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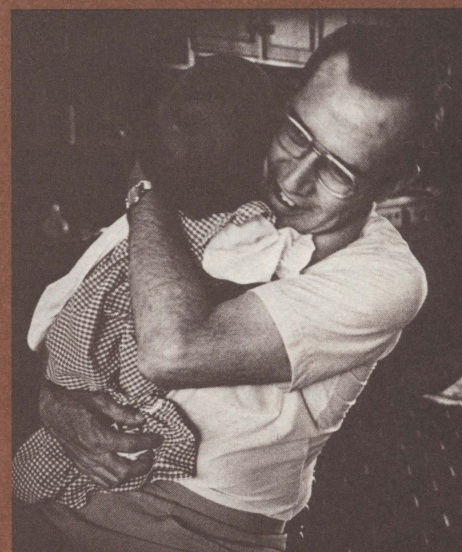
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# NOVA

THE  
UNIVERSITY  
OF TEXAS  
AT EL PASO  
MAGAZINE



**Vernie A. Stembridge, M.D.**  
**Outstanding Ex, 1978**



# The View From the Hill...

As the September issue of NOVA was being set in type at Guynes Printing Co., President A.B. Templeton announced that Dr. Tomás Rivera, vice president for administration at UT San Antonio, will become Executive Vice President of UT El Paso beginning September 1.

Let us introduce you to Dr. Rivera.

He is 43, born in Crystal City, Texas, the son of a migrant farm worker who himself was part of the migrant labor stream that traveled up from Texas to various parts of the Midwest—Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, North Dakota.

After high school in Crystal City, he majored in English at Southwest Texas Junior College, took his bachelor's degree in education at Southwest Texas State University in English, an M.Ed. degree at STSU in educational administration, an M.A. in Spanish literature at the University of Oklahoma, and in 1969, earned his Ph.D. in Romance Languages and Literature at OU.

Dr. Rivera has taught in public schools, at the junior college level and at such senior institutions of higher education as OU, Sam Houston State, Trinity, and UT San Antonio. As an administrator he has chaired departments of foreign languages, served as associate dean of the College of Multidisciplinary Studies at UT San Antonio and as vice president of that institution.

He has served as officer or member of an extraordinary number and variety of professional and civic boards, councils and committees: by appointment of President Carter, he is a member of the Board of Foreign Scholarships, Department of State, Latin America Fulbright-Hayes Coordination; Board of Trustees, Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching; Carnegie Commission on the Future of Public Broadcasting; National Council of Chicanos in Higher Education; Kiwanis International; Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans; Task Force in the Hispanic Arts (National Endowment for the Arts); Bexar County Historical Society.

He was selected Sembrador of the Year—Outstanding Citizen of San Antonio for 1974; he is contributing editor of *Revista Chicano-Requena* (University of Indiana); contributing editor to *El grito* (Berkeley, California) and to *MELUS*; is listed in such publications as the *Directory of American Scholars*, *International Who's Who in Poetry*, *Contemporary Authors*, *Hispania*, *Personalities of the South*, *Directory of American Poets*, *Directory of Mexican-*



Dr. Tomás Rivera

*Americanists and the Directory of American Fiction Writers.*

He is a poet of international renown, a literary critic, a fiction writer, a scholar, a linguist, and a man whose published works are being scrutinized by other critics and scholars in publications about Tomás Rivera.

The Executive Vice Presidency is a newly-created position at UT El Paso and Dr. Rivera will be working closely with President Templeton, Vice President Kenneth E. Beasley, Assistant to the President Wynn Anderson, and other members of the administration.

There were 94 applicants for the position and Dr. Melvin Straus, who served as chairman of the *ad hoc* committee which screened and interviewed applicants, said this:

"Dr. Rivera's credentials bubbled up to the top of the stack as the committee painstakingly assessed the 94 sets of credentials. He easily survived the first two elimination rounds, based on the nature and extent of his administrative responsibility. In the third cutting process in which the list was narrowed to 10 candidates plus two alternates, Dr. Rivera's level of responsibility at UT San Antonio and specific commentary in his supporting letters, made his name an obvious inclusion. When that list of 10 was divided into three groups, the fact that his administrative experience lay in the UT System assured his inclusion in the topmost list of five invited for interview."

Prof. Straus added: "Our committee was also most impressed with Dr. Ri-

vera's publications record—the lengthiest of any of the 94 applicants—and the fact that he has continued to publish during his administrative career. Moreover, he has a strong reputation among his colleagues as a genuine, sincere and proven friend of academic freedom."

Said Dr. Templeton: "My selection of Dr. Rivera was based on a number of factors. That he has a sound academic and administrative background goes without saying—all the final candidates had these. But he is intimately familiar with the workings of the University of Texas System, he knows the operations of the Coordinating Board for Higher Education in Texas, and he has a good grounding in working with state legislators. I have followed Dr. Rivera's career with a great interest since the time I knew him as a scholar and teacher. He is a man who will do great work for UT El Paso."

Contacted in San Antonio, Dr. Rivera said he "looks forward with great enthusiasm" to joining the University administration. "The El Paso community is a very stimulating environment for higher education," he said, "and the University is the center of it. It will be a great experience and I hope I can make a contribution to UT El Paso's progress and bright future."

He will, we are sure.

\* \* \* \*

"Why did you say it takes eight hours for the sun's light to reach Earth when everybody knows it takes only eight minutes," someone said to us after reading the June issue of NOVA. "Ignorance!" we pleaded. Actually it was a matter of haste. Eight minutes is correct.

—Dale L. Walker

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Back Cover: UTEP Little Leaguers, sponsored by the University Police Department. Coaches Joe Ochoa, left, and Sgt. Alfonso Carpio, right. The first UTEP Little League team in history had an 8-2 regular season record. Team members are from Houston, Alta Vista, Beall, and Cielo Vista schools.

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# Vernie A. Stembridge, M.D.

## Outstanding Ex, 1978

by Mary Margaret Davis

*... I swear by Apollo, the physician, and Aesculapius and Health and All-Heal and all the gods and goddesses that, according to my ability and judgment, I will keep this oath and stipulation . . .*

Hippocrates (460?-377? B.C.)

If ever human cloning is possible, his associates feel that the first to be reproduced *in toto* should be Dr. Vernie Stembridge, the 1978 Outstanding Ex-Student of The University of Texas at El Paso whose ability and judgment have brought him international recognition in the field of pathology.

A 1943 graduate of then-Texas College of Mines, Dr. Stembridge is professor and chairman of the Department of Pathology at Dallas' Southwestern Medical School. He is president of the 7,000-member American Society of Clinical Pathologists and widely-known as an authority on air crash fatalities.

A leader in the science dealing with the causes, mechanisms of development, and effects of disease, he will be the guest of honor at UT El Paso's Homecoming, October 26-28.

Born in El Paso's Masonic Hospital June 7, 1924, Vernie attended the old Fannin and Houston schools and graduated at 15 from El Paso High in 1940. He was only 18 when he received a B.A. degree from TCM in biological sciences with a chemistry minor. The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston awarded his M.D. degree in 1948.

A member of the Southwestern faculty since 1959, he was named acting

chairman of the Department in 1966 and chairman in 1967. Southwestern's Dean Frederick J. Bonte, M.D., attributes to the Outstanding Ex the Southwestern Pathology Department's top-rank standing and credits him with many of the innovative features of the new (since 1974) \$40 million physical plant of The University of Texas Health Science Center, of which Southwestern is a part.

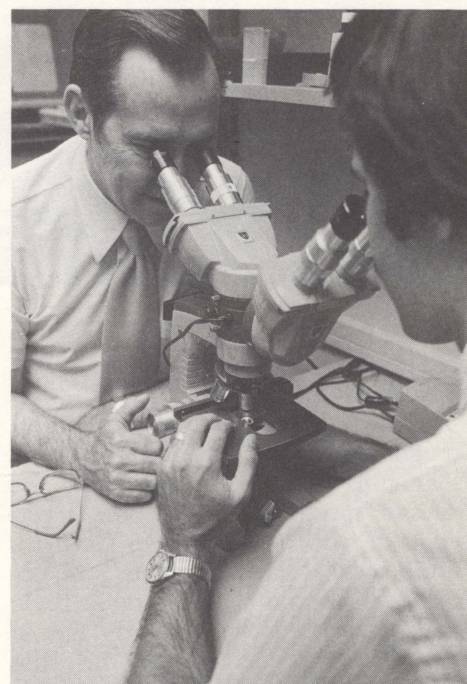
And Dr. Stembridge can well be proud of his department: Southwestern's pathology students are consistent number one scorers on annual evaluation tests given by the National Board of Medical Examiners.

Vernie's personal motto is "Dare To Tell The Truth" and his excellence in hewing to that dictum in teaching and research has brought him a long list of accolades (see boxed insert) in the 35 years since he graduated from The School on the Hill.

*... To reckon him who taught me this art equally dear to me as my parents . . .*

A son of the late V.A. Stembridge, Sr., and the late Mrs. Anna Marie Buchanan, he has a sister, Edna (Mrs. Leo R.) Young of El Paso, and a brother, Edward E. "Skeeter" Stembridge of Palos Verdes Peninsula, California, a retired U.S. Air Force colonel.

The senior Stembridge was superintendent of maintenance for El Paso City Lines and drove the first bus from Dallas to El Paso. (Vernie recalls also with pride that his dad was the first here to perform electric arc—as opposed to acetylene—welding.) Mrs. Buchanan's



Dr. Stembridge and assistant in pathology lab at Parkland.

father was maintenance superintendent for El Paso Electric Company in pre-City Lines days.

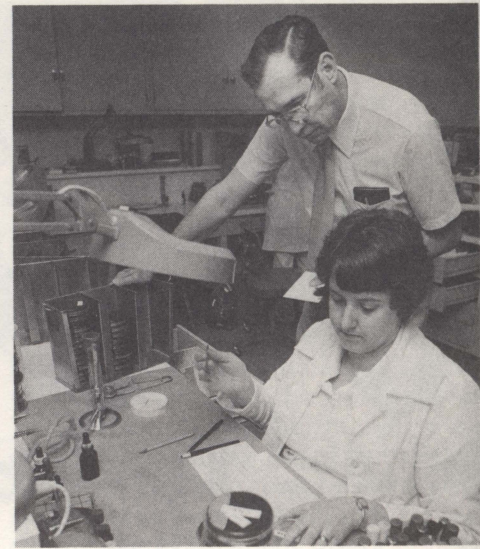
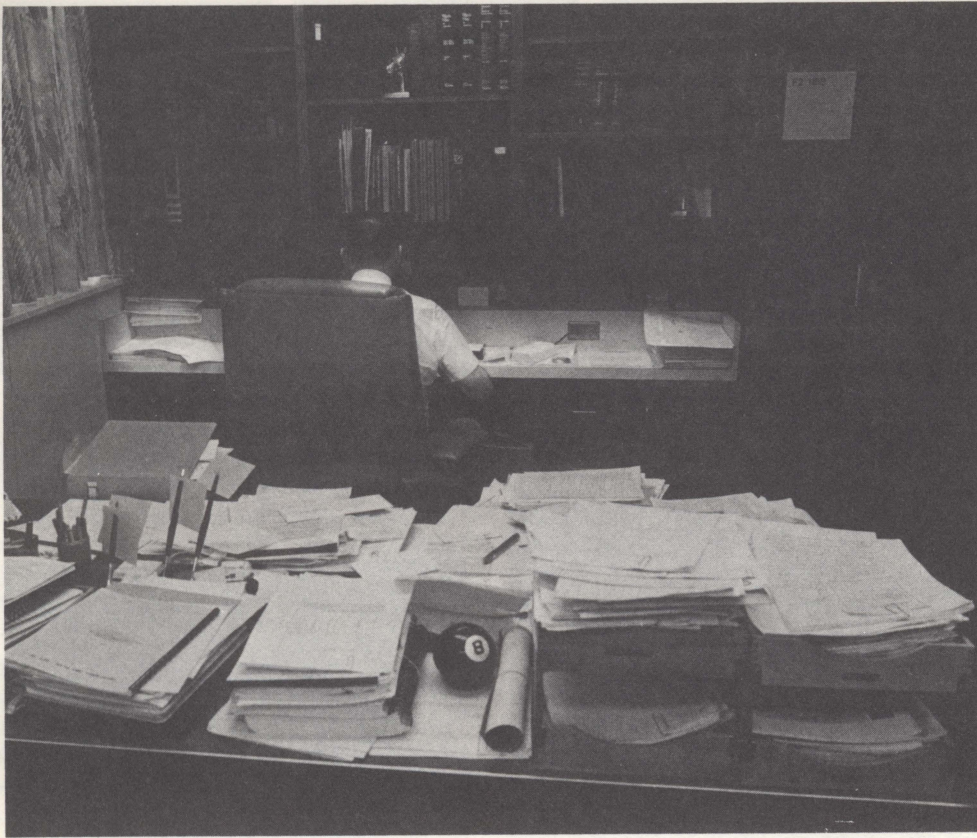
Vernie wanted to be a doctor, he says, "as far back as I can remember." He worked one summer for a physician who taught pathology at Hotel Dieu's School of Nursing, getting his first taste of what was later to be his life's work.

At Mines he was president of the Pre-Med Club and worked every school year as lab assistant in the Biological Sciences Department. He "obtained" stray cats for lab work and was paid 25 cents per feline.

Tom Barnes, UT El Paso professor of physics, on campus since 1938, recalls having had the Outstanding Ex in one of the earliest electronics classes at Mines: "He was a fine student — a brilliant, ambitious young man. His sights were set already on medicine as a career and for a class project, he rigged up an electro-cardiograph."

(Dr. Stembridge later was one of the first to apply electro-microscopy to tumor studies, and he remembers with





pleasure Barnes' classes and those of the late Dr. Anton H. Berkman, Dr. W.W. Lake, and B.F. Jenness, M.D.).

At Mines Vernie took three years of German under the late Dr. Frederick Bachmann. In a beginning class, the professor spread out on his desk a collection of works published in German. Vernie took a scientific tome and noticed a co-ed who chose a comic book. When later she gave a slightly flawed translation from it, he said his first words to his future wife: "You'd be able to read better if you took that chewing gum out of your mouth!"

The co-ed was Aileen Marston, journalism major and first woman editor of *The Prospector*, campus newspaper. Aileen was a Chi Omega and during her senior year was named to *Who's Who At Mines*.

Today they recall campus life in those late Depression-early World War II days: "All classes were small," Vernie says, "and there were only three in that 'famous' German class — Aileen, Mae Daito, and me. Everyone either rode a bus to school or formed car pools. Nobody had much money so dating was pretty well limited to Cokes at the snack bar in Old Main or the weekly dances in Holliday Hall."

"Vernie went with me to Press Club meetings," Aileen remembers, "and the Journalism Department staff consisted of Judson Williams and Bill Saffold. For a really BIG evening, Vernie and I would walk all the way to downtown El Paso and take in a movie. There was a shortage of men so sometimes I talked him into taking me and some of my sorority sisters to Juarez for dinner."

Draft-exempt with a 4-F classification, Vernie had one year between graduation and admittance to UTMB in Galveston. He worked along with the 1974 Outstanding Ex, Dr. Eleanor Duke, for Dr. Berkman, teaching biology, comparative anatomy, and botany labs. Simultaneously he was employed in the chemistry lab at El Paso Electric Co., the long hours of work disciplining him for the upcoming 12-months-a-year process of becoming a doctor.

He was unaware of it but his work as an instructor at Mines was preparing him for what was to be a love as great as practicing medicine—teaching it.

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*... By precept, lecture and every other mode of instruction, I will impart a knowledge of the art to my own sons and to those of my teachers, and to disciples bound by a stipulation and oath, according to the law of medicine, but to none others . . .*

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A.J. Gill, M.D., professor emeritus, past dean of Southwestern and past chairman of the Department of Pathology, says "The world should be full of Vernie Stembridges! You know a man is a great teacher when students follow him after class, hanging on his every word, and Dr. Stembridge is held in just such esteem. He's even been made an honorary alumnus of Southwestern."

"He made learning fun," says J.M. Gilbert, M.D., El Paso pathologist who calls Stembridge "a number one teacher, with unique methods of teaching. The

material is not all cut and dried; rather presented in a low-keyed manner, spiced with biting wit and a good sense of humor. He can be formal when necessary and informal—over a beer after class—with a bunch of students who want to further pick his brain."

Agreeing is W. Gordon McGee, M.D., another El Paso pathologist who was a chief resident under Stembridge. "The man is singularly devoted to bringing out the very best possible performance in his students. His training program is first-rate."

They speak too of the personal counsel Stembridge gives — help in getting loans to cover family and education needs, in gaining time to finish studies before leaving for military commitments and making decisions how best to combine medicine with those obligations.

A close friend and colleague, Ed Eigenbrodt, M.D., pathology prof at Southwestern, told of Stembridge's quest for the truth in relations with his own staff: "He's forever going to bat for some of his people. If you can convince Vernie you're right, he'll back you all the way to the top."

Dr. Eigenbrodt appreciates his friend's dedication and fervor but misses their hunting and fishing outings together. "If Vernie's not teaching, he's traveling—speaking, recruiting faculty, testifying. He's happiest being busy 150 per cent of the time and he manages to do everything exceedingly well."

Dr. Stembridge has a large departmental staff: 13 physicians, 38 faculty members, and 18 residents-in-training. He annually spotlights their excellence with a dinner given at the time of the Peacock Lectures (named for the late George Eugene Peacock, Jr., M.D., his former resident who died of leukemia while in private practice).

At the dinner, each of those completing four-year pathology residencies at Southwestern is presented a handsome hardwood "college" chair bearing the school seal and Stembridge's motto, a gift from the department chairman.



He takes all of his faculty and residents to a yearly micro-slide seminar given by the San Antonio Society of Pathologists and entertains his group at a dinner in that city. Office and lab staffs are honored at other Stembridge-hosted parties during the year.

As testimony to the high regard in which the Outstanding Ex is held, there was established in 1974 the Stembridge Scholarship Award, an annual presentation of \$1,000 to the outstanding senior Southwestern pathology student. Sponsored by anonymous (to the honoree) friends and colleagues, on the list of donors is a former student who was twice ejected from a Stembridge class!

*... With purity and with holiness I will pass my life and practice my art ...*

A marriage with close church ties came from that Mines' German class. Aileen is a daughter of Mrs. Samuel Shirley Marston, member of the pioneer Holt family of Glenwood, N.M., and the late Mr. Marston. Peggy (Mrs. Ellison) Lott and Richard Marston, both of El Paso, are her sister and brother. Aileen's grandfather, the Rev. Arthur Marston, was Methodist minister and missionary to Mexico who settled in Ysleta.

She received a B.A. in journalism in 1944 and the grandfather officiated soon after at their Asbury Methodist Church wedding ceremony in El Paso. After a reception at the Chi Omega lodge on campus, the Stembridges honeymooned en route to med school by train to Houston where they splurged on one night at the plush Rice Hotel. (They still have the paid bill: \$10, plus two phone calls to notify family of their arrival).



*The Stembridge family: Vernie and Aileen in back; L-R in front, Dr. Don Kinnell and Ann Stembridge Kinnell; Shirley Stembridge Watkins and daughter Beth.*

They took a bus to Galveston where they rented a tiny apartment over a poultry market. Aileen found a job at the school business office and they lived on her \$120 a month plus Vernie's earnings catching cotton rats ("for use in the study of a disease called 'heart worms,' now almost under control," he recalls).



*Vernie and Aileen, 1945.*

She later taught journalism at Ball High there and initiated "Ball Highlights," a weekly school paper, an annual, and a quarterly literary magazine. He worked the summer of 1947, after med school ceased to be year 'round, in the El Paso lab of George Turner, M.D. That, plus a stint as research assistant in the med school's Experimental Medicine Lab his senior year, cinched a future in the laboratory aspects of medicine.

In 1947 he published the first of his more than 85 works—a paper on electrolytes in blood sodium, with a UTMB faculty member.

Vernie, a child of the desert, loved Galveston's seaside location. He and other students salvaged a sailboat sunk by a hurricane. They restored it to seaworthiness and "I almost busted a lab because I went sailing so much," he remembers.

Their three children, all daughters, are "BOIs"—born On the Island (Galveston). They are Shirley (Mrs. Phil) Watkins, wife of a San Antonio attorney; Ann (Mrs. Don) Connell, an R.N. whose husband is an Austin emergency room physician; and Vivian (Mrs. Robert) Bays, a librarian who drives a bookmobile and lives with her rockshop owner-husband on a farm near Eugene, Oregon.

The Watkins' two-year-old daughter, little Beth Elaine, is the first grandchild and a delight to the Stembridges.

Both Vernie and Aileen are active in their church, Walnut Hill United Methodist. He has been chairman of the church's Official Board, on the building and long-range planning committees

and, with Aileen, co-chairman of missions. At mealtimes in the Stembridge home, prayers are offered quietly by Vernie.

Aileen spent her girls' early years as Girl Scout troop leader, president of the school's PTA, and belongs to and is active in medical wives' groups—county and med school organizations. She has served as president of Wesley Rankin Community Center board and on the board of Dallas' United Methodist Women.

She is working now on a commercial venture, a walking tour of downtown Dallas, the outgrowth of a recent medical convention for which she arranged a tour for visiting wives.

*... Whatever, in connection with my professional practice, or not in connection with it, I may see or hear in the lives of men which ought not be spoken abroad I will not divulge, as reckoning that all such should be kept secret ...*

By nature modest as well as professionally discreet, Vernie finds it hard to embellish incidents of his being thrust into the public eye.

The prestigious teaching hospital, Parkland Memorial, adjoins Southwestern and on November 22, 1963, Vernie was one of the first called to Trauma Room 2 there to examine the body of slain President John F. Kennedy.

In the highly-charged atmosphere of the emergency treatment room, Dr. Stembridge conferred with Earl Rose, M.D., Dallas County coroner's pathologist, on the medical and legal aspects of the assassination.

Because of its proximity to the trauma room, Vernie's office was commandeered by U.S. Secret Service agents who used it for a communications center throughout that fateful day.

Frequently he is brought into investigations where the cause of a death is disputed and in a recent New Orleans court case, Vernie's testimony was weighed against that of Milton Halpern, M.D., colorful medical examiner for the City of New York on whom the popular television series "Quincy" is reportedly based.

Attorneys for the plaintiff—the family of a man found dead in his bathtub after going to take a shower—asked Dr. Stembridge to testify from his extensive experience with aircraft fatalities.

Dr. Halpern testified for the defense, an insurance company facing a double indemnity payment if the death were ruled accidental.

The body was exhumed and the two did an autopsy and reviewed slides from an earlier study. It was determined that



there had been an accident immediately prior to death, causing the fracture of vertebrae with resultant bone marrow emboli.

Particles of bone marrow were dispersed throughout the body and, in Dr. Stembridge's opinion, death resulted from grossly impaired lung circulation, a direct outcome of the back injury caused, probably, when the victim slipped and fell in the tub.

The court found sufficient cause to return a ruling of accidental death, finding for the plaintiff.

Dr. Stembridge holds the Legion of Merit, the nation's second (only to the Distinguished Service Medal) highest award for "exceptionally meritorious service." The accompanying citation—a folded, faded piece of paper found only after a search of the Stembridge household—commends Vernie for being "instrumental in the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology's attaining a position of world leadership as a reference center for the study of aircrew fatalities."

His AFIP section worked with all U.S. armed forces and with those of Canada and Great Britain and also with the Civil Aeronautics Board.

Then-Maj. Stembridge worked with Col. John Paul Stapp, Air Force physician termed "The World's Fastest Man," in deceleration studies at Holloman AFB, N.M., and at China Lake AFB, California.

Having entered the Air Force as a research physician with no plans for a military career, Dr. Stembridge received no basic training, no indoctrination into military protocol. He recalls, with red face, that he alighted from a helicopter on the deck of an aircraft carrier (near a mid-Pacific aviation tragedy) and grasped and shook the extended hand of the ship's commanding officer *without first saluting!*

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*. . . May it be granted to me to enjoy life and the practice of the art . . .*

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Years and miles away from the poultry market that was their first residence, a feathered friend rules the roost at the Stembridge's Dallas home. Perrico, their yellowheaded parrot entertains guests from his wrought-iron cage in their family room. His vocabulary is extensive and his musical repertoire includes a whistled version of "The Eyes of Texas."

The couple has kept in touch with UT El Paso, being long-time members of the Alumni Association. They opened their home to the Dallas chapter of exes where more than 100 enjoyed dinner and an evening of reminiscing.

Of white brick with brilliant blue

roof, their house is set well back from busy Marsh Lane in the Southwest part of the city. It's situated on two acres of land, the front a grassy lawn which Vernie tends with a riding mower and the back, a heavily wooded area bisected by a deep gash, Joe's Creek. Usually a trickle but sometimes a torrent, the creek has at times carried away part of the terraced backyard.

The 10-year-old house was designed by a professor of physiology at Southwestern who took advantage of Dallas' then-cheap electricity for heating and cooling. The Spanish-style house has wide expanses of west-facing glass and high, vaulted ceilings making it charming if expensive to maintain.

Vernie and Aileen made several trips to their hometown to locate architectural materials and Southwest-flavored furnishings and accessories. Octagonal floor tile and wooden beams are used throughout the downstairs. Mexican pottery holds lush houseplants in profusion.

The massive family room fireplace is of blue-and green-flecked rock from the Silver City, N.M. area. The magnificent hood is of solid copper. Shelves in the large-but-cozy room hold an exquisite collection of figurines and other ceramic pieces made by Aileen's mother. Vernie's library—not at all limited to medical literature—is there too.

A wide enclosed loggia across the house's front serves as entrance, hall, art gallery, parlor, and dining area with concealed access to storage and the kitchen.

Family projects were a lawn sprinkler system, a firepit and outdoor conversation area, and a large deck from which they "read" (a step above "watching") birds, a hobby they enjoy together, along with genealogical research and reading.

A family of raccoons makes its home in the chimney and practices "Stembridge watching" through family room windows.

The house, like their lifestyle, is comfortable and unpretentious. It serves as sanctuary and home base for the busy couple. Now that their children are grown, Aileen goes whenever possible with Vernie on his profession-connected travels.

After 30 years, the Outstanding Ex is a man happy with the route he chose and he warms when he reflects on developments during that time: "The changes have been tremendously exciting," he said. "American medicine is the best practiced anywhere in the world. Sweden claims a lower infant mortality rate but they don't start the clock until the infant is 24 hours old; we start it from the moment of birth.

"Med school is still long but not the killing grind it used to be. Young men

won't submit to those long hours—they want a family life while they are learning. As a result, the educational system has changed. Today 25-30 per cent of med school graduates are women. In the 1940s, the percentage was around four to five. The number of graduates from ethnic minorities is also increasing.

"Methods of treatment have changed—due to discoveries made within just the past few decades. When I began practice there were only two treatments for skin problems: wet and dry.

"Syphilis, now under control with penicillin, was then treated by the "hot-box method"—raising body heat to 108 degrees or with mercury or bismuth injections or applications.

"Where would modern medicine be without cortisone, antibiotics, and other aids we now take for granted? We physicians are constantly in awe as to what may be just around the corner in research."

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*. . . Respected by all men at all times but should I trespass and violate this oath, may the reverse be my lot.*

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When told of his colleague's selection for his alma mater's highest honor, Dean Bonte replied: "And why not! I just wish we had more like him. Southwestern's securing him was something of a coup. Early in his career, this and other schools saw that he was one of pathology's 'comers' and it was hoped that someday Southwestern would have a chance at him. He has more than fulfilled our dreams for that department."

Mrs. Marianne Walters, Dr. Stembridge's administrative assistant in the labs of Parkland Hospital, thinks his combination of abilities is unique. "This very large department runs smoothly because of his being both strong administrator and complete scientist."

Stembridge's peers have elevated him to the highest office in the national professional organization and to positions from which he helps set the standards by which are judged those who would practice the specialty of pathology.

Finally, the Outstanding Ex passes with highest marks the most telling test of all: Mrs. Laurie McCarthy, his personal secretary, has turned down other job offers, preferring to remain in his employ.

Treasured by students, associates, family, and friends alike, Vernie Albert Stembridge, Jr., with his pursuit of the truth, has brought about better teaching and practice of "The Art."

The University of Texas at El Paso is finer because of his ties to it and proudly gives him its highest distinction. □





# *Fine Arts and Mrs. Fox*

*by Ruby Burns*

An event of significant importance to the University of Texas at El Paso took place in May, 1970, upon the death of Josephine Clardy Fox. It was learned then that she had left her entire estate to the University. The estate consisted of numerous pieces of real estate as well as securities, cash and jewels and rare objects d'art which Mrs. Fox had collected over the years. It was conservatively estimated to have a worth of some \$3,000,000.

This fall, in recognition of Mrs. Fox's interest in both the University and the fine arts, the building housing the departments of Art, Drama and Speech, and Music, is being renamed the Josephine Clardy Fox Fine Arts Center.

Official announcement of her bequest to the University was made at a press conference on June 18, 1970, in the office of Sam Young Jr., president of El Paso National Bank, the bank having been named administrator. The announcement was made by Dr. Joseph R. Smiley, then president of the University.

Dr. Smiley prophetically called the gift "one which will be of lasting benefit to the University of Texas at El Paso and to its community," a fact that has become more evident with each passing year. As real estate leases have expired, new ones have been executed at current, more realistic prices so that the income from the trust assumes greater importance every year. According to figures released recently by the University Business Office, the average income for each of the past three years has been more than \$226,000.

The principal of the Josephine Clardy Fox fund remains untouched. The income is used for various programs at the University, among them the Centennial Museum, the Library, NOVA, the Center for Inter-American Studies, the Institute of Oral History, research in alternate energy sources and solar

energy, purchase of audio-visual equipment, and others. The will provided minimal restrictions of \$20,000 for a permanent scholarship fund and \$2,500 for a student loan fund, making possible a wide area of uses.

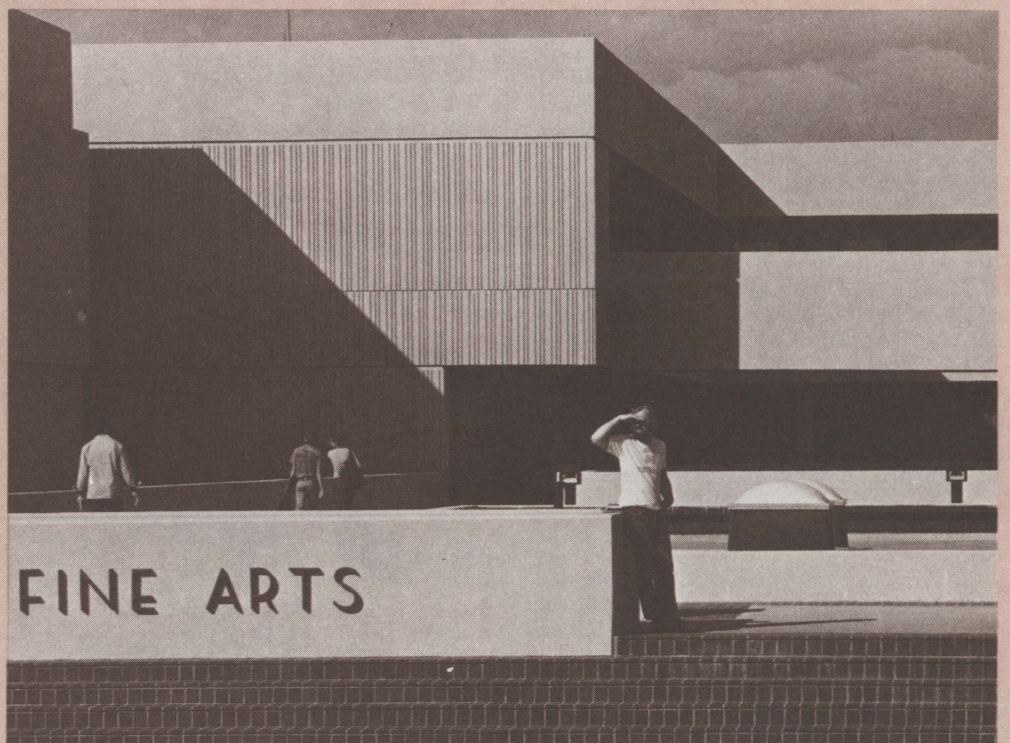
As Mrs. Fox's biographer I, along with some University officials and friends, thought it appropriate for some memorial to be made to this generous benefactor. Various suggestions were put forward, the most suitable seeming to be the naming of the Fine Arts Center, which was under construction at the time of the gift, in her honor. The Board of Regents voted favorably on this idea when it was presented by President A. B. Templeton last March.

Mrs. Fox was a music student in her youth. She also participated in drama activities at Hosmer Hall, the private finishing school in St. Louis where her parents sent her as a young woman.

Her interest in all the arts is evidenced in the collections of paintings, fine porcelains, antique furniture and other art objects which she left to the University. She also served as a director and was a life member of the El Paso Museum of Art, director and member of the Artist Selection Committee for the El Paso Symphony Orchestra, director and member of the Artists Committee for the Dallas Civic Opera, director and member of the Nominating and Artist Committees of the El Paso Community Concert Association, life member of the National Society of Arts and Letters, and director of the National Arts Foundation.

At the time of her death Mrs. Fox was nearing her 89th birthday.

When the University received the collections (after an appraisal by a team of experts from Parke-Bernet in New York), many of them were placed in







Josephine Clardy Fox on yacht in San Francisco Bay, early 1900's. At right, pieces from the Fox Collection at UT El Paso.

the El Paso Centennial Museum on campus and in the executive offices of the president. Most of the paintings, cut glass, some fine crystal and china, and a great deal of furniture went to Hoover House, official residence of the University president. Some of the more valuable items, such as a Corot painting, Georgian silver, and a marvelous silver flatware service for 12 crafted by Faberge for the Russian Czar, were put in vaults for safekeeping. A fan collection is displayed in Hoover House, and fine rugs are in use there and in the president's office.

One room of the Museum was devoted to her collections. (Currently the Museum is empty of exhibits, undergoing a year-long renovation and construction of an addition which will double the amount of available exhibit space.) The life-size portrait of Josephine Clardy done by R. Hinton Perry in 1915 was hung in that room. This painting of a beautiful young woman with dark hair and eyes and wearing a filmy blue gown is thought to have been her wedding portrait. She and Eugene Fox were married shortly after that time in a simple ceremony in the Collegiate Church of St. Nicholas in New York City with only the bride's mother, Mrs. Allie Clardy, and S. S. Crow, a close friend of the bridegroom, as witnesses.

Eugene Fox was an executive of the El Paso and Southwestern Railroad, stationed in Chicago at the time of the wedding. He had the use of a luxurious private railroad car for the honeymoon, during which they went to Kansas City to visit his family. After going on to California, they returned via El Paso to Chicago where they took up residence in the Blackstone Hotel. After a few months, Eugene was transferred to El Paso and the couple soon moved into



the house at 1119 Montana Avenue, which Josephine maintained as her home until her death. When the estate was being liquidated, the house was sold to a neighbor, Manuel Vargas.

During the last several years of her life, Mrs. Fox spent most of the time in the hospital, recovering from a fall in which she sustained a broken hip. When she was at home, she was attended by private nurses. After acquiring the many valuable collections that overflowed every room of the house, she was reluctant to admit anyone. Only a very few close and trusted friends ever got past her door, even when she was well. She had become almost a recluse before the fall in which she broke her hip.

Before her house was sold, a bank trust officer found many items that could not be used by the University but were of some value. It was suggested that the Women of St. Clement's Episcopal Church, who operated a thrift shop, be allowed to sell these items on a commission basis, and the arrangements were made. A great deal of curiosity had built up about the house and the collections, so the sale attracted great crowds. Some Meissen and Dresden pieces remained, as well as period furniture that was not highly valuable, fine light fixtures, and many whimsical items such as collectors dote on. The many visitors roamed through the house, admiring the fine marble mantels and the mahogany panelling of some rooms. They traipsed through upstairs rooms and wanted to see the "hat room," where the walls had been lined from floor to ceiling with boxes containing the picture hats for which Mrs. Fox had been famous. The hats were not there, as the lot had been given to the costume collection of the Department of Drama and Speech. There Dr. Milton Leech makes use of the hats for exhibits and costumes for plays. He also has in the wardrobe some of the elegant furs and an opera cape that were worn by Mrs. Fox.

The Fine Arts Center, magnificent home of the University's Departments of Art, Music, and Drama and Speech, was opened to the public on October 11, 1974. It will henceforth be known as the Josephine Clardy Fox Fine Arts Center.

The \$7.8 million building covers 186,000 square feet of floor space. A wide ramp running from front to back over a small formal garden, divides the building into two parts and provides easy access for the public coming to the Recital Hall on the left or the University Playhouse on the right. Accommodated on the left side are music classrooms, practice rooms, and dance studios in addition to the beautiful Recital Hall with seating for 412 persons. A passageway into the backstage of the large Magoffin Auditorium next door, affords access for musicians, actors, or dancers from one facility to the other. Dr. Richard E. Henderson heads the Music Department.

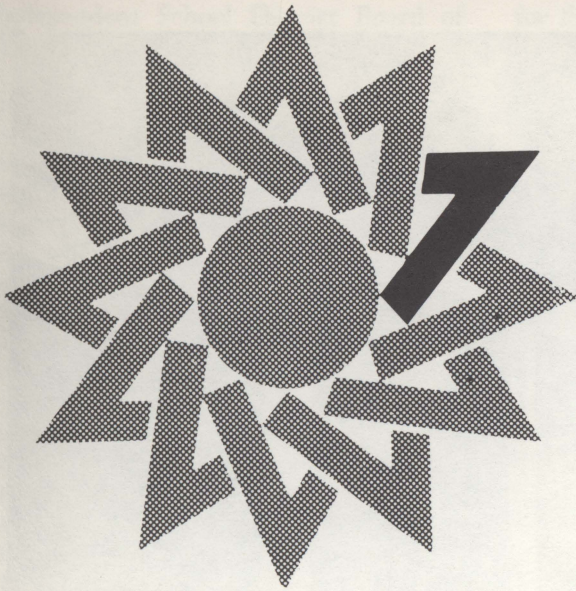
The Department of Art is housed in the main block that forms the north side of the patio and includes a gallery for display of sculpture and a second large gallery for paintings. Teaching areas, a small photo lab, a slide library, and all other phases of a complete art department are included. Willette Munz succeeded Dr. Clark Garnsey as department chairman this fall.

In the drama wing are modern classrooms, offices, and areas for designing and making costumes, scenery and props. The pride of the department is the Playhouse, which is in the form of a segmented semi-circle, rising to three-story height. There are 393 permanent seats, the rows elevated so that each is 15 inches above the row beneath. The thrust or apron of the stage is a hydraulic lift that can function as stage floor space, audience seating, orchestra pit or lading area for equipment. Productions may be presented with full stage, with proscenium arch, or half in-the-round. A Studio Theatre also is available for presentations such as master's thesis productions. Dr. Joseph Perozzi heads the Department of Drama and Speech which includes three disciplines: Speech and Hearing Pathology, Speech Communication, and Drama. Dr. Gifford Wingate directs the drama functions of the department.

As Dr. Smiley predicted, Josephine Clardy Fox's gift has become one "of lasting benefit to the University of Texas at El Paso and to its community." The naming of the Fine Arts Center in her honor is a fitting recognition of her affection for her city and the fine arts which she valued so highly. □

Ruby Burns is the author of *Josephine Clardy Fox*, published by Texas Western Press in 1973.





# KCOS

by Nancy Hamilton

## ON THE AIR

**E**l Paso's newest television station, KCOS Channel 7, is located on the University of Texas at El Paso campus but the University can't claim it as its own: It belongs to the entire community as El Paso's first public TV installation.

When the station went on the air in mid-August, the event culminated more than seven years' work by a board whose members represent the community. They and others worked to raise funds and to generate public interest in the venture, since public television is financed through individual and industrial donations plus various state and federal funds.

The station leases most of the first floor of the Education Building. Its distinguishing feature is the 5.5-ton dish-shaped ground receiving station outside the west entrance to the building. The huge dish, 33 feet in diameter, is tilted skyward to pick up microwave transmissions bringing public television programs from Washington, D.C., via the WESTAR I communications satellite orbiting 22,300 miles in space.

John Siqueiros, a 1951 graduate of UT El Paso and former broadcasting chairman of the Mass Communications Department, is general manager with a staff of 14 for the beginning of operations. He expects the staff to grow to 22 or 23 now that the station is on the air.

The studios, equipped with the newest and best in electronic wonders, are about the same size as WNET in New York, says Mrs. Elaine Rosen, chairman of the board.

"We are very grateful to the University for making the facilities available to us," says Mrs. Rosen. "Certainly we

wouldn't have been able to build a comparable studio. Also, the studio is convenient to the Mass Communication Department for cooperative efforts involving students."

The station is unusual in many respects. One important one is that it has a VHF channel which was reserved



John Siqueiros (third from right) and guests watch the KCOS monitors during the first few minutes after the station went on the air Aug. 18.





*Mass Communication student Harry Tyler mans the control board at KCOS.*

back in the 1950s when El Pasoans first started talking about such a station. This means that TV sets need no extra equipment in order to pick up Channel 7—schools and homes alike can tune in on the regular dial.

Another plus factor, says Siqueiros, is El Paso's location. As the station gets into production, he anticipates that "we can produce programs for public television network use that cannot be produced elsewhere in the country. We and Ciudad Juárez form the largest border community with possibilities for international, bilingual, bicultural programming that can have great appeal for other areas."

In the beginning, the station is relying on programs that are already available through the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), such proven favorites as *Upstairs, Downstairs, America, Nova*, and *Carrascolendas*. Symphonic music by the Boston Pops and the Pittsburgh orchestra are available, along with treats for the younger set such as *Misterogers' Neighborhood, Sesame Street*, and *Electric Company*.

Programming is under the direction of David M. Wilson who arrived in May from Evansville, Indiana, where he had been program director for public television station WNIN.

In general, programming will be instructional in nature during daytime hours and geared to family and cultural interests in the evenings, Mrs. Rosen says. Suggestions from the public are welcomed, as are comments about what is aired. Final decisions on programming, however, rest with the station since programs that are scheduled must be compatible with the available budget.

The El Paso Public Television Foundation was incorporated in 1971 under the Texas Non-Profit Corporation Act. The Foundation, which is sole licensee for KCOS-TV, has a board of forty directors. These include institution and organization representatives and interested individuals. Serving with Mrs. Rosen as officers are Bill Rand, vice chairman; Jeanne Massey, secretary; and Dr. Rene Rosas, treasurer.

Under contract with KVIA Channel 13, the transmitter and antenna are located at that station's Mt. Franklin tower. The equipment needed to put Channel 7 on the air was purchased through a federal grant of \$451,249 plus gifts from the community totaling \$191,526. Additional funding has been brought in by campaigns during the spring to meet start-up and initial operating expenses.

"Thirty per cent of our funding is

generated from federal sources," says Mrs. Rosen. "The station and the Foundation must generate the rest of it. Planned events such as auctions and subscription campaigns will be undertaken for this purpose."

During the crucial months leading to the station's debut on the air, KDBC-TV Channel 4 gave air time for two telethons to help raise the necessary funds. A total of \$150,000 had to be raised during the months since last October. Siqueiros said another important source of help was the City of El Paso whose administration obtained \$60,000 under CETA Title II. He also expressed his appreciation for the University's cooperation in preparing the studios, enabling the station to cut costs in an operation where every dollar counts.

All local commercial TV stations and print media of El Paso have been of inestimable help, Siqueiros added.

School districts have been involved in planning for the station since the possibility of educational TV was brought up in the 1950s and Virgil Hicks, now professor emeritus of radio and television, was spearheading the movement. The schools have been represented on the Foundation's board since it was formed.

Ross Borrett, president of the Ysleta



Independent School District Board of Trustees, serves on the executive board for the Foundation. Like many employees of the school district, he has been sold on the educational potential of television for some time. In a poll of Ysleta teachers, administrators and supervisors last spring, 87 per cent of the teachers and 91 per cent of the administrators and supervisors indicated they are interested in using instructional television (ITV) in the classroom and in helping to implement it.

"Our survey asked how many were willing to volunteer their help in selecting programs, resolving student needs, and exploring other aspects of ITV," said Jim Barnett, director of guidance and testing services for the Ysleta schools. "We got almost 500 volunteers—and we don't normally get that many volunteers for any one effort. This overwhelming support led our Board of Trustees to say that if the people in the district think this is a useful tool, let's initiate it."

Barnett says his district is the first in El Paso County whose trustees have backed their support of ITV with a promise of funds when it goes into classroom use.

The Ysleta district has a five-member committee working toward implementation of ITV in the fall of 1979. "When it appeared that the station might go on the air early this year," Barnett said, "we were ready to try to implement something for this fall. When the target date came later, that gave us more time to do a better job. Unless ITV does a very fine job in its first year and can prove its merits as a valid educational tool, we will be hard pressed to continue using it. The delay can allow us to make a much better start."

The El Paso Independent School District board also is interested in ITV and in the 1978-79 budget committed \$32,000 for the purchase of 60 TV sets and portable stands for them. The board is looking ahead to additional purchases of 60 sets per year. A five-member Instruction Television Services Committee was appointed to explore how the services can be integrated into the teaching program. The committee has been looking at the possibility of using ITV only in high schools for the first year, 1979-80.

"Under Texas Education Agency guidelines," says Ross Snyder, public information consultant for the El Paso district, "a school district can qualify for \$1.50 per student in state funding for a maximum of 200 students per television set. This is considered pass-through money which goes to a public TV station to give them the ability to provide services requested by the schools. The station could use the funds to obtain programs, to provide consultants

for the schools in use of the programs, or to print study guides for use with programs, for example. The funds cannot be used to purchase TV sets for the schools—that is an expense the school district must bear."

Meanwhile the committees for both school districts have been working on details such as the amount and type of equipment to buy, the programs available that fit into their teaching programs, the kinds of training teachers will need in order to use TV effectively in their classrooms, the kinds of printed materials that may be needed for use by classes involved in TV, and coordinating of schedules among participating school districts.

The Public Affairs Committee of the University's Faculty Senate is gathering suggestions from faculty members about University involvement in future programming for KCOS. These range from ideas for possible programs to offers of expertise by individuals willing to serve as lecturers or panel members for programs on specific topics. The suggestions will be turned over to the KCOS program director.

Siqueiros is not the only UT El Paso ex-student on the KCOS staff. One of his former students, Manuel Escontrias, is assistant technician. Louis Brown, chief engineer, first attended the University in 1964 and completed his degree in electrical engineering in 1976. He had been working at KTEP-FM, the University's public radio station, since 1969 and left in January to join the TV staff. "I guess I caught my interest in this business from my father, who was a broadcast engineer in the Midwest," he explains. He has been

involved in the planning for Channel 7 since 1970.

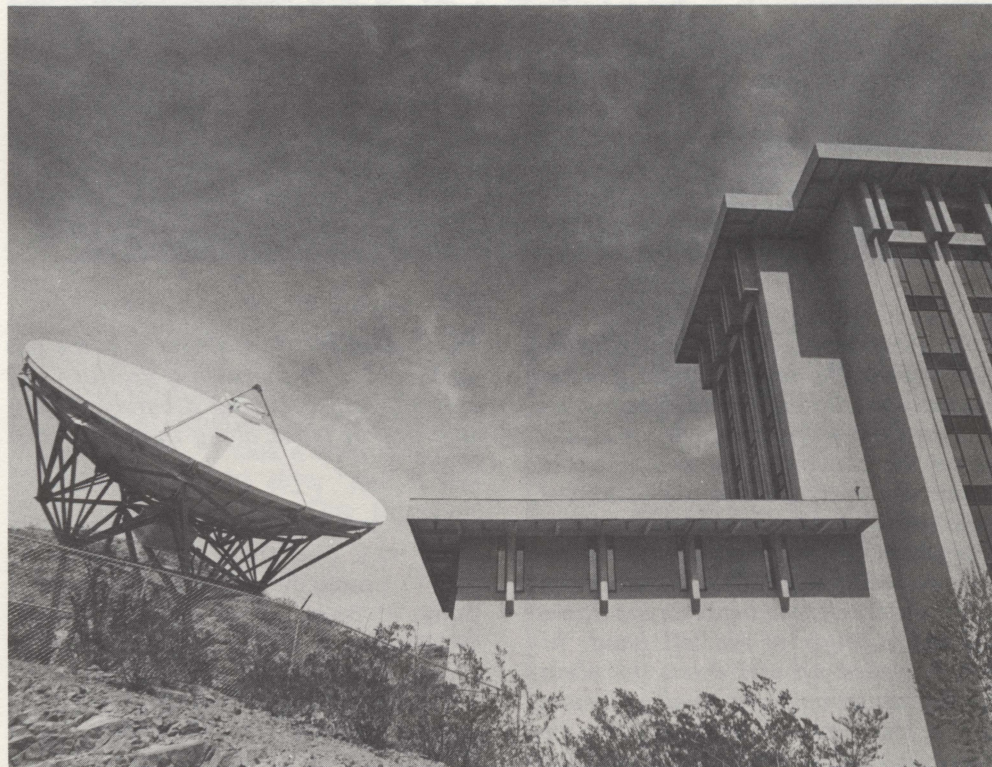
Now that the station is on the air, El Pasoans have a better idea than before of what public television is really all about. Siqueiros expects that local businesses will become interested in underwriting programs because of the opportunity to present for public enjoyment such a spectrum of educational, cultural and informative shows. Because there are no paid commercials, underwriting is an important way of meeting the cost of programming.

"We also welcome contributions at any time, no matter how small or large," he added. The station's address is P.O. Box 146, El Paso, TX 79942.

Through the cooperation of the entire El Paso community, KCOS has become a reality. Now the station is looking to the community for continuing support so that it may develop its full potential in coming years. □

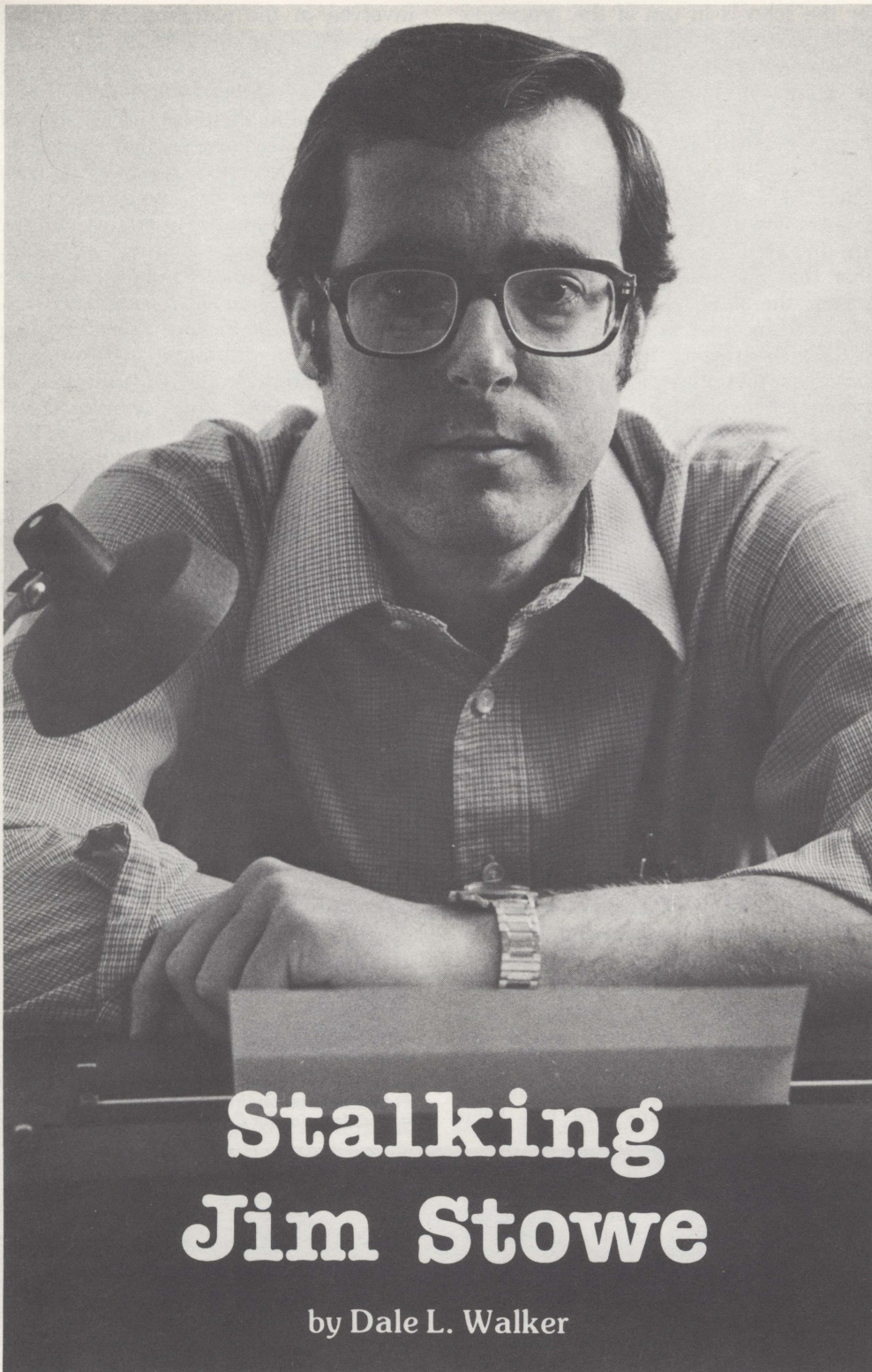


Mrs. Elaine Rosen, chairman of the El Paso Public Television Foundation board, with the station logo in the Education Building studio.



KCOS' microwave dish outside Education Building at UT El Paso.





# Stalking Jim Stowe

by Dale L. Walker

... Half an hour later he was in the shed beyond the house, standing before the case on the wall, withdrawing the arrows, inserting them in the mounted quiver on the bow. He was about to secure the last one when he stopped, regarded the green fletching. One finger brushed across the spine, stroking the delicate feathers. He held the shaft just below the broadhead between the thumb and index finger of his left hand; his eyes travelled up and down the aluminum shaft admiringly, finally stopping at the black and silver triangular tip. His thumb lightly traced the inner lines, barely moving along the edge of the

razor; then his third finger met the top blade and with increasing pressure slid over the edge, leaving a barely detectable line of blood along the black steel edge...

Here are a few of the things New York book publishers do *not* want to see: 1) unsolicited manuscripts on anything; 2) books containing such horrors as footnotes or which require a bibliography, notes section, or index; 3) books which are arranged chronologically, i.e., moving forward from point A to point B, etc.; 4) books which even by the judicious use of thick paper and large

type cannot be priced at \$10 or more; 5) biographies of historical personages on whom several previous biographies have not already been published; 6) non-fiction books on the American West; 7) fiction books on the American West unless they are by Louis L'Amour, very much alive, or by Max Brand or Zane Grey, both dead; 8) books in which the FBI, CIA, police, Richard Nixon, Idi Amin, the government of South Africa, or capital punishment are put in a favorable light; 9) books which contend you cannot get anywhere by self-help and ought to see a specialist; 10) books which say the Earth was never visited in primordial times by visitors from outer space; 11) first novels.

Number 11, which ordinarily is iron-bound, can be excepted. In fact, UT El Paso graduate Jim Stowe is living proof that a first novel need not languish unpublished and unread if the writer has talent and is willing to scale the book to what the American reading public craves.

Stowe is a native El Pasoan, graduate of Coronado High and UT El Paso, a very bright, friendly and genuinely modest young man. For his thesis requirement toward an M.A. degree in English (Creative Writing option), he wrote his first novel and he worked on it a full year before it was submitted and accepted. He received his M.A. from the University last spring.

Then the impossible began to happen.

His instructors were enthusiastic about the book and Les Standiford, who heads the UTEP Creative Writing Program, decided to bump it to Paul Reynolds, a literary agent. In three weeks, the giant New York publisher, Simon & Schuster, was "expressing an interest in it"—so much so that one of the editors phoned Stowe to discuss the book and to test his attitude toward making certain changes in it. The changes represented nothing massive, nothing requiring a total overhaul of the manuscript, only certain textual changes S&S felt would improve it.

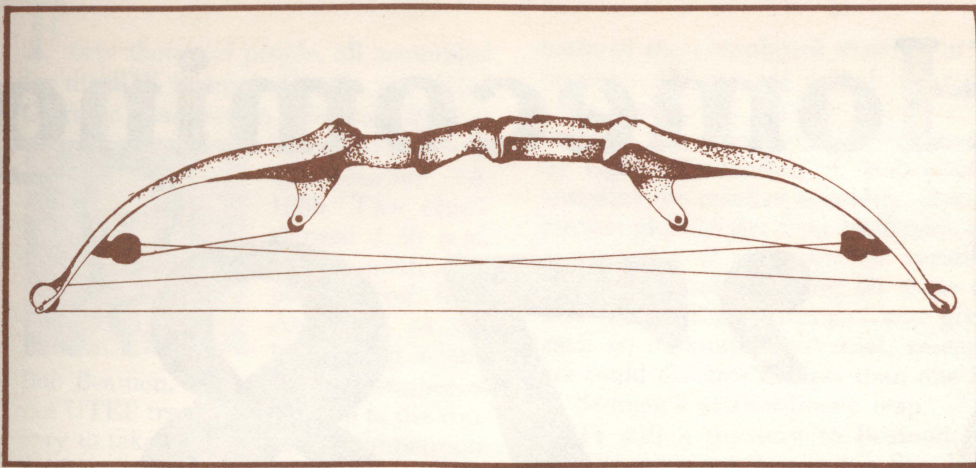
Not long after that, Stowe received his contract and a sum of money most writers only dream of, a sum referred to in the business as "a healthy advance," meaning a lump sum of cash paid prior to publication and against royalties that will accrue.

Simon & Schuster has scheduled publication of the novel in the spring of 1979.

"They seem pretty excited about it," says Stowe who, beneath a calm exterior, is pretty excited about it himself, and justly so.

The 90,000-word book is titled *Winter Stalk*. It is, Stowe says, "a psychological suspense story," the psychological part an attempt to tell *why* certain things take place, the suspense being defined





as the “stretching out of anticipation.” The third element present in *Winter Stalk* is surprise, an element which in ordinary “whodunits” is often the only element.

In *Winter Stalk*, the author says, “The influence of Alfred Hitchcock is unmistakable,” and so it is: An El Paso couple, David and Kate Meredith, with their newly adopted baby, become lost driving on a mountain road in New Mexico. A blizzard is raging; their baby is ill and feverish. Michael Perry, stalking a deer in the woods, hunting with bow and arrows, offers the Merediths refuge in his and his wife Rachel’s mountaintop house.

*The wind slapped their faces as they left the garage. The snow had increased again, and from where David stood by the side of the creaking garage, waiting as Michael secured the latch on the door, the cabin made a hazy gray outline against the whirling white screen. Turning, David could make out another outline, this one more distinct because it was closer. The small shed he had observed from the mountain path appeared larger now, blanketed by a steadily mounting layer of snow . . .*

“What’s in there?” he asked.

Michael turned, looked where David was pointing. He said quickly, “My—my . . . things.” He paused, then evidently realized he should have been more specific. “My archery equipment. I keep it all in there.”

*. . . It was practically useless to talk now, the wind blocked out everything. Michael started off. David grudgingly picked up his frozen feet and followed him. But not until after staring a moment longer at the isolated shed, wondering.*

Stowe as a youngster was interested in film and even produced a number of 8 mm home-movies, complete with script and actors. “They were ‘horror’ films mostly,” he says. “I wanted to do what they were doing in the old Dracula and Frankenstein films — elicit an emotion of some kind from the audience. I think it helped me. In my writing I am trying to do the same thing—to set a mood

and pace, elicit an emotion, to get the reader to ‘sit on the edge of his chair.’”

Like nearly all good writers, Stowe is a voracious reader: Faulkner and Fitzgerald among the great literary names, Poe and Lovecraft among the second echelon greats. Of modern writers, Stowe studies William Goldman (*Marathon Man*), Robert Bloch (*Psycho*), Richard Neely (*The Walter Syndrome*), John Farris (*Sharp Practice*), and such short story masters as Shirley Jackson and Stanley Ellin. These are names he mentions as being, in some fashion, influential, but you will be hard pressed to name a modern thriller writer Stowe is not familiar with: Lawrence Sanders?

“I just finished reading *The Second Deadly Sin* and I don’t think it deserved the bad review Evan Hunter gave it. It’s long and there are too many details at times, but it wasn’t bad.” John D. MacDonald? “He’s just one of the great ones. I like what he does. Ross McDonald also interests me with his intricate plots and psychology but somehow his books aren’t as suspenseful as John D.’s and Lew Archer is not as interesting as Travis McGee.” Agatha Christie? “For plotting, she is superb. I once took a book of hers apart and labeled things in it—how the clues were planted and so on. She had an ingenious mind.” Evan Hunter? “One of my favorites. I love the 82nd Precinct novels he writes as Ed McBain and I like what he writes under his own name.”

Stowe credits Francis Fugate, Jon Manchip White, Les Standiford and Bruce Dobler, all of the UT El Paso Creative Writing Program in the Department of English, as helping him immeasurably. “I took a class with Jon White in 1972,” he says, “and it was on screenplay writing. One thing we had to do was actually write a screenplay or at least a portion of one. I decided to write mine on White’s novel *The Game of Troy* and it worked out pretty well. ABC television had an option on it for a while and it is being considered by an agent now.”

Fugate, Stowe says, has an uncanny ability to put his finger on the things that are going wrong in a fiction writer’s

work. “He taught me more than he’ll ever know—just a great instructor and a writer who knows his craft.”

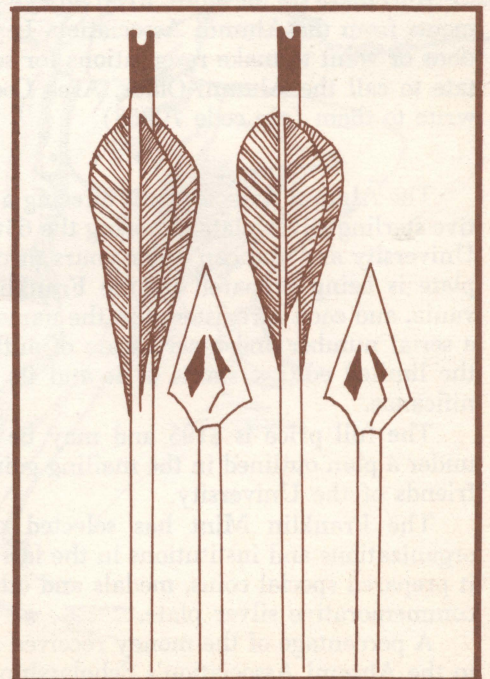
On the *Winter Stalk* manuscript, Stowe says, “Les Standiford and Bruce Dobler helped me make it a better and more marketable book. They read it thoroughly and gave me detailed comments and I benefited from every observation they made.”

Stowe has developed the method of plotting and writing that works best for him: “For me, I must know the beginning and the end. If I have these worked out and know them thoroughly, the middle is not nearly so difficult. I try for a strong narrative hook at the beginning and a sort of ‘crescendo’ at the end. A writer is basically an entertainer and you must think constantly of your audience and keep the reader interested in what is happening.”

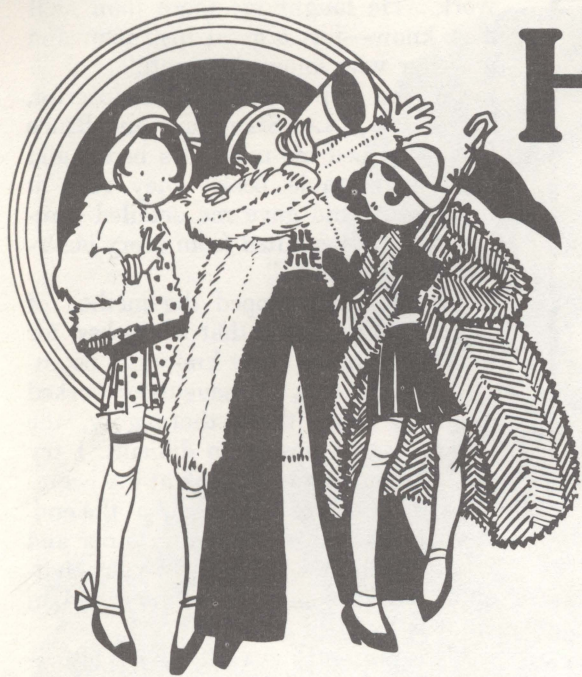
He is presently working on the alterations in *Winter Stalk* outlined by his editor at Simon & Schuster. A new novel is in the works and Stowe is thinking he would like to teach in higher education.

In the meantime, next spring, look for *Winter Stalk* from Simon & Schuster, a novel by James Lewis Stowe. You’ll find yourself sitting on the edge of your chair.

*Then as he neared the supine form, David began to doubt his own eyes. At first all he registered was that something long and thin and glistening was rising out of the man’s stomach. When he got closer he made out the fletching at the end of the arrow, and things began to click in his head. The sight was shocking; it brought with it the possibility of death, and death was not familiar to him, was not part of his reality—which was a silly notion because death is always present, always possible. But why now? Why here? And why was he mixed up in it all? □*







# Homecoming '78

\* \* \* \*

**T**here's a lot to come home to October 26-28!

The University is celebrating its 65th anniversary, for one thing, and there is a special entertainment event in the works for the evening of October 26—details of which will be announced soon by the Alumni Office.

The 1978 Outstanding Ex-Student, Dr. Vernie Stembridge (whose story, done so well by Mary Margaret Davis, is our cover story this issue), will be honored at the traditional gala banquet on October 27 at the El Paso Country Club.

Reunion classes will be getting together too: Classes ending in 8 from 1918 to 1968 and, for their 25th anniversary, the Class of 1953.

Saturday the 28th is filled with Homecoming things: the dedication of a commemorative marker at the site of the original State School of Mines and Metallurgy at Ft. Bliss (Henderson E. VanSurdam, who was instrumental in our founding, will be Guest of Honor on that occasion); the Matrix Society will host a morning tour of the Engineering-Science Complex and the new Library Annex; there will be a pre-football game barbecue supper, free for all alumni, faculty and staff, at the Special Events Center (sponsored by Furr's Supermarkets) leading up to the Miner-New Mexico Lobo game in the Sun Bowl.

And there's a lot more. Keep an eye peeled for announcements from the Alumni Association. If you have some questions or want to make reservations for something, don't hesitate to call the Alumni Office, Area Code 915, 747-5533, or write to them (zip code 79968).

\* \* \* \*

The Alumni Association is offering a special commemorative sterling silver plate honoring the 65th anniversary of the University and you can order yours through October 31. The plate is being prepared by the Franklin Mint in Pennsylvania, and each is registered in the name of its owner, carries a serial number and a certificate of authenticity attesting to the limited edition status of it and its commemorative significance.

The full price is \$195 and may be paid in installments under a plan outlined in the mailing going out to alumni and friends of the University.

The Franklin Mint has selected only 150 prominent organizations and institutions in the last five years for which it prepared special coins, medals and other items such as the commemorative silver plate.

A percentage of the money received for the plates will go to the Alumni Association's Scholarship Fund.

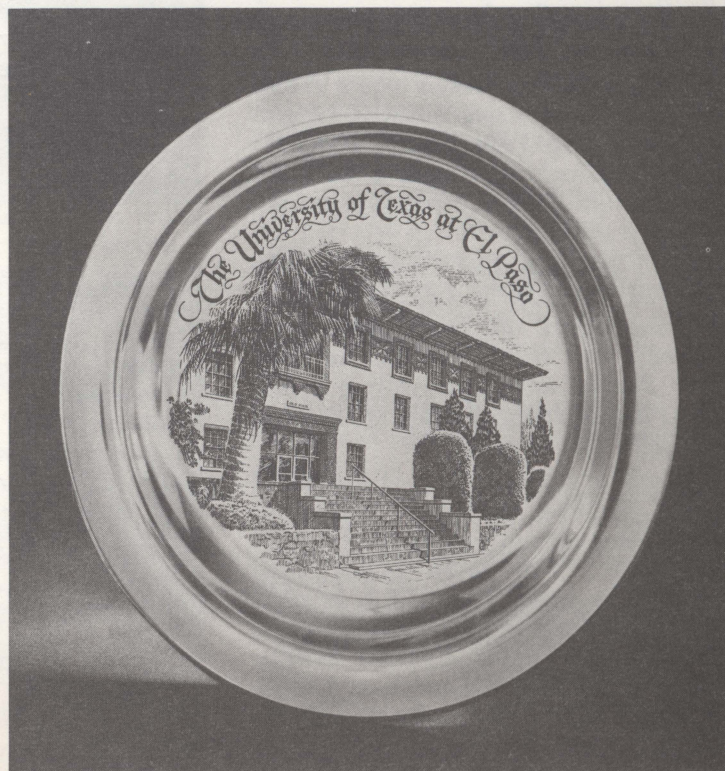
Some news to keep in mind for 1979: El Paso is one of the departure points for the series of three travel opportunities offered next year through the UT El Paso Alumni Association.

Dates and trips are: March 10-14, Mazatlan, Mexico; June 9-17, Spain's Canary Islands; and November 18-25, Caribbean cruise.

Brochures and information about the travel program are being sent only to paid members of the Alumni Association, members of the Matrix Society and major contributors to the University, including the President's Associates.

Reservations will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

Arrangements are also being worked out for locally-arranged special alumni-booster trips to out-of-town football games in 1979. The Alumni Association is sponsoring a trip to Hawaii November 2-9, 1978, a part of which will feature the UTEP Miners vs. the University of Hawaii football game on Nov. 4. The "Hawaiian Luau" costs \$569 per person and information on it is available from the Alumni Office.





**F**orty thousand people, all assembled for the XIX Olympic Games, populated Olympic Stadium in Mexico City the humid afternoon of October 18, 1968. The clock showed 3:46 p.m. as the fourth competitor and first American in the long jump event,



Bob Beamon, a 21-year-old member of the UTEP track team, strode to the runway to take his turn in the competition. Each participant is allowed six jumps and Beamon readied for his first attempt. He had trouble the day before in the qualification round, fouling two jumps and barely making it to the finals on his third try.

He took off down the runway with a steady, full stride, covering an estimated 139 feet before liftoff. According to one long jump spectator-competitor, Britisher Lynn Davies, "He seemed to be in the air a hell of a long time." When he came down and the measurement was taken, indeed he had been in the air a long time—and covering territory all the while. In Mexico City, long jumps were measured by an optical device which traveled along a rail parallel to the landing pit. Designed to measure jumps of 28 feet or less, the device proved inadequate for Beamon's leap and it had to be measured with a tape. Heightening the suspense, official measurements flashed on the score board in meters, and quick conversion to feet and inches had to be made. The result of 29 feet 2-1/2 inches so overwhelmed another competitor, Russian Igor Ter-Ovanesyan, he muttered, "Compared to that jump, the rest of us are children."

In an event in which world records had been broken by inches and fractions of inches, Beamon in one jump

bettered the cumulative distance of the previous 40 years of record breaking.

A variety of experts attempted to explain his phenomenal performance by rigid examination of such data as temperature, relative humidity, altitude, human physiology, drag coefficient, and any number of other esoteric variables. But, even after plugging all those factors into various formulas and giving each its maximum potential, researchers could account for less than one foot of Beamon's extraordinary leap.

It's still a mystery to Beamon, too, and on a recent day in his San Diego office where he is track and field coach at United States International University, he mused at length on it. He has also read the myriad theories about his performance and remarked: "Scientists have said it is just mysterious one person could jump that far considering the long jump's history. In a few seconds I went into the future, the year 2000. They can account for about nine inches but the rest is still a mystery."

He continued: "The altitude was not a factor in my getting off a jump of 29 feet. Prior to the Games, they had pre-Olympics in Mexico City and one person jumped 27 feet 9 inches, but he didn't jump 28 or 29 feet. Since then, they've had Pan American games there. No long jumps have come close. It was even said I destroyed a lot of muscles. That proved pretty much true. I've had trouble with my hamstrings ever since, so quite possibly my muscles and joints could have been damaged by the stretching.

"It can't be calculated. It happened to be just the right day, the right time. I think the conditions of the track, the

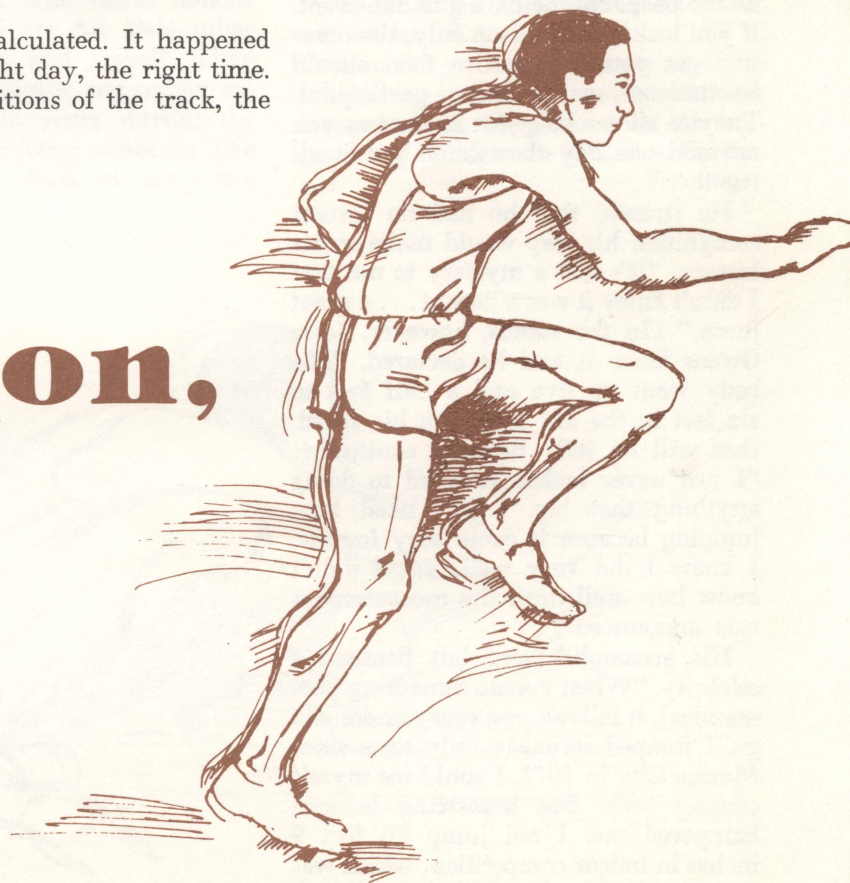
structure of the stadium, the enthusiasm of the people can put the adrenalin up so far that you do strange things. It was the most beautiful moment in my long jumping career because of the connection between me physically jumping and mentally preparing myself for that final day."

Reflecting on his feelings during those historic moments, he declared: "I didn't feel any different when I started down the runway that day than I had for any other jump. I had one thing to do—to jump. I can't say I felt any more psyched up . . . well, I WAS, it was the finals and you have to be psyched up to a certain extent, but not overly excited; your head has to be very mellow. You have to know what you're doing or you can tighten up or exaggerate on one thing or another. Your mind should be programmed from the time you get off the plane until the final jump. You've practiced. You've rehearsed. You've done all sorts of things to make it possible.

"I spent a lot of time in preparation for jumping in all kinds of conditions. We just didn't know what could happen in Mexico City. Running—I became a pretty good sprinter, and that certainly worked to my advantage. I also worked on technique." (In previous track meets in 1968, an undefeated Beamon had broken and then bettered the indoor record in two consecutive meets, but his style was somewhat inconsistent.) As he says, "My jumping was so-so, I needed to brush up on it. Nobody uses my form now." Then he chuckled and

# Bob Beamon, Down To Earth

by Mary Anita Robinson





added, "Probably never did. It was unorthodox, but it was nice and easy for me."

The atmosphere in Olympic Village, where athletes from all over the world are anxiously awaiting their turns to perform, can prove unsettling to the calmest of participants. Beamon tried to avoid as much tension as possible the days before his final jump. "I didn't give a damn about anything going on in Mexico City. I didn't even stay in Olympic Village more than three or four days, then I moved out into a villa. I stayed away from the other athletes who were walking around nervously.

"Then, I had serious problems in the qualifying trials the day before. I hadn't adjusted to the runway and I fouled jump after jump until my third jump when I practically walked down the runway. That day proved really difficult, but I think that was the test of being a premier long jumper. Flabbergasted at myself for having so much trouble, I became even more tense afterwards. But that evening, I went out with friends and we had a pleasant time. I forgot for a while about jumping the next day. It took the edge off.

"The next day I was ready. It was either me or him, Boston or the Russian or the Briton or anyone there for long jumping. I tell my athletes that track and field is really strange. One day you can depend on one person coming through with a 26-foot jump and then for some strange reason his teammate can come out and jump 27 feet. So I feel that athletes should be interested in all the people participating in one event. If you look to one person only, the other will get you. The entire field should be threatening for every participant. They're all working just as hard as you are and one day they could put it all together."

He stressed that he had no instant recognition his leap would make sports history. "It's still a mystery to me that I didn't know it was a decent . . . a great jump." (In the stands, however, Jesse Owens knew it and he declared, "His body went up five and a half feet to six feet in the air, and with his speed, that will do it.") Beamon continued: "I just never looked forward to doing anything that big. I just liked long jumping because it came easy for me. I knew I did very well, but I didn't know how well until the measurement was announced."

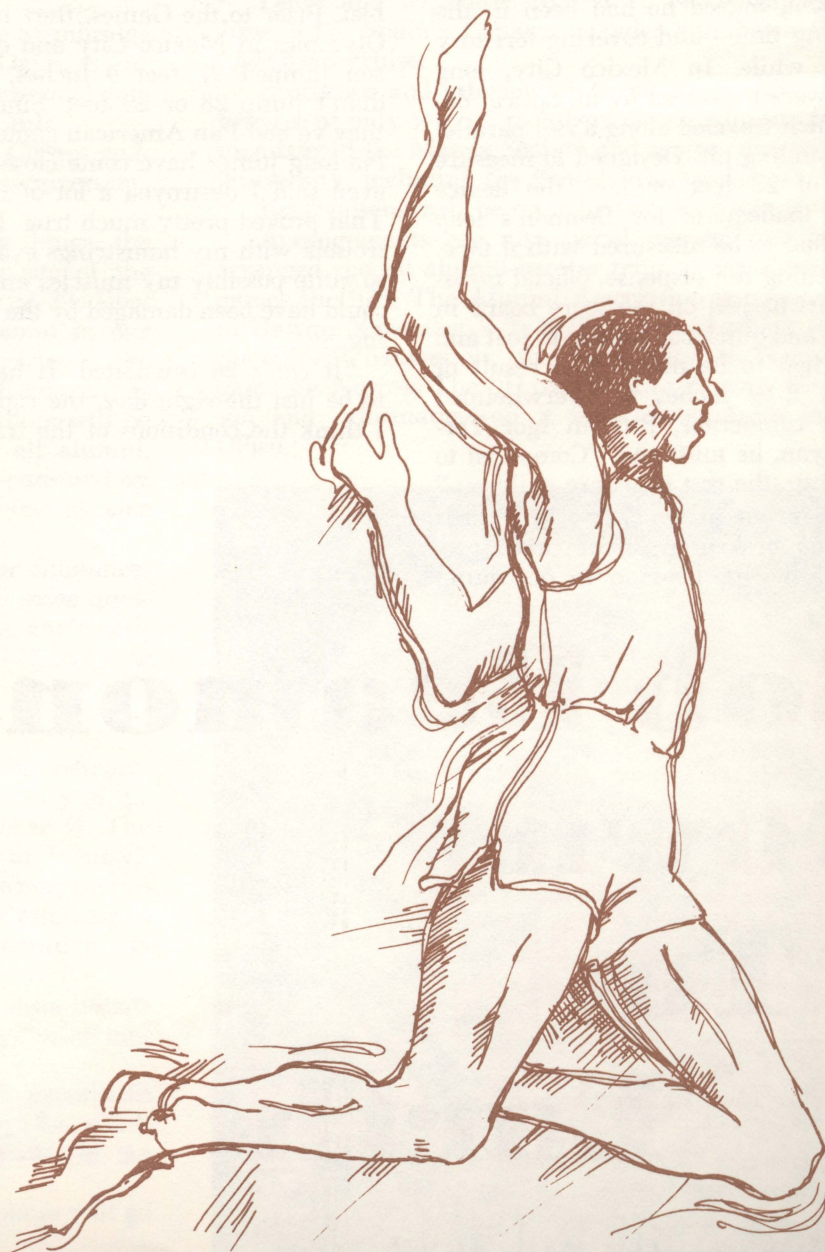
His accomplishment left Beamon a celebrity. "When you do something phenomenal, it follows you everywhere you go. I jumped seriously only once since Mexico City in 1972. I could see myself coming back. But hamstring injuries hampered me. I did jump 26 feet 9 inches in indoor competition, which was pretty good. But then I got hurt. Every

time I got on that runway, people expected me to do something great, a 29- or 30-foot jump. The press never educated the public that these things don't come every day. It might never happen again."

Adding to the personal drama of Beamon's performance were the other non-athletic happenings at the Games. The 1968 Olympic Games became an arena for political turmoil. Mexico City found itself in the midst of a war with its students. Federal troops surrounded the stadium. The entire U.S. Olympic team suffered a threat of being expelled from the Games by the International Olympic Committee because of a fracas created by a small group of Black American athletes, most notably John Carlos, Tommie Smith and Lee Evans, who received their medals with black gloved hands clenched in fists above their heads. They staged the protest to call attention to racial unrest in the United States. Beamon says of the Black boycott: "We had a campaign and meetings in the latter part of '67 and early part of '68. I wasn't particularly interested in the boycott.

"When you go to the Olympics, you go as an individual. I had planned to make the team in 1964 as a sophomore in high school, but I was too young and naive about the mental part of it. I didn't make it, but four years later I was right on that team. I felt the campaign to be a big farce. There were guys who were very well off financially urging Black athletes to boycott. But there were no funds to help out those who did, so they too could financially survive. It was strictly 'you're Black and you have a duty to boycott.' I said hell no. I had to prove to myself first and then to the world that I was one of the best long jumpers in the world and to get that gold medal. When athletes win that medal, lots of doors start opening up. I wanted those things to happen to me. Why should I take my life and put it aside? If I had boycotted, those things would never have happened to me."

In defense of the boycott, however, he says: "People interpreted the closed fist gesture wrongly. They thought Smith and Carlos were anti-American, Communists or revolutionaries. The





athletes wanted to use some demonstration to let people know we Black Americans are still here. We worked very hard in this country to get it started and we don't see why we should be treated as less than human."

Beamon says he found himself a hero when he returned home to El Paso but also a "bad guy." He was referring to that era of UTEP's history when Black athletes were dissatisfied with their treatment on and off their various playing fields. It climaxed when Black track team members were dismissed from the team for refusing to participate in an out-of-town meet following news of Martin Luther King's assassination.

Recruited to UTEP and coached there by Wayne Vandenburg, Beamon talked about those days: "Let's say I had only two things to do at UTEP, study and train. My social life with women was nil. I didn't complain about it, but I did think about it. Coming from New York to a town that was predominantly Mexican-American and Caucasian was quite interesting. I could deal with it and because I could, I survived. Many of the athletes from New York left, I guess in disbelief. How could a coach recruit me to a place that didn't have a social life? Watching Mexican-American and Caucasian students going out on dates, the Black students stayed in the dorms, setting pranks and doing all sorts of strange little things just to have something to do. I think the coach started realizing there had to be more to a person's life than athletics.

"After we lost our scholarships because of the boycott following King's death, we formed the Disassociated Students Fund. It lasted for about a year or two and helped us out financially. I left UTEP and El Paso after a total of two years and two months.

"I went back to New York, to Adelphi University. It was a pleasant time. I didn't participate in track, but I did start in basketball. I loved it. Long jumping was a natural, but I had to do more thinking in basketball. It was a nice change for me. It's a beautiful scene where there are five guys on the floor working together."

After graduation from Adelphi, he stayed in New York for two years. During that time he received an offer of a pro basketball contract with the Phoenix Suns. He opted instead to move to San Diego, after visiting the city for a track meet. In San Diego, he did public relations for a savings and loan association. "Public relations was fantastic. You can get into someone's office very easily . . . spend an hour talking about the jump and another hour talking about sports. I did a little bit of everything. I created new fund raising for the organization. I got a chance to see what business is all about. It gave me a chance to com-

municate with people outside of sports. I wanted to prove that a jock is not a stupid person."

When offered his present position as track and field coach at United States International University a year ago, he accepted readily, eager to try coaching. The school is a small liberal arts college with "emphasis on concern for individual needs," according to a school brochure. It attracts students from all over the world. Beamon admits some frustration coaching students who are in athletics on a voluntary basis. He is used to a more structured situation where athletes aren't as free to participate or not at will. He's looking forward to more serious recruiting in the future. Conceding that coaching has its ups and downs, he doesn't foresee himself making it a permanent career. "I don't think I'll do it for life. This is my hobby; I'm not short changing the athletes, but I have so much going on outside of school.

"Long jumping is just one part of my life. It's something I liked to do. After the Olympics, it became more of a business and it took the glamor out of it for me. I had been a naive athlete wanting to jump and jump and jump. Today, I don't like training and I don't like jumping, but those are the things I make my bread and butter out of. I'm looking at it financially now. I'm not in it for the glory any more. It's there.

"I'm also going into negotiation on a story of my life with the possibility of a motion picture, which I think will be very successful, not only in the U.S. but in Europe. The Europeans pay special tribute to me. The world famous athletes they know are Ali, Pelé, other top soccer players and myself. They don't forget. Americans remember me mainly every four years during the Olympics when the jump comes up. The rest of the time I have to carry my

American Express card. I'll also be designing a track shoe and signing a contract with a European shoe company. I'm very busy. There's lots going on."

Bob Beamon doesn't appear to have stopped since he landed in the pit almost 10 years ago in Mexico City. The epitome of a trim, well-conditioned athlete, he looks at home in his coach's uniform, a warm-up suit. Not an extra ounce of weight is carried on his long, lean frame.

His office, surprisingly bare of personal mementos, displays only USIU team trophies. In this unpretentious setting, Coach Beamon calmly attends to the details of setting up logistics for practices and meets. His athletes drop in with questions about schedules and he courteously and efficiently imparts the required information. There is no gold medal behind his desk, no pictures of him jumping or receiving his medal. It's clear he doesn't live in the past. He has reaped the benefits of his phenomenal jump and lived with the glories it afforded him. Aware his jump gave him a boost that few people ever receive, he has taken that accomplishment forward with him and shrewdly and intelligently made it work for him. He's a very assertive man. There's more to Bob Beamon than Bob Beamon, the athlete. "I want people to know I've also got a mind," he says.

"My life hasn't gone down hill. Maybe in terms of long jumping it might be in that category, but I really had nothing to prove to the people. It was more of a mental thing for me." □

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Mary Anita (Terrazas) Robinson earned her B.A. in English at UT El Paso in the year Bob Beamon made his fabled leap in the Mexico City Olympic Games—1968. She lives with her husband and children in El Cajon, California.







# Alumnotes by Sue Wimberly



**Dr. Mary Craik**

NOVA has received word that **Dr. Mary Craik** (B.A. '60; M.Ed. '63), professor of psychology at St. Cloud State University, Minnesota, has been appointed director of the women's studies program there. Begun in 1947, the program is designed to enhance a student's

understanding of women as a group.

From College Park, Maryland, comes announcement of the retirement June 30 of **Dr. Wilson H. Elkins** as chief executive of the University of Maryland. His 24-year term is the longest of any president in a state college or university. Dr. Elkins was president of UT El Paso from 1949 to 1954, taking office at the time the name was changed from the College of Mines to Texas Western College.

**David Pringle**, who earned his degree in mass communication in 1953, wants to put together a newsletter of his classmates' activities in advance of their Homecoming reunion in October. His address is 19828 Greenbriar Street, Tarzana, California 91356. He is president of his own radio production company, The ph Factor, in Hollywood.

## CLASSES OF 1940-1959:

**Margaret Asmann Kahl** (B.A. '40) and her husband Ed write us that they retired in 1977 and are enjoying living in the mountains and traveling. They make their home in Crestline, California.

**George A. Reynolds** (B.A. '43) is chief of Psychiatry Service at the Veterans Hospital in Newark, Delaware. He will serve as president-elect of the Delaware Psychiatry Society for 1978-79.

**Alfonso Ortega** (B.A. '53; M.Ed. '55) was chosen for Who's Who in Education in the South, and Best Teacher of the Year for Texas by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In the past year he attended seminars at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania and at Texas A&I.

**Harris Cantrell** (B.A. '54; M.A. '58) was inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame. **David Carrasco** (B.S. '42) was also recognized "with honors."

Three UTEP alums received diplomas at the spring commencement at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth. They are: **James Earl Dunn** (B.A. '54), Doctor of Ministry; **Jack Herbert Chew** (B.A. '71), Master of Divinity; and **Carl S. Lengefeld** (B.A. '73), Master of Religious Education.

**John W. Donohue Jr.** (B.S. '57) has started his own company, John W. Donohue Jr. Associates Inc., in El Paso, dealing in estate and financial planning, various benefit programs and insurance coverage. He was elected to a three-year term on the El Paso Chamber of Commerce board. His wife, **Elaine Abbott Donohue** (B.A. '57) is chairman of the advisory council of "Leadership El Paso."

**Sonja J. Spencer Marchland** (B.A. '58; M.A. '60) is director of the Bureau of Business Services and Research, School of Business Administration and Economics, at California State University, Northridge.

**Israel Torres, D.D.S.,** (B.S. '58) is incoming president of El Paso District Dental Society. He is a 1963 graduate of the University of Texas Dental Branch in Houston and a Diplomate of the American Board and Fellow of the American College of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons.

## CLASSES OF 1960-1964:

**C. Ritchie Spence, M.D.,** (B.A. '60) is assistant chief of urology at Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

**Raymond L. Lowrie** (B.S. '60) was named first regional director for the Interior Department's Office of Surface Mining. For the past three years he was chief of the Intermountain Field Operations Center of the Bureau of Mines in Denver.

**Raul O. Peinado** (B.S. '61) is vice president of Navarro & Peinado Engineers and Architects, and also a partner in AVC Development Company, builders in El Paso.

**Johnny V. Moreno** (B.A. '61; M.Ed. '75) teaches Spanish and social studies at Magoffin Junior High in El Paso.

**Joel N. Martinez** (B.A. '61) and his wife, **Raquel** (B.M. '75), make their home in Englewood, New Jersey. An ordained minister, he is executive secretary of the Office of Ethnic and Language Ministries, Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church in New York City. She is an administrative assistant with the Women's, Division. They are the parents of three children.

**Patrick A. Bowman** (B.S. '62) was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army. He graduated from the University in physics and electrical engineering, received a Master's in Operations Research at the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, California, and is a graduate of the U.S. Armed Forces College, Norfolk, Virginia. He and his wife **Patricia Rydholm Bowman** (B.A. '66), and their five sons live in Germany.

**Armando LaForm Lopez** (B.S. '63) is an engineer with the Head, Test and Evaluation Division, Naval Electronic Systems Engineering Center in San Diego.

**Russell E. "Rusty" Donohue** (B.A. '64) is regional director of sales for American General Life Insurance Company in Houston. He and his wife, **Jonie**, are parents of two children and live in Spring, Texas.

**Dan J. Ramsdale** (B.S. '64) Ph.D., and his family have moved to Picayune, Mississippi, where he is senior research physicist in charge of the array effects branch with the Naval Ocean Research and Development Activity, NASA Mississippi Test Facility.

## CLASSES OF 1965-1969:

**Bertha C. Carver** (M.Ed. '65) has been appointed principal of Irvin High School, first woman high school principal in the El Paso Independent School District.

**Rosie Webb Joels** (M.Ed. '65) received her Ph.D. in May from the University of Arizona. She returned to Orlando, Florida, and is employed by the Orange County Public Schools.

**John F. DeFee** (B.A. '66) received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology at the University of Wyoming in 1972 and is deputy director of clinical services at Woodburn Center for Community Mental Health in Annandale, Virginia.

**E. R. Fernandez** (B.S. '66) has been appointed special representative/trainer in the Albuquerque office of Burroughs Wellcome Company. He joined the company as sales representative in El Paso in 1969.

**Lawrence H. Robinson, M.D.,** (B.A. '67) and his wife **Polly McKee Robinson** (B.M. '67) and their two sons reside in Chesapeake, Virginia. He completed his fellowship in pediatric radiology at Columbia University and is serving with the U.S. Navy at Naval Regional Medical Center, Portsmouth, Virginia.

**Virginia Schuller Murphy** (B.S. '67) and her husband, **Doug**, are parents of daughter born in March. They are making their home on Cape Cod. "Gee Gee" teaches in the Barnstable Public Schools and Doug is associated with Smith and Murphy, a law firm.

**Armando Telles Jr.** (B.S. '68) is a senior geophysicist with Mobil Oil Corporation in Dallas. In the past year business travels have taken him to Morocco and France, and he recently completed a geology course at the University of Houston. Also with Mobil Oil is **Ross Bowman** (B.S. '68) who is field superintendent for New Mexico operations, Energy Minerals Division. He and his wife **Jan Ackerman Bowman** (B.A. '67) live in Thoreau, New Mexico. **Linda Schuller Bradford** (B.S. '69) lives in Placentia, California. She writes NOVA that she has her own wallpapering business there and teaches roller skating in her free time.

**Andrzej S. Stachowiak** (B.S. '69) is principal engineer for Hayden, Harding & Buchanan, consulting engineers, in West Hartford, Connecticut.

**Andrew Allen Chitwood** (B.A. '69; M.A. '73) received his Doctor of Philosophy degree in May from Baylor University.

## CLASS OF 1970:

**Glenn C. Martin III** is vice president of Texas Scenic Company, Inc., in San Antonio. He and his wife, **Susan**, have recently moved into their new home, and are avid sports enthusiasts.

**Robert W. Barnett, Capt./USAF,** is stationed in Hawaii as a pilot with the 25th Infantry Division.

**Jose L. de La Torre** is a marine/mechanical engineer for the Charleston Naval Shipyard, South Carolina.

**Francisco A. Herrera, LTC/USA Ret.,** lives with his wife, **Eloisa**, and family in San Diego. Since retiring from the army, he is engaged in selling real estate in San Diego.

**Lana Wong** is with the Austin Public Library System as branch head of the

## New Address?

Name \_\_\_\_\_

New Address

Old Address

Number & Street      Apt. Number

Number & Street      Apt. Number

City      State      Zip

City      State      Zip

Year Graduated, attended \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Development Office  
U.T. El Paso  
El Paso, Texas 79968



Terrazas Branch Library. She received her Master's of Library Science at UT Austin in 1974.

**Robert R. Odle**, Ph.D., (M.S. '71) is head of the extractive metallurgy group at the Copper Division of Southwire. He and his wife live in Carrollton, Georgia.

#### CLASS OF 1971:

**Louis A. Salinas** is a civil engineer with Tennessee Gas Pipeline Company in Houston, Texas. He and his wife are the parents of two sons. **Danny James Salinas** (B.A. '72) also lives in Houston where he is a pension administrator with Tenneco, Inc.

**Joseph T. Jones Jr.**, 1st Lt./USAF, was presented the U.S. Air Force Commendation Medal recently in ceremonies at Osan Air Base, Republic of Korea. A civil engineering officer, he was decorated for meritorious service at England AFB, Louisiana.

**Shari D. Daniels** (M.Ed. '75) has been nominated as one of the "Ten Outstanding Young Women of America." She runs the country's largest maternity counseling center in El Paso. She and her husband, **Robert L. Daniels**, are parents of two children.

**David J. LaBrec**, an El Paso attorney, was elected to the boards of the El Paso Young Lawyers Association and El Paso Legal Assistance Society.

#### CLASS OF 1972:

**Porfirio Montes**, Capt./USA, is attending the U.S. Army Advance Military Intelligence Course at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona. He was recently awarded the Army Meritorious Service medal.

**Michael V. Mistrot** received a juris doctor degree from Western State University College of Law of San Diego.

**Jeanne Dalton Bando** is an engineering and science assistant in the data reduction division of Sandia Laboratories in Albuquerque.

#### CLASS OF 1973:

**Paul H. Armstrong** is working as a computer programmer for Saddle Brook General Hospital, Saddle Brook, New Jersey. He was recently elected a director-at-large for the Tri-County Chapter of Data Processing Managers Association (DPMA).

**Deborah Brown**, M.D., received her doctorate from the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, in May, 1977. She completed her radiology cycle at St. Bartholomew's Hospital in London and is completing her internship at Brackenridge Hospital in Austin.

**John S. Carney** has been named executive assistant to the general manager of Eng's Peterbilt Trucks in Los Angeles. He was previously sales manager for PACCR International Inc., in Bellevue, Washington. He resides in Newport Beach California.

**Susan Glaze**, teacher at Fannin School in El Paso, was awarded an \$800 scholarship by the Texas Congress of Parents and Teachers for summer study at the University of Wisconsin.

#### CLASS OF 1974:

**Eugene W. Green Jr.**, 1st Lt./USAF, is a missile combat crew commander at Minot AFB, North Dakota, with the 91st Strategic Missile Wing which was recently selected as the best missile operations unit in the 15th Air Force for 1977. He completed requirements for his Master's of Business Administration and was selected for promotion to the rank of captain.

**Miguel J. Cervantes** is assistant district attorney in El Paso, after serving as assistant district attorney in Harris County and as a research assistant for the National College of District Attorneys. He received his law degree from the Thurgood Marshall School of Law at TSU.

#### CLASS OF 1975:

**Roberto M. Alvarado** is production engineer, Magnesium Department, Dow Chemical, U.S.A., Texas Division, and lives in Lake Jackson, Texas. He is also part-time faculty member of Brazosport College.

**John F. Bash Jr.**, Major/USA (M.B.A. '75) is personnel management officer at the Military Personnel Records Center, St. Louis, Missouri. He is a Ph.D. candidate in financial management at St. Louis University.

#### CLASS OF 1976:

**Henry Flores Jr.** lives in Arlington, Texas, and is studying for his Master's at SMU. He is employed by Arbrook, a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, as a buyer. His sister, **Cynthia Flores Moreno** (B.S. '72) and her husband, **Albert Moreno**, Capt./USA, (B.S. '71) live in Bakersfield, California. Cynthia is employed as a geophysicist by Gulf Oil Company, and Albert is attached to a hospital in Bakersfield.

**Julian R. Villanueva**, Lt./USMC, after

attending the Hawk missile course at Ft. Bliss, will be assigned to the 2nd Light Anti-Air Missile Battalion at the Marine Corps Air Station in Yuma, Arizona.

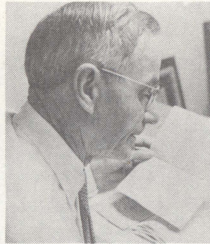
#### CLASS OF 1977:

**Jack A. West** and **Terri Hinson West** live in Columbus, Mississippi, where he is marketing manager for Gallo Winery, and she is a legal secretary.

**Tom Silva** is a criminal investigator with the Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service in El Paso.

**Jerry P. Moore** is a research technician with Dow Chemical, Texas Division, and his wife, **Karen Pieper Moore** (B.S. '73) is also with Dow Chemical, Oyster Creek Division, as a computer console technician. They live in Angleton, Texas.

## Deaths



**Dr. John L. Waller**

**Dr. John L. Waller**, who retired from the University faculty as professor emeritus of history in 1958, in Austin, Texas on May 25. Born in Titus County, Texas in 1889, he served in France during World War I and attended the University of Dijon in 1919. In 1923 he graduated from the University of Oklahoma, received his M.A. in 1925 from the University of Colorado and Ph.D. in 1929 from the University of Texas at Austin. He joined the faculty of Texas Western College in 1931 as an associate professor of history and as head of the department. In 1933 he became a full professor and served as dean of the Graduate School from 1955-58. Survivors include his widow, Julia of Austin; daughter, Mrs. Jo Ann Cole, of Midland; and son, Robert F. Waller, of Naperville, Illinois.

**Oscar Albritton** (B.S. '50), in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in September, 1977. He was a practicing professional engineer and former professor of engineering at Louisiana State University. In 1969 he received the Halliburton Education Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Comfort A. Adams Memorial Award from the American Welding Society. He is survived by his widow, Nancy, a son and two daughters.

**Hugh V. Henning** (1919-1920) in El Paso, December 24, 1977. He had retired from El Paso Natural Gas Company. He is survived by a daughter, Dorothy H. Chapman, of El Paso.

**Donald R. Graves** (M.A. '62), May 7 in El Paso. He had been a teacher for the Ysleta and El Paso Public Schools. He is survived by his widow, Juanita, and two daughters.

**Alfred "Doc" Hulbert** (1965 etc.), May 11 in Albuquerque, where he was employed by Lovelace Clinic. In 1966 he was named to Who's Who in American Universities and Colleges and Men of Mines. He is survived by his widow, Vicki, and one daughter.

**Ellen Louise Hunton** (B.A. '72) June 4 in an automobile accident in which her husband, Charles, and daughter, Ann Louise, also died. A son, Robert, survives. She was employed by the El Paso City Planning Department.

**Arcadio Fernandez**, June 6 in El Paso. He had been an employee of the University Physical Plant since 1966.

**Vera Wise**, chairman of the Art Department from its inception until her retirement in 1962, June 6 in Stock-

ton, California. She joined the faculty in 1939 and became the second woman to be promoted to the rank of professor. As an artist, she exhibited widely in the United States and won honors at national, regional and local levels. She was a graduate of Willamette University and took advanced study at the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts, Kansas City Art Institute, University of Southern California and Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center. In her campus associations, she was longtime faculty sponsor of Chi Omega and Beaux Arts.

**Harry P. Vaughan, Jr.** (1929 etc.), in Eden, North Carolina, on June 7. He began his career in mechanical engineering with R.E. McKee in El Paso, later became associated with Union Carbide in New York City, and retired as a company vice president in 1967. He is survived by his widow, Hattie, and two daughters.

**Leroy J. Gardon** (1957 etc.), July 16. He was retired from civil service at Biggs Air Force Base and was associated with Gardon Electric Company. He is survived by his widow, Lynette, assistant professor in Health and Physical Education, a son and a daughter.

**Margaret "Peggy" Sexton Freeman**, in El Paso July 10. While at the University, she was president of Zeta Tau Alpha. She taught journalism at Jefferson High School and was associate editor of the Women's Department of the El Paso Times from 1971 to 1973. She is survived by her husband, H. W. "Butch" Freeman.

**Elna M. Coppedge** (B.S. '40), in El Paso August 2. She began teaching in the El Paso Independent School District in 1920 and retired in 1952.

**Yolanda Sanchez** (B.A. '62; M.Ed. '70), August 2 in El Paso. She taught at Ysleta Grade School for 12 years. Survivors include her father, four brothers and three sisters.

**Patricia Ann Smith**, administrative assistant in the Office of Institutional Studies, August 6 in El Paso. A graduate of Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, she joined the University staff in 1970. She is survived by her husband, Eugene G. Smith, and two children.

**Ignacio Pedroza Sepulveda**, a University employee since 1961, died August 14 after being injured in a traffic accident. He was a Housing utility worker and his wife, Ofelia, who survives him, is with the Physical Plant staff.

**Clyde W. Abbott**, superintendent of maintenance at UT El Paso, August 19 in El Paso. A 24-year resident of the city, his survivors include his wife Norma; two sons, Kurt and Mark; his mother, Mrs. Martha Patterson of Hobbs, N.M., father Bud Abbott of Aztec, N.M., a brother and sister.





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