

Fall 1990

Nova Quarterly: The Magazine of the University of Texas at El Paso

The News and Publications Office, The University of Texas at El Paso

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FALL · 1990

NOVA

THE MAGAZINE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO



QUARTERLY

FROM THE EDITOR

Just one month ago, entire TV newscasts were devoted to the Middle East crisis: chemical warfare in the

wake; an opportunity to test unproven high-tech military fire power; hostages as military pawns; world economies stalling on the edge of recession, talk of depression. If we ever had any doubts about how intimately connected we are to the rest of the world, the news coverage of the Middle East debacle may have changed that for good.

While watching these newscasts, it was difficult to view anything as positive in the current situation. But every now and again, right before you were about to turn off the TV, you'd come across a story like the one about Patrick Taylor, a Republican millionaire from Louisiana, who is using his money and energy to encourage inner-city black kids to stay in school and think about college. He is paying college costs for those in his program who maintain a 2.5 grade point average—a potential annual commitment of \$500,000. Taylor has also successfully lobbied the state legislature to pass a law offering paid college tuition to every kid in the state who maintains a 2.5 grade point average and whose family's income is under \$25,000.

Another government hand out, you say? Not really. Taylor's premise for the law: It makes good business sense. Can we afford to take care of these people for the rest of their lives? Where are we to get the money to build more government housing projects, prisons and welfare programs? How can we compete with the Japans and Germanys of this world if we don't educate the children?

The Taylor story is an uplifting note against the backdrop of world turmoil. The eyes in the faces of the kids and parents in the Taylor program said everything. It is a story of caring, hope and achievement. I cannot help but think of the many special things UTEP's outreach programs do that touch the lives of hundreds of kids each year—all potential first generation college students.

The contents of this Homecoming issue of *NOVA Quarterly* are special because the magazine contains stories of our achievements as students and faculty, and as partners with industry. You'll notice the gleam of youthful optimism in the faces of kids experiencing a university for the first time. You'll see the highlights that will make you feel proud of being a part of UTEP.

--Arturo Vasquez, Editor

View of UTEP

from the Education Building looking south towards Mexico.



NOVA



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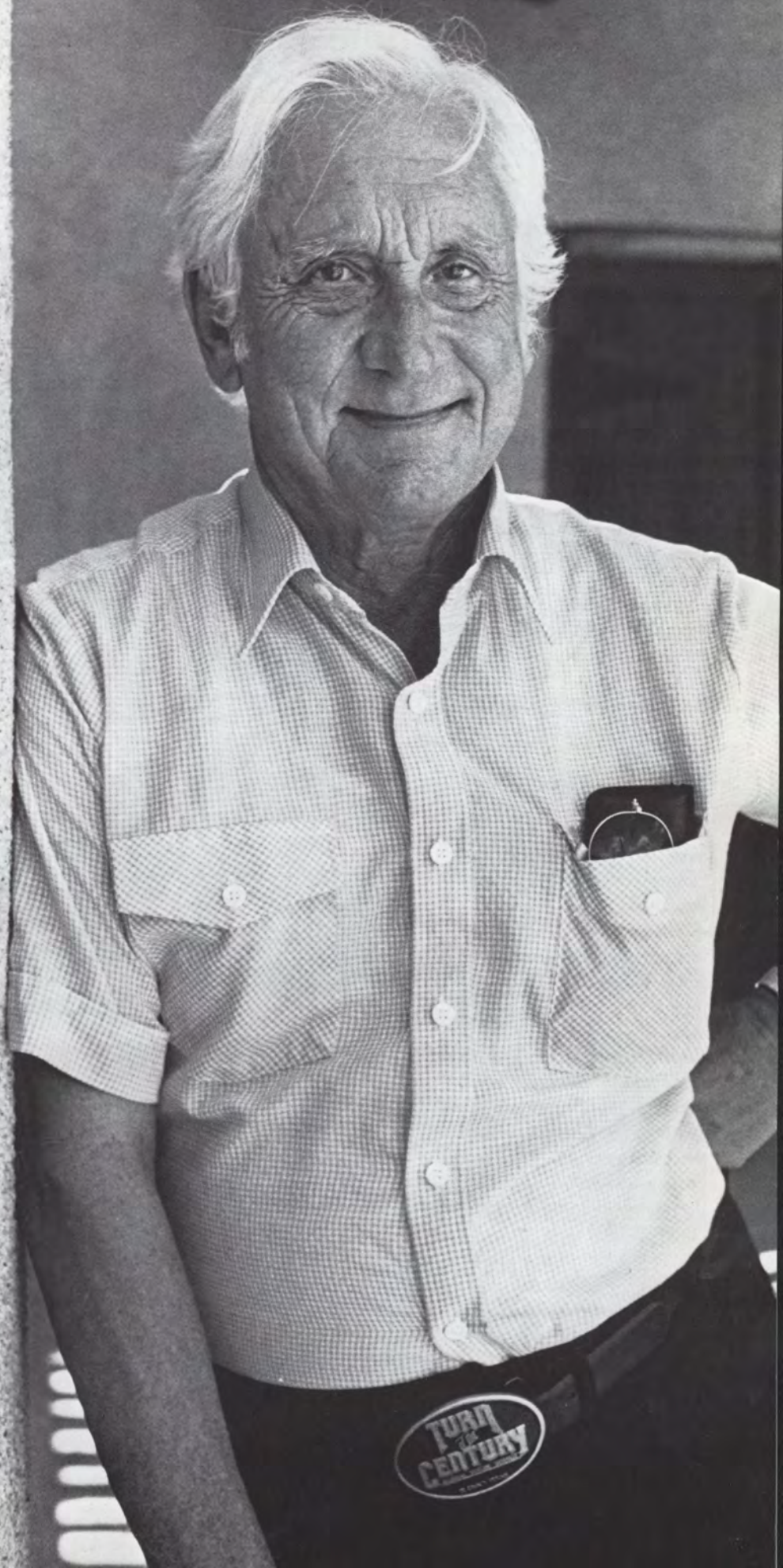


Illustration by José Cisneros

EL PASO'S MR. HIS- TORY

by Steve Almond

Dr. Wilbert H. "Bill" Timmons is dancing around his kitchen with the reckless grace of a flamenco dancer. A shock of hair, escaped from his snow-white crown, bobs on his tanned forehead, as the man called "Mr. History" raves about El Paso's remarkable, and remarkably neglected, past.



"This is a big story we've got to get out here," he announces, sounding more like a cub reporter pushing deadline than a fabled historian pushing 76.

To hear him talk, you'd never suspect that Timmons himself has just squeezed that story into 308 pages of tightly woven prose called *El Paso: A Borderlands History*. By all measures, the book is a landmark: the first definitive account of a region that has bridged the passage from conquistadors to maquiladoras with 400 years of intermittent tumult.

"It would be impossible," says Dale L. Walker, director of Texas Western Press, "to duplicate the scope and depth of this work. It'll be around forever as the standard for El Paso histories."

Much to Walker's delight, the same cannot be said of the book's first printing. Released by Texas Western Press June 1, the volume—lavishly illustrated by El Paso artist José Cisneros, has already sold 600 hardback copies, over 500 paperbacks and 60 limited editions. By the end of the year, Walker expects to have sold some 2,000 copies, a "tremendous figure" for a small university press.

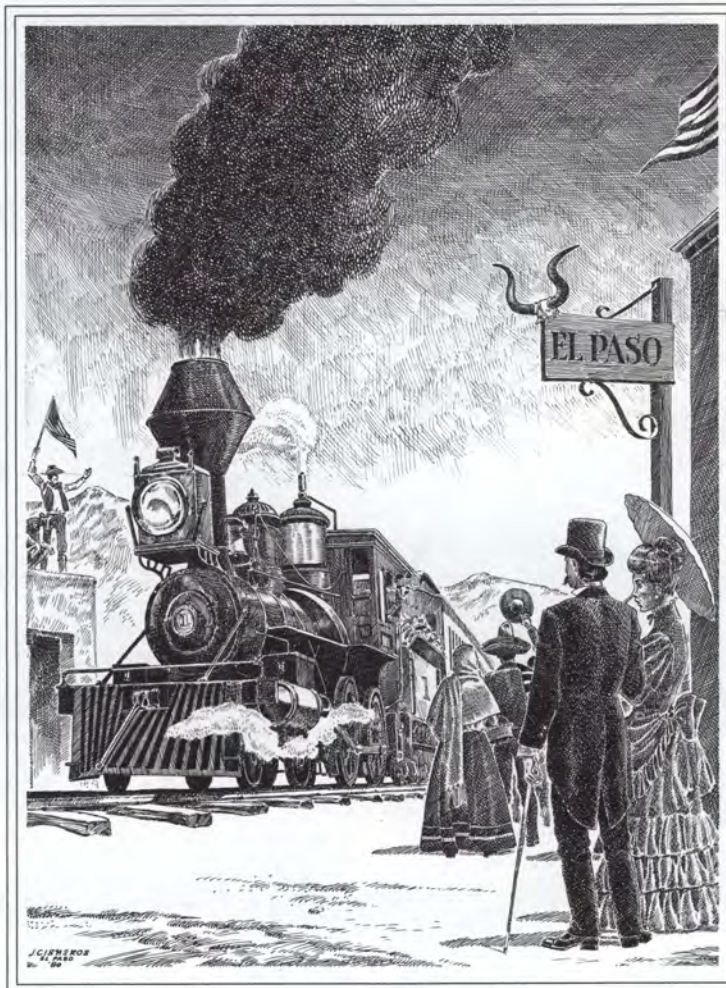
"I guess you'd have to call this my magnum opus," concedes Timmons, settling back into a blue corduroy lounge chair.

Surrounded by half a dozen impeccably ordered bookshelves in his otherwise spartan study, the professor emeritus at the University of Texas at El Paso speaks with obvious passion about the the four centuries he spent a decade chronicling.

It was not a passion born overnight. When the Missouri native arrived at Texas Western College in 1949 with a young bride and a spanking new Ph.D. from UT Austin, a long stay was not what he envisioned.

"We didn't think of it in terms of a final stop.... But I could see that this little

But by all measures, the book is a landmark: the first definitive account of a region that has bridged the passage from conquistadors to maquiladoras with 400 years of intermittent tumult.



Texas Western was going places. Oh sure, we thought about going to a bigger school. But I liked the idea of helping a little college grow," says Timmons, who chaired UTEP's History Department from 1962 to 1965.

What irked him as he settled in was the dearth of quality writings about his adopted hometown. The more time he spent surveying El Paso's historical canon, the more frustrated he grew with

its omissions and distortions.

"It seemed to me the whole thing was being told in bits and pieces and most of that with this Wild West style," he recalls, in a down-home drawl that marks his Fort Worth rearing.

A Latin American specialist whose previous works included books on the Mexican statesmen José María Morelos and reformer Tadeo Ortiz, Timmons also felt previous histories ignored the area's Latin heritage.

"We were simply overlooking the two and a half centuries that came before the anglos arrived and settled," he says.

To better sketch these eras—Spain's imperial rise and fall and Mexico's ascension from 1821 to 1848—he turned away from traditional gringo sources and toward a set of unexploited Juárez archives he had first examined in 1976.

"When I sat down and started working the documents, I could see, Boy, here was a story that's never been told," recounts Timmons, whose bloodhound face matches his dogged investigative style.

Most fascinating to the scholar was the brief era from 1846 to 1848, during which Latin and Anglo cultures first clashed:

"Here they were, for the first time face to face, right here at the river."

He says the meeting set the stage for the generations of rocky relations that followed.

"The basic theme of two border cultures that have remained distinct has always been the area's most intriguing story," insists Timmons, whose interest in Latin America was born during the heyday of the New Deal's "Good Neighbor" policy.

But setting that story to prose took longer than expected. For when he



José Cisneros

retired from teaching in 1978, Timmons immediately began promoting a city-wide celebration of El Paso's 400th birthday. The event, a smashing success that evolved into the El Paso Street Festival, marked the arrival of the Rodriguez-Chamuscado expedition in 1581.

His conviction that El Paso's importance had been too long buried beneath a glitzy veneer of brothels and gunfights goaded him, as he puts it, "to do the whole sweep." Making use of archives, existing materials and an unsung cache of master's theses, he began writing in earnest, pounding out drafts on an ancient Royal manual typewriter in his UTEP office.

The work was punctuated by a strict regimen of incentives. Every time he finished a chapter, he would take a vacation with Laura, who put in time as a translator and research assistant. By 1987, the couple's itinerary had carried them from Spain to the British Isles to the Pacific Northwest, and Timmons was the proud owner of a finished manuscript.

Well, almost finished, anyway.

"I had brought the story up to 1981 and I was going to end it there," Timmons remembers, with a sudden, almost sheepish, grin. "But Nancy Hamilton laid down a mandate: 'update!'"

Texas Western Press Achieves Milestone

W.E. Timmon's *El Paso: A Borderlands History* is the most complex and most expensive production ever undertaken in the 38-year history of Texas Western Press. The book has been in some form of "production"—manuscript revisions and polishing by the author, editorial work by Nancy Hamilton, typography and design by Vicki Trego Hill, original jacket and interior art undertaken by José Cisneros, typesetting by Camille, printing and binding by Bookcrafters in Michigan—for close to two years.

Naturally, I think the book is worth all the time, effort and expenditure, and I believe those who want to know about this city's history and how it became the focal point of the Texas-Mexico borderlands will agree.

I hope the reader of this book will notice two things that make it unusual.

The first is Dr. Timmon's monumental notes and bibliography. Indeed, no other scholar at all has examined many of the key sources that Timmons has examined and judiciously used.

Secondly, there's José Cisneros' beautiful pen-and-ink work, most of it commissioned especially for this book. The symbolic jacket painting

of the Spanish soldier and his wife looking northward across the Rio Grande toward the mountain and "El Paso Before It Was" is stunning as are the full-page pieces. Notice also the smaller works that open each of the 10 chapters of the book—drawings which are integral to the narrative.

The book represents some milestones for Texas Western Press: it is the first book we've ever published in three editions (cloth, paperback and a limited edition of 125 copies, numbered and signed, in an elegant slipcase); our first major book employing a "ragged right" margin—cutting down on hyphenization and easing readability. And the first TW Press production which has given birth to an art print—a limited 500-copy edition of Cisneros' original jacket painting.

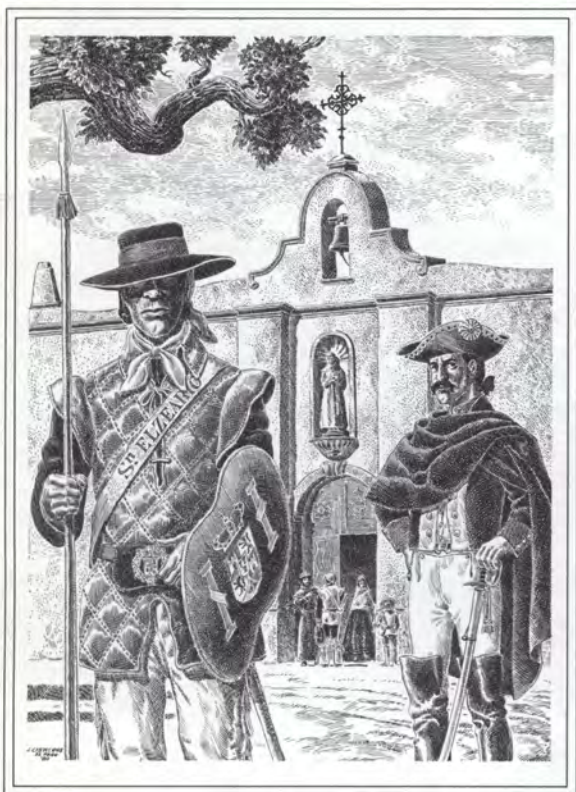
When advance copies of the "F & G's" (folded and gathered signatures) and the jacket arrived at the Press two months ago, Timmons looked at them with me, then said, "You pulled out all the stops on this one, didn't you?" I said, "That we did. We pulled all the stops out, then we pulled them out a little more."

If there was ever a Texas Western Press book worth all that stop-pulling, *El Paso: A Borderlands History* is the one.

--Dale L. Walker, Director,
Texas Western Press



Timmons and Cisneros at a book signing at Texas Western Press in early June.



"I've thought a lot about why we're neglected and the truth is, a lot of the fault is our own... We haven't made enough noise about what we have here. I hope this book will help remedy that."

Hamilton, the recently retired editor of Texas Western Press, felt Timmons needed to document the flurry of activity during the 1980s, "to fill out the story."

Back to the Royal he went, this time faced with the prospect of packing a huge mire of data into one compact final chapter.

Hamilton, who remembered Timmons as a favorite teacher during her own studies at UTEP, wasn't worried. "One of Dr. Timmons talents," she notes, "is this uncanny ability to distill enormous amounts of information into a single sentence or paragraph."

In six months he had finished and the duo started proofreading. "He wanted to be sure there were no errors that anyone could detect and he wanted to guarantee that he

had the last word," Hamilton recalls. He wanted it, in short, to be perfect.

But Timmons knew that even perfect prose can stand added allure. That's where Jose Cisneros came in. Commissioned by Walker to compose a cover illustration, the famed local artist was so taken with the project that he put his pen and paint into overdrive, offering 16 more prints to front the book's sections and chapters.

"El Paso history has always been one of my obsessions, one of my addictions," says Cisneros, who came to El Paso in 1925. "The partnership between Timmons and Cisneros, both so inextricably bound to El Paso, added something special," Walker observes. "It's rare for a publisher to have that kind of marriage."

Timmons, sitting illuminated by a lamp whose shade is an original Cisneros-on-parchment, agrees. "The sketches are a tremendous visual aid. He thinks like I do," says the author.

When asked if he expected such a warm response from readers, Timmons lets out a spirited whoop. "I didn't think it'd do this well," he maintains. "But I had a hunch that I wasn't the only one who wanted a comprehensive look at

who we are, why we are and how we got that way."

Even greater cause for celebration has been the absence of critical second-guessing. "I keep waiting for somebody to say 'Why didn't you...' but nobody has yet," he reports.

Timmons says he hopes the book's focus on the concept of "Borderlands"—defined as the 10 U.S. and Mexican states that hug the national boundary—will render its appeal regional. And he hopes, even more ardently, that his work will help assert El Paso and Ciudad Juárez's rightful place at the heart of the region.

But he warns that such a goal will be reached only if El Pasoans spend more time self-promoting and less time crying foul: "I've thought a lot about why we're neglected and the truth is, a lot of the fault is our own We haven't made enough noise about what we have here. I hope this book will help remedy that."

Timmon's wife, Laura, referred to half-jokingly as "my co-author," exhibits the same resilient pride as her husband. "I have friends in Missouri who say they feel sorry for us way out here," she notes, laughing. "But I say to them, 'Well, I feel sorry for you, especially in winter.'"

The couple, named "Mr. and Mrs. Texas" by the Texas State Historical Association in 1986, now insist their days of epic historiography are over. But Timmons still plans to push El Paso to more actively exploit its "most important resource"—history.

"There are any number of people who kill history simply because they don't teach it right ... they don't realize it needs appeal and life," says the man who promoted El Paso's Four Centuries fete by visiting schools decked out in a top hat, tails and a green vest, and pounding out honky-tonk piano tunes between lessons.

He points to projects such as the 12 Travelers sculptures and the recently voted down Ysleta Tourist Center as innovative plans that could pay big dividends by paying heed to city history.

And suddenly Timmons, back in his kitchen, is hatching plans for a new project. His eyes widen and his words hasten as, through a small window behind him, the city he cherishes lies waiting. N

HIGH LIGHTS



INTERACTIVE VIDEO

UTEP is the first institution in the country to install an interactive, videodisc program that's likely to encourage more students to pursue the sciences. The eight-unit, networked system uses an IBM PS2 computer, a Pioneer laser-disc drive, standard keyboard and a mouse. At the moment, the system covers 130 lessons in General and Organic Chemistry at the Science Learning Center on the fourth floor of the

Chemistry Building. The center is a component of a larger curriculum revision underway in the College of Science.

Funded by UTEP's Comprehensive Regional Center for Minorities in Math, Science and Engineering (CRCM), the Science Learning Center is one of eight projects on campus initiated on CRCM's inaugural year through its NSF \$3.5 million grant.

CARRILLO COLLECTION PERMANENT AT UTEP LIBRARY

The complete archival collection of the famed Mexican photographer, Manuel Carrillo (1906-1989) has been acquired by the UTEP Library. The extensive collection consists of over 1,000 prints, plus negatives, of Carrillo's photographs, many as yet unpublished.

In 1966, Señor Carrillo achieved international fame by winning the grand prize in a photographic contest sponsored

by *The Saturday Review*, besting more than 100,000 entrants. By the end of his career, he had been "Exhibitor of Honour" in over 21 different countries and had held 209 individual exhibits. His works have long been sought after by private collectors, museums and universities.



CENTER FOR LIFELONG LEARNING

After a successful pilot program in the spring, UTEP's Center for Lifelong Learning is offering noncredit classes for individuals 50 years and older. The Center welcomes anyone who is interested in renewing or expanding their education. The Center will also continue its lecture series. For information call the Division of Professional and Continuing Education at (915) 747- 5142.



SPACE MATTER

The Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering has installed a \$1 million Hitachi Analytical Transmission Electron Microscope as part of a research and educational facility. One of only three in the nation, the microscope is already being used in national research programs. When test panels from a five-year old satellite were retrieved from space recently, Kirtland Air Force Weapons Laboratory transferred a material

sample to UTEP for analysis. In addition to million of scratches and tiny craters, the microscope's 200,000 volt beam has also revealed thousands of growths that appear to be new and unknown materials formed during the satellite's space trip. UTEP is preparing a NASA proposal to develop systems to characterize these materials.

The research will contribute to America's ability to build stronger and safer satellites.

INTUITION NETWORK

A \$109,000 grant has been awarded to UTEP political science professor Wes Agor to establish The Global Intuition Network.



Wes Agor

The network, Agor said, will promote the use of intuition of decision making in the business world. "The successful promotion of the use of intuitive techniques among the general public will be great if educational systems and support groups at all levels (K-12) are included in this network," Agor said.

A national conference on "The Use of Intuition in Decision Making" is scheduled for April 9th - 11th, 1991 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Agor's book, "Intuition in Organization: Leading and Managing Productively," is being used by many top management schools in the country, including Harvard and Yale.



IBM GIFTS

IBM has made another equipment grant to UTEP in the amount of \$423,715 to establish a teaching lab for undergraduates in Computer Science. The gift consists of 35 IBM PS/2 computers and two file servers.

Over the past two years, IBM has assisted UTEP with academic enhancement programs including the Academic Development Center to address the Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP) mandate by the state legislature. An IBM package of 30 PS/2 computers, the IBM AS 400, software and technical assistance is now used by the Center to help students improve their basic academic skills and prepare them for university level courses.

This year IBM also provided valuable technical assistance and facilitated equipment acquisition for the CRCM Science Learning Center (see Interactive Video). And through IBM's loaned Faculty Program, UTEP's College of Engineering has acquired Robert Gonzales to teach Computer Science and work on student retention. Thanks IBM.



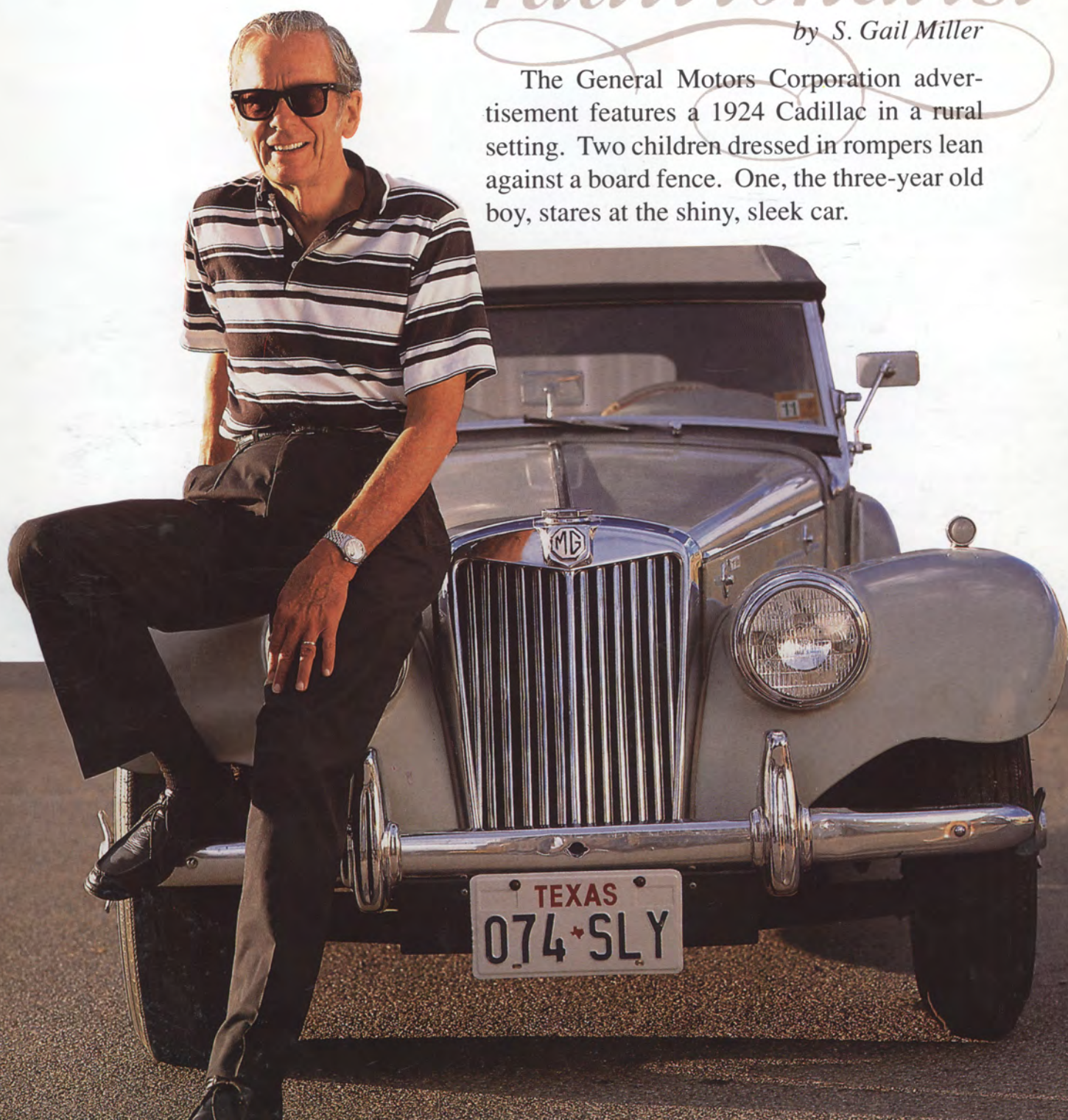


Richard W. Mithoff:

Traditionalist

by S. Gail Miller

The General Motors Corporation advertisement features a 1924 Cadillac in a rural setting. Two children dressed in rompers lean against a board fence. One, the three-year old boy, stares at the shiny, sleek car.



"Back in those days, my father worked in the Cadillac Motor Company's ad department in Detroit—the ad design called for two kids, so they used my sister, Marge, and I," says Richard Mithoff. "I guess I got an early start in the advertising business."

A quiet sense of purpose pervades the one-story building on Rio Bravo Street, Mithoff Advertising Inc.'s home for the past 15 years. Corridor walls display over a hundred award plaques from the Advertising Federation of El Paso and Affiliated Advertising Agencies International. The works of El Paso artists hang in several offices and reflect Richard Mithoff's abiding interest in art, an interest shared by both his parents.

Warren and Helen Mithoff moved to El Paso a couple of months before the 1929 crash. Nine-year-old Dick attended Crocket School and his father worked for El Paso's only advertising agency—Haley and Lewis. Early in 1931, the agency closed its doors and in April of the same year, Warren Mithoff and Dan White opened for business in an upstairs room of the Chamber of Commerce Building in downtown El Paso.

Richard Mithoff attended the Texas College of Mines in 1940, a period in the University's history when the student body numbered around 1,000 and the president knew just about every one by name.

"What I remember most vividly about Dick in those days was his car," says Mary Jackson Hellums (B.A. Journalism, '43) "It was a metallic blue La Salle convertible—a lovely thing. He's still mad about cars. It doesn't seem to matter what car either of them drive. Even Frances' Mercedes is parked outside because the garage has always been where Dick's sports cars live." A 1955 MG in mint condition and a 1974 Pantera are currently in residence.

When World War II broke out, Mithoff joined the Army. Following OCS training in Florida, he was assigned to administrative duty in the Prisoner of War division. While stationed at a German POW camp in Lufkin, Texas, his duties included the organization of workcrews that felled hundreds of East Texas pines for the local paper mill. Henry A. Maas, a mill executive, was in charge of wood procurement and met the young Mithoff. Henry Mass also had a daughter and in 1945, 2nd Lieutenant Mithoff and Frances Maas were married.

The young couple returned to El Paso in March, 1946, and Dick started



Mithoff's also a runner. Crossing the date-line on a cruise during a storm, he ran topside right before midnight and again after midnight, so as not to break his record of running every single day since April 8, 1984.

work at Mithoff and White the day after they arrived. Mithoff and White dissolved their partnership in early 1948 and when Mithoff Advertising Inc. was created on July 1, 1948, Dick Mithoff and his father became equal partners in the new venture.

In 1950, the agency became a corporation. When his father died in 1960, Richard Mithoff moved from the presidency of the company to take his father's place as Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board, positions he holds to this day.

"In the '30s and '40s there were no big accounts—very few companies even had advertising budgets," says Mithoff. "So we started off small and grew with the city."

Among others, early accounts included the State National Bank of El Paso, now known as MBank, and the El Paso Electric Company. W. R. Weaver, a telescopic site manufacturer, had Mithoff prepare its first ad in the 1930s and although the company was sold to a conglomerate some years later, the relationship between the new owner and Mithoff Advertising continued for the better part of 50 years.

"Dick just loves to go after new business," says Bill Burton, Mithoff Advertising Inc.'s president. "Or old business that split for greener pastures. His passion for fairness—the idea that honesty is the best policy—often gets in the way of the advertising business's penchant for short-term success. But Dick doesn't live for glitz—he's into everything for the long-term goal of steady, solid, stable growth."

He's also a stickler for tradition—maintaining existing ones and developing his own. His affair with the automobile started at a young age and continues to this day and he'd still rather drive than fly anywhere. Since he's always driven to Affiliated Advertising Agencies International meetings when they're held in the U.S., he didn't plan to break that pattern the year they met in Colorado Springs just because he had to be in Houston for his grandson's high school graduation the same week.

While his wife flew to Colorado Springs, Mithoff drove from El Paso through Santa Fe to Denver's Stapleton Airport where he hopped a plane to Houston. The morning after his grandson's high school graduation ceremony, he flew back to Stapleton Airport, picked up his car and drove to Colorado Springs in time for the meeting.



Swinging slowly to face the window from behind a large desk covered with tidily stacked papers, Mithoff frowns. Tapping his index fingers together, he says.

"In general, I find today's business climate less pleasant. Many of the rules of fair play and good conduct no longer apply. People looking at the business scene use the word 'greed' a lot and I suppose it pretty well describes the decade of the '80s - the S & L scandal, junk bonds, Donald Trump types and their shenanigans. This has a ripple effect and reaches smaller markets like ours. So we've been affected by the same greed and lust for profits." He pauses and moves slightly in his chair.

"I believe the standards of civilized behavior have, in general, deteriorated. It's particularly noticeable in sports. British soccer fans on the rampage...a disgrace. And we have the same hooliganism in this country...McEnroe's behavior turned the game of tennis into a shambles."

Smiling, he continues.

"I do think, though, that El Paso remains a far better place than many in which to live and do business, in spite of its many problems."



(above) Richard Mithoff, CEO and Chairman of Mithoff Advertising, Inc. (left) Mithoff at Basic Training, Camp Stewart, Georgia, during World War II. (below) Richard Mithoff and his future wife, Francis Maas, October 19, 1944.





They've been particularly involved with Project Verdad...

...the project provides food, education, spiritual and medical assistance to the poverty-stricken along our border. Their support has been unstinting in terms of time and money for years."

Although the Mithoff name is synonymous with the business of advertising in El Paso, the sheer number of community, civic and educational activities Richard Mithoff has participated in over the years is impressive. Roy Chapman, president of Mithoff from 1960 to 1984, attributes this record to Dick Mithoff's life-style and personality.

"Well, he's a nondrinking man in a drinking business, so he gets a lot done. He doesn't smoke either," says Chapman. Mithoff's also a runner. Crossing the date-line on a cruise during a storm, he ran topside right before midnight and again after midnight, so as not to break his record of running every single day since April 8, 1984.

Mithoff Advertising Inc. has been involved in practically every major civic organization in the city's history, from the Sun Carnival in the 1930s to today's Viva El Paso. In connection with UTEP, Mithoff has been a member of the Matrix Society for 21 years and the President's Associates for 12 years. He served on the Mission '73 Commission, the advisory committees in the Colleges of Business Administration and Mass Communications and worked as a volunteer on the the University's Corporate Business Campaign. Mithoff supports Theatre

Arts programs and the University's internship program. In addition, he has not only been a highly effective athletic fundraiser but he has also made generous donations to the El Dorado Scholarship Fund.

"We go to all the basketball and football games," says Frances. Even in freezing weather, Mithoff sees every game through to the end regardless of the number of spectators.

"Dick's no fair-weather friend," says Dr. Brad Hovious, UTEP's Athletic Director, "Through all the ups and downs of the program, he's always been there—solid. He just has a way of always finding something positive in everything that happens to us."

Robert Young, chairman of the Board of Providence Memorial Hospital and former pastor of El Paso's First Presbyterian Church, considers the Mithoffs "outstanding churchmen."

"They've been particularly involved with Project Verdad," explains Young. "In cooperation with the Mexican Presbyterian church, the project provides food, education, spiritual and medical assistance to the poverty-stricken along our border. Their support has been unstinting in terms of time and money for years."

Inside the Mithoff's graciously furnished brick home of 20 years, the work of prominent local artists as well as works of national and international renown leave barely a square foot of visible wall in any room, including the utility room.

"These are mostly Dick's mother's paintings," says Frances Mithoff, indicating several poignant works reflecting the El Paso area—cotton workers loading sacks in the lower valley; a delightful water color of the Plaza's alligator pond surrounded by curious children.

The den is dense with books, an eclectic collection indicating readers with inquisitive minds. How does he find time to read?

"He makes time," says Frances, "in the line at Luby's, before the curtain goes up in a theatre...."

The Mithoffs travel extensively and have visited China, Russia, New Zealand and Colombia in addition to many European countries.

During a recent stay in Colorado, a late-night message asked Dick to call an unfamiliar number back in El Paso. It was Lloyd Stevens, the chairman of the Outstanding Ex Selection Committee with the news that Richard W. Mithoff was the committee's choice for the next UTEP Outstanding Ex.

Richard and Frances Mithoff's response to the news is characteristically low-key. "We're thrilled." N

Homecoming



Miners VS. Wyoming Cowboys



SELECTED HOMECOMING EVENTS

**Wednesday/Thursday
October 24, 25**

REGISTRATION for all Mines, TWC, and UTEP Alumni at the Development /Alumni House, all day.

Friday, October 26

SHIRT DAY. Show school spirit by wearing UTEP shirts.

HOMECOMING PARADE.

Begins in front of the Union on University Ave. going west, 11:15 - 11:45 a.m.

PEP RALLY. MPact Parking Lot, 11:45 a.m.

OUTSTANDING EX-STUDENT DINNER & DANCE, El Paso Country Club, 8:00 p.m.

HOMECOMING BONFIRE/ BEACH PARTY. Fine Arts Parking Lot, 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 27

UTEP MINERS VS. WYOMING COWBOYS. Sun Bowl Stadium, 7 p.m.

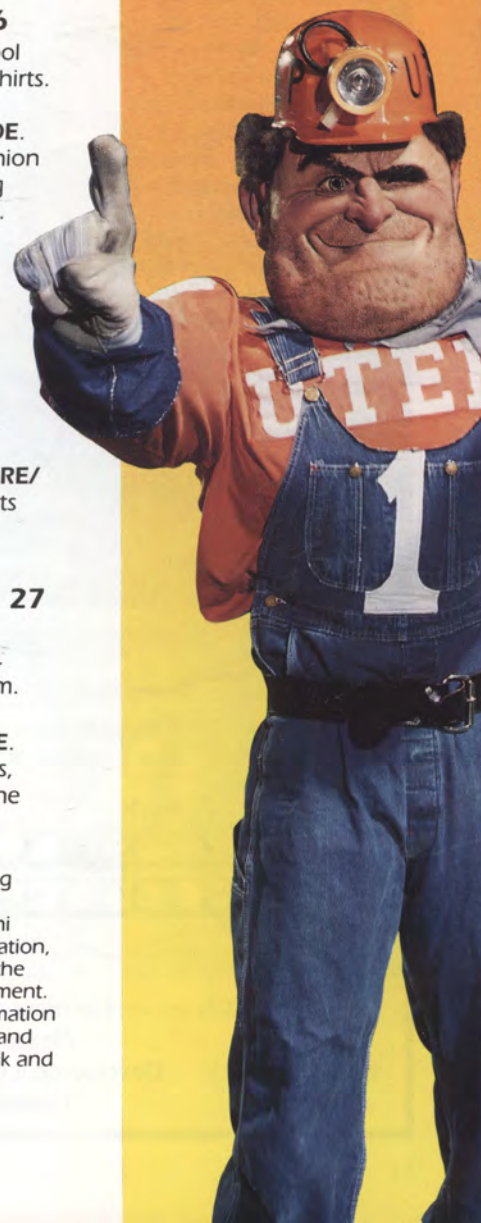
HOMECOMING DANCE. The University Commons, immediately following the football game.

A multitude of Homecoming events are planned by the Development Office, Alumni Association, Student Association, the different Colleges and the Recreational Sports Department. For a full calendar or information on picnics, College parties and receptions, the 5k Run/Walk and sports tournaments call:

747-5533



Jack Johnston, SA President, at the 1989 Homecoming Bonfire.





RALLY AROUND PAYDIRT PETE AND HELP HIM PAVE THE WAY

The UTEP Centennial Museum is building an educational Desert Garden Complex which will serve as an outdoor classroom laboratory for university and public school students. The Garden Complex will be constructed on land surrounding the Museum. It will feature areas with drought resistant plants and drip irrigation systems which will create an awareness about the Chihuahuan desert landscape and our limited water resources.

To kick off the Garden Project, UTEP is paving the Museum entrance with inscribed bricks. Named Jubilee Square, the brick mosaic will be a testament to the people who have helped build this university. Please participate. Order your brick(s) today. Call 747-5533.

Special Thanks to El Paso Brick Company.



CENTENNIAL MUSEUM DESERT GARDEN COMPLEX

Enclosed is my gift of \$_____ for _____ brick(s) at \$75 each for the Jubilee Square.
Please inscribe my brick(s) as follows (names, "class of", etc.), 12 characters per line, two lines maximum (space counts as a letter) PLEASE PRINT.

1st brick

2nd brick

3rd brick

DEADLINE - JANUARY 31, 1991

For more detailed information see the June, 1990 issue of *NOVA Quarterly*.

Please make checks payable to UTEP. Forward with this form to the:
Development Office, The University of Texas at El Paso, El Paso, Texas 79968-0524.

Contributions are tax deductible to the extent provided by the law.

IBM Partner in Creative Instructional Programs

"IBM has been an extremely strong partner to U.T. El Paso during the past several years," says President Diana Natalicio. "Equipment and technical assistance and support have made a real difference in such diverse areas as a remedial education laboratory for basic skills instruction and a faculty loan in Engineering. We are also very proud that IBM has chosen to recruit so many of UTEP'S recent graduates."

With the latest major IBM grant, she notes, "this partnership will surely grow even stronger." IBM is providing \$423,715 worth of equipment to establish a teaching laboratory for undergraduates in Computer Science. Included in the gift are 35 IBM PS/2 computers and two file servers.

IBM assisted UTEP in responding to the state legislature's mandated Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP). With 35 PS/2 computers, the IBM AS 400, software and technical assistance, UTEP was able to create a new Academic Development Center. The Center uses the IBM equipment to help students prepare themselves for university-level courses by improving their basic reading, writing and math skills.

Under its faculty loan program, IBM has lent several faculty members to the University, the first in 1976. This year's faculty member on loan is Robert Gonzalez, who is teaching Computer Science in the College of Engineering.

UTEP's Comprehensive Regional Center for Minorities (CRCM) also benefited this year from IBM's technical assistance in establishing an interactive laser-video instructional facility in Chemistry, the first of its kind.

The University's partnership with IBM extends back over many years, starting with the establishment of a

scholarship fund in 1969 with contributions by company employees, supplemented by corporate matching gifts.

Besides helping with other scholarships, IBM has regularly provided grants for summer programs to interest minority and women students in engineering careers, plus special gifts to Radio Station KTEP, the Centennial Museum, and various business and engineering departments.

IBM for many years has supported its employees' gifts to the University with matching amounts.

Why do they do it?

First of all, the corporation has a long-standing commitment to education. "Support of educational initiatives continues to be an area of emphasis for IBM," states the company's 1989 Annual Report. Additionally, at

the local level there is a dedication to furthering UTEP's goals. Ronnie Brown, branch manager in El Paso, says "It is very important for us to have a quality university in El Paso and we are very supportive of all they are trying to do, especially in Computer Science and Electrical Engineering."

The dynamic leadership of Dr. Natalicio, he adds, is a factor. "We want to be a part of everything she's trying to accomplish here."

The University's Development Board, chaired by Judson F. Williams, is aware of the efforts of this corporate partner over the past decades. "Those of us who have watched the University develop and thrive," he says, "are particularly appreciative of corporations like IBM which are helping to shoulder part of the burden of quality education."



President Diana Natalicio and IBM branch manager, Ronnie Brown in the new UTEP Academic Development Center.

ALUM NOTES

'50s

Garry Owen (B.A. '52), president and chief executive officer of First Federal Savings Bank of New Mexico, has been appointed vice chairman of the board of directors of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Dallas.

Donald S. Henderson (B.S. '56; Outstanding Ex 1980) and **Hector Holguin** (B.S. '58; Outstanding Ex 1982) have been named to the board of directors of the Providence Memorial Hospital Foundation. Henderson will serve as chairman and Holguin as vice chairman. The Foundation was formed to coordinate all fund raising activities for the hospital including memorial gifts, endowments, grants and special events. President and chief development officer of the Foundation is **James M. Peak** (B.A. '58), former UTEP director of development.

Severo Garcia (B.M. '57), a professor at Porterville (California) College, was recently inducted into the Teachers Hall of Fame. Garcia, who has taught Spanish, music and tennis at Porterville College since 1968, was honored for his contributions to the faculty senate, the California Teachers Association, and for staff development projects.

Rod Jennings (B.M. '58) has retired after 30 years of teaching in Ohio and Massachusetts, and Long Island, New York, and has moved to West Palm Beach, Florida, where he will continue teaching theatre courses.

Daniel Williamson (B.S. '59), currently residing in Springville, Utah, is on a medical

disability from Tactical Systems Division of Rockwell International of Duluth, Georgia.

'60s

Luis Alfredo Mendez, Jr. (B.M. '60), who taught music in Ohio for the past 25 years, has accepted a position as choir director at Haines City High School, Haines City, Florida.

Michele Baker Citarella (B.A. '64) is a systems analyst programmer at the State Street Bank of Boston and resides in Natick, Massachusetts.

Carole Anne Robinson Feickart (B.A. '66) owns a data processing/desktop publishing company in Abilene, Texas, and serves as treasurer of the Mental Health Association and secretary of the annual pro tennis tournament.

Dario O. Prieto (B.A. '68), until recently director for the Section for Minority Affairs of the Association of American Medical Colleges, Washington, D.C., is now programs manager for the Agency for Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. He has a master's degree in counseling and student personnel services from the University of Maryland, where he is a candidate for a Ph.D. in counseling and consultation.

Zeke Monteros (B.S. '69), formerly with the UTEP Physical Plant, has joined the Texas Christian University staff as superintendent of utilities. Monteros, who earned his bachelor's degrees in both mathematics and mechanical engineering, is active in the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air Conditioning Engineers and the

Mexican American Engineering Society.

Edward C. Alderete, M.D. (B.A. '69) has been appointed medical director of Newborn Services, Good Samaritan Hospital in San Jose, California. He completed his medical degree at Stanford University and is certified by the American Board of Pediatrics.

Leila Safi Hobson (B.S. '69; M.Ed. '74), attorney, has joined the El Paso law firm of Scott, Hulse, Marshall, Feuille, Finger and Thurmond. She is certified in estate planning and probate law.

'70s

Francis P. Smith III (B.A. '71), a former teacher and coach in the Texas Public School System, is a microbiologist at the Texas Department of Health in Austin.

Ken Blystone (B.S. '72; M.Ed. '89), computer literacy teacher at Desert View Middle School, El Paso, has been named Teacher of the Year in the Ysleta Independent School District. He was also the winner of the Friend of Computer Education award from the Texas Computer Education Association.

Gregory A. Parham (B.S. '73), a 17-year employee of ASARCO in El Paso, has been promoted to technical services manager. He will oversee the operation of the plant's environmental unloading and special projects department.

'80s

Alejandro B. Gonzalez (B.B.A. '81) is an attorney with the Federal Public Defenders Office, Western District of Texas, in El Paso. He received his law degree from the University of Texas/Austin in 1984.

Charlton Ryan (M.A. '81), an assistant instructor at UT/Austin, has completed his Ph.D. in English with a specialization in rhetoric and has accepted a position on the faculty at Memphis State University,

Tennessee.

Diana Washington Valdez (B.A. '83) has been named assistant editorial page editor with the El Paso Times.

Steven R. Estrada (B.A. '84), who is employed in the office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Environment), Washington, D.C., recently received a Sustained Superior Performance award for his work in preparing congressional testimony for the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Production & Logistics) concerning overseas environmental issues.

William S. Mitchell (B.B.A. '84) is district merchandising systems coordinator with the J.C. Penney Company in Dallas, Texas.

Karla Lutz (B.A. '84) is president of KL Marketing Inc., a marketing consulting company in Middlesboro, Kentucky. Before moving to Middlesboro, she was an account executive for PriceWeber Marketing Communications, Inc., in Louisville.

Kevin Kavanagh (B.B.A. '85) has completed recruit training with the U.S. Marine Corps in San Diego.

Todd Michael Solomon (B.A. '86) graduated in May from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Enrique A. Bustamante (B.S. '86) recently completed his studies at the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. He plans to pursue his residency in internal medicine at the University of New Mexico, Albuquerque.

Jeffrey A. Crawford, Capt. USAF (B.S. '86), who received promotion to his present rank in February, was presented with the Air Force Commendation Medal for his service as chief, Office Automation, Small Computer Branch, Headquarters Strategic Communications Division, Offutt Air Force Base, Nebraska.

David A. Mandell (B.B.A. '87) is an FDIC bank examiner assigned to the Dallas, Texas, field office.

Susan E. Johnson (B.A. '87), former information writer for the Office of News & Publications at UTEP, has joined

the campus radio station KTEP as director of development.

Bert Cameron (B.S. '89), a three-time Olympian who helped UTEP win six national collegiate track championships, was inducted into the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame in May. He teaches at Ross Junior High in El Paso.

OBITS

Daniel Markel, M.D. (B.S. 1972; M.S. 1974), of cancer, February 11. He received a Ph.D. in microbiology from the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston, and after joining the faculty of the Oral Roberts School of Medicine in Tulsa, Oklahoma, he completed his medical degree and was named outstanding student in radiology. Dr. Markel was associated with the Scott and White Clinic in Gatesville, Texas. Survivors are his wife, Judy Franks Markel (B.S. 1972), and three children.

Leslie V. (Leavitt) Wales (1942 etc.), a resident of Longboat Key, Florida, February 16. Survivors include her husband, Charles A. Wales, and three daughters.

Paul Douglas Ferguson (B.S. 1977), March 19. His mother of El Paso survives him.

Jack S. McNutt (M.Ed. 1951), retired coach, teacher, and administrator in the Ysleta Independent School District, March 10. He is survived by three children.

Mary Louise Neff (B.A. 1933), April 14. Survivors include her daughter and a sister.

Thad A. Steele (B.S. 1933), April 17. Voted UTEP's Outstanding Ex-Student in 1968, Mr. Steele was active in many aspects of the University's athletic events. He is survived by a son and two daughters.

James A. Dick, Jr. (B.A. 1955), prominent El Paso businessman, April 25. Survivors are his wife and two children.

Mary Jane Pemberton (B.A. 1944), El Paso journalist, May 3. Survivors include her husband, Lewis Pemberton, and

three children.

Christine Lynn Morrell (B.B.A. 1981), in May. Her husband, Ronald Morrell, and son survive.

Jean E. Julsonnet (B.S. 1978), retired El Paso teacher, May 12. Three sons survive.

James W. Amis (M.Ed. 1964), retired U.S. Air Force major, May 14. He is survived by his wife and three children.

Walter Thomas Drescher, Lt. Col./USA (B.A. 1980), May 17. A son survives.

Maurice M. Haines, Jr. (B.S. 1949), pastor of the University Heights Methodist Church in Albuquerque, May 20. Survivors are his wife and four children.



Joseph R. Smiley, UTEP president emeritus and professor emeritus of Modern Languages, of cancer, May 25. Dr. Smiley served as UTEP president from 1958-1960 and again from 1969-1972, and also as president of the University of Texas/Austin (1961-63) and the University of Colorado (1963-69). He was a graduate of Southern Methodist University where he earned a bachelor's degree in French and German and a master's degree in French literature. His doctorate was from Columbia University. He also studied in France as a Fulbright research fellow; his work with UNESCO in Paris in 1966, and his contributions to the study of the French language and French literature, earned him the Chevalier of the French Legion of Honor, bestowed by the French government. He is survived by a son, Steve, and daughter, Anne.

Dwight Elton Roberts, LTC/USMC, ret. (M.Ed. 1974), an instructor at El Paso Community College, May 25. He is survived by two children.

Willem Downey, Capt./USA, retired (B.A. 1965), June 1. A veteran of World War II and a survivor of the infamous Bataan Death March, in El Paso. He was employed as an art specialist at Fort Bliss until his retirement. His wife, Elvira Downey, and two sons survive.

Frank B. Fowlkes (M.A. 1968), retired El Paso education consultant, June 4, in Ruidoso, New Mexico.

George Drexler Burgess (B.A. 1961), San Francisco, California, banker, June 8. He is survived by his brother, Bill Burgess, of El Paso.

Nixon F. Morris Jr. (B.A. 1952), El Paso businessman, June 21. He is survived by his wife and two children.

John E. Coleman (B.S. 1966), retired electrical engineer, June 24. He was employed at White Sands Missile Range for 31 years. Survivors include his wife, Alice Coleman, and several children.

Robert Glen Coles (B.A. 1950), in Houston, Texas, June 30. He is survived by his wife, Billie Joyce Coles, and a daughter.

L. Phillips Blanchard, professor emeritus of the College of Business Administration, August 6, in Fort Worth, Texas. Dr. Blanchard came to Texas Western College in 1953, served as an assistant dean of Liberal Arts, head of the Financial Aid office, and chairman of his department. He was a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, having completed his bachelor's degree in 1953 and a jurisprudence degree in 1956.

NEWS ABOUT YOU . . .

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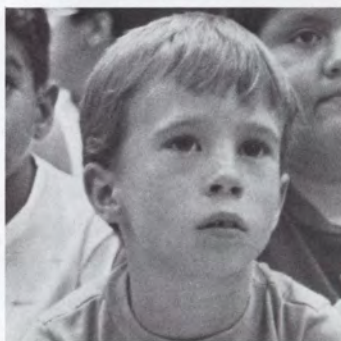
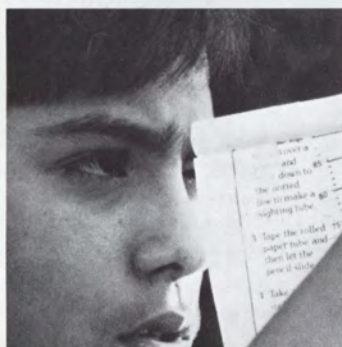
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YOUR NEWS _____



school's out for summer

fun with math, science & engineering at UTEP

by Nancy Hamilton

Dr. Juan Herrera tests the strength of a bridge built by a student during the Summer Engineering Institute.



"I've been interested in engineering since my freshman year," says Lillian Montoya, 11th grader at Socorro High School. "That's when I was invited to a weekend program here and got to see what engineering is all about."

A cool breeze blows across the patio behind the Engineering Building as Lillian and her friends gather in their last hour at the 1990 Summer Engineering Institute. They move forward in turn to accept certificates, baseball caps, UTEP shirts and other rewards for their successes over the past two weeks.

James Brown, a ninth grader at Parkland High, wins first place as builder of the cheapest and strongest bridge. "My cost analysis came to \$1.47," he says proudly.

The budding engineers built bridges from ice cream sticks. The structures were judged for appearance as well as cost and durability; one prize went for the "ugliest bridge."

"I like the challenging fun stuff like building the bridge," observes James. "And I like working with other people on team efforts."

One of their team projects was building a cardboard canoe that could compete in four laps across the University swimming pool without sinking. Each team designed its craft and built it, using engineering principles they studied at the Institute.

Robin Foreman, ninth grader at Canutillo High School, helped build the winning canoe. She has confirmed at the Institute that she wants to study chemical engineering when she enters college in four years.

These three students are among several hundred, most of them from the El Paso area, who spent part of their summer vacation at UTEP. While their day-to-day activities focused on math, science or engineering, they were being encouraged to think ahead: Think about going to college, think about what courses you need to take to get you there, discover your own talents and interests.

Building and launching rockets was one of the many projects of the Summer Science Day Camp.



Winners of the Cardboard Canoe Contest, Summer Engineering Institute.



While some programs, such as the 15-year-old Summer Engineering Institute, were already in place, they have been joined during the past two years by new ones that involve not only the elementary grades, but also teachers plus University students and faculty.

Two new centers are the umbrella organizations for these activities. Known by acronyms, they are the Minority Research Center of Excellence—MRCE, one of six in the nation—and the Comprehensive Regional Center for Minorities in Math, Science and Engineering—CRCM, one of seven in the nation.

They are funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), with additional gifts for summer activities coming from corporate sources and professional organizations.

Both centers are dedicated to addressing a bitter fact: Hispanics, who make up the majority population of both El Paso and UTEP, drop out in large numbers before completing high school. For those who enter college, the dropout risk is also high. Eighty percent of the students at UTEP, especially the Hispanics, lack role models at home to encourage them to complete their degrees; they are the first in their families to pursue higher education.

"We have two basic charges," explains Leticia Diaz-Rios, associate director of CRCM. "First, we want to recruit students for college by involving them, showing them it is possible for them to reach that goal, and then we want to retain them, to keep them interested in school so that they don't drop out along the way."



Along with concern for Hispanics and other minorities, the Center wants to help girls and disabled students develop interests in math, science and engineering. Their groups are under-represented in these fields.

CRCM's new summer outreach involved these activities:

Project Lift-Off is a five-year nurturing program for students who have completed the seventh grade and are identified through testing, interviews and other criteria. Ninety students this year entered the program, and will return each year until they complete high school. Another 90 will join each year.

EPCC/UTEP Summer Bridge is designed to help new graduates of El Paso Community College make the transition into UTEP. The 15 who participated this summer are interested in chemistry, nursing, psychology, engineering, and pre-med.

Summer Workshop for Secondary School Teachers started this year at UTEP/CRCM affiliates—Western New Mexico University, Sul Ross State University and New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. For one to two weeks, 32 teachers focused on math and geology. The Woodrow Wilson Foundation has been invited to send a team of master teachers next year.

Summer Science Day Camps served 750 students from grades 1 through 6 in 17 groups of 40 to 45 students each. They were exposed to a mix of physical and earth sciences



(above) Cooking hotdogs on solar cookers, Project Lift-Off and (right) a successful rocket launch, Summer Science Day Camp.



taught partly through field trips to the El Paso Zoo, the Franklin Mountains and manufacturing plants.

Coming up in future summers will be Science and Engineering Workshops for Counselors and Teachers, Math/Science Computer Camps for eighth and ninth graders, and an institute in science or engineering at El Paso Community College.

The MRCE was established in 1989 under a five-year grant from the NSF to help meet the nationwide need for high-tech training in chemistry, metallurgy, physics and geology.

The timing could not have been better. UTEP is working toward establishing a doctoral program in Materials Science, a field that pulls together math, sciences and engineering in innovative research. The summer programs reflect the inter-relationships of these fields. Many of the participants will likely consider Materials Science as a major when they enter the university.

The Summer Engineering Institute, now under the MRCE umbrella, this year offered three two-week and one one-week programs for students in grades 8 through 10.

"A lot of colleges of engineering have seen significant declines in enrollment in recent years," says Dr. Steve Stafford, professor of metallurgical engineering, who has been involved with the Institute over the years. "We're seeing a slight increase at UTEP. Through this kind of program, we have a continuous supply of high quality students coming



(top) Project Lift-Off students built Lego race cars and (above) studied Geology.

into our college."

Another activity under MRCE is the Summer Science Institute, started in 1989, which offered three two-week sessions for 118 students. Their daily schedule included classes in chemistry, physics and geology, plus field trips and contests and a final picnic.

The Science Circus was a popular feature of the Summer Science Institute.

"I was surprised by the experiments," says Chris Moreno, ninth grader at Austin High, who used to spend most of his vacation time swimming. "I really enjoyed the circus."

Three UTEP students, Larry Gonzalez, Adrian Ybarra and Sean



Sean Jennett entertained students of the Summer Science Institute with the Science Circus.

Jennett, entertained with experiments showing how gravity affects a can of refried beans vs. one of spaghetti, what happens to shaving cream in a vacuum, how a plastic pipe sounds when placed around a gas burner, and many more. The Science Circus, in affiliation with CRCM, is going on the road during the school year to area elementary schools.

A first this summer for the MRCE was the Summer Institute for Teachers, spanning four weeks and offering six credit hours. Two members of the UTEP mathematical sciences faculty, Carl Hill and Ralph Liguori, taught the course which drew this comment from El Paso High teacher Toby H. Tovar, Jr.:

I personally will take back to my math classroom several challenging math projects, including those which I solved and derived. [I appreciate] this closer contact between University and classroom teachers.

The Research Associates Program in materials science involves high school students with University faculty and students over six summer weeks. Now in its second year, it involved six students and three professors—Dr. Arturo Bronson of metallurgy and Dr. Keith Pannell and Dr. William C. Herndon of chemistry—in materials science research.

Research projects are a major component of the MRCE. Included were a study of ways to reduce or eliminate corrosion and wear on metals such as automobile and jet engines and surgical implants, the creation of new materials for aerospace and biotechnology industries by altering hydrocarbons, and investigation of chemical properties of silicon transition materials, which could lead to lower production costs for electronic materials.

Manny Pacillas, assistant to the dean of engineering, points out that UTEP can claim an unusual record in higher education: Both the University and its host community are majority Hispanic. This is not true of other major cities, such as Los Angeles, whose several universities do not reflect the presence of the largest concentration of people of Mexican descent outside Mexico City.



Project Lift-Off students performed measurement experiments on a field trip to Western Playland.

Thanks to summer programs, along with Beto Lopez's ongoing recruiting efforts, UTEP is attracting numerous students who otherwise would never have hoped to become scientists or engineers.

"We have to make the University accessible to these young men and women," says Pacillas. "We have to make sure they don't write themselves off." N

EL PASO

A Borderlands History

by W. H. Timmons,
jacket and illustrations
by José Cisneros



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