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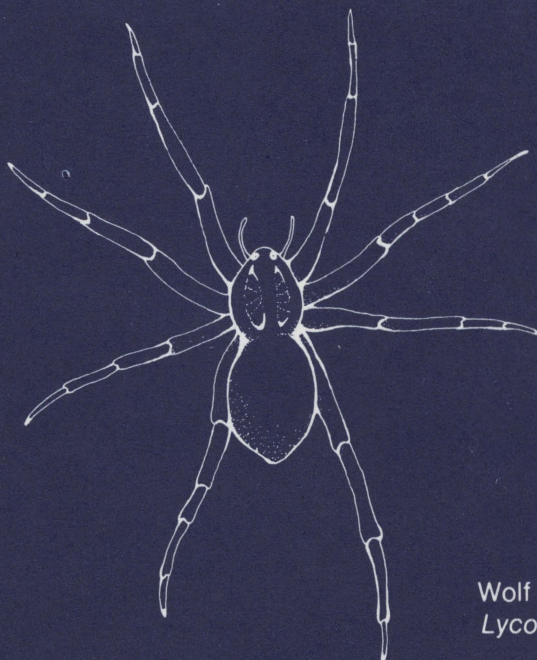
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NOVA

THE
UNIVERSITY
OF TEXAS
AT EL PASO
MAGAZINE



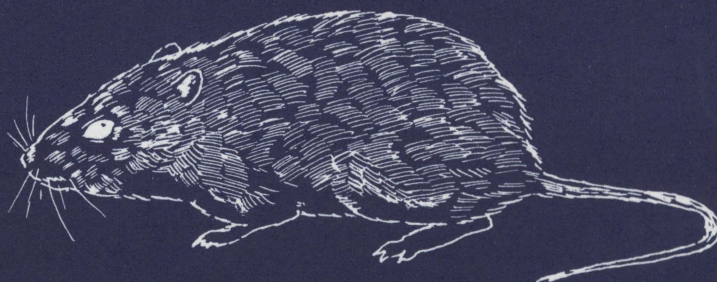
Soaptree Yucca
Yucca Elata



Wolf Spider
Lycosa Sp.

They live in the dunes: Wildlife at White Sands

Cicada Killer
Sphecius Speciosus



Cotton Rat
Sigmodon Hispidus

The View From the Hill...

Time out for my autobiography, 1966-1978.

When I was hired by Steele Jones in June, 1966, as director of the UT El Paso News Bureau, I had only the vaguest ideas on what my duties would be. My predecessor, Doug Early, and his predecessor, Jim Whitelaw, were old friends (the University was one of my beats for KTSM News) but we didn't talk much about the News Bureau. One example of what I didn't know until Steele told me was that I would be expected to edit, contribute to, and continue the new University magazine NOVA, launched the previous fall.

From the beginning, NOVA turned out to be the most pleasurable of all the director's duties and I am proud to report that I have edited 50 issues of NOVA, contributed 142 articles, columns, reviews and snappy patter pieces, and have read everything in every issue at least twice. Well, maybe not *everything* twice, but almost.

What do I remember best about editing and seeing through publications those 50 issues of NOVA, you ask? Well, you have really put me on the spot. Let me see:

★ I remember printing Dr. Sonnichsen's "The Folklore of Academe" and having a red-faced faculty member beard me in my lair. He was so hot he was ridiculous but he was upset that NOVA would be used as a vehicle for a piece of writing that poked fun at academic scholarship. He had missed the point and he lacked even a rudimentary sense of humor. I thought of this and other fine things after he left.

★ I remember my introduction to the Women's Rights Movement when a female person tore the back cover off NOVA and shot it to me through the mails with a highly sarcastic note scrawled on it to the effect that she was a Ms., and used her maiden name as well as her married, and I should know better. She also said she wouldn't give a gift to the Excellence Fund because of my insensitivity and ignorance.

★ I remember a wonderful phonecall from New York from a man representing a new magazine which they were going to call NOVA. He wondered if I would make trouble. I told him no, but that I couldn't speak for the PBS program NOVA, or for the British magazine NOVA or for the Canadian magazine NOVA. They ended up naming their magazine something else.

★ I remember when Jeannette Smith Bridler (you can see I've learned my lesson—but Jeannette wasn't the one who wrote me about my insensitivity and ignorance; she was my assistant and knew better than to say a thing like that) and I, with two work-study assistants, mailed out NOVAs while a class in the Japanese language was being conducted in the



News Bureau building. It was very difficult to slap Avery labels on magazines to kabuki music rhythm. Later we did it to a philosophy lecture on John Locke and it turned out to be even more difficult.

★ I remember an alumnus in Canada writing me to ask if I'd be interested in an article for NOVA on the draft dodgers living there. I referred him to *New Times*.

★ I remember getting three contributions to NOVA from the late H. Allen Smith, then living in Alpine. One of these, "My Very Own Conglomerate," was (in 1973) included in Smith's *Low Man Returns*, with full credit to NOVA for first publishing it.

★ I remember a four-hour taped interview with the late Gen. S.L.A. Marshall in which I learned more than in any other four-hour period in my life. The interview (or the essence of it at least) ran in NOVA in December, 1972, and upon reading it, Sam Marshall wrote me: "Now as to your interview of me...this is how things should be done...a working model. This is how the work of journalism should be conducted. Its essence is exactitude in reporting and imagination combined with diligence in questioning." Nothing has pleased me so much before or since.

★ I remember the poignancy of Ray Past's article on the death of John Judy Middagh.

If I had space, I could go on remembering things about NOVA as a good reflection of this University, its people and progress, and the comments to the effect that NOVA is among the best magazines of its kind published in this country.

I believe it is and I hope it will continue to be. The past 50 issues of NOVA have been interesting, but perhaps the next 50 will be even moreso. Stay with us and see.

—Dale L. Walker

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Back Cover: University founder H.E. Van-Surdam, arms upraised, responds to cheers at Homecoming football game in the Sun Bowl as Outstanding Ex, Dr. Vernie Stembridge, shares the spotlight. Richard Pearson, Homecoming chairman is at right.

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Charting a Sea of Sand...

UT El Paso at White Sands National Monument



by Nancy Hamilton

At the top of San Agustin Pass, a marker shows the elevation as 5,719 feet. A missile stands on a roadside platform, overlooking the White Sands Missile Range in the valley. The rugged, slick-faced rocks of the Organ mountains guard the WSMR installation at the right; to the left are the San Andres mountains, bordering the western edge of the Tularosa Basin. The descent is fast, along rocky outcroppings, past water tanks and windmills that are remnants of the ranching days that preceded the reach into space that now is the industry for this stretch of desert. Grasses and wildflowers, plentiful on the summit, become sparser as the basin is reached; now there are mesquite trees, small and large, yucca, and patches of bare sand on the plain. As the soil becomes lighter in color, alkaline in spots, it takes on a crusty look and the bushes become smaller and fewer. Duning begins hesitantly. The totally white dunes come into view at the left, past the domes of missile range buildings along the western reaches of the White Sands National Monument. The small dunes become flat slopes as the ground takes on a grayish tone; it supports a few yucca and small mesquite. Suddenly, small dunes with a white cast to the surface reach northward from U.S. Highway 70. Straight ahead, the Sacramento Mountains loom as the eastern border of the basin. The highest peak toward the north, Sierra Blanca, towers 12,000 feet above sea level.

The sand begins changing from brown to beige, and in the distance more white dunes are visible toward the left. Now the field of dunes rises from the bolson floor, with vegetation on the nearest ones; the distant ones are bare. A row of cottonwood trees curves along the lower dunes, and salt cedar grows between them and the road.

In less than an hour the descent from the mountain pass has brought dramatic contrast from the rocky, grassy cliffsides to the bolson floor 1,700 feet below. Now, at the entrance to the National Monument, adventure begins in a strange world, a white world of sand with a sea look, but whose pulses are the winds that sculpt the dune-waves.

"It looks like a vast ocean frozen in time," says Steve Helfert, who for months has been visiting the dunes regularly. His graduate research at UT El Paso has brought him to a Biological Sciences thesis project on lizards that live at White Sands. His wife, Rosine Mills, also is preparing a thesis; unlike Steve, who has examined hundreds of lizards, she has never seen her subject, the badger, only the clues to its presence in the outer perimeter of the dunes. A third graduate student, Gail Patrick, has been studying plants and insects, especially ants, one of the most important groups in the area.

Their individual projects are part of a broad comprehensive study undertaken by the University for the National Park Service

in 1977 and continued for a second year, the most thorough ecological survey yet conducted on the phenomenon that is the White Sands.

Why, Steve has asked, do the lizards of the dunes reproduce only once a year, while their cousins on the desert floor do so two or three times as often? Why, wondered Rosine, do the badgers not live in the inner area of the dunes, since there are small rodents there that they like to feed on? Gail's quest involves the relationships of insects—many of which take a white coloration—to other living things in the area.

The White Sands National Monument, covering 230 square miles in south central New Mexico, is the world's largest gypsum dune field. It lies in the Tularosa Basin where collecting waters over thousands of years have eroded the gypsum deposits. Lake Lucero, in the southwestern corner of the Monument, is the principal collection point for moisture from seasonal rains and melting snows. Dissolved gypsum accumulates there, and when sun and wind dry up the lake bed periodically, gypsum crystals are formed. They are weathered into sand-sized grains which fly on the wind to the nearby dunes, perpetuating their ranks in a procession toward the northeast.

Encouraged by residents of the area who wanted to preserve the unique tract—industrial interests were eyeing it for gypsum resources in the 1920s—the U.S. Department of the Interior recommended the site

for a national monument. President Herbert Hoover made the proclamation and the White Sands National Monument was established on January 18, 1933. Administration is under a superintendent from the National Park Service.

Like the banks of snow they resemble, the dunes reflect 70 per cent of the sunlight falling on them. Because of this reflective quality, the sands are colder in winter than the surrounding plain. There are no thermals or dust devils, those sudden bursts of churning desert winds, over the dunes. Buzzards do not fly there, since no pockets of air are available for them to glide on. Windstorms are common in the spring, pushing the dunes in a northeasterly direction. During the winter, cold fronts can bring a thrust in the opposite direction. The water table lies near the surface.

Students involved in the research project—four have already completed their graduate work and seven are currently completing theses—often worked at night in the spring and winter because many of the creatures they wanted to observe are nocturnal. Many of them also put in long hours in the heat of June and July, Gail spending as much as 24 continuous hours in the heart of the dunes. Doug Echlin and Marsha McKinnerney spent several days at a time there.

When daylight comes, the dunes are crisscrossed with tiny patterns tracing the paths of kit foxes, coyotes, lizards, pocket gophers, crickets, and dozens of other creatures. The trail of the kangaroo rat is a single line drawn by his tail, with tiny foot imprints on each side. Clues—a porcupine quill, perhaps—tell that other animals have been there, but the animals are never seen.

"We have two purposes in our work here," explains Dr. William H. Reid, assistant professor of biological sciences and director of the research program. "When I came to UT El Paso in 1975, the chairman asked me to help get the department involved in real world problems and to develop something to provide funding and experience for the students. The National Park Service said nobody had done a comprehensive study at White Sands. We started with a University research grant for student support and last year received an \$18,000 contract with the Park Service. It was renewed this year at \$13,000."

The natural resources inventory has turned up 50 kinds of mammals, of which the pocket gopher is most common. Like the badger, it is never seen in the dunes. Of the 140 species of plants, there were eight kinds of cactus not recorded at the Monument before. Not all the research involves what can be observed with the naked eye; laboratory work by parasitologists turned up an organism that had never before been photographed and another that represented a new species. They were reported by Dr. John Bristol, department chairman.

Biological Sciences faculty members of many specialties have been involved in the

project: Dr. Reid in plants and mammals; Dr. Joanne Ellzey, fungi; Dr. C.E. Freeman, plant nutrition; Dr. Larry P. Jones, microbiology; Dr. Richard A. Smartt, mammals; Dr. Richard Worthington, lizards and reptiles; Dr. Diane Calabrese, insects; Dr. Arthur H. Harris, mammals; Dr. Curtis Eklund, microbiology; Dr. Eleanor Duke, algae; Dr. Gordon Roberstad, fungi. From New Mexico State University are Dr. Lillian F. Mayberry, parasitology, and Dr. George Thaeler, pocket gophers.

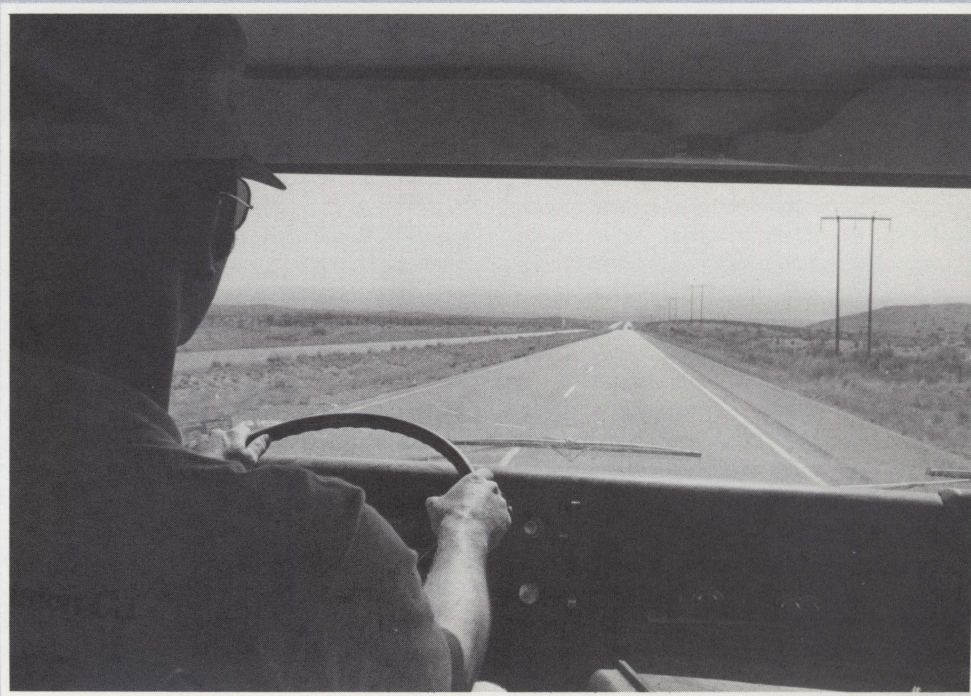
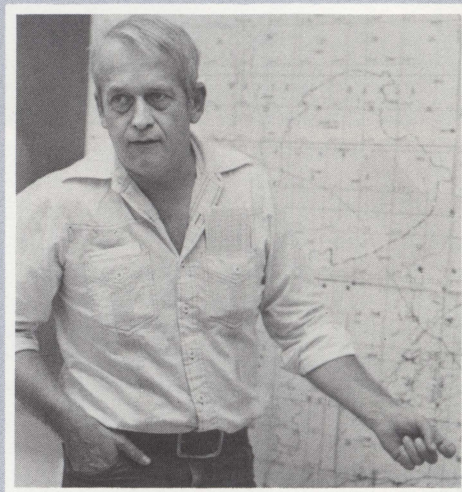
The laboratory collection of insect specimens includes white crickets, ladybugs (their spots are dark), spiders and other inhabitants of the dunes which have taken on pale coloration over the centuries. Oddly, the white ones are nocturnal. "We think the white color is so they will blend with the dunes and avoid predation," explains Dr. Reid. Many insects come out in the early morning and evening; they are black, so that they can readily warm up after being in cool sand burrows. When the sun gets hot, the black insects scuttle for cover. The white ones are not seen in the daytime.

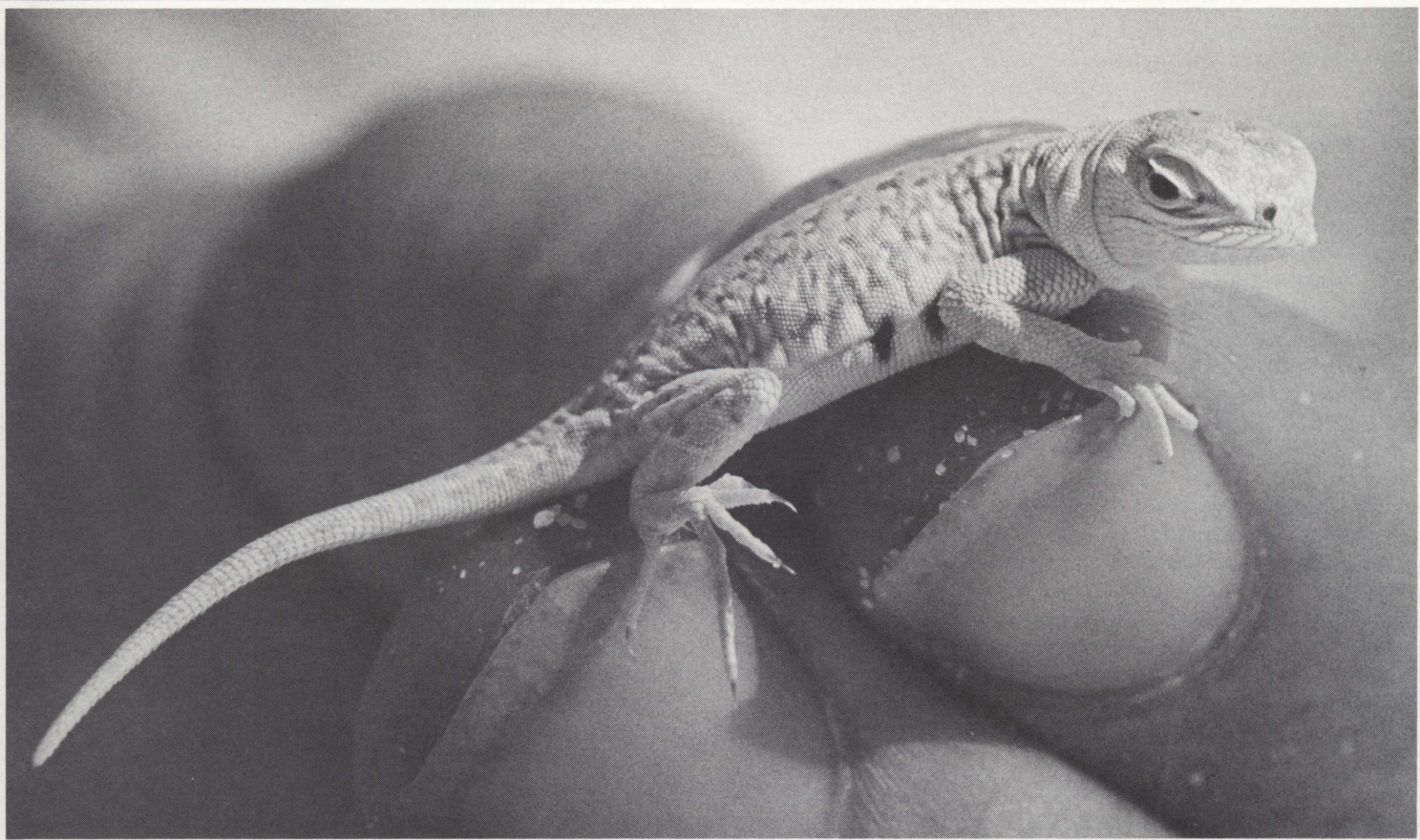
The bleached earless lizards, Steve Helfert found, spend the most time in the open of the three lizard species in the dunes, and their pale coloration is an advantage. The females take on an orange hue in July and turn white again after laying their eggs. The striped whiptail lizard, bright blue over most of its body on the desert floor, is very pale in the dunes. The reproductive strategy of the White Sands lizards differs from that of their cousins in the surrounding Chihuahuan desert. "These lizards produce only one clutch per year, while those in the desert produce more than one clutch per year," he says. "Environmental factors appear to influence this phenomenon. Because of the cooler temperature in the dunes, eggs take longer to hatch. The temperature remains cool until early May, and the lizards don't emerge

until there have been a number of days of warmth, then they go into their reproductive activity. With the cooler temperatures in the fall, they disappear. On the alkaline plain, the adobe soil absorbs more heat and makes it possible for the lizards there to produce clutches in a shorter period of time and more often."

Whereas Steve could pick up lizards and examine them, his wife had a Sherlock Holmesian job in learning about badgers. "They occur in low densities, digging their holes from the west side of the Monument all the way to the eastern half where most of the dunes are. The burrows are pretty much evident in the area where salt bush and grasses are plentiful, but as you progress into the dunes the burrows decrease in numbers and there are none in the heart of the dunes," Rosine explains.

"I wonder why they don't get into the dunes because they can dig in sand and like to eat pocket gophers, which live there. I took soil samples from the areas where the burrows are found and compared them with samples from the inner dunes. The soil texture differs; where the composition is more than 75 per cent sand, the badgers are not found." Soil types were in three





Dr. William Reid, project director, points to map of White Sands (opposite page). Lower left, view from the Biological Sciences Department van on the desert highway. Top, a hatchling of the bleached earless lizard, 1.5 inches long, about 10 days old, has white coloration. Jeanne Riley, above, teaching assistant, compares bacteria found in different plant communities. Steve Helfert and Rosine Mills, right, set an animal trap in outer dunes.

Spider with white coloration, top photo, blends into background of white sand. Below, Gail Patrick and Rosine Mills examine the distorted growth pattern of cottonwood tree with bared roots that once were covered by a sand dune.



main classifications: sand, silt, and clay. The area in the heart of the dunes is as much as 93 per cent sand. "Probably burrows would not last in soil with more than 75 per cent sand," she observes. The distribution of badgers may also be based on preference for a certain type of pocket gopher, she adds.

In Texas badgers are found only in the western part of the state, she relates. They are scattered through New Mexico and occur in such northern states as Illinois. Their droppings, known as scats in biological circles, are very hard to find, says Rosine. One research paper she read indicates they hide their scats under mounds of dirt, like cats. "I couldn't find enough of them to do a food comparison of carnivores, which I

originally wanted to do," she adds.

The badger holes are able to maintain stable temperatures; they change by only about 2 degrees while the surface temperature fluctuates as much as 30 degrees.

"The holes are unmistakable," she says, "almost uniformly 8 inches in diameter with a mound of dirt in front of the entrance. We excavated a few badger holes to see how they look inside. Some extend 4 feet into the ground. One had two entrances and a U-turn inside, almost an 'S' shape; some are straight down. The animal itself can reach a length of 2 feet and weigh up to 40 pounds."

Gail, third member of the student group which showed NOVA the research area at

White Sands, was involved in a plant succession study during the first year of research. The early work at 29 sites revealed 35 species of plants. A line intercept method was used for sampling, stretching a 50-meter nylon tape along the ground and recording each plant intersected by the tape. Dr. Reid designed a computer program for use in developing ordination. R. Douglas Echlin, who completed his thesis on plant research, is now employed as a biologist with the International Boundary and Water Commission.

Computer data also helped in identifying bacteria in the study of soils related to the badgers and in various other phases of the research. The University contributes computer time to the project and the Department of Biological Sciences provides the van used for transportation.

In October 1977 Roland Wauer, chief of Natural Resources Management for the Park Service's Southwest Region, spent two days on campus discussing their work with the faculty and student researchers.

In the months since then, Master's theses were completed by Echlin; Helfert, who entered doctoral study at Texas A&M; Marsha McKinnemey, who now teaches in a Texas junior college; and Kingsley Ero, now in optometry school. Those with Master's work in progress are Rosine Mills, Gail Patrick, Maria Campbell, Donna Hogg who is working on plant phenology; Rogelio Lozano, working on cactus distribution, reproduction and relationships; Pat Safakhoo, studying fungi; and Jeannie Riley, studying soil microbiology.

Dr. Reid has become much impressed with the dynamics of the White Sands: "The placement of most of the plants and the animals that live on them is determined in large part by the dune movement rate. The dunes move as much as 32 feet a year."

When all the results are in, he says, the information will be helpful to the National Park Service in many ways. One of them is in planning for change, such as new roads or construction which might affect the ecology. Another is in anticipating future changes in systems of ecology that are now developing.

The researchers have acquired a special affection for the White Sands in their months of examining their minutia. Those who visit the dunes regularly can tell what passed over them in the night, reading the surface tracks like a book. They are friends with the Park Rangers, exchanging information about plants and other living things of interest they find in their rounds. They are sensitive to the shadings of difference in the life of the dunes, from the outer perimeter with sometimes abundant plant growth, to the barren inner depths. They care very much about what the White Sands are and what they might become. Their work will benefit the ongoing charge of the National Park Service, its guardianship of the beautiful white sea of dunes that has no equal on earth. □

(Juneau)—When Howard McCord was in high school in his hometown of El Paso he was a five-foot, 100-pound 15-year-old struggling with his studies. In fact, he flunked English twice.

Today, at the age of 45 and a solid six feet tall, he is director of the creative writing program at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. With 18 books and numerous short stories published, he also holds a bachelor's degree from The University of Texas at El Paso (class of '57), a master's degree from the University of Utah, and a letter from his publisher saying his latest book, *The Great Toad Hunt and Other Expeditions*, is expected to be released before the year is out.

Throughout McCord's physical and scholastic transformation, one factor has remained constant: his love for writing.

And, for McCord, writing means walking. When he was a sophomore in high school, he found the mountains and deserts around El Paso a haven for discovery. More importantly, he could enjoy solitude in his walking and writing and what grew out of this experience has been a career of reading, walking and writing.

This past summer, McCord was invited to take part in the Juneau-Douglas Community College Summer Arts Festival, an event which attracted artists from throughout America.

McCord is certain some poetry will result from his month-long stay in Juneau—he logged nearly 70 walking miles along the rain forest and mountain paths.

Wearing a dilapidated \$6 cowboy hat, good waterproof leather boots, layers of clothes, and carrying a gorp mixture of nuts, chopped coconut, dried fruit and fruit drink pellets, the good-natured poet takes to the trails. What he observes while walking he transforms into poetry. But you don't find him sitting on a rock to write his free verse.

"I'm completely unmethodical in my writing," McCord says. "It's like a sideline to writing letters." He says he might jot down quick notes on his hikes, but his ideas usually come when he sits down to the typewriter to write a letter.

"Sometimes a certain turn of a phrase or an idea will come to me," he explains, "and the beginnings for a poem or story take shape."

Many of the settings in McCord's writings are far-away places where he has walked. In the past 13 years he has received several grants and fellowships which have taken him to various exotic spots around the world. He has walked along the fringes of the Himalayas and soaked up the rarified atmosphere of Nepal and the hotter one in India. Five years ago, McCord walked the highland desert of Iceland and recalls a pleasant meal of powdered egg omelet and prized green chiles eaten in an isolated hut on this subarctic backpacking trek. A poetic account of what he discovered and saw in Iceland appears in his book *The Arctic Desert*.

McCord has been a guest lecturer at colleges in California and Arizona, traveled to New York to read his poetry, and spent a summer teaching and exploring on the Navaho Indian reservation.

The gray-haired professor says he has found a nice combination with his writing and walking: "I'm a kind of investigator. My experiment is to put myself in the circumstances of solitude and distance from humans and to note my responses."

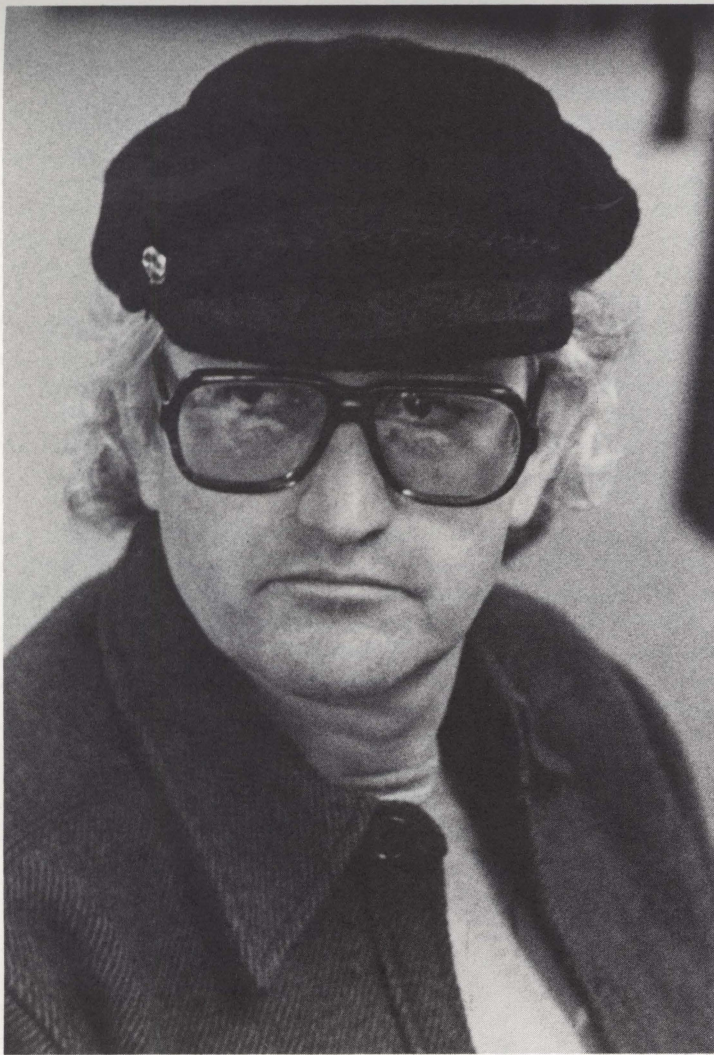
McCord believes his poetry is straightforward: "I don't like to baffle the reader. Sometimes I will play with difficult words, simply because I think they are beautiful."

In addition to his accomplishments as a writer, McCord is able to help others get their work published. "Twenty years of ex-



McCord in Alaska

by Kris Haight



Nearly 10 years ago, NOVA published Howard McCord's "Ysleta, Texas 1947," a poem that will chill you. It is included in McCord's 1967 Kayak Press volume, *Fables and Transfigurations*, and we reprint it here, along with a recent poem by McCord, with the author's permission.—Editor.

YSLETA, TEXAS 1947

by Howard McCord

My theology began
with a whistle made of a bird's wing.

Unthinking, I had killed
a buzzard,
 he had settled to the ground
 like a mountain
 in a great exhaustion

and above the stench
had stripped the bones of flesh.

I dried them in the sun,
cut four holes
in the big wing bone

One for lips
Three for fingers

The bird was made of death,
with wooden eyes,
and the flute hissed more
like a snake than it sang
and the blowing made me dizzy.

But I was young
and full of nonsense
and thought the dizziness
was to dance to.

I did not know that it was a blasphemy
of death, or that the steps
spelled out I was condemned
and would know fiercer lips
on my own bones before I died.

MAKING THE BEAT COME OUT EVEN

by Howard McCord

The cold, still air holds
itself at the cliff's edge:
compression and an intimacy
with water are its only
languages.

When a stone slips
under the climber's foot, it
is held not even long enough
for a word to form.

Men fall long
distances, trying
to scream.

Rain understands
the condition
of a silence greater
than a stone's.

perience doesn't hurt," he shrugs. He adds that he spends a lot of time reading manuscripts of his Ohio graduate and undergraduate students, and conducting workshops.

A stack of papers from the 13 local students attending the summer workshop in Juneau contains publishable material, McCord says. Among the papers he singles out one by 14-year-old high school student Frith Maier which McCord says is a brilliant one-page novel on Miss Maier's experience with two Argentine women.

Among other participants in the Juneau workshop was Alaska's Poet Laureate, Sheila Nickerson. A published poet herself, she praised McCord as "a tremendous resource," and said: "He has the amazing ability of looking at a poem and seeing one word or small change that makes the difference" in the essence of the work.

One of his shorter poems that gives a hint of his articulate style but which only touches on the broad spectrum of subjects and imagination in his work is "The Childhood of the Old Beast" from his book *The Old Beast*:

Once slept underneath
a beehive all summer long
Bees thought I was some
kind of bear.
Boiled greens on a little fire,
caught crawdads with my fingers.
Made my own straw skep,
crawled in at night
with my black dog.
Bees didn't care,
we didn't eat their honey.
Bees keep snakes and ghosts
away, and hum
when strangers walk too near.*

*Copyright by Howard McCord, published by Copper Canyon Press, 1975.

*Copyright by Howard McCord, reprinted from *The Old Beast*, Port Townsend, Wash., Copper Canyon Press, 1975.

Tomás Rivera

Reflections on Higher Education



“The greatest influence on higher education today is the student as consumer,” says Dr. Tomas Rivera, who in September became the University’s new executive vice president. “We have a more diversified constituency in universities today than ever before, among the faculty as well as the students. We have older students and those wanting a second career coming back to school. There are many who want ‘retreading’ or who want to gain expertise in a certain area but not necessarily to work toward a degree. These factors are especially important in urban areas with a diversity of population.”

The urban areas themselves provide another major influence, Dr. Rivera continues. “Higher education is beginning to focus more on the problems of urban enclaves and urban dwellers. One aspect of the growth of urban-oriented universities is the concentration on areas of development pertaining to the quality of life: health, gerontology, demography, housing, transportation. These are areas that will continue to gain more and more of our attention, especially health, as part of the concern of society for better physical life and for ecological systems.”

One of America’s significant strengths in higher education, says the new vice president, lay in the development of land grant colleges beginning nearly a hundred years ago. “These became the foundation for our nation’s leadership in agricultural and industrial development; now the focus has shifted from rural to urban matters and in higher education attention is being given to resolution of social and other problems of population centers.”

Accountability is another influence at work in today’s higher education, he continues. “The impact of cost accounting, of corporate management practices in industry, of comparisons with educational systems developed by the military and others—this impact is being felt in public demands for accountability, in higher education as well as in other areas. The public is making cost comparisons, asking for quality in return for expenditures.”

While higher education keeps an eye on career needs and attempts to gear new degree programs—UT El Paso’s newest is in social work—to those needs, Dr. Rivera points out that this is not a new develop-

ment. “Higher education was always oriented toward career preparation. It began as preparation for ministers, then for teachers in normal schools. Then came the land grant colleges and programs for agriculture and industry. In our country, higher education was always oriented toward careers or public service, especially public education. As we have more careers, there is more need to diversify higher education, and the more diversity, the more it seems we are preparing for careers in more specialties. Of increasing importance to the university are the general requirements for core curriculum for general education as we diversify into special professions.”

An educator since 1957, Dr. Rivera earlier was a member of the migrant labor stream that went from Texas to the Midwest. He lived and worked in Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan and North Dakota. His earliest teaching years were in high schools in San Antonio, his home town of Crystal City, and League City, Texas. In 1965 he became a junior college teacher, then served as a teaching assistant at the University of Oklahoma while taking graduate work. He taught at Sam Houston State University and Trinity University before joining the faculty of the University of Texas at San Antonio in 1971. In 1973 he became an administrator there and was vice president for administration at the time of his appointment to the new vice presidency of UT El Paso.

Dr. Rivera is numbered among major writers in the Chicano literature movement and has published several books and dozens of poems, stories and articles in English and Spanish.

“I started writing when I was about twelve,” he says, “and motivation came from the people in my environment and from reading mainly. I was fascinated by the whole world of imagination and wanted to create. The short story came first. My mood at a given time determines what I want to write—poetry, fiction, nonfiction—but I always enjoy the short story. I enjoy reading everything on any subject. It all has the same end. All reading is an attempt to capture or structure the world of ideas, whether it is expressed in a short story, poetry or a carefully written essay. The world of ideas and inventiveness all

speaks of the same essence to me. Basically, a writer has to like people, and I enjoy meeting them, talking with them, observing them.”

People today, he finds, have great opportunities to meet challenges. “I believe very strongly that there still exists an unexplored world. We’re just on the verge of getting into a new set of problems. That is incentive enough for anyone to do something good for the development of human resources. We are increasing in geometric ratio in the complexity of problems facing society, a condition more wonderful and more challenging today than ever before.”

When Dr. Rivera was working toward his degrees at Southwest Texas State and Oklahoma, financial aid and counseling programs were not as extensive as they are today. “Many people helped open doors for me, usually the exceptional teacher or professors who could give the type of wisdom that lasts for a lifetime.” Although more money is available for students today, he stresses that “the best help is that which comes from people who really care about the development of human beings; that has not changed. You might have an outstanding financial aid program, but it counts more if you also have people who care about the students as persons.”

Times may change, but people stay basically very much the same, he finds. “When I was a kid and complained about walking more than a mile to school, my father used to tell me how he walked a thousand miles through Mexico to reach the United States,” he recalls. “I didn’t feel that example had much to do with my complaint about getting to school. Then when my own boy put off doing household chores, I told him how I used to work in the fields from dawn until dark. ‘Yes,’ he answered, ‘but you were poor and that was what you had to do. I don’t have to work all day like that.’ He was right. The circumstances of our lives change from generation to generation, but people continue to do what must be done, to meet the challenges that face them at the time.” □

Half a World Away . . .

Jigme Dorji Returns to Bhutan

by Dale L. Walker

Somewhere in Thimphu, Bhutan, there is a young electrical engineer named Jigme Dorji, just returned home from a five-year expedition to a distant planet. He is telling his friends about his adventure while he eats a bowl of curry and rice. They have peppers there too, he says, called *chiles jalapenos*, but they are mild compared to these. They also have what they call "fast food," bright little stores along the road producing and selling bland but palatable sandwiches called Big Macs and Whoppers and Whataburgers.

He lights up a cigaret, explaining that yes, it is a bad habit he picked up and one he intends to put back down.

He has answered thousands of questions since he returned home. Everybody, even children, owns an automobile, he says, and the police spend much of their time on the wide, hard roads trying to find out who killed whom with their car and who drove faster than the signs say you can go. Oh yes, everything is expensive. This packet of 20 cigarets costs many of our *ngultrums* and to own something like a car or house you must have much, much money or be willing to pay for a long time before it is yours, or both. There is nothing you could want that you cannot buy there but there are a lot of things you cannot afford.

He has spoken several times about the filth in the air. The cars cause a lot of it, he says, and the factories cause a lot too. The drinking water has a nasty taste because they put a lot of chemicals in it—substituting one poison for another.

Crime? Yes. Yes, much crime. In fact, if you read the daily newspapers and watch the television news there, you get the idea that is all there is going on—crime. The people there have a right to know all about every crime, whether they want to or not. News is all bad, as a rule, but you should not judge the people there from what you see in the news. They are very friendly, very generous and helpful and they have a good sense of humor. They don't look at a Bhutanese person much different than they look at anybody else because they are a great mixture of peoples themselves. You

are expected to compete with everybody else with no special favors.

He always concludes by saying he loved it out there but after five years is glad to be home again.

When Jigme Dorji entered The University of Texas at El Paso in the fall of 1973, he said it was like visiting another planet. He was 18 then, a native of Tashigang in eastern Bhutan, the son of a Calcutta-educated doctor of veterinary medicine and Joint Director of the Department of Animal Husbandry in Bhutan. Jigme (pronounced Jig-MEH) had never been further away from home than Darjeeling, West Bengal, India, where he attended the Jesuit St. Joseph's Missionary School. His home was in the heartland of the Himalayas and while he studied English and knew about America from his school work, he had little expectation of traveling much beyond those great frozen mountains.

Then, like tumblers in a lock, things began falling into place: complex, interconnected things, circumstances and happenstances, things that ultimately pointed in a long curved arrow half-way around the world.

—At St. Joseph's, one of Jigme's friends and soccer teammates was Prince Jigme Singhe Wangchuck, son of the king of Bhutan.

—Prince Jigme's mother, Queen Ashi Kesang Wangchuck, had exchanged correspondence with the director of the News Bureau at a university in El Paso, Texas, U.S.A. Through publications and photographs sent to her, Queen Ashi learned that the University of Texas at El Paso has a distinction no other university has: its buildings designed in Bhutanese style.

—Prince Jigme's sister, Princess Dechan Wangchuck, became familiar with the publication and photographs of UT El Paso.

—Jigme Dorji, completing his studies at St. Joseph's, became familiar with the story of UT El Paso's Bhutanese architecture.

How these threads were knotted is told by Jigme Dorji himself: "I was first intro-

duced to this University by the present king of Bhutan, H.M. Jigme Singhe Wangchuck. I was told that a Mr. Dale L. Walker of the News and Information Department at UT El Paso had correspondence with Queen Ashi Kesang Wangchuck. I was bewildered but found it romantic to hear that the University in El Paso was built in 'Bhutanese architecture.' I just wondered how that happened. Anyway, through correspondence, it was clear that UTEP would love to have a Bhutanese student and I turned out to be that lucky student."

On June 12, 1973, the writer of this article received a letter from Princess Dechan Wangchuck, postmarked Tashichhodzong, Thimphu, Bhutan. Her majesty said, in effect, that her government would like to send a student to UT El Paso, one with an excellent record at St. Joseph's Missionary School, named Jigme Dorji. She asked that certain forms and documents be sent if we were interested in receiving this "superior" young man.

We were interested. The paperwork was handled quickly and professionally by Prof. Bob Schumaker of the Admissions Office and Phyllis Clark, director of the International Student Services Office.

Jigme Dorji arrived on campus in September, 1973, in time to enroll as an engineering freshman for the fall semester. He is believed to be the first citizen of Bhutan to attend an American university and is certainly the first to graduate from one.

Not long after he arrived on campus, Jigme strolled into the News Bureau to introduce himself. His jet-black hair was stylishly long, covering his ears and falling to the collar of a bright print shirt. His Levis, many times washed, were a comfortable powder blue. He carried a stack of textbooks against his hip. His smile was a flash of white teeth, his manner shy and polite, his speech a softly uttered impeccable British-like English. He said he was getting used to being called "Jimmy".

We knew in an instant something about Jigme: he was a survivor, one of those rare



A Visit with the Dean: Exciting Times in Education

“These are exciting times for education!”

Norma Hernandez, dark eyes twinkling perceptively, punctuates her statement with a broad smile.

“Exciting things are ahead for us teachers!”

Although she has been dean of the UT El Paso College of Education since 1974, she regards herself as a teacher first, administrator second. Her conversation is sprinkled with references to her own classroom experiences, teaching in public schools and at the University whose faculty she joined in 1969.

One issue she sees as part of the coming “excitement” for teachers is the question of autonomy, which may be an issue during the legislative session that starts in January.

“You know, in other professions, such as medicine and law, the people in the profession license those who are entering it. This is not the case with Texas teachers. Their certification is in the hands of the State Board of Education, a group of elected lay people,” says Dean Hernandez. “Teachers now are asking for a change, so that they can be certified by a board of educators.”

Other changes in teacher certification are being discussed, too. One involves the question of whether four years of university work is really enough to prepare a person to teach.

“Four years are *not* enough,” Dean Hernandez contends. “This fall at a meeting of the Texas Council of Deans, we discussed the need to extend the required period of study to five years.”

In order to qualify for teaching high school, for example, a person now must complete 18 credit hours in education courses and 24 credit hours in the subject to be taught. “That’s not enough,” emphasizes the dean. “A teacher needs to be able to look in greater depth at curriculum development and to have an even stronger background in the teaching area. For elementary teachers, who have many subjects to teach, the trend is to develop a teacher with a broad background in a variety of subjects, then build on that background through professional courses that help to develop teaching skills.”

The days of a permanent teaching certificate may be numbered, too, she says. Texas educators are talking about the possibility of limiting certification of teachers to a fixed number of years, then having teachers meet certain requirements in order to renew the teaching license.

“These suggestions for change are growing out of the current wave of criticism of education,” she explains. “You know, we hear about high school teachers who can’t pass the standardized exams their own students take, and that kind of thing. There are also the ‘back-to-basics’ movement and the Proposition 13 tax revolt, all signs that the public is taking a close look at education and expects those of us who are involved in it to come up with some improvements.”

Leaning back in her chair, she grows pensive. In the background, barely audible, a radio plays Mexican folk music, a clue to her musical hobbies that include collecting folk songs. “When there is criticism,” she

says, “there will be change. Now we have to identify the problems and do something about them. This gives us the opportunity to redo, to rebuild.”

Not only are teachers coming under closer scrutiny; so are the institutions that train them. “Several sets of accreditation standards for institutions of higher education are being proposed for Texas this next year,” she says. “There are now all kinds of combinations of standards for institutions of different sizes and capabilities. We don’t have a single set of standards for Texas, which is another matter of concern for those of us in education.”

The UT El Paso College of Education is accredited by three organizations: the Texas Education Agency (TEA) at the state level, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools on a regional basis, and the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) at the top level. Accreditation must be renewed periodically.

“This year the TEA granted a five-year accreditation renewal with a very positive report,” says Dr. Hernandez. “They cited as three of our main strengths our Learning Resources Center, which has been developed tremendously over the past two years, and our teacher training programs for elementary and secondary teachers, called ELTEP and STEP. Our students are doing very well.”

NCATE first granted accreditation to the University in 1976, a milestone for the College of Education. Accreditation was granted to programs to prepare elementary and secondary teachers at the bac-

calaureate level, those at the master's degree level, school service personnel programs including master's level programs for elementary and secondary school principals, supervision and curriculum personnel, and counselors; and programs to prepare school superintendents. The association backdated its five-year accreditation to 1974, making it renewable in 1979.

The accreditation process includes a self-study compiled by faculty members and a visit by an NCATE team to interview people on campus and in the community.

Dean Hernandez' enthusiasm for her profession must be catching; the Department of Curriculum and Instruction noted a 17 per cent increase in students this fall, in a period when most colleges and universities are seeing declines in education enrollment.

"We have some thrilling kinds of opportunities in education now," she insists, "and while there is room for a lot of change, we need to be imaginative."

As an example, she says animatedly, she is exploring with the College of Engineering the possibility of developing a pilot teaching field in environmental studies, with emphasis on urban development. "We could go into city planning, transportation, pollution, recreation, care of the aged—all these things that affect the quality of life. You know, a classroom is a mini-society which has aspects of many of these concerns, with questions such as 'Who cleans up?' 'Who keeps the air circulating?' 'Who does the planning?' Through environmental studies we can incorporate such subjects as social studies, sciences and math."

When Dr. Hernandez became dean of education in 1974, she had three "firsts" to her credit. She was the University's first academic dean to be a woman, to be a Mexican-American, and to be a graduate of UT El Paso. She also became the first to take a maternity leave; Miriam Xochitl, known as Xochi, was born three years ago. Dean Hernandez and her husband, Rodolfo, who works with the City-County Health Department laboratories, have three older daughters: Ruth, an eighth grader at El Paso High, Rebecca, a freshman at UT El Paso, and the oldest who is married, Rachel Adams, now working toward a doctorate in immunology at UT Austin.

Before becoming dean, she had served as chairman of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and as Teacher Corps project director. She completed her B.A. at Texas Western College, and earned her master's and doctoral degrees at the University of Texas at Austin. In 1973 UT Austin's College of Education presented her the Carl Bredt Award for Distinguished Alumni, one of the highest awards given by the institution. She was selected by a student-faculty council as an alumna "who has met such qualifications as teaching excellence, contributions to society and the educational community in particular, and professional accomplishments."

Before entering higher education, she had taught mathematics in the El Paso Public Schools and served as supervisor of secondary mathematics.

Having come into education in a time when the work ethic was a strong influence on teachers' achievements, Dean Hernandez is concerned about recent studies that indicate the old-fashioned attitudes toward work are changing.

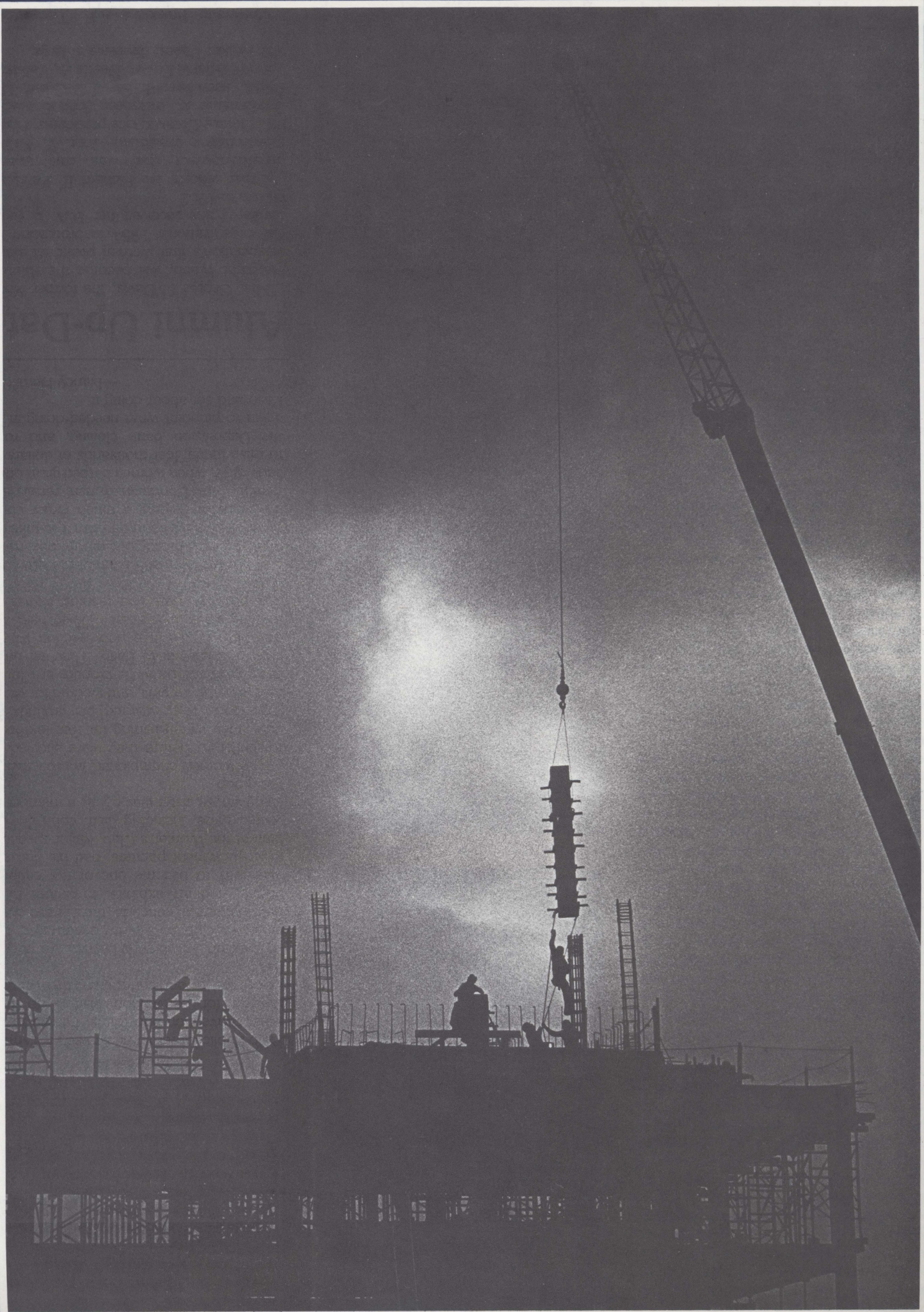
"Teachers and other professionals in the past have come out of the middle class and its strong work ethic," she says. "But recent

studies show that people's values are changing. The basic values about work—the need to work, taking satisfaction in work—are no longer the rule. Now people tend to work in order to have facility to do what they want, to buy what they want; they don't regard work as an end in itself." Without the motivation of the old-fashioned work ethic, we need to examine what can happen in education. If our values are changing, where are we headed? Will we still have a commitment to be accountable?" □

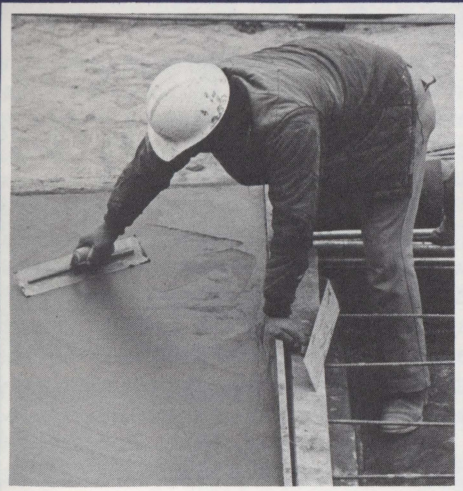


The nine-story Education Building is the tallest on campus. Dean Hernandez, below, discusses a project with students in the Learning Resources Center.





HARD HAT AREA



On some parts of the University campus, you can't get in without a hard hat.

Four major construction projects costing \$3.4 million are under way or newly completed.

The El Paso Centennial Museum is undergoing a complete renovation for the first time since it was built in 1936. An addition at the rear will double the exhibit space. The Legislature provided \$525,500 for the project and \$210,000 came from the Permanent University Fund of the UT System, through the Board of Regents. Completion of work is expected in May.

Across the street from the Museum, the Cotton Memorial Building is being renovated for use by the Mass Com-

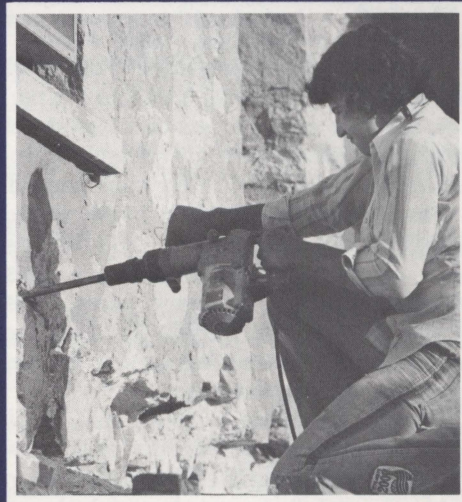
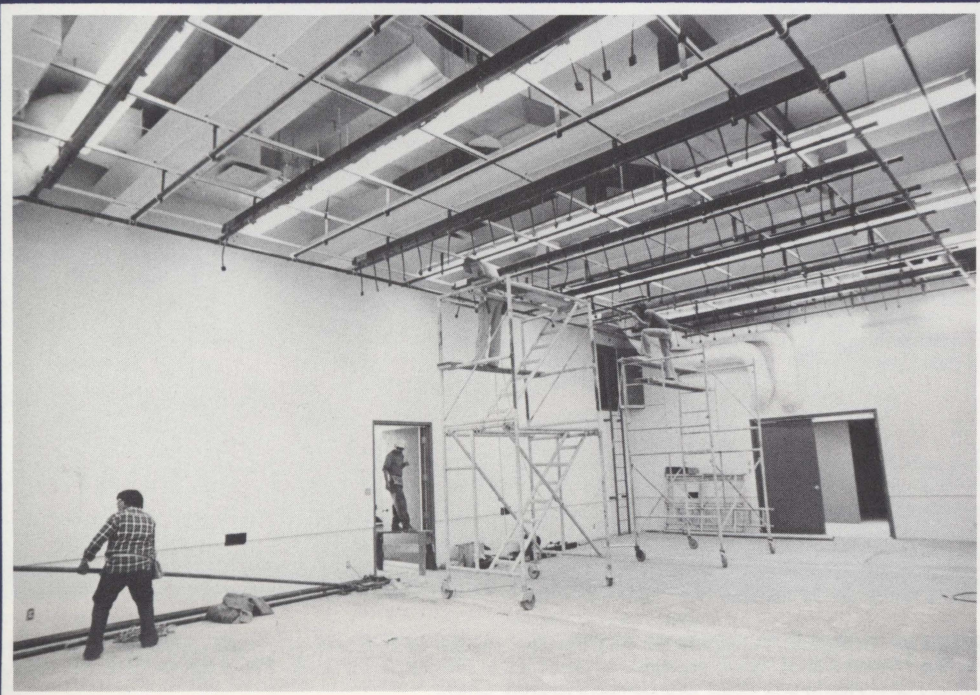
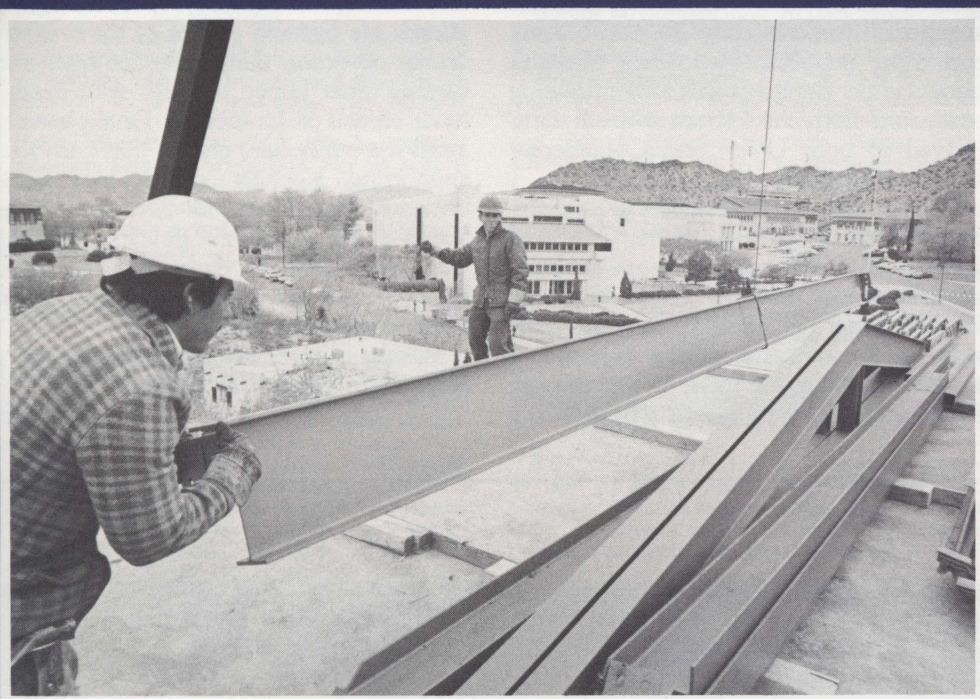
munication Department and Public Radio Station KTEP-FM. Built in 1947, it was originally used by the Art Department which was relocated in the Fox Fine Arts Center in 1974. The total project cost of \$696,000 is from the Permanent University Fund.

One block to the east, the skeletal framework is up for a major addition to the Administration Building. Administrative offices such as Personnel, now housed elsewhere, will be brought under one roof when the addition is completed in May. The total project cost of \$1.4 million is from the Permanent University Fund. The addition provides 23,500 square feet at the rear of the present building which was built in 1956.

Already complete is a \$600,000 project at the Memorial Gym and nearby Research Center which involved conversion of former offices into classrooms, lowering ceilings and lights, and air conditioning installation. The University's Physical Plant staff installed new doors in the vestibule, tile flooring in classrooms and painted part of the interior. The project also was financed under the Permanent University Fund.

Looking ahead, the University has a long-range development plan calling for five projects costing an estimated \$13 million. The plan was approved by the Board of Regents in October.

Proposed are a College of Business Administration Classroom Building, estimated at \$5 million; faculty office and classroom building, \$2.5 million; land acquisition, \$750,000; site improvements, \$750,000; and expansion of Student Union facilities, \$4 million. □



Administration Building addition, opposite page, towers over original building, will have an entrance on Hawthorne Street. Worker smooths concrete, top photo, and another works on building exterior, above right, at the Museum. Upper reaches of Administration addition, above center, give campus view, and at lower left is interior of new TV studio in Cotton Memorial.



Alumnotes by Sue Wimberly

Ewald Kipp (B.S. 1922) and his lovely wife Dawn visited NOVA's office last May while on an automobile trip from their home in Salt Lake City. Always an enthusiastic supporter of the School of Mines and Metallurgy, he continues to send us items of interest of the past history of the University, among them newspaper clippings from the 1960's of the syndicated column of the late **Brig. Gen. S.L.A. Marshall**, his classmate and friend. Kipp writes us, "We both recall how nice and pleasant it was to visit with you last May. We are looking forward to a repeat." We shall expect to see them again soon.

CLASSES OF 1934-1949:

Matilda A. Shanblum (B.A. '34) is serving her second year as president of the El Paso Retired Teachers Association.

Robert M. Stevenson, Ph.D., (B.A. '36) was a recent Homecoming visitor and performed a benefit piano recital for the MacDowell Club. Professor of music at the University of California, Los Angeles, he is a past outstanding ex-student.

Faye Allen Sizer (B.A. '38), who received her M.A. from the University of Denver in 1968, is retired from teaching. She and her husband Kenneth are parents of two children and make their home in Denver.

Maggie Borders Ryan (B.A. '46) has recently moved from Santa Fe to Houston. Her art work in textiles will be exhibited at the Textile Museum of the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C.

George Kistenmacher (B.A. '49) recently became vice president, Region 1, Texas Society of Professional Engineers.

CLASSES OF 1950-55:

William J. Gonzalez (B.A. '51) and his wife Peggy Waterhouse Gonzalez have moved from Casa Grande to Tempe, Arizona, where he is in real estate. Their daughter **Kristen**, (B.B. '75) is a senior accountant for Samaritan Health Services in Phoenix.

Virginia M. Aimone (M.A. '53) has retired after 28 years of teaching at Burleson Elementary School in El Paso. She and her husband, **August L. Aimone** (B.A. '56) plan to spend much of their time traveling.

Grace Hooten Gates, Ph.D., (B.A. '53) is author of a book, "The Model City of the New South, Anniston, Alabama, 1872-1900." She received her Master's at Jackson State University and Ph.D. from Emory.

John R. Edwin, D.V.M., (B.A. '54) and his wife **Fanelle Boney Edwin** (1954 etc.) make their home in El Paso. He has recently opened his second office of veterinary medicine.

CLASSES OF 1956-59:

H.R. Hirsch (B.S. '56) has been named senior vice president for domestic and foreign exploration, land, and technical services for Superior Oil Company, Houston. He will also serve on the board of directors.

Priscilla Winslow Tremayne (B.A. '57) and her husband Ernest and two children make their home in Madison, Ohio, where Ernest is president of Goodwill Industries of Northeastern Ohio.

Jack W. Smith (B.A. '57) and his wife **Josephine Ramos Smith** (B.S. '67) make their home in El Paso where he is an operations research analyst for the Department of the Army and she teaches chemistry at Austin High School.

Barbara Kaster, Ph.D., (B.S. '57) has been named a full professor at Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine. She is chairman of the division of communication and Harrison King McCan Professor of Communication.

Jack E. Fulcher (B.S. '57) has been named systems support director for General Telephone & Electronics (GTE) Data Services. He and his wife Bernice live in Brandon, Florida.

Sara Cooney Jordan (B.A. '58) lives in Andrews, Texas, and in the information received by NOVA's office, lists her profession as "household engineer, mother to four children and grandmother of five, and busy homemaker."

Ernest S. Holmes III (B.S. '59) is technical publications manager for Texas Instruments Inc. in Austin, Texas. He makes his home in Round Rock, Texas.

CLASSES OF 1960-1965:

Barbara Causey Seale (B.A. '60) is now curriculum consultant for the University Preparatory Workshops of American Language Institute and teaches at Western Connecticut State College in Danbury, Connecticut. She is the author of a textbook, "Writing Efficiently," published by Prentice-Hall.

Melchor T. Ontiveros Jr. (B.S. '60) is operations manager with Kentron International Inc. for technical support services in Kwajalein, Honolulu and Huntsville, Alabama. He and his wife Nina and two children live in Huntsville.

James Francis (M.Ed. '60) was named associate superintendent for administration in the El Paso Independent School District. He had been principal of Irvin High since 1971.

Nettie K. Hutchinson (M.Ed. '61) retired from the El Paso Public Schools in 1973, now teaches sixth grade at Our Lady of Assumption in El Paso. Her granddaughter is a student at UT El Paso College of Nursing.

George D. Burgess (B.A. '61) was appointed vice president and employee administrator at the Los Angeles head office of Lloyds Bank of California.

John C. Christopher, LTC/USA, (B.B. '61) is stationed at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, as commander of the 2nd Battalion, Missile and Munitions Center and School Brigade. His wife **Kathy Smith Christopher** (B.S. '68) is a programmer/analyst for Computer Sciences Corp. in Huntsville.

David Tejada (B.S. '62) and his wife **Patricia McCutcheon Tejada** (B.S. '61) make their home in Snowflake, Arizona, where he is relief foreman/technical assistant in the Kraft Linerboard Department of Southwest Forest Industries, Pulp and Paper Division. Patricia is a teacher in the Snowflake schools. They are parents of three children.

Edward F. Elias (B.A. '62) has completed his Ph.D. in Spanish Languages and Latin American Literature at the University of Arizona, Tucson. He is now teaching at the University of Utah, Salt Lake City.

Bill C. Merkin (B.S. '64) has been named general manager Closure Division, USA, Aluminum Company of America, Richmond, Indiana. He and his wife Peggy are parents of two children. Their daughter Eufaula is an electrical engineering student at UT El Paso.

John Stephen Drahan (B.A. '64) has been elected systems officer at Society for Savings in Hartford, Connecticut.

Richard M. Nicholson (B.S. '64) is president of Command Systems, Inc., a Washington area system analysis firm. He makes his home in Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Ralph L. Klenik (B.A. '65) and his wife **Marie E. Klenik** (B.S. '66) live in Stuttgart, Germany, and expect to return to El Paso in 1979. Their son **Ralph L. Klenik Jr.** (B.S. '71) is working as a project design engineer for Union Carbide in Marietta, Ohio.

Bylsma L. Allen, D.V.M., M.D., (B.S. '65) is doing a residency in anesthesiology at Scott & White Clinic in Temple, Texas. He also writes us that **William A. Harrison**, D.V.M., M.D., (B.S. '64) is a resident in internal medicine at St. Vincent's Medical Center, Bridgeport, Connecticut, and **Gene P. Love**, D.V.M., M.D., (B.A. '65) is currently in an obstetrics/gynecology residency at Thomason General Hospital in El Paso.

Pat O'Donnell (B.S. '65) is a systems electrical engineer with the El Paso Natural Gas Company.

Joe Rios (B.A. '65; M.Ed. '77) has been appointed assistant principal at Valley View Junior High in Ysleta Independent School District.

CLASSES OF 1966-1969:

Eduardo L. Castorena (B.A. '66; M.Ed. '71) was chosen one of the Outstanding Young Men of America this year. He works for the Department of Justice Bureau of Prisons as an administrative officer at Terminal Island Federal Correctional Institution in San Pedro, California. His wife **Aida Barcena Castorena** (B.A. '69) teaches in the Long Beach Unified School District.

Thomas M. Hageman Jr. (B.A. '66) has recently joined the Ft. Lauderdale Agency of Lincoln National Life Insurance Company. He has been in the insurance business for 13 years.

Walter Adamsky (B.S. '66) is manager, Transmission and Distribution Products Power System Sales, Westinghouse Electric Corporation in New York City.

Karl H.J. Coombs (B.A. '67) is project architect with Goodwin B. Steinberg Associates of San Jose, California.

Albert T. White (B.S. '67) and his wife **Sharon Grimesey White** (B.A. '66) and their son Todd live in Cupertino, California. He is director of planning and production control, LSI Group, Fairchild Camera & Instrument Corporation.

Eugene S. Isert, LTCdr/USN, (B.S. '67) is an instructor at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis. He and his wife Francine and son live in Arnold, Maryland.

Raymond D. Mergenthal (B.A. '67) is an educational specialist, Instructional Programs Development, Naval Education and Training Support Center, Pacific, in San Diego.

Laurie M. Walker (B.A. '67) is inventory control manager at Bell Food Services (Taco Bell Corporation) in Westminster, California.

Alejandro Sundermann (B.S. '68) is attached to the American Embassy in Guatemala as chief engineer, Regional Office for Central American Programs, U.S. Department of State Agency for International Development. He and his wife Jeanne are parents of two children.

Patricia Bandy Kalenoff (B.S. '68) and her husband Fred, who is a dentist, live in Stillwater, Minnesota, and are parents to two Korean children.

Robert P. Molder (B.A. '68; M.A. '77) has been named director of public affairs for the petroleum Equipment Suppliers Association in Houston.

Doris W. Bowers-Irons (B.S. '68) is chairman of the English Department at Juab High School, Nephi, Utah.

Robert Taylor (B.A. '68) is a financial economist and second secretary in the U.S. Embassy, Ankara, Turkey.

Yvonne Garcia Lyons (B.A. '68; M.Ed. '70) is a consultant for computer-assisted instruction for Region XII Education Service Center in Waco. She and her husband Robert are parents of a baby daughter Amy.

Marsha Adams Reed (B.S. '68) and her husband **Ralph Reed** (B.S. '70) live in Austin where he is senior staff engineer for Espey, Huston and Associates Inc., and she is science coordinator intern for the Austin Independent School District. They are parents of a daughter.

Deborah Charsha May, Ph.D., (B.A. '68) and her husband **C. Allen May Jr.** (B.A. '68) have recently moved to Beaverton, Oregon, where she has accepted a postdoctoral residency in clinical microbiology at the University of Oregon Health Sciences Center in Portland. Allen is a coordinator in management information systems of Tektronix Inc.

Doris A. Miller, Capt./USAF, (B.S. '69) has been decorated with the Department of Defense Joint Service Commendation Medal at Colorado State University where she is a student of the Air Force Institute of Technology.

Joseph J. Balough, Maj./USA, (M.Ed. '69) attended the Seventh World Congress on Reading held in Hamburg, West Germany.

Kristy King Wilson (B.S. '69) and her husband **Michael L. Wilson** (B.S. '75) have recently moved to Houston where he is expeditor for the El Paso Marine Company, a subsidiary of El Paso Natural Gas Company.

Timothy Bix Tischler, D.D.S., (B.S. '69) has established private practice in Austin. He received his degree in dentistry from UT Health Science Center, San Antonio.

David J. Eckberg, D.O., (B.S. '69) received his degree in osteopathic medicine from North Texas State University Health Sciences Center, Ft. Worth.

Shirley Weir Cassidy (B.M. '69) and her husband Michael, an engineer with Blue Bell Inc., and their two sons live in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Daniel J. Kithcart, Capt./USAF, (B.A. '69) recently deployed with his unit to Royal Air Base Wildenrath, Germany, for military exercises. He is a weapons systems officer at Hahn Air Base, Germany.

William "Bill" Geck (B.A. '69) is district manager for the Chevrolet Division of General Motors in Hico, Texas.

Sherri Ann Goode Bonilla (B.S. '69) is a second grade teacher at Riverside Elementary in El Paso.

W.T. Gage (B.A. '69; M.Ed. '76) is chairman of the Health Education Department at Bel Air High School, El Paso. His wife **Anita Hepp Gage** (B.S. '69) teaches at Glen Cove Elementary. They are parents of two children.

Joe Sherwin (B.S. '69) is now a second officer flying with Continental Airlines, assigned to the Los Angeles region.

CLASSES OF 1970-1975:

Robert Ortega Jr. (B.S. '70) is director of operations for the El Paso Housing Authority. **Martha Ortega** (B.S. '70) is a teacher at Hillcrest Junior High School.

Manny Najera (B.A. '70) is district manager director of the U.S. Customs Department office in San Diego.

Colleen Leonard (B.S. '70; M.Ed. '77) is a teacher in the El Paso Independent School District and is working with the Association for Children with Learning Disabilities.

Ron Rush (B.A. '70) has been named an executive vice president with Lawyers Title Company in El Paso.

Philip M. Van Auken, Ph.D., (B.A. '70) is a member of the faculty at Baylor University, having previously taught at Western Kentucky University.

Theodore Wasko (M.Ed. '70) is a part-time instructor in English at El Paso Community College and Park College at Ft. Bliss.

Carol F. Mason (B.A. '71) has been appointed regional attorney for the West Texas Region of the Texas Department of Human Resources, El Paso. She is a graduate of UT Austin Law School.

Edmund B. "Brook" Davis (B.A. '71) earned his M.B.A. (Business Logistics) from Florida Institute of Technology in June. He is also a graduate of the Logistics Executive Development Course, Army Logistics Management Center, Ft. Lee, Virginia, is currently a program manager at the Army Metrology and Calibration Center at Redstone Arsenal, Alabama, and serves as chairman of the Joint Logistics Commanders' Tri-Services Ad Hoc Sub Panel for International Logistics Procedures.

Dean V. Rittman Jr., M.D., (B.S. '71) is serving his residency in surgery at St. Joseph's Hospital, Houston. He is a graduate of UT Galveston Medical School.

Claudia Stolz (B.S. '71) and her husband William Stolz III, M.D., and three sons live in St. Johnsbury, Vermont, and hope to relocate in Texas after the first of the year.

Mary Marmolejo Kahoe (B.S. '71) is a teacher at MacArthur School in El Paso. Her husband **Stephen R. Kahoe** (B.A. '73), who received his Master's degree in social work from the University of Michigan, is with the Department of Psychiatry, Texas Tech Medical School, El Paso. They are parents of two sons.

Roger D. Crabtree, Capt./USAF, (B.S. '71) is now serving at Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio. An electrical engineer, he was previously assigned at Edwards AFB, California.

Manuel "Manny" Ontiveros (B.A. '71) is staff assistant to Congressman Richard C. White of El Paso.

Irene Rubin Seastrum (B.A. '71) received her M.A. degree from Wichita State University in December.

Martha Carcamo Joosse (B.S. '71) is coordinator of Vocational Office Education (VOE) at Irvin High School in El Paso. She is also working toward her Master's degree in vocational technical education from North Texas State University.

Kathleen (B.S. '71) and **Richard Eagan** (B.A. '71) live in Odessa, Texas, and are parents of two children. She is a teacher in the Ector County Independent School District, and Richard is resident senior claims adjuster for Commercial Union Assurance Companies.

William A. Moore, LTC/USA, (M.Ed. '72) is director, area agency on aging of the Coastal Bend Council of Governments. He and his family live in Corpus Christi. In March he was given the honorary title of "Admiral in the Texas Navy" by Governor Dolph Briscoe.

James N. Heil, Capt./USAF, (B.S. '72) is a meteorologist assigned to 15th Air Force Headquarters, March AFB, California. He received his Master's in education from Pepperdine University in August.

Stephen De Groat (B.B. '72; M.B.A. '75) has been elected vice president of First International Bank in El Paso.

Natividad Arrieta Jr., Capt./USAF, (B.S. '72) is a weapons systems officer at Lakenheath RAF Station, England. He recently participated in maritime exercises in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Oman.

Dayne R. Denning, Lt. j.g./USN, (B.S. '72) is assigned to Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron 132, based at Whidbey Island Naval Air Station, Oak Harbor, Washington.

Don Forrester (B.A. '72; M.S. '73) has been named head athletic trainer at UT El Paso.

Trudy Farlow Mosher (B.S. '73) has received her M.B.A. from the University of Houston. Her husband Pat is vice president of operations for Harold Farb Investments in Houston.

John William Bean (B.A. '73) is a commercial photographer in New York City.

David Binder (B.S. '73) has been named athletic trainer at Pan American University.

Carl S. Lengefeld (B.A. '73) has received a Master's degree in religious education from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth.

Ronald R. Page (B.S. '73) is an electronic engineer at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.

Michael P. Davis (B.A. '73) is an assistant county attorney in El Paso County. He received a law degree from Texas Tech in 1976.

John Knopp (B.S. '73) was ordained into the Roman Catholic priesthood in El Paso. He has been assigned to St. John the Apostle Church in Monahans, Texas.

Sharon Justice (B.A. '73) is an assistant vice president of the State National Bank in El Paso, the first woman in the bank's history to become a commercial loan officer.

Henry Baray (B.A. '73) is an attorney with Luce, Forward, Hamilton and Scripps in San Diego.

David Shore, CWO/USA, (B.A. '73) is a data processing technician at White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico.

Ron Akins (B.A. '73) is vice president of sales, Southland Building Materials Inc. He makes his home in Plano, Texas.

Jaime Gonzalez (B.S. '73) is a sales representative with Worthington Corporation and lives in Spring, Texas.

Leo B. Garcia (B.A. '74) is an assistant district attorney in El Paso. He holds a law degree from Texas Tech.

Kenneth S. Durham (B.S. '74) has been promoted to supervising production engineer with the Exxon Company. He and his wife Susan will make their home in Andrews, Texas.

Charles R. Stephenson, 1st Lt./USN, (B.A. '74) is a battalion supply officer at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. He recently participated in a NATO exercise in northern Europe.

Lowell A. Thomason (B.A. '74) is an inspector with the U.S. Immigration & Naturalization Service in Roma, Texas.

Guillermo Hernandez Jr. (B.A. '74; M.S. '77) recently graduated from Michigan State University College of Osteopathic Medicine and is an intern at Flint Osteopathic Hospital.

Jose Garcia, M.D., (B.S. '74) has begun a residency in pediatrics at Madigan Army Medical Center, Tacoma, Washington. He is a graduate of the University of Minnesota School of Medicine.

Robert Acosta (B.S. '74) is employed in the products division of IBM in Austin.

Douglas S. Price, M.D., (B.S. '74) received his degree in medicine from the UT Health Science Center, San Antonio, and is interning at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C.

Grady E. Ray (B.A. '75) is an assistant cashier-manager with the First City National Bank of El Paso.

A recent visitor to NOVA's office was **Jose M. Acosta** (B.A. '75) who completed his juris doctorate at Georgetown University and is presently with the Housing and Consumer Division of the Legal Aid Society of Central Texas in Austin.

Marian Zander (B.S. '75) is currently working at West Anaheim Community Hospital as a charge nurse.

Michael Sullivan (M.Ed. '75) is in Bangkok for a two-year stay with the Peace Corps.

Paul J. Kubinski (B.A. '75) has been appointed an assistant district attorney in El Paso. He received his law degree at Texas Tech.

Mike Salazar (B.S. '75) has been selected as coordinator of physical education and recreational activities for the El Paso Job Corps.

Margaret Bubliss (M.Ed. '75) is teaching science at the American School in Monterrey, Mexico. She was formerly with the Alcohol Safety Education Program (ASEP) in Chicago, Illinois.

Samuel Torres (B.A. '75) is leaving his position as budget analyst with the Department of Energy in Richland to complete his M.B.A. at the University of Washington.

Alexander G. Tayem (B.S. '75) is an engineer with Texas Instruments in Houston. His wife **Irene Valenzuela Tayem** (B.S. '75) expects to finish her degree in medicine from Texas Tech in 1979 and will intern in Houston. They are parents of a son Joey.

CLASSES OF 1976-78:

Steve Lee Gandy (B.A. '76) was presented the Barton Kyle Yount Award, American Graduate School of International Management's highest honor, at the school's commencement in August.

David (B.A. '76) and **Patrice "Patti" Barrone Rapisand** (B.A. '76) make their home in Marrero, Louisiana. Davis is in production accounting with Continental Oil Company in New Orleans, and Patti is teaching third grade. They are parents of a three-year-old son.

Jose Silva Jr. (B.A. '77) has completed his medical degree at the Autonomous University of Guadalajara.

Julia Monarez (B.A. '77), **Patricia Rojas** (B.A. '77) and **Rosalina Solorzano** (B.A. '77), currently doing graduate work in sociology at UT El Paso, have received a study grant from San Diego State Foundation to research "The Illusion of the Border: A Case of the Marias."

Lloyd C. Irwin Jr., 2nd Lt./USAF, (B.A. '77) has been certified as deputy missile combat crew commander at Grand Forks AFB, North Dakota.

Christopher Calabro (M.S. '78) has been named professional service representative with Syntex, a pharmaceutical products firm. He will be based in Albuquerque.

Sharon Wolf Criner (B.A. '78) has been named director of the Surety Savings Association Statesman's Club in El Paso.

Oswaldo Garcia (B.S. '78) worked last summer with the national Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) as an evaluator. He is presently with the El Paso Independent School District.

Sidney Craig Tschirhart (M.S. '78) is a geophysicist with the Gulf Energy and Minerals Company in Houston.

Victor Arias Jr. (B.A. '78) has been accepted to the M.B.A. program at Stanford and UT Austin.

Steven Lynn Everett, 2nd Lt./USA, (B.A. '78) is presently attending U.S. Army Intelligence School at Ft. Huachuca, Arizona.

New Address?

New Address

Old Address

Name _____

Number & Street _____

Apt. Number _____

Number & Street _____

Apt. Number _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Year Graduated, attended _____

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

Deaths

Dossie M. Wiggins, who served as president of The University of Texas at El Paso (then Texas College of Mines and Metallurgy) from 1935-1948, in Lubbock, September 2. He was a graduate of Hardin-Simmons University and received his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Yale University. He left UT El Paso to become president of Texas Tech and, upon his retirement there in 1952, entered the banking field in Lubbock, retiring in 1963 as chairman of the Citizens National Bank of Lubbock executive committee. Survivors include his widow, the former Louise Resley, retired UT El Paso dean of women.



Mildred A. Bird, (B.A. 1968; M.Ed. 1969) of cancer in Mesa, Arizona, August 18, 1977.

Jessie McNeil Garren (1943 etc.) in Atlanta, Georgia, March 31. She received her degree from Duke University and was a research biochemist, botanist and teacher. She is survived by her husband, Robert E. Garren, a professor at Georgia State University, and two sons.

Beatrice Markgraff (1931 etc) in El Paso, June 19. She was retired from teaching in the El Paso Independent School District.

Marguerite Smith Davis (B.S. 1936) June 17, in El Paso. Well-known as a teacher and educator with the El Paso Independent School District, she retired in 1974. She is survived by her husband, Dick Davis.

Lewis Robinson (B.S. 1923), July 21. His mining career took him to Mexico, and to the Philippines where he and his family were interned during the occupation in World War II. He resided in Grand Junction, Colorado and is survived by his wife, Ola Carson Robinson, and two daughters.

Joseph J. Onopa (B.A. 1949) in El Paso, July 25. He was a construction management

consultant. He is survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters.

Joseph F. Swinty, SFC/USA ret., (B.A. 1972) August 15, in El Paso. Retired from 22 years in military service, he was in the real estate business. He is survived by his wife, a son and three daughters.

Dale M. Hall (B.S. 1950) September 1, in Dallas. He was an exploration geologist associated with Leland Fikes. He is survived by his widow of Dallas.

Clyde C. Wafer (M.Ed. 1953) September 19, in El Paso. He retired in 1975 as assistant superintendent of the Ysleta Independent School District after 47 years in education. Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Katherine H. Wafer, and three children.

Genevieve Wiley Greer (M.Ed. 1952) September 19, in El Paso. She was a teacher in the El Paso Public Schools until her retirement in 1975. Survivors include one daughter and a brother.

Gilbert Ortega, fire marshal and safety coordinator for the University since 1974, September 20. He is survived by his widow, Ann, and several children.

William E. Harding (B.A. 1965) in El Paso, October 24. A teacher in the Ysleta Independent School District, he is survived by a daughter, Mary Jo, a brother and two sisters.

Joseph E. Goodell (1955 etc.) in El Paso, October 30. He is survived by his widow, Grace Beck Goodell, two sons and a daughter.

Mary Anne Mitchell Wainwright (B.A. 1941) in Walnut Shade, Missouri, November 1. During her University years, she was active in Zeta Tau Alpha and Student Opportunity Service. She is survived by her husband, L.R. Wainwright, and one daughter.

Glen E. Furr, M.D., (B.A. 1952) November 2. He was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon and Phi Chi, a graduate of Texas Southwestern Medical School in Dallas, a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a diplomate of the American Academy of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology. He is survived by a daughter and a son.

Paso Public Library, and served as a small-scale convention and tourist bureau in arranging for convention visitors to find places to stay and entertaining them at parties.

The club, which early became the largest women's club in Texas, encouraged the development of concerts, the El Paso Symphony, and art exhibits. Freemont Ellis, who was to become one of the nation's most prominent painters, had his first exhibit at the Woman's Club. Major speakers visited there, including Gen. John J. Pershing whose sister was briefly a member of the group.

The women championed improvements for children. Before they were allowed to vote, they were pushing for free textbook legislation. They wanted playgrounds, a rescue home for girls, and worked for years to support the Baby Sanitorium at Cloudcroft and later in El Paso. They set up a free bath house in a poor section where running water was scarce. They held the first flower shows and fashion shows in town.

While the Woman's Club of El Paso continues to be a prestigious group, dozens of other clubs have spun off from it to take up the work of helping a much larger community. Mrs. Cunningham here recalls the early days, when women battled great odds to raise funds, lost thousands of dollars in the Depression bank closing, and rose again to pinpoint what needed doing in El Paso and set about doing it.

—Nancy Hamilton

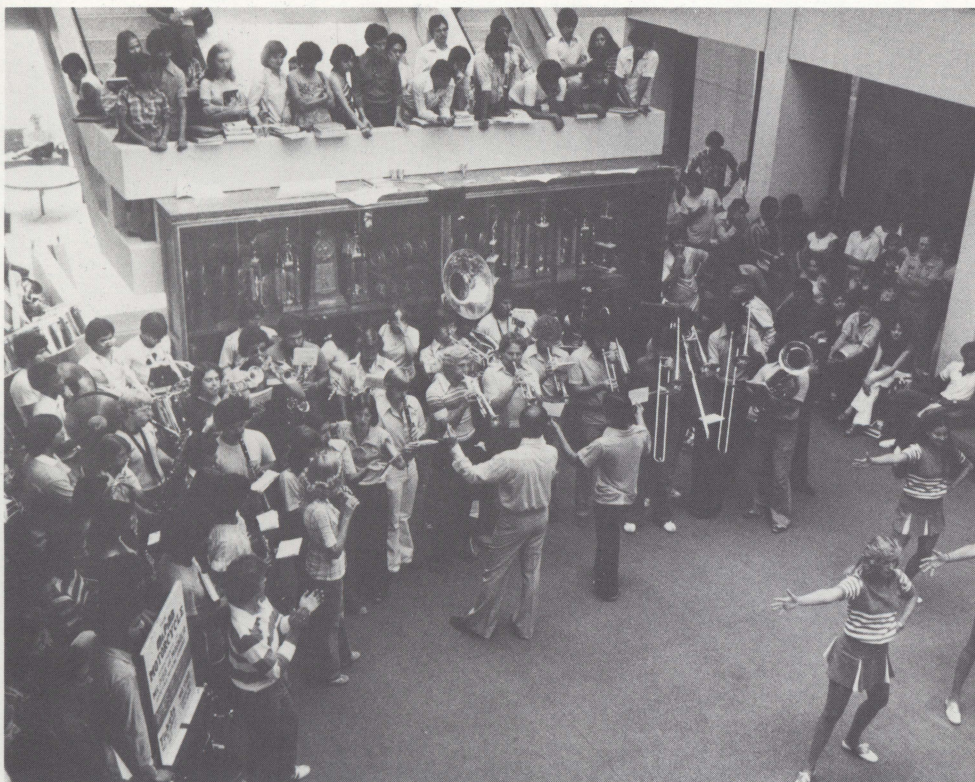
Alumni Up-Date

Mrs. George F. Davis, the former Mary Margaret Webb, will become the Alumni Association's first woman president since the organization's 1954 incorporation in January. She received her B.A. in journalism in 1952.

Other officers are Richard E. Pearson, president-elect (he was this year's Homecoming chairman); John T. Kelley and Horace Chavez, vice presidents; Hugo Bustamante Jr., treasurer; John E. (Jack) Parks, secretary; J. Steve DeGroat, Dr. John R. (Pinky) Edwin, Nestor A. Valencia and Robert Valles, directors at-large.

University President A.B. Templeton, Football Coach Bill Michael and Alumni Director Jim Peak were scheduled to visit Houston on December 1 and Fort Worth-Dallas on December 2 for organizational meetings of alumni chapters.

Gene A. Bourque and John E. Anderson spearheaded the reorganizing of the Houston Alumni, who some time ago had one of the best and largest alumni groups of UT El Paso. More than 2,100 grads live in that area. Mr. and Mrs. Ken Burdick of Arlington were behind the Fort Worth-Dallas movement, with another 2,000 former students eligible to join up. □



Officers of the Alumni Association, the Student Association, and Mrs. Ross Moore took part in the dedication this fall of the Ross Moore Memorial Trophy Case in the east wing of the Union Building. The huge trophy case honors the memory of Ross Moore, longtime athletic trainer, who was the University's 1975 Outstanding Ex-Student. He died last December.



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