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Interview no. 662

Margaret Schuster Meyer

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UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

INSTITUTE OF ORAL HISTORY

INTERVIEWEE: Margaret Schuster Meyer
INTERVIEWER: Derrick Smith
PROJECT: Class Project
DATE OF INTERVIEW: July 28, 1984
TERMS OF USE: Unrestricted
TAPE NO.: 662
TRANSCRIPT NO.: 662

BIOGRAPHICAL SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEWEE:

Mrs. Meyer, youngest child of Michael and Eugenia Schuster, was born in Budapest in 1898. A lifelong resident of El Paso, she was co-founder of the El Paso Historical Society, a member of the McDowell Music Club, a director of the Pan-American Round Table, and a co-founder of the El Paso Community Concert Association.

SUMMARY OF INTERVIEW:

Her father, Dr. Michael Schuster.

Length of interview: 1 hour Length of transcript: 25 pages

AN INTERVIEW WITH MARGARET MEYER
ON THE SUBJECT OF HER FATHER
DR. MICHAEL SCHUSTER

Date of Interview: July 28, 1984
Interviewer: Derrick Smith
Transcriber: Derrick Smith

Begin Side A

S: Did you ever meet your Schuster grandparents?

M: No. I didn't meet my grandparents.

S: Were they still living when you were born?

M: No. They were gone. They had died long ago.

S: Do you know what your grandfather did for a living? Was he also a doctor?

M: On my father's side, you mean? He was a general in the Austrian army.

S: Well, do you know when he died?

M: I don't know when he died. At that time, generals were--it was sort of a complimentary honor bestowed, and my mother and father felt that [my grandmother] should live in [the] style that [she was] accustomed to. Father did send money to her periodically so that she wouldn't have to change her lifestyle.

S: Were they from a noble family?

M: No, not on the Schuster side. On my mother's side they were.

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S: Do you remember their name?

M: Their father was a baron. A Hungarian. She was Hungarian.

S: Was Dr. Schuster Austrian?

M: I think he was Hungarian. I don't know for sure.

S: Do you know where Dr. Schuster spent his early years, where he grew up?

M: Győr, Austria. He had two sisters and one of them [came to] live with us. Her name was Josephine. She died about 1906 or '07. I was a little girl, but I remember Aunt Josephine very well. The other sister never came to the United States, so I didn't know anything about that family.

S: I was wondering if you knew any family stories from the "old country", so to speak.

M: Let me see. I think of one that my mother told: they had the family coachman and they bought him a new very fancy uniform and he was very proud of that. And Sunday when he went to Mass, people knelt down. And he said, "That's all right, get up, kind people, don't kneel. I was poor once too." (Laughing) He thought they were kneeling because he came in dressed so elegantly.

And another story that Father told was that during the Kaiser's time in Germany, the troops [were] not allowed to ever mention the Kaiser's name. Instead of calling the Kaiser's name, they'd call him "Lehman". In order to say something about

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the Kaiser, they'd say "Lehman" instead of mentioning his name.

One day, the Kaiser came to review the troops. He passed down and he stopped before one little recruit and he said, "Wie heist du?" You know what that means? "What's your name?" So when the Kaiser came to this young recruit and said, "Wie heist du?" he said, "Ich heisse auch Lehman." "My name is also Lehman." (Laughing) He thought that was really [the Kaiser's] name!

S: Do you know where Dr. Schuster went to medical school in Austria?

M: In Vienna. He was a graduate of the University of Vienna and the Vienna School of Medicine.

S: You know, I believe that [his grandson, Dr. Frank Schuster, Jr.] has his graduate diploma.

M: Yes.

S: It has Franz Joseph's name writted boldly over the top.

M: Yes.

S: Was that the same university that [Sigmund] Freud worked in?

M: I think it was.

S: They must have been contemporaries. You don't know whether they ever met, do you?

M: I don't know, but I know that my father was very interested in hypnotism.

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S: Did he ever practice it himself?

M: I don't think he ever practiced it. But I think that he studied it.

S: I guess Austria was a very Catholic country at the time. I don't know about Hungary. Were they Catholic?

M: Well, Austria-Hungary, Hungary is a Catholic country, yes.

S: So the Schuster family was originally Catholic?

M: No. I don't think they were. My mother told me that they were Huguenots. [She became] a member of the First Presbyterian Church, the first little Presbyterian church. Her mother and father both were Presbyterian.

S: I was wondering why Dr. Schuster left [Austria] and came to the United States.

M: Well, he was just a young graduate, [a] specialist in eye, ear, nose, and throat. At that time, Vienna was the medical center of the world. The American Mine and Smelting Company, headquarter[ed] in Kansas City, wanted to [hire] a specialist in eye, ear, nose, and throat. They had mines in Mexico, New Mexico, and Arizona, and they wanted to build a smelter [in El Paso and] send their ore up here. They would have frequent injuries in the mines. So they wanted to get a specialist, and they went to Vienna to get [one] to come here. [The position] was offered to my father. So my father asked my mother. They were [a] young married

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[couple] and my sister Regina was just three or four years old. [My father] asked [my mother] if she'd like to go to the United States and she said she'd just love it. So they came, and [ASARCO] built the smelter here and built a home for them--which is still there--and built a clinic. And that clinic is still there. That's the reason [my father] came to the United States. But he first went to Kansas City where the [ASARCO] headquarters were till the building [of] the smelter was completed. And there in Kansas City, he had the chair of Greek and Surgery in the University of Kansas.

Dr. Safford, a young doctor, was his assistant at the smelter. Dr. H. T. Safford, I think it was Henry Safford, Dr. Henry Safford, Sr.

S: I hadn't realized [your father] was married in Austria.

I always had the impression he met your mother over in . . .

M: No, no. They were married in Hungary. At that time, medical schools were very highly regarded. And when the Emperor Franz Joseph would have one of his grand balls, they always invited the young medical students to come. And the daughters of the prominent nobility were invited. They came with their governesses and their family. And that's where my mother met my father, at the court of Franz Joseph.

S: Given that background, it must have been quite a lot for your

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to leave behind.

M: At one time, my mother was asked how it felt, coming from a very sophisticated society (laughing) like Vienna and Budapest to a little village like El Paso. And she said she thought it was so interesting to see how a city grows, to see it in its infancy and then see it develop. And she was very active civically. She established the Shakespeare Club and she was the fifth president of the Women's Club. And my father was very active in the medical circles. He was president of the Medical Society and this tells something about [him] (examining an article about Dr. Schuster). He served as president of the Texas Medical Society and the American Medical Society. And he was elected a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons. And, as you probably know, he organized Providence Hospital with a group of pioneer doctors.

S: I was also going to ask you if other members of the family came [to the United States], and I guess just an aunt of yours came later.

M: Just his sister came.

S: [Who were some of his interesting patients in El Paso?]

M: I know he had a great many patients from Mexico. Presidents of Mexico came out when they heard [he was] a specialist from Vienna. He had patients from all around: Arizona, New Mexico.

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S: You mentioned the President of Mexico, do you remember any others that are noteworthy?

M: I think Orozco was one of them. No, he wasn't the President, he was a general.

I do remember one story concerning Pancho Villa. Pancho Villa, when he took Juarez, you know, he was sick. An emissary from [Villa] came to my father and said that General Villa was sick and he wanted to see a doctor; would he go see him? And my father said, yes, he would. [The emissary] took him over [to Juarez], and when they entered the room Pancho Villa was sitting behind his desk. The escort introduced my father and he told him to be seated. [Villa] said, "Now, doctor," [pointing at] a stack of gold, "This is what you get if you cure me." And he [pointed at] his pistol and said, "If you don't cure me, this is what you're going to get." My father said, "General Villa, I want to cure you, and I don't want either one of them." (Laughter) He got all right, fortunately.

S: [Were all of you children born after your parents came to America?]

M: Dr. Frank was born at the smelter, my sister was born in Vienna, Dr. Steve was born in Kansas City, and I was born in Budapest. I was the last of the four children. [When my mother was pregnant the last time, she] said she didn't know whether

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she'd make it. She thought she was too old to have a baby. She said she'd like to go see her parents for the last time. So they went to Budapest to see her parents and I was born there. My parents were already American citizens, so I was born an American citizen.

S: They [went] back for a visit?

M: They went back for the visit to see her parents. But my father used to go every two years back to Vienna for, to study the new developments in medicine, in his specialty. My mother didn't always go because she managed the hospital. My father would always come back with presents for us, and he always brought my mother a new ball gown from Vienna. Vienna ball gowns were famous. Gorgeous, gorgeous materials. Of course, as a little girl, I just loved to see all the beautiful [dresses]. And he always brought me a dress or some beads from Vienna. Oh, they were elegant.

S: Did the older children speak German or Hungarian?

M: Hungarian. My father was a linguist. He spoke, wrote, and read seven languages fluently. They were both fluent in English before they ever came. My mother's governess was an English girl. And they also spoke Italian, Spanish, German, Hungarian, and my father read, wrote, and spoke Greek. Because at that time, the medical students came from different countries, and they all knew Greek and Latin. So he read

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Greek and Latin like you and I read English, and spoke it. Because the lectures were mostly in Latin. That was the language that all scholars knew from every country. And on his night table, he'd frequently have the Greek tragedies in Greek. He'd read for evening relaxation. Or philosophy, you know.

S: Did they insist that you and your brothers and sisters be multilingual?

M: No, they mostly spoke English at home. But if they didn't want us to know what they were talking about, they'd speak Hungarian. (Laughing)

S: What do you especially remember about your father when you were very young? Of course, you've already told me a good many things.

M: Well, he was very devoted to the children. He had pet names for all of us. My name was, in Hungarian, "Owl". Because my eyes were so big and I was skinny (laughing), he called me "Owl". But he was never too busy to see me. We lived in the hospital, you know, and his office was [in] the hospital. I'd go knocking at his door and want a nickel to get an ice cream cone when the ice cream vendor came by, and he never was too busy to stop and see that I had a nickel. Now, if I asked my mother, she'd say, "No. You can't have an ice cream cone till after supper because it'll ruin your

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supper." (Laughing) And he loved the circus, and mother wouldn't go to the circus. Whenever the circus came, he always took me [to the] Barnum and Bailey Circus. And he was crazy about Buffalo Bill. He took me to the Wild West Show. And my mother said, when I was a baby, that he would carry me and walk me to sleep on his shoulder singing arias from the operas. He loved music and loved opera. He always attended the opera in Vienna.

S: Was he a musician himself?

M: No, he himself wasn't a musician. He was a lover of music. And my mother was a very fine pianist. She was a pupil of [Franz] Liszt. She said that he would come out to their estate and give her lessons. He would stay for several days.

S: Were your parents particularly strict? It sounds like your mother was.

M: Yes. We were a very old-fashioned family. Children should be seen and not heard. And we had to sit very properly at the table and eat what was put before us and we couldn't get up until it was all eaten. And then we had to ask my mother and father if we wanted to get up for some reason. We had to say, "May I be excused?" (Laughing)

S: Was there a lot of dinner-time conversation?

M: Yes. A great deal of conversation. As Steve and Frank got to be about fifteen, fourteen to fifteen--and they thought

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they were very smart--and they always liked to propound deep questions to my father, they wanted to be very scholarly. One time, they wanted to discuss electronics, and [my father] said, with a great sense of humor, "Do you know what the Law of [Odom's] Transfer is?" And Steve and Frank said, "No, I don't believe we've studied that." He said, "The Law of Odom's Transfer? You don't know that?" And neither one of them knew it, they were baffled, and he said, "Why, it's 25¢ a load!" It was a transfer, a horse-and-buggy transfer company. (Laughing) He had a great sense of humor. They laughed about that for a long time.

S: Did you have any special family traditions, celebrations of holidays, or a special way of doing birthdays, or anything along those lines?

M: We always celebrated in a big way at Christmas and Easter. I remember on their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, I was big enough to want to do something very special. I got a great big wedding bell and suspended it from a fixture in the ceiling. It had crepe paper to each place [at the table] and we had a very big celebration. And that's the one celebration that I remember because I did all the planning for it. It was supposed to be a secret. (Laughing) I didn't let my mother know what I was doing, she just let me plan it.

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S: Can you tell me what year you were born?

M: What year I was born? 1898.

S: How long had your parents been married at that time?

M: Well, the other children were born already. My sister was eight years older than I . . . I really don't know. Must have been at least nine or ten years.

S: What church did you all go to in El Paso?

M: My mother was very active in the Presbyterian Church, but a friend of hers . . .

(Mrs. Meyer told how a friend of her mother had taught Sunday School at the Episcopal church. Since First Presbyterian Church had no Sunday School, the Schuster children were sent to the Episcopal church for Sunday School. In time, the family joined the Episcopal church, which is now St. Clement's Pro Cathedra.)

Begin Side B

M: Every evening I would wait for my father to get through at the office and then we'd call Longwell's Transfer. That [telephone] number was #1. They would send a horse and buggy, a very beautiful thoroughbred sorrel horse named Tony. Tony won many blue ribbons in the horse shows at Fort Bliss. And so I would ride with [my father] on his evening house calls.

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Many of them were in what we called "Chihuahuita", you know, down along the river. Sometimes at night he would get a telephone call [from someone] very sick [in Chihuahuita]. He would call the horse and buggy and my mother would cry, because she said someone might stab him down there. She didn't want him to go. And he never asked for pay [from those patients]. He said, "They can't pay. No, I wouldn't think of taking it." It was his own private charity.

S: One thing I haven't asked you is [about] the beginning of Providence Hospital.

M: Well, Providence Hospital was formed by pioneer doctors. They included Dr. Howard Thompson, Dr. Alard White, Mr. E. M. Bray, Mr. A. T. Coles, Mr. W. F. Payne, and Dr. J. Shelton Hordesley, who was from Richmond, Virginia. He had come for his wife's health. When he first came, my father and he had a clinic together and then these pioneer doctors got together and decided to open the first non-sectarian hospital. Afterwards, my father's [practice] got so large that he bought up the stockholders. And it became his private hospital. He still continued to be chief surgeon. Other assistants came in and took over the clinic at the smelter. The patients [from the clinic] that needed hospitalization were brought to the hospital. [My father] had the contract with the smelter, and also with the Border Patrol, and with the Customs.

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We had all those contracts for their patients.

At one time, they brought a little Japanese baby to the hospital. The baby was about eight or nine months old. This Japanese man and his wife were trying to enter the United States, but the Health Department wouldn't allow the woman to come in because she proved to have tuberculosis. [The couple] had to go through channels and the State Department and so on before [the United States] would allow her to come in. [The] wife was too sick to take care of the baby and [the husband] couldn't leave her, so they stayed in Juarez. And the Health Department sent the baby to the hospital to [be] care[d for]. The baby's name was Tojo. Every afternoon when I came from school--and I was about ten, eleven years old then--I would take Tojo and his buggy down to Cleveland Square to play.

S: Where was that?

M: That's where the Senior Citizen's Park [is today, in] back of the library. My mother was one of the founders of that park.

Pretty soon he got big enough to crawl around and then he got big enough to walk. The nurses [at the hospital] would give him his bath and dress him and feed him and so on. He got big enough for a high chair and to go to the table. Our family dining room was in the hospital. So Tojo every

sat in his high chair and ate with us. And my father just adored that little boy. He was just crazy about him. And [the baby] was awfully smart. And we had a [dinner] bell, a very heavy round, solid bell, [and] on the top was a little thing like a screw. We would turn that and it would sound the bell to call the maid to the dining room when [we] were ready for her to bring in another course. My father'd ring that bell. Well, Tojo was just fascinated with that bell. My father put it in front of him on the chair. And [Tojo] studied it; he pulled and he pushed it. And finally he discovered you turned it. He was so happy, he laughed.

Well, Tojo became our baby. We were just crazy about him. Of course, he only spoke English. He was there, I would say, a year. He was nearly two years old when the suit was finally settled, and [Tojo's parents] were not allowed to enter the United States. So the father came to get the baby. I was present when the father came, downstairs in the hospital in the sitting room. My father had the baby in his arms and [Tojo] was just clinging to my father. His own father was holding out his arms and wanted to take him, and [Tojo] was screaming and crying. He didn't want to leave my father. My father was crying, I was crying, because they were taking my little baby brother away from me. And the father was crying because the child didn't want to come to him. It was a big scene and we just

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hated to see him go. But, of course, he had to go.

He was the pet of all the nurses and the help. In the mornings when he got big enough and was walking, the help would take him down in their recreation room. He had lots of toys and he would play there and they would walk him during the daytime. Then he'd have his nap and I would, by that time, have come home from school and [I would] take him out.

But the help just nearly died when he went because they were just crazy about that little boy, he was so smart. But they found out where his home was and they went to see him regularly and said he was just doing fine. And the mother apparently recovered and was doing all right. But they were never allowed to enter the United States.

S: I was wondering too whether your father ever treated any of the Chinatown community?

M: Oh, yes, he had Chinese patients too.

S: Was he able to communicate with them?

M: Oh, you know, all the Chinese could speak pidgin English. Yes, he got along fine with them.

S: In those days, there was a red-light district on the south part, [in the area of] Utah Street (now S. Mesa St.). Did he ever have any contact through the hospital with that?

M: Well, I really didn't know but I'm sure he did. I remember at

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one time, one of the better-known ones was in the hospital, and I remember them saying that she was one of the well-known madams from the south part of town. (Laughing) I don't remember her name.

S: Did your father have mixed feelings during the First [World] War, when the United States entered the war on the other side from Austria?

M: Definitely not. They were 150% American. They adored America and everything American. Both my brothers were in World War I. And my mother was active in Red Cross and everything she could do for America.

S: I thought [perhaps] it would be hard, leaving your native country for another country and then [seeing] the two of them at war.

M: No. When [they] left [Austria], [they were] completely sold on the United States. And they became American citizens very shortly after they came.

My mother had a white horse named Daisy. She loved Daisy. And she would ride into club meetings on Daisy. And she rode side-saddle. Her riding habits were custom-made in Vienna, you know, very elegant riding habits and she'd ride into El Paso on Daisy.

S: Did [the Mexican Revolution] have much of an effect on [your father's] practice? Did he treat a lot of people?

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- M: Yes, yes, a lot came from Mexico. We had a young boy who came, just seventeen years old when he came up from the Revolution. His family came. He was destitute, he and his sister and mother, [and my father] gave her the job of cook. [The boy] was very smart and he could fix anything. He handled the furnace and the hot water heating and the elevators. He even made the contraption for broken legs, where they had to suspend them in the bars, you know? He finally went to the new Providence. They took him as long as he was able. My mother helped them with their salary. They saved a little of it every month, the sister and the brother, and they were able to buy a little home on Portland. And he established himself there and he got married and had two daughters and they graduated from UTEP.
- S: Well, I understood that in those days, a lot of people used to get on the tops of buildings and come up onto the mesa where Kern Place is now and watch the fighting over in Juarez.
- M: Oh, yes. They'd go up on the top floor of the Del Norte and watch. Yes.
- S: That was kind of dangerous, wasn't it?
- M: Yes. (Laughing) Well, they loved to see, you know. It was exciting.
- S: Yes, I'm sure it was. One thing I should have asked at the very beginning, what were your father's dates of birth and

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death?

M: (Examining family records)

S: Let's see (looking with her), he was born in 1858.

M: 1858.

S: And died in 1918.

M: He had developed cancer. And he used to wear a little knitted cap over his head because he had a great deal of pain in his head and the warmth seemed to comfort him. I was with him when the armistice was declared. He pulled off that cap and threw it in the air and hollered, "Hooray!" (Laughing) I remember that so distinctly.

S: What were the restrictions on young ladies and young gentlemen? Were there chaperones and that sort of thing?

M: Well, no, there weren't. No, we dated and didn't have to have chaperones.

S: Were your brothers always encouraged to become doctors themselves?

M: They always wanted to be. They were interested in medicine always. Of course, Dr. Steve was a musician too, you know, a violinist. He wanted to be a concert violinist. I was just a little girl when my mother took Steve and me down to Guadalajara and placed him in a school there. An English couple had a school. And he studied with the famous violinist there. And when he was about fifteen, he decided that he'd rather go into medicine. So [my parents] sent him to Illinois

Military Academy. He graduated there and then went on to the University of Chicago, and to Rush Medical School. Graduated from there. And Frank [had] the sole ambition of being a doctor.

S: Were any of the other children sent to private schools?

M: Oh, yes. At first, Steve and Regina were in the Catholic school here. I think it was called Miss Bateman's School. And Steve and Frank both went to the El Paso Military Academy for, I think, a year or so. They were always in private schools, and I was too. I went to Sunset School first and then later to the El Paso School for Girls, now Radford, you know. And then to Washington to the National Cathedral School.

S: Is there anything that we haven't gone over yet that we ought to've?"

M: (Looking through family memorabilia)

S: That's the "Harvest Heart Ball." Could you tell me about that?

M: Well, every year, the Heart Association selects some live person and one that has passed away [who] has contributed to the medical development in El Paso. And in 1979, they honored my father, Dr. Schuster. [The award was inscribed], "For excellence in medicine, contributed by pioneer physicians in making El Paso the medical center of West Texas and New Mexico."

S: Schuster Street is named after your father, isn't it?

M: Yes.

S: When did that happen?

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M: I don't remember when that happened, but it's in fairly recent history. As the town started growing out toward the mesa, these streets were starting to develop [with] businesses and homes. Schuster Street--I think it's comparatively new. It wasn't here when I was a child.

S: Is there anything else in town [named after your father]?

M: Well, Schuster School. My brothers, Steve and Frank, donated the land in East El Paso [for] the Schuster School.

S: Whatever happened to Regina?

M: Well, Regina was a very lovely person and very active in community work too, and she worked on getting the charter members for the Historical Society and she was a president of the YWCA. And she was also very active in community work. She married a young doctor who had come here, a Dr. Reinemund. She married him, and she had two children by him. That's Gretchen Reinemund, who is now Mrs. Hollis Rabb and lives in Arizona, and a son, Carl Reinemund. He lives in Arizona. [Regina] died fairly young.

S: [Did] your father live long enough to see any of you get married?

M: He did know Schuyler Marshall, my first husband. He was stationed here at Fort Bliss. And I was dating him then. [I] took him to my father's bedroom and [they] met.

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[My father_] knew we were going to be married. But we didn't marry for another year, after Mr. Marshall got out of the service.

S: (Looking at family records) Those were your grandparents, weren't they?

M: Mananyi. That was a Eugenie Mananyi Schuster. And her parents were Charlotte and Michael Mananyi and their parents were Helen and Louis Dakenfeld. And I have a picture of Count Dakenfeld. My mother's niece, a famous portrait painter, was the youngest graduate of the Academy of Art at Vienna. And she came to the United States after World War II, I believe. She came to New York with her husband, Count Zichy. She established the Countess Zichy Academy of Art. That was after the Russians marched into Vienna. She's passed away now, but she has a sister living in Florida. But that's the last of that family. And (pulling out more family documents) I just found this in the safe the other day.

S: Alexander Stephen Mananyi? Was [he_] your grandfather?

M: Yes. And this is the Schuster crest.

S: (Reading) "The griffin's head pierced through the neck by an arrow. Developed of a legend of personal bravery on the part of . . ."

M: "Coleman Schuster, of George I's time." There are companies that will look up the history of the family for the crest.

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[Dr Frank's wife] had them do it on the Schuster crest.
I had the booklet in my safe but I couldn't find it. All
that I found were these things (indicating several family
documents).

ADDENDUM

Because Mrs. Meyer's recollections of her father contained some errors, the following information will help correct the record.

Michael Philip Schuster was born in Gyor, Austria, although varying accounts place his year of birth in 1858, 1859, and 1860. He studied at the University of Vienna and served for three years on the university staff under noted eye specialist Dr. Fuchs (according to the El Paso Herald on April 16, 1918).

Upon arrival in Kansas City, Dr. Schuster became a professor of postgraduate work at the Kansas City College of Medicine. He was also an honorary member of the Kansas City Medical Society.

After the completion of the American Smelting and Refining Company smelter in El Paso, Dr. Schuster became the chief surgeon for ASARCO for 18 years. In 1905, he was elected president of the El Paso Medical Society. He was also a member of the American College of Surgeons and the founder and president of Providence Hospital. Dr. Schuster was a thirty-second degree Mason.

At least one other member of the Schuster family questions whether Dr. Schuster's father was a general in the Austrian army. His grandson, Dr. Frank Schuster, Jr., believes

he was a colonel.

No 662

Longtime civic leader dies at 93

By **Mary Margaret Davis**
El Paso Times

Funeral services are at 10 a.m. today in the Pro Cathedral Church of St. Clement for Margaret Schuster Marshall Meyer, former administrator of Providence Hospital and social and civic leader. She was 93.

Burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery. She was the widow of retired Army Maj. Gen. G. Ralph Meyer, former commander at Fort Bliss.

The longtime El Pasoan was born in Budapest, Hungary, when her parents — naturalized U.S. citizens — were on a visit to their former home. She grew up in Sunset Heights in a house attached to Providence Hospital, which her family owned. The Schusters sold the hospital in 1946.

"Her death is a tremendous loss to the community," Pan American Round Table Director Sylvia Lou Walsh said. "Her mother founded Pan American, and Margaret inherited her interest in uniting women of the U.S. and Mexico. Over the years, she became very close to the people of Juarez and El Paso."

Jill Smith, a past president of the Members Guild of the El Paso Museum of Art, recalled delivering Christmas candy Meyer bought for friends from the guild annually: "Mrs. Meyer always needed more (candy) than she had ordered, she had so many friends. She was truly a sup-



Margaret Meyer was the widow of a former Fort Bliss commander.

porter of everything," Smith said, "and active in everything she belonged to."

Until recently, she attended all concerts of the El Paso Symphony Orchestra. Gay Brown, Symphony Association executive director, said Meyer had helped organize the Symphony Guild and was its third president.

In a 1982 interview in the El Paso Times after she had been named to the El Paso Historical Society's Hall of Honor, Meyer talked about bygone days:

"I can remember the first time I ever saw many things we take for granted today. The first car I ever saw — I must have been about 13 — belonged to the Caples family here. Their daughter came by and took me for a ride and I thought the car was the most marvelous thing I'd ever seen."

She was about to celebrate her 84th birthday then and was excited about the future. She said, "I'm confident that the coming years will see still-undreamed-of miracles."

AN INTERVIEW WITH MARGARET MEYER
ON THE SUBJECT OF HER FATHER
DR. MICHAEL SCHUSTER

Date of Interview: July 28, 1984

Interviewer: Derrick Smith

MRS. MARGARET MEYER

Mrs. Meyer, youngest child of Michael and Eugenia Schuster, was born in Budapest in 1898. A lifelong resident of El Paso, she was a co-founder of the El Paso Historical Society, a member of the McDowell Music Club, a director of the Pan-American Round Table, and a co-founder of the El Paso Community Concert Association.