UTEP
A Pictorial History of
The University of Texas
at El Paso

Nancy Hamilton
Drawing of Main Building by Henry Trost. Courtesy of El Paso Public Library.
UTEP
A Pictorial History of
The University of Texas
at El Paso

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of two hundred.

Nancy Hamilton

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DIAMOND JUBILEE
1914-1989
The Alumni Association of The University of Texas at El Paso is pleased to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the institution with the publication of *UTEP: A Pictorial History of The University of Texas at El Paso*. This book covers the years from the founding as the School of Mines in 1913 to the university’s present role as a doctoral degree-granting component of The University of Texas System.

We gratefully acknowledge the cooperation of the El Paso Community Foundation and Texas Western Press in making this book possible, and the authorship of Nancy Hamilton, a life member of the Alumni Association.

We dedicate this Diamond Jubilee book to the thousands of people who have had roles in developing the history of The University of Texas at El Paso.

J. Steve DeGroat
Chairman
Viewed from across the arroyo that runs through the campus, the Business Administration Building looms like a Bhutanese lamasery. The building backs up against a hill, with the library immediately behind it. The two dominate the lower campus.
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Texas Western Press
The University of Texas at El Paso
and

THE DONNING COMPANY
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CONTENTS

Preface ....................................... 7
Introduction ................................... 9
   by C. L. Sonnichsen
Chapter 1/1913-1919 ........................... 17
Chapter 2/1920-1930 ........................... 33
Chapter 3/1931-1948 ........................... 47
Chapter 4/1949-1967 ........................... 73
Chapter 5/1968-1979 ........................... 119
Appendixes .................................... 218
   Institutional Heads
   Fall Enrollment By Years
   Professors and Associate Professors Emeriti
Bibliography .................................. 221
Index .......................................... 222
About the Author .............................. 224
The first Diamond Jubilee activity was the April 11, 1988 dedication of the Wall of Honor honoring faculty and staff members of distinction in the University Library. Dr. Z. Anthony Kruszewski, professor of political science, looks over the names of honored professors.
When Dr. Haskell Monroe became president of The University of Texas at El Paso in 1980, as a historian he was interested in the forthcoming seventy-fifth anniversary of the institution. He wanted to commemorate the event with a special book. Not long after he began putting out feelers about an anniversary book, the Alumni Association was approached by the Donning Company about sponsoring a picture history. Why not do it for the Diamond Jubilee? suggested Steve DeGroat, the president. He arranged with Dale L. Walker, director of Texas Western Press, for cosponsorship, and with the El Paso Community Foundation for a grant covering the publishing cost, to be repaid from book sales. Once the grant is repaid, excess funds received will endow a fund for Texas Western Press.

Dale Walker and I originally planned to be coauthors. He had been my boss for nine years in the News and Publications office when I worked in media relations for the university, and when he also became director of Texas Western Press, he moved me to the associate directorship of that office. He chose the name for the book, but the pressures of running two departments did not allow him time to do any writing of it.

After Dr. Monroe’s departure for the University of Missouri at Columbia—which in 1987 was celebrating its 150th anniversary—his successor, Dr. Diana Natalicio, appointed Gertrude Dawson, an alumna who had retired from the College of Business Administration faculty, to head the Diamond Jubilee Committee. This group of university and community volunteers is involved in every step of the two-year celebration, from selection of a logo to encouraging special events and mementos. The celebration began in April 1988, commemorating seventy-five years since the signing of the legislation creating the School of Mines, and will continue into 1989, marking the anniversary of the beginning of classes in 1914.

The resources used for this book are primarily those of the News and Publications office, where Sue Wimberly has maintained marvelous files and has indexed the clipping books that date from 1967. The photographs, unless otherwise indicated, are from the University Library’s Special Collections and from the News Service files. Nearly all of the photos in the library originally came from the News Service or were used in student yearbooks of years past.

The News and Publications office has one official photographer, Chad Puerling, who is employed there half-time and also teaches in the Department of Mass Communication. When I told him he would need to copy more than two hundred photographs and make prints of another hundred or more from negatives in that office, he arranged his time so that he could do the job and never complained. He was helped immensely when the El Paso Natural Gas Company allowed him to use a machine that could print photos twice as fast as he could.

Chad’s predecessor, Russell Banks, who wore several hats in the News and Publications Department for about ten years, had set up the negative files with indexes of pictures he had taken during the late seventies and early eighties. These were a valuable resource, and in many cases there were already prints available in the office photo files.

In the March issue of NOVA, Dale Walker wrote a column about the book project and invited alumni to contact me if they had material they thought might be of interest. As a result, I experienced an amazing coincidence in assembling information. In the library photo box, I had found a picture of a Sun Carnival Parade float identified as “Texas College of Mines” but with no clues as to the year or the people involved. I anticipated spending several hours going through newspaper microfilm to pinpoint the date. Then Glynn Sparks Elliott of Portland, Oregon, sent me several pages from a scrapbook she had kept from college days. There was a photo of that same float, and she was the person seated on top! The year was 1937 and the float had won a prize.

Because the yearbook ceased publication between 1972 and 1985, the photo resources for some of those years, especially the early seventies, were limited. Philip E. Booth of Houston, who attended UTEP from 1972 to 1977,
had been a *Prospector* photographer and had a collection of negatives he was willing to lend to the cause. Francis P. Smith III of Elgin, Texas, sent photos for us to copy of Olympic gymnasts performing on campus. Paul Daniggelis of El Paso loaned several photos of Urbici Soler to be sure he would be remembered. Eddie Mullens of Sports Media Relations provided photos and statistics. Millard McKinney, a mainstay of local historians seeking rare photographs, came up with several from the early years, especially an aerial of Fort Bliss with the first location of the School of Mines clearly visible.

Other alumni who shared memories included Pollard Rodgers of El Paso, who brought a hand-drawn newspaper from about 1940; Lupe Rascon Clements of Tempe, Arizona, who sent a newspaper clipping and a small flyer that had photos of her and two friends, advertising the 1937 summer session; Lucy Antone of Irving, Texas, who grew up a few blocks from the campus and knew every nook and cranny long before she became a student; two Golden Grads, H. D. Bevan of El Paso and Royal Jackman of Ojai, California; Lurline Coltharp of El Paso, and many others.

The photographers represented span nearly all the decades, from Alexander Studios of the early twenties through Jerry Gerlach, Darst-Ireland, McElroy and Richeson, I. B. Lindenthal, Photography Unlimited, and Photographic Associates. Some photographers were students or professionals working for the News Service and I did not credit every photo. Indeed, if I had done so, most of those from recent years would have been by Russell Banks or Chad Puerling. Others represented were Lee Cain, Hans P. Otto, George Wady, Ed Flynn, Louis V. Olson, Milton Gussow, David Leibson, Pat White, C. Torres, Adams-Motts Studio, Albert Lee Nelow, Peter Ashkenaz, and Laura Trejo.

A wonderful asset is the introductory material by Professor Emeritus C. L. Sonnichsen, mentor of more authors than anyone else I know and a participant in UTEP's history for many years.

Thanks are also due to President Diana Natalicio for her interest in this project; Virginia Valverde in her office, for help in finding obscure facts; Cesar Caballero, S. H. “Bud” Newman, and Beatrice Jones of the library's Special Collections; my husband, Ralph, for alphabetizing the index, and many others who helped in many ways.

—Nancy Miller Hamilton