of aluminum with some khaki paint on it and gave the information as to where it was found. At that time Biggs notified us to call the search off until they had a chance to check it out. The Biggs group then went up by jeep and truck approximately thirty miles north of Guadalupe Peak. In a heavily wooded area where the aluminum had been found close to the road, the search finally turned up a hole in the ground with the remains of what was left of the P-47. We then flew over to check out the coordinates that we had used, and, even though we were at tree top level, we could not see the ground beneath us. It probably never would have been found

*In a heavily wooded area where the aluminum had been found close to the road, the search finally turned up a hole in the ground with the remains of what was left of the P-47. We then flew over to check out the coordinates that we had used, and, even though we were at tree top level, we could not see the ground beneath us.*

had we not used the note and rock method to notify the people moving around on the ground.

Sometime after that the Second Air Force, which was training heavy bombardment at their headquarters in Colorado Springs, had a number of airbases throughout the Southwest, including Alamogordo, Biggs Air Force Base, Pyote, Hobbs, Clovis and a number of others. El Paso was set up to run a patrol or courier service from Biggs to Pyote on a daily basis. Pyote Air Force Base is located between Pecos and Wickett, Texas. Located on old Highway 80, which is now Interstate 20, Pyote Air Force Base was noted for the B-17 heavy bombers. Out of there they flew training missions and practiced bombing missions.

We were going down in the morning and returning in the afternoon. At Pyote we met an airplane that had come out of Clovis and stopped at Hobbs. At that time we would transfer material from one group to the other and return it along with any-



thing they had to send from each base, plus mail and other things, in order to facilitate the movement of items. At that time the mail took too long getting to where it had to be, and the cost to the military of flying four engine airplanes around on courier service was fairly expensive.

The main things that were flown from Biggs were false teeth and eyeglasses for the training crews that were completing their training at the various bases for service in Europe or the Far East. Any military man who had dentures was given an extra set to carry with him so that he would not be out of service. The same thing applied to glasses. Anyone needing glasses always had a second pair so that he would not be delayed in performing his military duties because of broken glasses, or broken dentures.

We also carried airmail from these bases into the El Paso Post Office so as to expedite the airmail services. We were not to carry passengers, only freight, letters and cargo. We, in the process, received approval to stop at Pecos Air Force Base, which was a basic training base with BT-13s. We would fly from Biggs Air Base to Pyote to Pecos and then back to El Paso. Arrangements were made so we would draw AV gas from the various military bases for our trips.

Once, I was asked if I could fly an airman into El Paso to catch a flight. His father was dying, and the Red Cross had gotten him an emergency furlough. I told them I was not allowed to carry passengers. They said they would have to fly a B-17, which was the only thing at Pyote Air Force Base. They had to get him home, and it sure would help if I could fly him. I told them I could take any kind of cargo as long as it had a manifest with it and a shipping tag. So when I came back from lunch, I found the airman with a tag around his neck and ready to be put aboard the flight back to El Paso.

The largest amount of freight that I remember flying was five hundred and twenty-three pounds, which was well over the gross weight of the Luscombe. I had to fly with my hand sideways on the throttle in order to get around the packages. We had to take out the right stick in order to let the controls come back and clear on the pilot side. As the availability of these flights became known, the Pyote people were constantly sending items with us to be repaired in El Paso so as to help expedite needed work. We got well acquainted with the people at the post offices in all locations and enjoyed the relationship with the Air Force during that time.

It would take two hours to fly from El Paso to Pyote and Pecos during the winter months. In the spring months, when the winds blew strong in the Southwest, we would sometimes make the trip in one hour going down, flying at tree top or railroad level. It would take us four and a half hours to come back. We made that trip on a daily basis for about eighteen months. At the time, the whole Second Air Force was using the bombing range at Alamogordo. A

*At the time, the whole Second Air Force was using the bombing range at Alamogordo. A man from Colorado was sent down to be based at El Paso; his job was to fly to Alamogordo each day. After the bombing runs had been made, he flew the range to pick up the target scores and bring them back to Biggs Field. We occasionally ran backup for that flight when they had maintenance problems or if the pilot was not able to make the trip.*

man from Colorado was sent down to be based at El Paso; his job was to fly to Alamogordo each day. After the bombing runs had been made, he flew the range to pick up the target scores and bring them back to Biggs Field. We occasionally ran backup for that flight when they had maintenance problems or if the pilot was not able to make the trip.

Our uniforms were standard Air Force uniforms—officers' flight overalls with red epaulets in place of the standard Air Force epaulets. The wings were CAP wings, and the patches were standard CAP patches with the three bladed propeller. We had no vehicles furnished to us, and we used our own Luscombe Eight-A and Eight-E airplanes.

We were required to carry revolvers—45 automatics—because of the secret orders and classified items we were carrying for the military. Each time we would arrive at Pyote or Pecos we were met by an armed guard who watched the airplane while we went to

deliver and then pickup whatever cargo or letters we had to transport. One time, I returned to my airplane and was met by a guard with a rifle refusing me admittance to the plane. The guard did not recognize me, and I had to go back to the Operations Officer and get him to escort me to my airplane so I could board it.

Later in the war we met and carried Security Officers and Intelligence Officers from one base to another for their inspections.



*A Luscombe 8-A. This plane was used by the Civil Air Patrol.  
The picture is used by permission of aerofiles.com.*

Men that flew with us frequently were a Staff Sergeant, a Colonel, a Major, a Lieutenant, and a First Sergeant. We never knew for sure what kind of a rig he would show up in, but he was always ready for inspections the minute he hit a base.

Another time at Pyote I had gone to lunch; and when I came back, my airplane was nowhere in sight. I went to operations, and they said to check with the Maintenance Officer in the next hangar. When I went over there, they had the wings and tail off and were starting to remove the engine. I immediately looked up the Maintenance Officer, who happened to be an El Pasoan that I had known in the Boy Scouts. I asked Captain Joe Jordan what was going on. He said immediately after I had left the flight line, a B-17 had taxied past, over revved his engine and it turned. It dumped my airplane up on a wing and tail and damaged it very badly. So they were going to give me a complete overhaul. As it turned out, the wing tip was of such construction that we had false spare tips and also a spare stabilizer in El Paso that I could bring down to Pyote. I had to call El Paso and they sent another airplane down to pick me up and take the mail and cargo back to El Paso. When we got back the next day with the other parts, they had stripped both wings and were in the process of recovering them. The engine was off and completely torn apart. They ordered new parts and new covering for the airplane. I asked Captain Jordan what the occasion was, because I really didn't need all of that. He said, "Well, our people had never worked on a small airplane, and they have been fascinated with you coming in and out of here every day. We appreciate everything that CAP has done;

so we are going to give you a complete overhaul." They went over the airplane from one end to the other. They completely recovered it, painted the wings silver, and put on blue trimming. They polished the silver fuselage and put a new blue stripe on it, completely upholstered the inside, changed all the instruments, cabling, and

rug, overhauled the engine, and put in new valves, bearings and cylinders. All of the materials came from the Air Force Department 4 in San Antonio. They really had a ball with it. When they finished, we had a virtually new airplane.

As a result of that, one day Captain Jordan was flight-testing a B-17 and asked me if I would like to go along. I did; and since he knew I was a pilot, he let me fly the airplane. I followed through on the take-off and landing as well as maneuver in the air. I asked CAA Inspector Al Meyers at the time if I could put that in my logbook. He said, "Anytime you fly in an airplane, put it in your log book." I did.

A few other incidents happened each month. The Air Force put out the Air Force magazine, and usually we would pick one up at the desk at Pyote to read on the way back. We

became very familiar with the terrain from Pyote to El Paso; so we could almost put our sky hook out and let the trail bring us back to El Paso.

Once I was reading the magazine and became conscious that someone was looking at me. I looked out of the left window and found a Navy Hellcat, with his gear down, flying formation with me. So I waved to him, waggled my wings, and looked out the other window. There I found another Hellcat sitting on my window, flying formation with me, real tight on the right-hand side. After waving to them and wagging my wings, they picked up their gear and headed on west toward El Paso.

*I looked out of the left window and found a Navy Hellcat, with his gear down, flying formation with me. So I waved to him, waggled my wings, and looked out the other window. There I found another Hellcat sitting on my window, flying formation with me, real tight on the right-hand side. After waving to them and wagging my wings, they picked up their gear and headed on west toward El Paso.*

Another time the wind was blowing so strong, that it was impractical to fly across the Guadalupe Peak and Salt Flat, our normal route of returning from Pyote and Pecos. In order to make it, I flew the Texas & Pacific Railroad tracks from Pecos, through Van Horn and back into El Paso. Because there was a passenger train below me between Pecos and Van Horn, I was not going very fast. The trip took four and one half hours of flying. Fortunately, the airplane I was flying had an extra five gallons of gas in a tank in the baggage compartment. We had to wobble it up to the wings to stay in the air the full time and get into El Paso.

Several other times the cadets in Pecos, flying PT-13s, would chase us on our flights west out of Pecos. They got to the point that they were becoming annoying. So on one of the trips my brother Al, who was flying the Luscombe, knew everything on the ground, including the ranches and windmills. The cadets wouldn't get off his back; so he flew directly at a ranch house with a fairly tall windmill. Of course, the cadets were watching our airplane and not watching where they were going. When he came upon the windmill, he pulled up sharply; and much to the cadet's surprise, they were staring at a windmill in their face. They peeled off, one to the right and one to the left. After that, we never had any more trouble with them chasing and buzzing us.

On another occasion, a Major in the Operations Office at Biggs Field who didn't think much of the CAP pilots was headed for Pyote in a UC-78, twin-engine Cessna Bamboo Bomber. He was clearing operations at Biggs at the same time we were. We'd become acquainted with Staff Sergeant Sherwood who was in charge of the Weather Bureau at Biggs. So, he told me if I would go to 10,000 feet, I would make really good time to Pyote. The Major had taken off ahead of me in the Cessna. When I took off, I climbed up to altitude, and about Salt Flat, I saw him several thousand feet below me. I flew on into Pyote and made it that day in about one hour flat. I parked the airplane and was already at Operations when the Major and his crew taxied up. I met them in the Operations Office when they closed their flight plan. He couldn't figure out how



*The insignia of the Civil Air Patrol. It is red, white and blue. Created in 1942, it was used in badges and patches. It could be displayed on airplanes.*

in the world I had gotten that small airplane there ahead of him. I never did tell him; but after that, he had a little more respect for the Civil Air Patrol.

We were at the El Paso International Airport, where we are now. At that time the Southern Liaison Border Patrol also operated out of the airport. The CAP Group was from California. Immediately after World War II started, all aviation within one hundred fifty miles of the West Coast was grounded. Therefore, the West Coast people were not allowed to fly. They were given the opportunity to fly the Southern Border Patrol and to bring their airplanes in from California and fly out of here. Colonel Burt Rhine was the Commanding Officer. He was a West Coast attorney and volunteered his time during the early part of the war to supervise that operation. Major Carl Turner was their Operations Officer, and there were a number of other people from the West Coast that were here. I would say they probably had about fifteen, maybe twenty, airplanes, one of which was a big old wooden bi-plane with the name GREMLIN CASTLE on it. George Copping who had two wooden legs was qualified to fly it. He had all the FAA ratings and after the war joined the FAA and worked in the flight service station here in El Paso.

We flew some low-level strafing missions for the Fort Bliss troops. Major General Ennis P. Swift was the Commander at Fort Bliss. His daughter Pamela flew with us and was one of the CAP members. Numerous times we made low-level strafing missions on troop operations in the El Paso, Hueco Tanks, and Fabens areas. We used one pound white flour sacks to drop on their vehicles in order to identify who had hit them. One time Colonel Hubbell was on one of the strafing missions east of the airport. One of the members had a Culver Cadet, a low-wing eighty-five horsepower airplane. Colonel Hubbell was riding with him as they made their low-level pass at the troops. He noticed some tracer shots coming from the ground. About that time they heard a loud pop but were able to continue flying. Live ammunition had been fired and creased the wing spar in the area of the retractable wheel well. We decided after that the Army could do their own low-level ground strafing because we didn't feel it was in our best interest to be shot at by some gun-happy troops.

Another time one of our airplanes being flown by my brother Joe Mueller with Brantly Dickie, riding as an observer, was flying at low level, searching for debris from a crashed airplane. They

happened to come upon a horse that was standing rear end toward the direction they were going. As they passed over the horse, Dickie looked back and said he had never seen such an astonished look on a horse's face.

In 1942, toward the end of the year, Colonel Byrd invited all the Group Commanders from the State of Texas to a New Year's party in Dallas. On the following day he took us to see the Cotton Bowl game. It was quite an experience and a good chance for the Commanders to get together to discuss different projects they were working on. The east end of the state was providing the submarine patrol off the coast of Mexico and doing a great job of that. George Haddaway, the editor of *Flight Magazine*, was very active in that and probably has a lot of the CAP records in the archives at The University of Texas at Dallas.

Bill Mueller and the rest of the CAP pilots had some interesting experiences during the war that have added to the history of WW II in the Southwest.

*The editor wishes to thank John Paul Jones for pictures and for helping get all the aviation information correct.*

---

**JOE MYERS** lived 68 years in El Paso, Texas. He had an AA degree from El Paso Community College and a BA degree from The University of Texas at El Paso. He was a member of the El Paso Civil Air Patrol Squadron for 50 years.



# Lecturas:

*Articles and Dissertations on El Paso and the Southwest  
recently published in other journals*

## BOOKS

Daudistel, Marcia Hatfield. *Literary El Paso*. Fort Worth, Texas  
Christian University Press, October 2009.

Dunn, Timothy J. *Blockading the Border and Human Rights:  
The El Paso Operation that Remade Immigration Law  
Enforcement*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 2009.

Garcia, Mario T. *Católicos: Resistance and Affirmation in Chi-  
cano Catholic History*. Austin: University of Texas Press,  
2008.

Haecker, Charles M. and Jeffrey G. Mauck. *On the Prairie of  
Palo Alto: Historical Archaeology of the U.S.-Mexican War  
Battlefield*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press,  
August 2009.

Harris, Charles H. and Sadler, Louis R. *The Secret War in  
El Paso: Mexican Revolutionary Intrigue, 1906-1920*. Albu-  
querque: University of New Mexico Press, 2009.

Leiker, James N. *Racial Borders, Black Soldiers along the Rio  
Grande*, Number One: South Texas Regional Studies. Kings-  
ville: Texas A&M University Press, paperback edition Sep-  
tember 2009.

Paulda, Mark. *Celebrating El Paso*. Fort Worth: Texas Christian  
University Press, October 2009.

Ramirez, José A. *To the Line of Fire! Mexican Texans and World  
War I*. College Station: Texas A&M University Press, October  
2009.



## ARTICLES

- Garna Christian, "*Dear Carl, Dear Ralph: Correspondence of an Uncommon Friendship*," *The West Texas Historical Association Year Book*, Vol. LXXXIV, (October, 2008), 154-169.
- Clinton F. Cross, "*Senior Lawyer Interview: James Samuel Moore Jr.*" *El Paso Bar Journal*, (June 2009): 16.
- Ana Luisa Martinez-Catsam, "*Frontier of Dissent: El Regidor, the Regime of Porfirio Díaz, and the Transborder Community*," *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*, Vol. CXII, Number 4 (April, 2009): 388-408.
- Ballard C. Shapleigh, "*Crime and Punishment: Part III, The Path of Justice for the Murder of Ted Andress, Leads to Another Six Person Jury Trial in Rusk*," *El Paso Bar Journal*, (April/May 2009): 11-14.
- Ballard Coldwell Shapleigh, "*How Civilization Came to El Paso, The Rise and Fall of El Paso's Second Mayor, Melton A. Jones*," *El Paso Bar Journal*, (June 2009): 11-14.
- Solveig A. Turpin and Herbert H. Eling, Jr. eds. *Dust, Smoke, and Tracks: Two Accounts of Nineteenth Century Mexican Military Expeditions to Northern Coahuila and Chihuahua*, *The Center for Big Bend Studies*, Sul Ross State University, Occasional Papers, (2009): 194 pp.

~~~~~ **Notice** ~~~~~

Starting January 2010  
all membership dues will  
be payable once a year  
in January.

Carmen J. Stearns, *Membership*  
533-3178 (h)



## Francis Parker Photographs in the Archives of the El Paso County Historical Society

Francis Parker was one of the earliest photographers to come to El Paso. His El Paso history was rather unusual in that he started up and sold his photography business in its entirety three different times. As such, numerous people purchased his original photographs, including Otis Aultman. Some, perhaps numerous, copies were sold at the Grand Central Hotel and W. G. Walz curio shops. Parker's most widely known picture is one that also causes a lot of questions. His photograph of South El Paso St. has been reproduced many times and dated from the 1860s to the 1890s. It actually dates from 1881. The Society has an original of a curio shop photograph which is shown below. Francis Parker's photographs are mounted on cabinet cards and have excellent clarity.



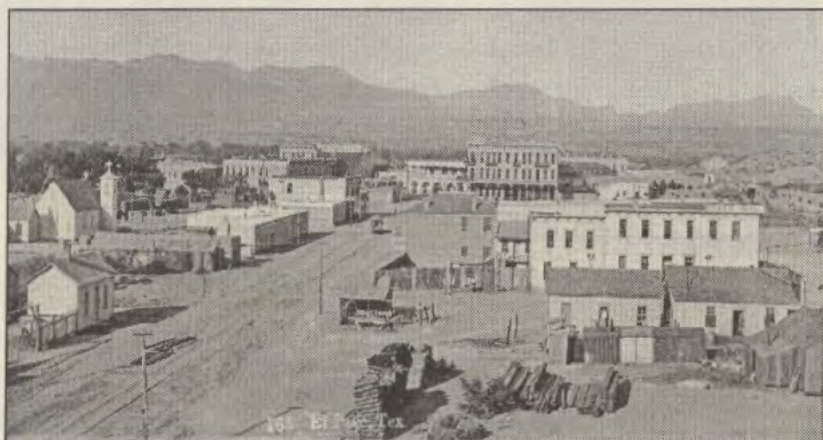
*This is the earliest known El Paso picture, El Paso Street in 1881*



*1882 from the area of Mesa Gardens looking to downtown,  
note the railroad tracks*



*Another 1882 view of downtown featuring several churches and the plaza*



*Looking West on Mills Street after 1884*



*San Antonio Street about 1885*



*Looking from the Pierson Hotel toward Sunset Heights,  
note the main train line*



## Editor's Message

Papers for publication in *Password* are solicited from anyone writing about El Paso and its surrounding area. Articles of local interest that have been published elsewhere may be listed in their citation format in the "Lecturas" section. Please submit these items to:

Patricia H. Worthington  
Editor, *Password*  
El Paso County Historical Society  
P. O. Box 28  
El Paso, Texas 79940

### GUIDELINES FOR SUBMITTING PAPERS TO *PASSWORD*

1. The El Paso County Historical Society strives to publish a balance of academic articles and those of general interest. Academic articles should have a length of approximately 5500 words; general interest articles should have a length of approximately 2500 words. Endnotes are in addition to the article.
2. The Chicago Style Manual will govern the format of papers and footnotes.
3. Complete name, address, contact information, and brief biography should accompany each paper.
4. All papers become the property of the El Paso County Historical Society.
5. The El Paso County Historical Society reserves the right to re-publish an article whose subject matter is of special interest.
6. Notification will be made to each author regarding the publication status of his/her paper.



## OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS 2009 THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

|                         |                         |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| President               | Lillian Crouch          |
| 1st Vice-President      | Mary Jo Melby           |
| 2nd Vice-President      | Mary Haynes             |
| 3rd Vice-President      | Patricia H. Worthington |
| Recording Secretary     | William Hooten          |
| Corresponding Secretary | Sandra Gibson           |
| Treasurer               | George O'Brien          |
| Accountant              | John B. Butterworth     |
| Historian               | Magda C. Flores         |
| Membership              | Carmen Stearns          |
| Curator                 | Patricia H. Worthington |

### MEMBERS EX-OFFICIO

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Editor, PASSWORD         | Patricia H. Worthington |
| Editor, EL CONQUISTADOR  | Magda C. Flores         |
| Annual Fundraising       | Keith Erickson          |
| Program Chairman         | Patricia H. Worthington |
| Burges House Commission  | William Hooten          |
| Immediate Past President | Jack Niland             |
| Hall of Honor Selection  | Mary Haynes             |
| Hall of Honor Dinner     | Mary Jo Melby           |

### DIRECTORS

#### 2007-2009

John Broaddus  
Richard Bussell  
Dr. Ann Gabbert  
Harris Hatfield  
Amy Paschich  
Jim Tritton

#### 2008-2010

Bill Avila  
Jed Becker  
Keith Erickson  
Kurt Goetting  
Charles Mais  
Jack McGrath  
A.C. Sanders III

#### 2009-2011

Duane Coleman  
Sanford Cox  
Maceo Dailey, Ph.D.  
Rod Davenport  
Stephen Meador  
Jonathan Schwartz  
Richard D.  
Worthington, Ph.D.

ALL PAST PRESIDENTS ARE HONORARY BOARD MEMBERS

# El Paso County Historical Society

ORGANIZED MARCH 18, 1954

## MISSION STATEMENT

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

Books for review should be sent to:

**Book Review Editor, EPCHS**  
P.O. Box 28 • El Paso, Texas 79940

The per-copy price of *PASSWORD* is \$12.00 for copies from 1980 to the present.

The price of copies of *PASSWORD* from 1956 to 1979 is \$15.00.

Cost of postage and handling is \$2.00 for one issue, \$1.00 for each additional issue.

**Correspondence regarding back numbers, defective copies,  
and changes of address should be addressed to:**

**Membership Secretary, El Paso County Historical Society,  
P.O. Box 28, El Paso, Texas 79940.**

**Society Membership of \$45.00 per year includes a subscription to  
*PASSWORD* and *EL CONQUISTADOR*.**

### **Society Headquarters:**

The Burges House • 603 W. Yandell • El Paso, Texas 79902 • (915) 533-3603

*PASSWORD* (ISSN 0031-2738) is published quarterly by  
THE EL PASO COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 603 W. Yandell, El Paso, Texas 79902

Periodicals Postage Paid at El Paso, Texas

**POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:**

The El Paso County Historical Society • P.O. Box 28 • El Paso, Texas 79940