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## Interview no. 87.1

Anne Kelly

Elizabeth Kelly

Mary Kelly Quinn

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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

INTERVIEWEE: Anne and Elizabeth Kelly and Mary Kelly Quinn \*\*  
INTERVIEWER: David Salazar and Mildred Torok  
PROJECT: El Paso History  
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TAPE NO.: 87A  
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BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEWEE:

Daughters of C. E. Kelly, El Paso Mayor 1910-1915.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW:

Early El Paso and Ciudad Juárez; education and social customs; Mexican Revolution; Pancho Villa.

\*\*See also No.'s 68, 191.

1 hour (3 3/4 tape speed); 26 pages.

(The tape begins with a few minutes of miscellaneous comments by the interviewees before the actual interview begins.)

T: The first question is about Mayor Kelly. When and where was he born and when did he die?

AK: Well, Papa was born in Jefferson County, Mississippi, on June 11, 1863. He died on July 26, 1932.

EK: He was born near Redwick, Mississippi on a plantation. So that's the reason you give the county instead of the address. There wasn't any address.

AK: He was born while his father was in the Confederate Army in 1863.

T: What years was he Mayor here in El Paso?

AK: Well, now, he was Mayor from 1910 to 1915.

T: Did he follow Mayor Sweeney?

MQ: No. Mayor Sweeney was elected Mayor, and then he resigned. Then Mayor Robinson, Mrs. Cherry Allen's father, was Mayor. And then there was a terrible fire down where Grant's is now; it was Calisher's Dry Goods Store. The fire started in the night, I guess. The Butler Building is what they called it. And everybody went to the fire, I guess, except we didn't get to go. Mayor Robinson was standing across the street and saw that the wall was going to collapse and that it would catch the firemen, so he went in to warn them. One of the firemen was killed, and Mayor Robinson was killed. Then, the council selected Papa to succeed him. Papa at that time was County Treasurer.

EK: You see, he was County Treasurer long before he was Mayor.

MQ: He'd been County Treasurer a long time. Then he ran for re-election.

T: How long did he stay in office, then?

EK: From 1910 to 1915.

MQ: So, it takes him through the days of the Mexican Revolution.

T: Specifically, what can you remember of him, first as a father and second as

a political figure in El Paso? Can you give us a brief biographical sketch?

EK: He was an awful nice father. You see, he had a drugstore, and in those days, the druggist kept the store open most of the time. And on Sunday he used to take us down to the store and let us ride on the Red Raven Schlitz sign. It was a big red raven. And, of course, in those days the drugstores had drugs, but they also had horehound drops. So we got to ride on the red raven, and we got these horehounds /too/.

T: Do you remember the address of this drugstore?

MQ: No, but I can tell you where it was. Well, it was in the Caples building, before the Caples Building was built. There was a one-story adobe building, and that was the People's Drugstore, at the corner. Papa and Mr. Pollard, J.H. Pollard, were partners as long as they both lived, as long as one of them lived. They had two stores.

EK: Yes, because Papa died first.

MQ: And they had a store called Kelly and Pollard, which was in what is today the Plaza Hotel; but it was then the Sheldon Hotel. And it was across the alley from the Coney Island Saloon.

EK: Which was very convenient.

MQ: For whom?

EK: For everybody! /Laughter/

MQ: That store was the first one. The second one was down at the corner of Mesa (where it jiggles) and San Antonio, in the Caples Building corner; it was a one-story adobe building. And there was a candy store next to it.

EK: Oh, and there was a jeweler in there.

AK: Thelman came next, I think.

MQ: Well, maybe he was. I'm not sure. And it was a regular drugstore. Remember the time that Buffalo Bill came to El Paso? Buffalo Bill brought his crowd

here and they paraded, and Josephine Walker got to ride with Buffalo Bill in his buggy. After his show in the afternoon, why, apparently there was a riot call sent out, almost, or it was sent out. The reason was that the Indians going through town in the parade had seen the herbs displayed in the window of the drugstore. They happened to have that displayed at the time in all the little boxes and trays. The Indians recognized them, and the minute the show was over, the Indians came right down to get a supply of medicinal herbs.

T: That was from your father's store?

MQ: The store there at the corner. Then he built the other one, and that was the People's Drugstore. People used to write to him as Mr. Peoples or Dr. Peoples. Then he built the one down where the Orange Julius place is. That street has been cut and changed within the last five years, and they straightened Stanton Street. Well, the People's Drugstore was there as long as Papa lived.

AK: And the pestle and mortar from the top of the building is at the Coleman Drugstore now, across from Hotel Dieu Hospital.

EK: It belongs to the El Paso Historical Society. But it's not one of those things that you can keep in your living room!

MQ: It was on top of the building. That was the...

EK: The Gladstone Building?

MQ: Yes; and then they went into the wholesale business on Mills Street and closed Kelly and Pollard at the Sheldon when it was torn down.

EK: Now at one time we had a drugstore where the hotel is, where George Simpson had his restaurant. What hotel was that?

MQ: The Gateway. The didn't have a drugstore, did they, Elizabeth?

EK: Yes, and they put in a soda fountain and a quick lunch thing. And then Mr.

Ryan wanted Papa to put a p̄low in for an advertisement. /P̄apa/ said he couldn't have a p̄low and silk stockings in a drugstore. And that's when they went to wholesale business. /B̄ut/ they had a drugstore there.

AK: When the southern sisters came to /ādvertise/, it was in the window at the second store.

MQ: Well, it was in the window also up the corner where the Indians had been.

E & AK: Yes.

MQ: Seven Sullivan sisters. It was when women had long, long hair. These women went around the country and they would sit in the store window, and their hair would come all the way down to the ground and out on the floor. But our grandmother's hair did that, too. I remember standing there looking at this woman's hair, and she said, "If you use this hair tonic, your hair will grow that way." /L̄aughter/ The medicine show was gone, but the drugstore was taking its place.

And I might add that the druggist did everything. They opened at seven o'clock in the morning, and they stayed open until nearly midnight. I think they did a great deal of doctoring. Papa always made his own pills and put them on those horrible little papers, don't you remember? You shook them on your tongue. People would come in asking for help instead of going to a doctor. Of course, it's the days when we had smallpox here. I'm marked with smallpox--literally, mentally. But Papa used to vaccinate himself every so often because people came in with, "My baby's sick." I remember one time he came home just horrified, and we all had to be vaccinated. This woman had come in and said that the baby was sick, and could he give her something for it. She opened her shawl--in the days of the big, black shawl--and the baby was broken out with black smallpox.

EK: We were all vaccinated regularly. I still have my first vaccination mark,

and it's that big.

MQ: I do too, but I've nearly lost an arm since. But that was the kind of a store /where/ you went in and asked for anything. And they made the best ice cream in town. I have the word of all the generation. They made their own ice cream, and it was perfect every time.

AK: But Mary, they didn't make the ice cream up there until they moved down to the other place, did they?

MQ: I don't know. I don't think so, Ann, because Lena Farley has told me about what good ice cream Papa made and gave her. She went to school to Mother. You see, our mother taught here; she came here in 1892. They say she was a perfectly beautiful woman. I'm sure she was, /but/ I wished people would stop saying, "My, your mother was so pretty. She was so beautiful. Isn't it a shame none of you girls look like her?"--which I think is rude /even though/ it's true. But apparently there was no compromise with her; she taught like you did, Ann, I'm sure. Lena went to school to our mother, /and/ she also admired our father very much, because he made such good ice cream. Lena was so fond of the ice cream. And when she heard that he was going to marry Mother, she went down to see him. She hung around and hung around the store, and finally she said, "Is it true? Are you going to marry Miss Word?" And Papa said yes, he thought he would. She said, "You'll be sorry." And Papa said, "Oh, I don't think so." And she said, "You just wait. The first time she shakes her finger at your face, you're sure going to be sorry." /Laughter/ Well, that was far back, you see, when she was a little girl. Mama and Papa got married in 1897.

EK: Now, let's get back to the ice cream. They did have ice cream, because, remember, Mr. Peadbody was a white rooster that somebody gave to Papa to give me, /but/ he kept him at the store for some reason. Papa gave him some

ice cream, and he would kill the stawberries in the ice cream. So they did have ice cream available.

AK: They made ice cream there, and I think it was one of early places.

EK: At any rate, Papa used to carry a pistol when he came home late at night. We lived on Mesa Avenue then. We had a fireplace with a high mantel over it, and he put the pistol on the mantel. We had a new maid who dusted the top of the mantel and knocked the pistol off--it hit the floor and fired. She didn't stay with us anymore.

MQ: Elizabeth, I don't think he carried a gun until he was Mayor, and the Revolution.

EK: Then it may have been during the time of the Revolution, when he came home late at night.

MQ: I know he carried a gun then, but whether he did before that time or not, I don't know. But then, people carried guns anyway.

EK: I think he did. When he came home late at night from the store, I think he carried a gun. Now, I wouldn't be sure of when, because the first time I remember about it was when the girl knocked it off the mantel and it went off.

MQ: I think this is an interesting thing: The thing that they were afraid of... The money, nobody bothered about it especially. But, the man alone at the store at night was afraid that /someone/ would take the dope. Just like it is now, except it wasn't anybody's son you knew. But I mean, that was the thing they were always afraid of.

EK: They never had any trouble.

AK: They didn't sell /dope/; that was the other thing. Many drugstores did sell dope, because there was no regulation against it. But Papa never sold it; I mean socially. He did on prescription, but otherwise he never sold it.



/But others/ did because it was perfectly legal.

EK: But Papa was always very hipped on that subject.

AK: Yes.

T: Was your father interested in or involved with the Madero Revolution in 1911?

EK: Well, everybody in El Paso was involved. You see, Papa was Mayor, and he was very much interested. I know, we lived on the corner of Mesa and Montana (where the Circle K is), and one time he phoned and said, "Kid (he called my mother "Kid"), take the girls /to/ the far side of the house and stay there." Because there were bullets falling around there. She said, "All right, /but/ where are you?" "Well, I'm down at the bridge, but you take the girls across to the other side of the house." We never did have any trouble. /But/ El Paso was very much involved with the Revolution.

MQ: The sympathy and everything. In the first place, they dedicated this monument up here. Díaz laid the cornerstone for the monument. Then, they got the monument finished a year later and it was dedicated.

Now, there's a thesis down at the college that says that when Díaz came up here there was no feeling that there was a Revolution coming. That thesis is wrong, because there was. The people in charge on this side-- Judge Sweeney was Mayor--were scared to death something would happen to Díaz because he was unpopular in México.

EK: You remember they had guards over here, /and/ after the big dinner that he gave in the Customshouse in Juárez, he threw his cloak around his shoulders and walked back to the hotel.

MQ: Yes, but, Elizabeth, that was Díaz all the way through, because he would have been killed long before if he had shown any fear at all. But they were so afraid that something might happen to him on this side, that somebody would

take a pot-shot at him.

EK: Just like we feel when the President goes somewhere--we're so glad he gets back.

MQ: That's right.

T: I still can't make up my mind whether the sentiment in El Paso was pro or against Díaz, though . Was it for Madero or not?

MQ: It was divided. You see, in the first place, this was frontier country and southern sympathies... It was mighty close to the end of the War Between the States. When things began to stir in México, there were just lots and lots of El Paso men that kept one man in the field, that sent money down to Madero's crowd. And Madero came up here, right up there across from the Smelter. I have a picture, incidentally, of him talking on the phone there.

EK: I remember when we went up there and half of El Paso was on this side of the river, and two-thirds of them were mending tires because in those days tires weren't as good as they are now. And they were throwing oranges, bottles of pop, bottles of beer, anything they could into the river. You could see an elegant officer on the other side taking the things out with his sword as they floated /over/.

MQ: Yes, the sympathy then was for Madero.

AK: But lots of people were for Díaz. They felt he had done a wonderful job in México.

MQ: And then, of course, there were a great many mining people in El Paso at the time. That made a difference, because under Don Porfirio, the mines had been saved.

AK: He stabilized the country.

MQ: /But/ he was getting old and so on, and then the idea of Madero daring to...

AK: Well, if he'd just chosen Madero to run with him, I think things would have

been different. 'Course, you never can tell.

MQ: You can't ever tell.

T: If Díaz had taken Madero to run with him?

AK: Yes, but he wouldn't. I think that if he had taken Madero that he could have held it together.

MQ: But the town was divided, and it divided a million different times.

AK: With every change of revolutionary leaders it divided.

MQ: And when Madero finally came and took Juárez, they say that the only picture of Don Porfirio in Juárez that night that the town was taken was hanging over the bed of the dead general.

EK: Papa was very much interested /in the Revolution/ because he didn't want anything to happen over on this side.

MQ: He didn't want any killing over here, and, you see, there was so much of that sort of thing. Then there were always these soldiers of fortune that turned up here. For instance, Garibaldi didn't have any more business here than... Of course, I did; I lived here, I forgot that! /Laughter/

AK: He lived at the Sheldon Hotel.

MQ: And then, of course, as things got worse, the people began to come out with their various stories of what happened as the mines were hit. Then Don Luis Terrazas...

AK: /He/ lived here in the Fall house.

MQ: Yes. But before that, he had the whole floor of the del Norte. The del Norte\* was brand new. They young men stayed /in México/, but Don Luis brought the women and children /to El Paso/. They rented a whole floor

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\*Hotel Paso del Norte

of the del Norte and lived there. And /they/ rode back and forth...those must have been Rolls Royces, but I thought they were Packards. But you see, he was the Cattle King, and he fed three revolutions.

AK: He came out through Presidio, I think.

MQ: Did he?

AK: Yes, from Chihuahua.

MQ: I don't know how he came out. Then, eventually they lived up here in the Fall house, which is right up the street.

But the town, nobody ever agreed. I think they were divided. You could go places and practically come to blows over it. It's like my friend, Mrs. /Hafner. Her husband/ was a doctor in Chihuahua. The Lujáns and the Terrazas' had something wrong with one of their children; they had sent to Germany for specialists, and Dr. Hafner came. Then he stayed on with his wife and children. Things got bad, and Villa took Chihuahua and ordered all the foreigners out. But those gachupines, no; the train was to come and get them. Mrs. Hafner /was/ sitting /in the station/ with her baby on her lap. She was telling me about it, and she said that she didn't think Villa was so bad. He came into the station and went past Mrs. Hafner and he said, "What a beautiful child." Mrs. Hafner loved him the rest of her days. /Laughter/ And so you found that sort of /thing/.

T: This section of the country wasn't really terribly involved in the Revolution, then, except as spectators. Is that true?

EK: As spectators and individuals. As Mary said, lots of people here sent money over to the men in the field.

MQ: Lots of people hid people, including Papa. Then at the Battle of Juárez, they stopped up here by the peach grove by the Hacienda\*, across there, and

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\*Hacienda Café

parleyed. Madero parleyed at length, and a great many people said he was afraid to go on. I think he hated the bloodshed.

T: What did the four Kelly girls do? You were all children at the time of the Madero Revolution of 1911.

EK: Well, we stayed on the other side of the house most of the time.

MQ: Yes. And then Juárez fell...

EK: My father said that never in the /āge/ of national civilization would there be another city taken by force of arms. So, after the dead were taken off the street, Papa and Mr. Edwards, who was the Sheriff, took us and the two Edwards girls over to Juárez. The bullet shells were still on the street. And the thing I remember most vividly is /that/ there was a little pool of blood and somebody walked into it. You know when you walk in water how your /footprints/ get smaller and smaller as you go off? I remember the bloody footprints getting smaller, and smaller, and smaller. But there was nothing that we saw that terrible.

AK: No. But we kept running into boys we knew, though, that had worked for Papa /and/ were now in the Army over there.

EK: Yes. And Madero's soldiers, as a rule, had at least three cartridge belts. Lots of the soldiers were Indians who came in with bows and arrows. When they killed a man, they got a gun. And lots of the wounded were Indians who never had a gun /before/, and picked it up and put it firmly down on /their/ feet, and it went off. Or /they'd/ just put /their/ hands over the muzzle.

MQ: It was the Yaquis; that's who they were.

EK: But they loved a gun--they'd never had one before.

MQ: Another thing was that during the siege of Juárez, the Federal troops were in uniform, and, of course, Madero's men weren't. They had on their ordinary

clothes. Finally, things got pretty bad, I guess. They put the Federal troops on the buildings and took down the ladders. Well, then, there wasn't anything to do except fight. I don't mean they weren't brave; they didn't care one way or the other, mind you. But when they got down, they took off their uniforms and threw them in the street. They were going on the assumption that if you didn't have a uniform, you could run around without any clothes on at all, or a G-string. They couldn't prove from the piles of uniforms who you were. The Federal uniforms had been pretty. They were blue piled with red and so on. All around El Paso, chiefly the males, all of them that could get away went over to Juárez and collected this stuff. Well, they also had typhus over there, and typhus is carried by body lice. The local authorities were scared it would spread to this side. So, Papa made them put barrels of coal oil on the bridge, and as the men came across with these souvenirs, he made them put them in the coal oil or they couldn't bring them in. Well, they were simply furious. But we had only two cases of typhus, and that's all. And it was because Papa made them stop.

T: 'Cause your father made them stop...

MQ: Yes, because the typhus would have spread. One of the boys that died from it had gotten this beautiful gold hat with all the gold braid and everything. He sneaked it by somehow. But people went over. We had streetcars in those days. As soon as the streetcars ran, why, everybody that didn't have any other means of transportation went on the streetcar and it was just fine. Well, they were walking around looking at the captured city, because there'd never be another one, you know.

And the out guard, Blanco, was it? Anyhow...

EK: Somebody from down the river was coming in.

MQ: Yes, somebody that had been out on patrol duty down far, that had just gotten

the news that the town had fallen. They came in, and naturally, if you were a Mexican revolutionary, and you meet another one, how do you greet him? You shoot off your gun in the air. They were not shooting at each other. But the story was that there were reinforcements coming in from Chihuahua, and you should have seen the El Pasoans light out for this side of the border!

EK: There's a nice story about a woman who was over there with her husband and a male friend, and how she lost them--or how they lost her, I don't know. Anyway, she was sitting in the middle of the street having hysterics. And this nice Mexican with a wagon came along and picked her up, and took her down, oh, I guess beyond Zaragoza.

MQ: To this ranch.

EK: And they had trouble finding her.

T: That was an American woman?

MQ: An American woman. They just poured over, simply fascinated by the Revolution. The other thing was, of course, that they hung over the edge of the river and all over the edge of the Mills Building, which was new, looking down at the siege. It was really a very high point in our early existence. Then after a while it got to be pretty much a matter of everyday.

AK: When Juárez fell the first time, there were lovely buildings over there that Díaz had built. After that, of course, they were just blown up.

EK: And after the raid in Columbus, the story came that Villa was coming into El Paso. So, at that time, there was a group of young men at El Paso High School who were... What do you call them?

MQ: R.O.T.C..

EK: R.O.T.C.. So, they took their guns (I think they were Plug Sneiders) and they guarded El Paso High School. Everybody took them fudge and cookies,

and it was really lovely.

MQ: Oh, it was divine. And the next day, they would sleep in class. Whether they were tired or not, they put their heads down on their desks, and nobody disturbed them.

EK: And you know, war is rather terrible, but at that time, it was lots of fun. Everybody had a gorgeous time--here these heroes protecting our school.

MQ: Yes, but they brought troops in from the post /Fort Bliss/, and they were camped all through the streets. So, we were pretty thoroughly involved in it.

EK: Yes, they camped all around our house. No, that was later, 'cause that was the National Guard.

T: Was that because your father was Mayor?

EK: No, it was because they were afraid the town would be raided. After Columbus, they were afraid the town would be raided.

MQ: We kept on hearing that it would be /raided/, and that the raid would come from the Smelter, through town, and back into México, instead of the other way around.

T: What was Villa supposed to do when he raided? Just tear up the town generally and scare everybody?

EK: I don't think anybody said why it was going to be raided.

MQ: But then they all said, "Well, look at Columbus." I think, though, the worst that El Paso ever felt and the most vicious they ever felt was after Santa Isabel.

EK: Yes.

MQ: That really was. Things had calmed down, and they were going to open the mines; they had a guarantee from the government. And it wasn't Villa.

T: But this was in Chihuahua, wasn't it?



MQ: Yes, but the mine operators came from here. They were El Paso men.

T: Going back to open the mines? Yes, I had forgotten about that.

MQ: They were going to open the mines, and they were ambushed. And I guess, every one of them got killed.

T: Was that by the Villa men?

MQ: I don't think so.

EK: I don't think they've ever been sure who did it.

MQ: Some people say that one of Villa's rings was seen there, but there has always been a question as to whether or not. But those men... Part of it was, they should have known better. They all told about how they were taking the money back to open the mines, and so forth and so on; you know, that sort of thing. You shouldn't do that and then go, even with troop guards. But the, there were troops, as Howard told you\*, for years afterwards on those trains. Have you ever read The Underdogs, Azuela's Los de abajo?

S: Yes.

MQ: It was written here in El Paso. He was with Villa. And it was all just simply part of that decade, wasn't it?

S: Your father had some other personal encounters with Villa, didn't he?

EK: Yes. Villa wanted to kill Garibaldi. Garibaldi was staying in the Sheldon Hotel.

MQ: And this was young Garibaldi.

EK: Yes, this was young Garibaldi. Now, <sup>that's</sup>the thing, you have to specify the name; it's young Garibaldi. And so Villa came over to kill Garibaldi. Whether he brought some people with him or not, I'm not sure. Papa's drug-store was right there in the Sheldon Hotel and people ran to get Papa real quick. So he went in and explained to Villa very carefully that this

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\*Refers to Howard Quinn, Mary Quinn's husband, in interview No. 68.

was his town, and that there wasn't going to be anybody killed in his town. He took Villa's gun out of his hands, took him into the drugstore, and they had a drink together. Then, he gave Villa back his gun and gave him a police escort. It worked two ways--it was an honor guard and /it/ also ensured /that/ he got across the bridge.

They were great friends after that. And Villa told my father that he did not order the raid at Columbus (though they said he was seen there), and he had gone in to call off the troops.

MQ: Papa never did believe that he had anything to do with it.

EK: No, no.

MQ: The family don't agree on the subject of Villa, but we don't agree on a lot of things.

Go ahead and tell them about the time Papa needed the cotton chopped.

EK: Cotton was new in the valley. And the people that he could get, /he/ told them to chop cotton. /Those plants need to be two or three inches apart, but/ they chopped and they left any plant two or three inches apart; it might be a piece of cotton, it might be a weed. So Papa went down the valley to this ranch.

T: When you say "the valley," where was the valley?

EK: Down near Socorro.

AK: No, it was down by Fabens. And see, they hadn't moved the river /yet/, and Fabens was right on the river.

T: And your father owned this land?

MQ: Yes.

EK: He told Villa about it--/needing cotton choppers/. And Villa said, why, he'd send him somebody. So he sent up two colonels.

MQ: That was after Villa had retired and was running around.

EK: Yes. So my father had no trouble with cotton choppers after that (to tell the laborers how to do it and so forth, and so on). My father quite often went down there at night. He wouldn't plan ahead; but every once in a while when he was down there, Villa would come across and then they'd sit and talk all night.

MQ: The newspapers told you Villa was in Parral, but /often/ he was sitting there in Papa's kitchen. /Laughter/

EK: Then, when the news came that Villa had been killed, these colonels took Papa's two best horses and left.

MQ: First they questioned /the news reports/. They didn't believe he'd been killed.

EK: They didn't, so they went to see. And they sent the horses back, but they never came back themselves.

MQ: We never saw them again.

T: Did you say /they were/ colonels? Were they colonels in the Army?

MQ: Yes. Everybody was a colonel or a general, my gosh!

T: And they came up and chopped cotton?

AK: They were overseers more than anything else.

T: Did they bring other people with them to help?

EK: I imagine that they got the people from around over there. And, of course, there were lots of what we call "wetbacks" now.

MQ: Well, yes, but there weren't any wetbacks then. We didn't have immigration laws of that kind.

EK: No, everybody just went back and forth.

T: There was a lot more easy feeling between México and the United States than there appears to be now.

MQ: /There/ wasn't any prejudice at all.

EK: We all lived together. We'd all built El Paso. And that's what makes me so mad now--to have the prejudice and the feeling now--when all of us together built El Paso and Juárez.

None of this, you know, is really pertinent, but I think it's all interesting. The story was that the American troops were stationed in El Paso for protection against the Indians. But one reason they were stationed here was to protect Cd. Juárez from the raiders in El Paso, after some group of El Pasoans or tourists or what have you went over and looted Juárez and divided the loot in the Plaza. They sent the troops in to protect against the looters. That didn't make for good feeling.

MQ: It was all such... But it was their Revolution and it was our Revolution. And it was a little hard keeping people straight--you know, whose side you were on. After Juárez fell, they had this beautiful, beautiful banquet for Madero and the man that he chose to be President (of course, he wasn't going to be President himself), and a variety of other people. The leading lights people of El Paso came, and some other lights, too. One of them got a little too lit, and in the middle of it--after they had toasted this one, and that one, and the other one--he got up and toasted Orozco. Orozco had revolted against Madero that day! Laughter

T: Where was this banquet?

MQ: At the Toltec.

T: Here in El Paso?

MQ: Oh, yes; yes.

AK: It's where the Upstairs Theatre Downtown is.

MQ: It was the most elegant club in El Paso.

T: But there was a nice feeling between the citizens of Juárez and the citizens of El Paso?

MQ: Yes.

AK: Yes, we had all built two cities together, the two races. There wasn't any feeling at all /of prejudice/.

MQ: It was all one town, per se.

AK: All the Terrazas, all the Escajedas, and all of these people, we all worked together. See, the Escajedas held their land from Spain.

MQ: Yes, they had a Spanish grant.

AK: And we all worked together to build two new cities.

EK: But if you want a bird's eye view of Villa, you talk to Lucita Escajeda Flores.

MQ: And then María Luisa Flores. Now, María Luisa's family had a ranch on the side of the river. They had beautiful horses. One of the revolutionary bands took their horses. And one day, one of the brothers was downtown in Juárez, I think, or maybe on this side, and he saw this poor horse that had been horribly mistreated. /He/ went up to him and /saw/ it was his horse. The horse recognized him. Now, Luisita also does Angeles beautifully. And really, I think he is one of the great men of México.

AK: But I think he could have pulled the company together.

MQ: I think he could, too. Besides being an almost world famous artillery officer.

T: Who was this?

MQ: Angeles. He was killed.

T: Oh, yes.

AK: Executed. But it's too bad.

EK: But Papa knew them all.

AK: Villa one time told Papa, when he was visiting down at the ranch during the Revolution, that he could never have been President of México because

he couldn't read, and he wouldn't know what he was signing. So you see, he was an intelligent man.

MQ: And the man that he worshipped was Madero. And he really was through with the fighting when Madero was President. Then, when Madero was assassinated--because it was just murder, there's no doubt about that--why, then, you find him going back into the field. I think the devils in México are Huerta and probably Carranza--Huerta I know. I have my choice, you know.

EK: As Mary said earlier, everybody had their own opinion.

T: I imagine there was a lot of opinion going around at that time, because there was so much to think about.

MQ: Yes.

EK: And it was emotional.

MQ: And we lived here and that was all right, but /it was different for/ the people that lived in the mines. This was a mining community; it isn't any more; /those people/ aren't here.

And then don't you remember Babe Valdepino's tale? Her husband was in charge of the mines of Pachuca. He was Spanish, I guess.

AK: Valdespino, I think he was.

MQ: Anyhow, he was in charge. They had been abroad, and she'd gotten all these elegant clothes. When they went abroad on their honeymoon, she had a big hat, big merry widow hat, and it had, she says, a sea gull across the front. /Chuckles/ So that to go into the state room, she had to turn the hat this way. /Laughter/ Well, anyhow, she bought some elegant clothes in Paris, and among other things she bought a beautiful evening dress. And Babe was as big as a house; I mean, she was a big woman--very fine, very good-looking. And the train /of the dress/ was spread out, and it was beaded, and it was a peacock's tail--just too, too gorgeous for words. Well, they went back to

Pachuca, and, of course, Pachuca was taken. It's so close to México City and so very rich. The men saved the mines, what they could, and the money they could for the people that owned them, but the stuff that they /owned/, /their/ household things were gone. And Babe said the last time she saw that dress, it was on a soldada who was mounted on a spiked horse. She was riding astride in it and the train /of the dress/ was spread out this way over the horse's rump and dragging in the ground behind his tail. /Laughter/ And she said they were riding off up over the mountains, and there went her French dress. Now, it's that kind of thing people came back with.

And then, they came back with the tales of, for instance, the mozos that came with you to the border. The man that had to stay /in México/, he'd put his wife on the buckboard with /the/ mozo to drive, and they came through to the border. That sort of thing. This complete faith...

EK: In the men that had worked with them.

MQ: In the men that were going to get you through. Now, one place that \_\_\_\_\_ Cook was coming. They heard them, and they hid. They hid the buckboard, they hid the horses, and her; and they rode out--the mozos from the mines. /They/ met this crowd and explained that they /were/ all buddies. Then, when the others went on, they came on up to the border. It's that type of thing, and it's on both sides of the river, don't you know. And it's hard, I think, for people that didn't live through it to realize.

AK: Well, and then the refugees came through here; they'd just been thrown out of their houses. They had nothing, and everybody helped them.

MQ: It's too bad you didn't know Mrs. Del Campo. She was Mrs. Villa's best friend.

T: I wanted to ask another question about your father. What achievements in city administration was your father most proud of?

EK: I think of buying the waterworks, don't you?

MQ: Yes, I'm sure. We'd never had public waterworks.

EK: No, the waterworks from Watt's Well, they were privately owned. And while he was Mayor, the city bought the waterworks. I think that was the thing.

MQ: Well, one reason he was so interested was /because that was/ one of the first jobs he had here when he came. He stood out in front of the drugstore--he worked at the drugstore, it wasn't his of course--and as the water wagons that had gotten water out of the river (the drinking water) came by, it was his job to see that they filled all the orders. It stood until all the dirt dropped down, and then they strained it. I think he had a feeling for water.

EK: He also had a feeling for the dairies, too, Mary. Because when I was born, he didn't want Mother to get milk from any of the dairies, so he bought a cow. And my mother said that the reason the cow wouldn't let her milk her--why, she'd never been milked by a woman before. And Father said that Mother and Katy did something to that cow, so she wouldn't let them milk her. Anyhow, he got rid of the cow and bought the milk from Dr. Francis W. Gallagher /Gallagher and Vance, 1019 N. Stanton/.

AK: He lived up the street.

EK: I think Papa was very aware of public health.

MQ: Very naturally he would be.

EK: And he never ate pork that he didn't raise himself, because he didn't think that pork that was raised on slop was good. And he used to have alfalfa fields, and he kept them on the alfalfa fields. So they were clean enough to come in the house if he wanted them. But he was very much interested in farming.

AK: Papa did a lot of talking with Mr. Connors, too, about public health.

MQ: Yes. You see, this was smallpox country.



T: Why was that? Did it come from México?

EK: I think we raised some of it ourselves.

MQ: It was all along here.

T: People just didn't get themselves vaccinated?

MQ: Well, it was before people vaccinated very much. The man responsible for doing away with smallpox in El Paso was Dr. Hugh White. He succeeded in getting people vaccinated. But there was a pesthouse out here, and Mr. Connors ran it.

AK: Yes, I don't imagine /that/ until the doctors came in that they had any vaccination at all.

MQ: No, no. And then anyway, so often the way they vaccinated in those days, you had a very serious time. I've /read/ quite a lot of material on the early pesthouses and so on. And Papa was interested in some sort of hospital--a charity hospital, that sort of thing. He did a lot of work with Mr. Connors on that. And the thing that you wonder about is that the doctor would go to the pesthouse (the isolation hospital--but nobody called it that) and treat these people who had smallpox, then he'd wash his hands, and come treat /someone else/ for measles. That was that.

EK: And who was the public health officer that stationed police at each end of the street and vaccinated everybody?

MQ: I think that probably it was Dr. Hugh White, Elizabeth; I'm not sure.

EK: It may have been, or maybe Dr. Justice.

S: I've recently spoken to Mrs. White, and she said that her husband did a great deal of that.

MQ: Yes, she was very, very proud about it.

EK: And /there was/ no question /about being vaccinated/, because if you ran down the street, the police stopped you at the other end.

MQ: And he also worked with the priest, Elizabeth, down in South El Paso--Dr. White did--persuading people to be vaccinated.

AK: Lots of people were afraid of the vaccinations.

EK: They were afraid of it.

AK: Well, the way the vaccination was done then, I don't much blame them. And the scars they left on you!

MQ: I heard Mother tell after she was here of houses with a flag out in front, [showing] there was a smallpox case there, and that you avoided it. We were vaccinated when we were three months old.

EK: Mine has never taken since. Mary's has.

MQ: Oh, yes. You should have known me when mine took the second time--it was revolting.

EK: Papa was also very much interested in getting decent water and getting the streets paved.

MQ: And in the schools.

EK: And in the schools, very much interested in the schools. Now, when they built El Paso High School, they sent a committee across the country to look at high schools. And when El Paso High School was built, it was the last word in schools.

MQ: Well, as far as I'm concerned, it's still the prettiest high school in town.

AK: Well, Papa was also interested in getting the Elephant Butte Dam, then we'd have water, you see.

EK: Yes.

T: Did he start all these projects, or did some of them come to completion during his administration?

MQ: Some of them. Then he worked hard at them. And then, of course, he was extremely interested in the college.

AK: And we had lots of leaders here in El Paso, like Judge Allen. Now, most of them came for their health, I'll admit that, but they were going to build a city here, no matter what.

MQ: And the thing was, they all worked together.

EK: Yes.

MQ: There wasn't a case of, "Well, now, I want credit for this, and you want credit for that," when it was a small town. I suppose that comes near to describing it.

EK: And you're going to hear a lot about the Ring.

MQ: Yes, but that was Papa's political life. We think the Ring was a very honest, able, and upright group. We know people who don't think so, but they're wrong. Elizabeth was reading an article that somebody that we know and you know had written, and was on the other side. And it said that the Ring was this, that, and the other. And then, /it said/ that they came into power /by/ all of the... I forgot exactly how it was worded, but anyhow it meant that all the gamblers and all of the prostitutes and everybody just took their poll tax and went down to the polls /to vote for them/. Elizabeth caught it, and she said, "Well, what did the prostitutes do at the polls with the poll tax, before women could vote?"

T: Very good point.

MQ: Yes. And that was before /women could vote/.

EK: And the author hadn't caught that.

MQ: Hadn't caught that at all. But El Paso, it was a much more open town.

EK: It was a very open town.

MQ: It was a frontier town, and it was an open town.

EK: Now, somebody said that between San Francisco and New Orleans, there was El Paso--that they were the three open towns.

MQ: There was gambling...

T: What's meant exactly by "open town?"

EK: Open gambling, open prostitution.

MQ: Not exactly open--controlled; this sort of thing.