Discussion of a name change for the College of Mines occupied students, faculty and staff members, and the citizenry of El Paso over a period of months in 1948 and 1949. Among the proposed names were Texas Western University, Texas State College of Mines and Arts, and University of Texas at El Paso.

Wilson Homer Elkins, a new president, arrived on January 1, 1949. He had completed his B. A. and M. A. degrees simultaneously at the University in Austin in 1932, while earning a national reputation as a football star (nicknamed “Bull”). His doctoral work was done at Oxford University as a Rhodes scholar. He returned to Austin to teach history before going to San Angelo Junior (now State) College in 1938 as president. He had been in that position for ten years when he accepted the bid to become Mines’ third president. His inauguration was held on April 30, 1949, only two days after a momentous event in the college’s history.

The Board of Regents had decided to meet in El Paso on April 28, 1949, and make a recommendation regarding the school’s name change to be given to the Texas Legislature. The approved name was Texas Western College of the University of Texas. It was this name that appeared in Senate Bill 299 of the Fifty-first Legislature, signed into law by Governor Beauford Jester in May to become effective June 1, 1949.

The new name called for a new seal which was designed by Carl Hertzog, founder of Texas Western Press, and Jose Cisneros, El Paso artist and frequent book illustrator for the press. The five-pointed Texas Lone Star remained, but the pick and spade and mining pan were replaced by a vista of the Rio Grande winding through the pass with the sun in the background. Oak and laurel wreaths were at left and right, as in the State of Texas seal, and the words “Scientia et humanitas” at the top were for the college’s two divisions, Engineering and Liberal Arts. The same design was used when the name changed again in 1967.
The designation of Miners for athletic teams was retained, along with the names of publications that were related to the mining past—Prospector for the weekly newspaper, El Burro for the humor magazine, and Flowsheet for the yearbook. Also retained were the school colors of orange and white and “The Eyes of Texas” as the school song.

Students were enjoying the use of their new Union Building which had a snack bar, lounges where marathon bridge games were played, and a ballroom, as well as offices for the magazine, the yearbook, and the dean of Student Life. Another recreational facility of that period was the stables, a rustic pueblo-style building with a snack bar and horses for riding over the hills beyond the college. Students could sign up for horseback riding for physical education credit. The location was the present site of the Special Events Center. The swimming pool, completed in 1949, was a popular gathering place in warm weather.

During Dr. Elkins’ tenure as president, the enrollment continued at a level between two and three thousand. Five new construction projects were completed in 1951—the Magoffin Auditorium, the Science Building (now Psychology), the Women’s Gym next to the swimming pool, Miners Hall, a dormitory, and a duplex on Wiggin’s Drive that later became the Student Health Center.

Evidence of the name change was everywhere in 1949—for example, on this cup bearing the Texas Western College seal, and on a banner with the college’s name spelled out.

The Kidd Seismic Observatory was opened in 1953 and the Wesley Foundation, a Methodist student group, erected a stone building south of the campus on Hawthorne in 1954. It was acquired by the university in 1972 and was the Personnel Center before being redesignated the News Service Building in 1980.

Dr. Elkins’ tenure was marked by improvements in academic standards, encouragement of research and creative efforts by faculty members, and the founding of Texas Western Press in 1952 and the Schellenger Research Laboratories in 1953. In 1954 Elkins was invited to become president of a much larger institution—the University of Maryland—and accepted. He served an unprecedented twenty-four years at Maryland, one of the longest periods of service of any American college or university president, during which time enrollment increased from 20,000 to more than 77,000. In 1985 he returned to El Paso as UTEP commencement speaker.

Dr. E. A. Thormodsgaard joined the music faculty in 1949 and immediately began producing operas, staging them in Liberty Hall downtown until the completion of Magoffin Auditorium on campus in 1951. Among his starring singers was Hugh Cardon, who completed his doctorate at the University of Oregon after earning two degrees from TWC, and returned in 1963 to teach on the music faculty.
The campus swimming pool, built in 1949, has always been a popular gathering place. It was enclosed in 1975.

Water polo at the swimming pool was always a good way to spend a summer afternoon.

The Science Building was the largest on campus at the time it was built in 1951. For several years it housed the Biological Sciences Department, whose name it carried until 1976 when that department moved to a new building in the Engineering-Science Complex and psychology moved to this one. This photo is from the building's early days when the KVOF radio tower stood on the hill behind it.
A remarkable track star of this era was Javier Montes, who qualified in 1952 for the United States Olympic team in the fifteen hundred-meter run, posting the best time in the nation for the event in 3:51.1. He held records for the Texas High School Mile, Border Olympics Mile, Southwestern Frosh Mile, Arizona Relays Mile, Border Conference Mile and Two-Mile, and National Midwest Mile and Two-Mile. His career best mile in 1952 was 4:13.4.

The United States Reserve Officer Training Corps, which had begun in the 1948-49 academic year, won the school’s first national title when the rifle team outscored all others in 1954. Dr. John R. “Pinky” Edwin, who was a member of that team, recalls that he was a freshman at Oklahoma A&M when Don Haskins was a senior on the basketball team. “I like to remind Haskins that the 1966 basketball title was not the first national victory for the Miners,” he says.

The most celebrated prank on the campus surely was the spiriting of an alligator from San Jacinto Plaza in downtown El Paso into the office of geology Professor Howard Quinn. The action took place overnight December 10-11, 1952, when a group of students visited the plaza which was decorated for the holiday season. Since the 1890s, a pond in the center of the park had been home to a small group of sluggish alligators. While a guard was distracted, the students placed an alligator in a car and took it to the campus. The architectural style, with outward-sloping walls, was perfectly suited to their mission; by scaling the wall, a student gained admission to Dr. Quinn’s office and opened the doors for his friends to bring in the alligator, which the professor discovered the next morning. A large truck and crew were sent by the City Parks Department to remove it. Sam Vandiver, who was a participant, described the incident in the September 1973 NOVA.

A 1964 alligator incident involved the surreptitious tossing of one of the creatures into the campus swimming pool. Pat O’Rourke, later to become El Paso County judge, has been publicized as one of the perpetrators of that prank.

After several other people annoyed the alligators, they were removed to the protection of the Washington Park Zoo.

Members of the 1954 national championship ROTC Rifle Team and their faculty advisors were (first row, from left) P. Wright, F. Tyra, W. Killian; (second row) P. Edwin, Col. E. R. Crowell, Sgt. Galus, and A. Najera. The group won the first national title for a Miner team of any kind by placing first in the Fourth Army Area and the W. R. Hearst Army ROTC championship which qualified it to go against ROTC units of Army, Navy, and Air Force in the Hearst National Defense Trophy telegraphic match, which it also won. High honors for TWC were won by Arthur Najera with 193 points.
Texas Western Press

Texas Western Press, the scholarly publishing arm of the university, came into being in 1952 as the brainchild of Carl Hertzog, whose name has become celebrated internationally in the field of book design.

He had been a professional printer and book designer for many years when, in 1948, he was persuaded to teach some courses at the College of Mines. A year or so later he was tinkering with some type he had found on the campus and asked President Wilson Elkins for money to buy more type and set up a laboratory. Dr. Elkins said, "Double that amount and do something useful."

As a result of that encouragement, Hertzog developed his small laboratory into a scholarly press whose name was the new one of the college—Texas Western.

The first book under that imprint was The Spanish Heritage of the Southwest with drawings by Jose Cisneros and text by Francis Fugate in 1952.

By the time of the 1967 name change to UT El Paso, the press had such a fine reputation, it retained the old name. Hertzog retired in 1972 and turned over the directorship of the press to Evan Haywood Antone, who had worked with him the previous three years. In 1981 Antone returned to full-time teaching and Hugh Treadwell succeeded him.

In 1985 Dale L. Walker, who had served on the Press's editorial board for many years, became the director. He also continued as head of the Department of News and Publications. Under his leadership the Press became an affiliate member of the American Association of University Presses.

Manuscripts submitted to the Press are reviewed by an editorial board of professors before being accepted for publication. Eight or more new titles are published each year. The Press offers the C. L. Sonnichsen Award annually to the best manuscript in Southwestern History and Cultures. Past winners of the award include Marc Simmons for Murder on the Santa Fe Trail and Don Worcester for The Spanish Mustang.

By mid-1988 Texas Western Press had published some 213 titles, of which 86 are in the Southwestern Studies monograph series. Several older books continue to be reprinted in response to popular demand. The all-time best sellers have been Pass of the North (vol. 1) by C. L. Sonnichsen, first published in 1968, and The Lasater Philosophy of Cattle Raising by Laurence M. Lasater, reprinted regularly since 1972.

The current focus of the Press is on books related to the American Southwest and northern Mexico.
Research

Large-scale research that took Texas Western faculty and students to distant parts of the world came about through the Schellenger Research Laboratories. They were established in 1953 with funds provided under the will of Mrs. Emma H. Schellenger, in memory of her husband, Newton C. Schellenger.

Heart research was conducted in cooperation with William Beaumont General Hospital (now Army Medical Center) and a Bell Telephone scientist. Thomas G. Barnes, former director of the laboratories, describes the product of that work as "the most advanced electronic vectorcardiographic of that day." Scientists and students donated their services and supplies were funded by the El Paso Heart Association.

The next area of research was one that would continue for some years— atmospheric physics. The first project in that field was the development of an electronic airborne device. With limited funds, a lot of ingenuity, and the dedication of pioneering faculty members and students, the laboratories began attracting contracts from the military, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the National Science Foundation.

By 1963 the cumulative total of contracts and grants exceeded five million dollars. At that time Schellenger had seven research sites on the campus. The Electronic Research Center developed new types of electronic instruments for carrying out basic research problems, such as one for measuring atmospheric parameters including humidity, temperature, and density. The Acoustical Research Center had an anechoic chamber and developed microphones that could pick up infrasonic and ultrasonic sounds. A climate chamber simulating conditions in the upper atmosphere was part of the Environmental Sciences Center. Instruments were designed to be carried in rockets or balloons or used in the Arctic and Antarctic, and a NASA contract sought an acoustic device to analyze the gases on Mars.

Dr. Barnes reported in 1963 that the Data Analysis Center processed more upper-atmospheric temperature and wind data than any other in the world.

Professor Tom Barnes, the first director of the Schellenger Research Laboratories, is standing at right, with physics students engaged in research at various stations in this lab. A faculty member since 1938, Barnes was named professor emeritus at his retirement in 1981.

Science major Eddie Provencio and honor graduate Sandra French in 1967 tested acoustical instruments in the anechoic chamber of the Schellenger Laboratories. The fiberglass wedges on the walls deaden sound.
Physics Professor Robert Schumaker was director of the Computation Center in the late sixties when a Control Data Corporation computer was installed in Old Main. The center was involved in a number of research projects, among them meteorological rocket data for White Sands Missile Range through the Schellenger Research Labs and balloon-trajectory studies for Holloman Air Force Base. In addition to research work under government contracts, the center handled statistical studies for the college and the local public schools.

The Optical and Mechanical Research Center studied shock waves in the atmosphere, producing waves in miniature and using schlieren photographic techniques to study them. The Special Projects Center researched thin films used to detect infrared light and to measure temperatures at high altitudes. Finally, the Life Sciences Center worked with dentists from William Beaumont and the local community on electrochemical processes for the desensitization of teeth.

Researchers conducted field work in Alaska, at Hudson Bay, Puerto Rico, the Ascension Islands, Hawaii, Antarctica, and Wallops Island, Virginia. A Texas Western College banner was taken to the South Pole. In 1962 James F. Bettie headed the expedition that conducted upper-atmospheric rocket probe experiments on polar weather. A prominent land feature in McMurdo Sound was named Bettie Peak by the United States Board of Geographic Names. A peak in the Antarctic was named for a student, Ralph Rotolante.

In 1963 the laboratory staff numbered 120 faculty members and students from twelve different departments of the college.

By 1967 there were nine research centers scattered across the campus and a new director, Joseph S. Lambert, former professor of electrical engineering, who succeeded Lonnie L. Abernethy upon his promotion to dean of engineering. Robert L. Schumaker was assistant director and also headed the new Computation Center. At that time the laboratories had 147 employees with a monthly payroll of more than fifty thousand dollars. In addition to the above centers, there were centers for Thin Films and Data Recording.

In 1967 Schellenger was the world’s largest repository of weather rocket-sounding data and operated a global Meteorological Rocket Network station at Fort Greely, Alaska.

Over the past twenty years, as the university has expanded its research activities in many departments, the Schellenger Laboratories have shared the spotlight with other endeavors. They continue to serve as an integral part of the ongoing research work centered in the College of Engineering.
The number of student organizations continued to increase during the fifties. There were honorary fraternities—Kappa Pi in art, Kappa Delta Pi in education, Sigma Delta Pi in Spanish, Tau Beta Sigma for band women, Delta Sigma Pi in business, Phi Alpha Theta in history, and Sigma Gamma Epsilon in earth sciences. KVOF had a Radio Club, the horsemanship contingent a Rodeo Club. Others with special interests were the Forensic Society, the student affiliate of the Association for Childhood Education International, Beaux Arts, College Players, Baptist Student Union, Newman Club, Junior Pan-American Round Table, Pre-Med Club, Psychology Club, Band, Drum Corps, Gold Diggers (now sponsored by Dean of Women Margaret Jameson), Varsitoniens, Chorale, P. E. Majors, Pre-Law Club, Girls' Athletic Association, and student chapters of the American Institute of Electrical Engineers, American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers (successor to the old Scientific Club founded in 1914), and American Society of Civil Engineers. On the social scene were Independent Women, Phrateres International, Chi Omega, Delta Delta Delta, Delta Gamma, and Zeta Tau Alpha for women; Independent men, Alpha Phi Omega, Kappa Sigma, Lambda Chi Alpha, Phi Kappa Tau, Sigma Alpha Epsilon, and Tau Kappa Epsilon for men. Campus Colleagues, which had originated in 1944-45 as Mu Epsilon Chi, was a social group of both men and women.

Special honors for students included Men of Mines, Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges, Chenrizig, and various royalty of the Snow Fiesta, Co-Ed Ball, Military Ball, Sun Carnival, and other activities. For the 1953 Flowsheet, cartoonist Al Capp picked Shirley Baker as queen, with Mary Dare Resley, Claudia Whitefield, Carlon Brady, and Dorothy Skinner as honorees. The observance of Sadie Hawkins Day, which Capp had invented in his Li'l Abner strip, was still going strong.

Dale Waters and Ross Moore alternated coaching the basketball team from 1945 through 1952, with winning seasons in 1946-47, 1948-49, and 1949-50. George McCarty began coaching in 1953-54 and the next five years counted more wins than losses. Harold Davis was at the helm for 1959-61, his first year a losing one but the second one winning 12-11. Then came Don Haskins in 1961, engendering the legendary success of the Miner basketball team.

Jack Curtice coached football from 1946 through 1949, the last three of those winning seasons. Then Mike Brumbelow took the helm, racking up five winning seasons before turning over coaching duties to Ben Collins in 1957. Collins continued until 1962 when O. A. "Bum" Phillips coached a 4-5 season, then Warren Harper stepped in for two years. After 1964's no-win record, the job went to Bobby Dobbs, whose eight-year record was forty-one wins, thirty-five losses, and two ties.

During the fifties and into the sixties, the Gold Diggers wore white Western hats, white boots, and dresses of orange and white with vests or fringe trim. They marched for Homecoming and Sun Carnival parades and performed at football games.
The Texas Western ROTC honored Queen Helen Juarez, far right, and her court at the 1956 Military Ball in the Student Union ballroom. From left are R. O. Cummings, Rose Marie Graham, Donald Smith, Jane Grubb, Bill Pasteur, Catherine Finerty, Bill Peterson, and Queen Helen.

TWC Football Head Coach Mike Brumbelow, center, was elected Coach of the Year by the Border Conference Coaches Association in 1954 for guiding the Miners to third place in the conference and a 7-3 record for the year. At left is Ben Collins, backfield coach at that time, and at right, Dale Waters, line coach. Collins succeeded Brumbelow as head coach in 1957 and retired from the university in 1985 after thirty-nine years of service. Waters later headed the athletics program for the El Paso Public Schools. Courtesy UTEP Sports Media Relations.
Following the resignation of Dr. Elkins, A. A. Smith, the business manager, served as acting president from September 1, 1954, to June 14, 1955. He approached the Texas Legislature about the need for funding increases to accommodate rapidly increasing enrollment—from 2,898 in fall 1953 to 3,478 in 1954. More faculty, office space, laboratory equipment, library facilities, and administrative personnel were needed. The response was pleasing; the appropriation for the next biennium was even more than he had requested.

The Board of Regents now turned to another Texan, this one an engineer, as president. He was Dysart Edgar Holcomb, a graduate of Texas Technological College and the University of Michigan. He had spent five years as a research chemical engineer with an oil company, then taught chemical engineering at Purdue and Texas Tech where he became dean of engineering. On June 15, 1955, he became the fourth president of Texas Western.

Freshman orientation in the fall of 1955 was of historical importance, as the institution’s first black students were admitted for studies. Texas Western had been the institutional importance, as the institution’s first black students

The issue of faculty pay came to a head after legislation in the fall of 1959 brought a decrease instead of a promised increase. Somehow the biennial appropriation had failed to cover anticipated expenses, and faculty members learned that their average salaries were the third lowest among Texas public colleges.

Dr. Smiley resigned in May 1960 in order to become provost of The University of Texas. The choice for acting president this time was Anton H. Berkman, dean of Arts and Sciences and a faculty member since 1927. He spent only the first two weeks of August in that capacity, however, since the Board of Regents quickly named Dr. Joseph M. Ray president effective August 15, 1960.

A native of Kentucky, Dr. Ray had completed his university work through the doctorate at Austin and had taught at North Texas State College. He also had been on the faculty at the University of Alabama, the University of
This 1961 photo shows the Administration Building, which was two stories high with basement when it opened in 1956. At right is the Zeta Tau Alpha lodge, which was acquired by the university in 1969 for offices. Beyond the Administration Building on Hawthorne are the First Unitarian Church and the Wesleyan Student Center. Both were acquired by the university, the former razed for the Engineering-Science Complex, and the latter now serving as the News Service Building.

Members of The University of Texas System Board of Regents in 1958 were, from left, Dr. Merton Minter of San Antonio, J. E. Johnston III of Fort Worth, Lee Lockwood of Waco, vice chairman, Leroy Jeffers of Houston, J. R. Sorrell of Corpus Christi, chairman, Mrs. Charles Devall of Kilgore, Joe C. Thompson of Dallas, J. P. Bryan of Freeport, and Thornton Hardie of El Paso. Hardie, who served from 1957 to 1963, is the last El Pasoan to be appointed to the board. Regents are appointed by the governor.

The Liberal Arts Building, completed in 1961, achieved the Bhutanese look with some architectural subtleties. The walls do not slope like those of the older buildings, but give that illusion with panels inset at intervals. The brick band beneath the roof suggests the lamasery design and stylized screens are above the entrance door on Hawthorne and at the main entrance to the university at left.
Memorial Gymnasium was under construction in this photo taken about 1960. In the background at left is the research center built by El Paso Natural Gas Company and acquired by the university in 1974. Used for offices of the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, it has been named the Brumbelow Building. At upper right is a golf course and putting green, on the site that had previously been that of the stables and which is now occupied by the Special Events Center.

Vet Village was a housing area established below the El Paso Centennial Museum after World War II when returning veterans and their families needed inexpensive apartments. Frame buildings were moved in from military bases where they had been declared surplus. The area remained intact through the Korean conflict and served its veterans as well, until the completion in 1963 of new apartments for married students on Oregon Street.
Maryland, where he had been a dean, and spent five years as head of the U.S. Air Force Education and Libraries Branch in Washington. At the time he was chosen for Texas Western, he was president of Amarillo College.

As a political scientist, he was sensitive to the political aspects of university administration. He was also interested in furthering the advantages of TWC's proximity to Latin America through research and other projects.

Construction needs were of high priority at this time. The Physical Plant department received a new warehouse and shops building, the Memorial Gymnasium was completed, with seating for 4,000; and the Liberal Arts Building was completed on the site where the president's home had stood opposite the Administration Building. New apartments on Oregon Street were to house married students, replacing the now dilapidated Vet Village structures, and those barracks as well as the classroom annexes were removed. A new dormitory was given the Burges Hall name; old Burges became the Education Building and later was renamed Graham Hall, the name it bears today.

In 1957 the Fifty-fourth Legislature authorized and appropriated funds to establish a School of Nursing at Texas Western College. Through the 1958-59 academic year, the school faced two major problems: low enrollment (thirty-seven at the most) and inadequate funding. When the dean and the three-member faculty advised President Smiley they did not intend to return in September 1959, he asked the Board of Regents to suspend the program. Arrangements were made with the University of Texas School of Nursing in Galveston to accept the TWC students there. The field of nursing would not return to the institution until 1970.

During the summer of 1961, the college became the training ground for something new—the Peace Corps. A group of thirty trainees arrived in early July and worked sixty-six-hour weeks for six weeks in preparation for a road building and survey operation in Tanganyika, whose climate and terrain are similar to El Paso's.

The class was the first Peace Corps group in the nation to complete its training and for the occasion Sargent Shriver, director of the program, came from Washington to give the commencement address. Several weeks later, President Joseph M. Ray and history professor W. H. Timmons were invited to Washington to participate in recognition of the TWC graduates by President John F. Kennedy. Also taking part was a class that had finished at Berkeley two weeks later.

These apartments for married students on Oregon Street were opened in 1963. They were the successors to Vet Village, a group of military surplus frame buildings that had been used by veterans and their families after World War II.
Pam Cotten, left, writes "Sun Bowl" on Mary Roen's back as Marilyn Carothers watches. They were calling attention to the Miners-Texas Christian University game coming up on December 13, 1965. Coach Bobby Dobb had led the Miners in a seven-to-three season, against TCU's six-to-four record and second place in the Southwest Conference. Texas Western won over the Horned Frogs 13-12.

In his book, *On Becoming a University*, Dr. Ray recalled: "The president spoke briefly to the graduates in the Rose Garden and then received us one at a time in his study. Tim and I were near the head of the line. The President thanked me for the work we had done and complimented us for the quality of our efforts. Although we were directed to leave the room, as we left the President, Tim and I stood to one side and watched the entire proceeding. It is still to me a most vivid memory. I have met or been in the close proximity to all Presidents of the United States in the past thirty-five years, but none has in the same measure possessed the aura—the impression of being bigger than life—that John Kennedy had."

In the fall of 1962 a second Peace Corps assignment involved training sixty-five teachers of English and physical education for universities of Colombia.

Another milestone of this period was the construction of the Sun Bowl, a thirty-thousand-seat stadium that was built with $1.5 million in bond funds approved by county voters on November 8, 1960—the only one of six bond issues on the ballot to pass. The first college game played there was Texas Western's 34-7 victory over North Texas State on September 21, 1963. The first Sun Bowl game there was played by Southern Methodist University and Oregon the following December 31.

The site for the Sun Bowl was deeded to El Paso County by Texas Western, which then entered into a ninety-nine-year lease under which the college would provide maintenance and would have control over use of the stadium except for the period required for the annual Sun Bowl game. In 1969 a second deck was added to the press box and, after voters turned down a 1979 bond issue for expansion of the stadium, the Board of Regents agreed to meet the cost with bond proceeds from the Permanent University Fund. That addition of 22,000 seats was completed in 1982. During the years from the building of the stadium until 1985, the county had invested the $1.5 million bond funds in the facility, while the university's capital investment was $7.8 million, with ongoing maintenance costs also paid by the university.

Besides being the home of the Miners football team and the Sun Bowl game, the stadium is also used for local high school football games, band contests, and university physical education and intramural activities.

The institutional purpose statement, as revised by
the faculty in 1964 and retained through 1974, read:

Through teaching, research and public service, Texas Western College seeks to equip men and women for the professions and for constructive living, and to offer them the opportunity to explore various fields of knowledge freely in an atmosphere of respect for the rights and responsibilities of scholarship and citizenship. It endeavors, through the tools of learning, to develop breadth of mind, tolerance of spirit, and strength of character.

In looking toward the future, and especially with the coming fiftieth anniversary of the institution due in 1964, Dr. Ray in 1962 asked the Board of Regents to approve a special citizens' study group—the Mission '73 Committee. The thirty-seven men and women from El Paso and Juarez were asked to assess the character of Texas Western College, both current and future, and to set realistic goals in a master plan for the years 1963-1973. Judson F. Williams, a former dean of the college and at that time mayor of El Paso, chaired the committee.

The Mission '73 report, published in 1963, proposed three major objectives for the coming decade:

1. Attention should always be directed toward the achievement of quality in any field of study offered. . . . Priority must be given to the realization of greatest potential rather than to dispersion of effort. . . .
2. Texas Western College can best achieve distinction by devoting increased scholarly attention to the unique and treasured features of life in its international area.
3. Resources must be enlarged in all areas, with long-term needs continually taking precedence over expediency.

A particular recommendation regarded the name of the institution. The committee felt it should become The University of Texas at El Paso "as soon as possible."

The report also considered funding, facilities, faculty, monetary aid for students, course offerings and requirements, library needs, and many other aspects of the operation of the institution.

The celebration of the college's fiftieth anniversary took place in 1964, with a colorful convocation ceremony, special lectures, and special publications, among them Francis Fugate's Frontier College. Boxed as a set produced by Texas Western Press under Carl Hertzog's watchful eye were that book, the Mission '73 report, and the Jubilee Papers, a collection of lectures and reports related to the anniversary observance.

One of the essays was a progress report on Mission '73 by Milton Leech, dean of administration and the administration's executive officer for that project. He listed fourteen major advances toward realizing the committee's recommendations. Among them were the establishing of the Office of Institutional Studies, higher admission requirements, pilot departmental honors programs in English and history, improved academic counseling, the founding of the Bureau of Business and Economic Research which had already published two reports, support for the library from private sources, and an architectural planning study of future use of campus land.

A major event of the Jubilee Year was the Convocation of May 22, 1963. The Board of Regents met in El Paso May 22-23, and various other special meetings and a lecture series were devoted to material that was preserved in the Jubilee Papers. The overall theme was "The Quest for Quality."

W. W. Heath, chairman of the Board of Regents, reported to the board that between 1916 and 1963 a total of 7,945 degrees were awarded by TWC; an additional 127 were awarded in January 1964, and the forthcoming May commencement had 367 degree candidates, for a grand total of 8,439. Of those, 928 were at the master's level. Heath explained that in 1959, the college had experienced a low point in its history. Enrollment growth was slowed by a tuition increase, with the result that available funding for faculty salaries was decreased. The community of El Paso contributed $30,000 each year for 1959-60 and 1960-61 in order to supplement faculty salaries.

Texas Western, he continued, in 1962 had established the first degree credit programs on military installations in Texas. The semester just closing had enrolled 340 at Fort Bliss and 190 at Biggs Air Force Base.

In reviewing the previous five years, Heath said
In 1962 the mission '73 Committee was appointed by President Joseph M. Ray to make recommendations on the future of Texas Western College. The report called for university status and other improvements that were almost all realized by 1973.


Professors Joseph Leach, left, and Milton Leech hold ceremonial maces for the 1963 Golden Jubilee activities. Joseph Leach, a member of the English faculty since 1947, was named professor emeritus upon his retirement in 1986. Milton Leech, drama professor since 1949, also served as acting president in 1968-69. Now a professor emeritus, he retired in 1984.
enrollment had increased from 3,669 in fall of 1958 to 6,155 in fall of 1963; physical facilities completed were the Memorial Gymnasium, Liberal Arts Building, Warehouse-Shop Building, all under Permanent University Fund bond proceeds; Burges Hall (dormitory), Texas Western Village apartments, and the Sun Bowl. Approval had been given for a new Physics-Mathematics-Chemistry (later called Physical Sciences) building and endorsement had been given for construction of Hawthorne House as a privately owned dormitory.

Regarding the faculty, salaries had improved considerably since the time the community had to help out; the average was up from $5,175 in 1958-59 to $7,670 in 1965-66. The number of doctor’s degrees was up from fifty-two in 1959 to seventy-six in 1964. The library also was growing, from 91,407 volumes in 1959 to 161,000 expected in September of 1964. The total budget rose from $1.7 million in fiscal 1959 to $3.7 million for 1965.

Chairman Heath pointed out the involvement of college with community through advisory committees besides the Mission ’73 group. The Cotton Estate Advisory Committee, chaired by Sam Young, had advised on handling of Cotton Estate Lands, part of the extensive trust that came to the college in 1938. Another report by Dr. Ray explained that some 150 acres of those lands were in the area along the international boundary that was awarded to Mexico under the Chamizal Treaty of 1963. The anticipated Federal Government payment for this land, about two million dollars, could help toward faculty salary improvements.

Other community leaders helping the college included Dale Resler, chairman of the Land Acquisition and Development Committee; Francis Morgan, who headed the Development Committee; and L. A. Miller, chairman of Business and Industrial Gifts.

In this report, Heath mentioned that the oldest degree program in the school, mining engineering, would be discontinued because of lack of demand for it. L. L. Abernethy, dean of engineering, explained in his report that only seven students were majoring in mining; the program would be phased out by August of 1965 and the last degrees probably would be in June 1966.

Although mining was out of the picture, Texas Western had other interests to develop. Dr. Ray’s Golden Jubilee report pointed out that “No institution in the country has the consistent support among the local citizenry which we have.” Two geographic influences on the college, he said, were the remoteness, making it expensive to bring visiting lecturers to the campus or to send faculty members to professional meetings, and the bilingual nature of the border.

Clyde E. Kelsey, director of the Inter-American Institute, described its progress since its founding in 1961. Under a program with the United States Department of State, the College had conducted seminars on university administration in Colombia with such success that more seminars were scheduled on other aspects of that topic in 1963 and 1964, with sessions in both Colombia and the United States.

Floyd B. O’Neal, professor of chemistry, was chairman of the Faculty Council during the Jubilee. He reviewed the development of that body since its founding in 1960, “one of the few such groups functioning in Texas.” The council, he said, working toward “relief from the tedium of paperwork and administration” and more money and space for research. A proposed tenure system had been endorsed, “since it gives us assurances that hasty decisions will not deprive us of the services of one of our group without due process for cause.”

One of the Jubilee guest speakers was L. V. Berkner, president of the Graduate Research Center of the Southwest, who looked into his “Mark II crystal ball” to see how Texas Western might be faring at the century mark in 2014.

El Paso’s industry, he predicted, would be “almost wholly science-based, almost entirely directed toward making man more effective in his environment. . . Texas Western, a university now severely restricted to 30,000 students, with more than 10,000, perhaps 15,000, in the graduate school, yielding 400 Ph.D. graduates each year.” Education would not end with completion of a degree, he felt; technology and science would require not less than eight years of studies beyond the high school diploma.

Student publications from time to time brought the wrath of the community down on the administration. This was especially true over the years of El Burro, the humor/literary magazine that was published, somewhat irregularly, from 1939 until the early seventies when it expired, along with the Flowsheet. Rhoda Milnarich, in a NOVA article in Fall 1967, recalled some of the earlier scrapes, due foremost to off-color jokes that brought to Dean Judson F. Williams, the faculty advisor, such admonitions as the threat of a mother to remove her son and daughter from the school if the magazine were not cleaned up.

One crisis was that of the “mushroom issue” in which a picture of a beautiful girl was interpreted as pornographic because of a drawing on the back side of the page. The editor, Henry Sosa, was exonerated. Then came a parody of J. D. Salinger’s Catcher in the Rye under editors Henry Rettig and Dale L. Walker. A profane expression, typical of the character in the story, was used only once
but that was enough to arouse the local clergy who denounced the publication vehemently. After an administrative investigation, the parody was held to be justified in using the word and the incident resulted in the setting down of a “Statement of Academic Freedom” for the magazine.

The worst episode in _El Burro_ history came with the September 1966 issue in which the cover illustration and an article picked up on the Beatles’ statement about their popularity exceeding that of Jesus Christ. The ministers were joined by newspaper editors and civic leaders in outraged reaction to the material. The faculty committee on student publications recommended the dismissal of the editor. A protest group calling itself the Student Action Committee in December published a sixteen-page magazine called _The Opinion_, with an article questioning the handling of the episode. The next issue of _El Burro_, dated March 1967, had a new editor, Alan May, and took state-wide honors in the Texas Intercollegiate Press Association competition. But the matter did not end there. In the September 1967 issue of _Esquire_, an article on student rights cited the TWC magazine controversy as an example of injustice.

Another kind of publication came into being in 1965 when Doug Early of the News and Information Service was given a green light by President Ray and Vice President Leech to start what he called “a campus news magazine that we all may take pride in one day.” The creation of the magazine had been encouraged by Steele Jones, assistant to the president, who was also instrumental in implementing many of the Mission ’73 recommendations. He laid the groundwork for the development program, the Alumni Excellence Fund, and the alumni office. The editorial board members were faculty members Caleb Bevans, Allan Ehmann, John Middagh, Thornton Penfield, and Jack Dowdy. The art director was Bassel Wolfe of Marcom Advertising, a part-time instructor in the Art Department. Early chose the title NOVA, derived from the Latin _novus_, new, and in astronomy denoting an obscure star which suddenly achieves significant magnitude. The first issue appeared in Fall 1965 with articles on graduate programs, drama, research in the Schelling Laboratories, homecoming, football, and the president’s report.

Early was editor for the first three issues, then left the college. His successor was Dale L. Walker, who is still editor. The June 1988 issue is Whole No. 94. During a brief period of 1983-84, NOVA became a monthly, but returned to its four-times-a-year format and with the June 1987 issue became NOVA Quarterly. It carries feature articles about the university’s faculty, students, staff, research programs and other aspects of academic life, plus alumni news and a calendar of events. It is mailed without charge to nearly 30,000 alumni and friends of the university.
Mrs. Frances Stevens, who attended the School of Mines in 1917, began working on campus in 1931 as secretary to President John G. Barry and stayed to serve nine more presidents. She retired in 1961.

Cotton Memorial Building was new when this photo was taken in the late forties. Built in 1947 as the home of the Art Department, it had laboratories, classrooms, and galleries, plus a small auditorium with a tiny proscenium stage on the top floor, where the Drama Department performed plays before Magoffin Auditorium was completed in 1951. In recent years the building has housed the Communication Department and studios of Radio Station KTEP.

The Geology Building had this appearance in about 1950, when one of several additions was being made to what had originally been the 1917 Power House. At the left is one of the frame barrack buildings used for classrooms after World War II. Before the completion of the Engineering-Science Complex in 1976, this was called Engineering Building; later, when Quinn Hall became Old Geology, this was New Geology.
Worrell Hall was built in 1937 to answer the need for more dormitory facilities. The same style was used to build a second dormitory, Benedict Hall, a block away. Named for the first dean of the institution, Worrell Hall looked like this in the early 1950s after completion of Hudspeth Hall at the left and Miners Hall at the right.

Benedict Hall, built as a dormitory in 1937, has been used for offices in recent years and currently houses the Department of Political Science. It was named for H. Y. Benedict, president of The University of Texas from 1927 to 1937. During the years that the College of Mines was a subdivision of his university, Dr. Benedict often urged that it be given its own autonomy.

Bell Hall, built in 1947, had a wing with dining facilities for dormitory residents. In recent years it has served as the Computer Center. The rest of the building was for several years headquarters for the College of Business Administration; when that college's new building was completed in 1983, College of Science offices moved to Bell Hall.
Holliday Hall, left, was the basketball gym and Kidd Field was the football field when this photo was taken in the fifties. The radio stations identified on the pressbox are KEPO, KROD, and KTSM.

Holliday Hall was the home of the basketball team until the opening of Memorial Gym in 1961. It was also used for dances and assemblies. Built in 1933, it was decorated with murals related to the college's mining background. The building was remodeled for offices during the sixties, then became a gymnasium again for the gymnastics program.
In the studio of TWC-TV in 1953-54, Rita Salazar acted as floor manager for Jim Rodgers, cameraman.

The second Burges Hall residence hall was built in 1963 west of the Centennial Museum at Sunbord Drive and University Avenue.
Freshman turned out in their orange and white beanies for a rally in Magoffin Auditorium before going to Scenic Drive to take part in whitewashing the "M" on Mount Franklin. After their hard work, they would be treated to a bean feed.

"M" Day in the early 1950s brought a huge throng of freshmen—some wearing their orange and white caps—to Scenic Drive where they loaded water cans from a tank truck and carried whitewash up the hill.

The Sadie Hawkins Day race was staged on "M" Day in the fifties. On this occasion, October 10, 1953, a group of Daisy Maes and Li'l Abners posed for a Flow sheet picture. The yearbook editor commented, "Well, the boys weren't fast enough. Too bad. There's always next year."

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Some enterprising participants in this “M” Day brought their horses—note one tied to a pole just below the “M” and another one at the far right center of the photo.

Shake hands with St. Pat!

St. Patrick’s Day celebrations have changed locales over the years, but the spirit of the students’ oldest tradition has never changed. In 1966-67 women students got to kiss the green-painted blarney stone in what was years ago an all-male event.
John Middagh, longtime head of the journalism program, explains the mysteries of the Associated Press wire machine to Beverly Cottle, a member of the class of 1960.

Dr. Floyd Farquear, education professor from 1942-1964, discusses course work with student Betty Hall. He became the institution's third professor emeritus in 1964.
Professor Wade Hartrick, left, chats with a group including student Don Henderson, far right, a member of the class of 1956. In 1975 they would get together for a more memorable occasion when Henderson, then mayor of El Paso, was presented the College of Business Administration's first Business Leadership and Achievement Award by Dr. Hartrick.

Dr. Gladys Gregory, a faculty member from 1928 until 1962, in the late fifties became the first woman on the faculty to reach the rank of full professor. She taught courses in political science.

Jim Peak, who returned to the university as director of development 1977, was a journalism student interested in fitting type into pages for the Prospector. He was student body president in 1957-58.
Business students in the fifties sat at wooden desks and learned to operate the latest kinds of business machines.

As a Texas Western student, Murray Abraham portrayed the Indian Nocona in Comanche Eagle during the 1959-60 season, when he was given the best actor award by Alpha Psi Omega, honorary drama fraternity. The play's author, Professor Milton Leech, two years earlier had chosen him best actor in a high school play contest, and was among the El Pasanos cheering for F. Murray Abraham, professional actor, when he received the Academy Award in 1985 for his performance as Salieri in Amadeus. Courtesy Milton Leech.

Virgil Hicks, founder of the broadcast education program, and Jack Cross of the History Department hold radio tapes made by faculty members in 1959 to be distributed to the National Association of Educational Broadcasters.
The trumpet section of the Miner Band posed on a staircase for this 1960 Flowsheet photo.

Professor Joseph Rintelin, who joined the faculty in 1949, works with students in a metallurgy lab in this photo dating from the sixties. He retired in 1972 as professor emeritus.
Professor Vera Wise, left, who taught art from 1939 to 1962 and chaired the Art Department most of that time, discusses with graduate student Tana Horwitz her entry in the spring 1962 student exhibit.

Bobby Dobbs turned the Miner football program around in 1965 with an 8-3 season after no wins the year before. He remained at the helm for eight years with an overall record of forty-one wins, thirty-five losses, and two ties, resigning before the 1972 season ended. He was named to the El Paso Athletic Hall of Fame in 1977.

Don Brady of the drama faculty goes over plans for a 1964 production with Doris Ober, left, and Beatrice Ramirez. Photo by I. B. Lindenthal.
A beanie-clad freshman awaits the opening of Freshman Orientation on September 13, 1965, at Magoffin Auditorium.

Maj. Gen. Ralph M. Osborne, deputy commanding general of the Fourth U.S. Army, addressed senior ROTC cadets of Texas Western College, scheduled for graduation and commissioning in 1962, during a campus visit in April. They assembled across the street from the Centennial Museum; Old Engine No. 1 did not yet have a shelter. U.S. Army Photo.
The hills north of the campus were bare in 1965, with few businesses along Mesa Street at upper right. The arroyo that winds from the right of the Liberal Arts Building under Hawthorne to the lower right of the picture is now covered by the Engineering-Science Complex.
Atmospheric research with helium balloons became an important aspect of Schellenger Laboratories research in the seventies. The first balloon payload was fabricated and assembled at UTEP under the direction of Miguel Izquierdo. This photo shows a test flight launched from the field south of Bell Hall, with Providence Memorial Hospital in the background. The balloon program was part of STRATCOM (STRAtospheric COMposition), with the balloons launched from Hollomon Air Force Base by researchers from White Sands Missile Range.

Eddie Chew, manager of the Optical and Mechanical Test Center of the Schellenger Laboratories in 1967, holds a rocket nose cone to be tested. A shake table is in the foreground and a centrifuge is at the rear, both used in testing delicate instruments.
Henry the burro became the official mascot in 1966 after President Joseph M. Ray complained that Henry’s predecessor was a “sorry-looking, pot-bellied” creature not suited to representing the Miners. Ron McCluskey, Student Association president, said of Henry: “He symbolizes the school spirit of the student body and reflects the stubbornness and determination characteristic of the athletic teams at U.T. El Paso.”

Rex Gerald was director of the El Paso Centennial Museum from 1958 until 1980. In recent years he has been teaching anthropology and directing research at the site of the first European building constructed in Texas, the Socorro mission built in the late seventeenth century.
The 1967 Texas Legislature enacted a bill changing the name of Texas Western College to The University of Texas at El Paso. Governor John B. Connally, seated center, signed the act into law before a group of El Pasaos. From left are Representative H. Tuti Santiesteban, industrialist E. Ray Lockhart, banker Sam D. Young, Jr., Representative Ray Muniz, Senator Joe W. Christie, booster Jack C. Vowell, President Joseph M. Ray, Representative John E. Blaine, Representative Ralph W. Scagons, and (seated) Representative Paul C. Moreno.

Signs of the times in 1967 were the old—a Texas Western decal with the seal on the left and Paydirt Pete at right—and the new, complete with the new seal for The University of Texas at El Paso. Only Pete remained the same.
The library displayed Patricia McCormick's autobiography, Lady Bullfighter (1954), and other items related to her unusual career. A former art student at Texas Western, she gave up her studies for the bullring in the early 1950s.

Georgina Sanchez is ready to don her nametag and join other alums at a fifties Homecoming party.
Former band members organized this Ex-Students’ Band for the 1957 Homecoming parade through downtown El Paso.
Two Golddiggers, Sharon Lankford, left, and Maribet Nail, encourage interest in football for the 1962 season. Their uniforms were short orange skirts and long-sleeved blouses, worn with white boots and white Western hats.
Coach Don Haskins started spoiling Miner fans with winning seasons in his first year on board, 1961-62, when the win-loss record was 18-6. From left are Haskins, Major Dennis, Danny Vaughn, Willie Brown, and Bobby Joe Hill (not to be confused with a later player of the same name). Courtesy UTEP Sports Media Relations.

The 1966 Miner basketball team gathers around its national championship trophy. By 1988 no other Texas team had yet claimed the NCAA men's title. First row, from left, are Bobby Joe Hill, Orsten Artis, Togo Railey, Willie Worsley; second row, David Palacio, Dick Myers, Harry Flournoy, Louis Baudoin; third row, Nevil Shed, Jerry Armstrong, Willie Cager, David Lattin, and Coach Don Haskins. The team held a reunion in 1986.
Kidd Field has a sign on the side, "Texas Western," in this photo from about 1960. Next to the stadium is the metal building for the Military Science Department. Right center is a research facility built by El Paso Natural Gas Co. in 1959 and acquired by the university in 1974. It is now the Brumbelow Building and houses offices of the Intercollegiate Athletics Department.

Leroy Johnston, guard, at left, and Jim Evans, end, were co-captains of the 1963 football team. Evans earned a spot on the list of Miners’ top receivers with eight carries for 131 yards in the 34-7 win against North Texas State, and went on to the pro ranks with the New York Jets. Courtesy UTEP Sports Media Relations.
The Turning Point was painted by El Pasoan Tom Lea to commemorate the last-minute victory over the University of Utah in Salt Lake City on November 13, 1965. The Miners trailed 13-19 when they took over the ball on their own eight-yard line with sixteen seconds left in the game. Quarterback Billy Stevens took the ball from center and rolled left behind his own goal line to pass. End Bob Wallace caught the pass on the thirty-nine yard line and ran all the way for a touchdown. Joe Cook converted to give the Miners a 20-19 victory, scored after time had run out in the game. The play was the turning point of the game and the season as well. The Miners won all the remaining games and defeated a powerful Texas Christian University team 13-12 in the Sun Bowl Game.
Suzi Navarro was among Student Association officers who canvassed property owners on College Avenue in October 1967 before asking City Council to change the street’s name to University Avenue. At left is SA President Jim Phelan, with Vice President Roger Ellison at right. They were successful in their mission.

Dr. Milton Leech, on opposite page, was vice president from 1966 to 1968, a period when the Buildings and Grounds Committee was looking for a site for a new education building. One spot that came under scrutiny was the corner of Wiggins and University, but Dr. Leech protested that it was just about the only grassy area with trees where students could relax between classes. Another building site was found and students unofficially dubbed the corner Leech Grove. In 1985 the name was made official, when the small park was dedicated to Dr. Leech, by then professor emeritus. He served as acting president in 1968-69 and was vice president for academic affairs for the next two years.

A crane was used to lift UTEP’s first major computer equipment into Old Main in February 1967. The Control Data Corporation 3100 computer system, with twenty components, was placed in a newly renovated third-floor space for the computer center coordinated by physics Professor Robert Schumacher. The leased equipment was said to provide computational capabilities not formerly available between Austin and Denver. One of its uses was for research conducted by the Schellenger Laboratories.
The Kappa Sigma lodge was built in 1950 on Hawthorne. When the University acquired the fraternity and sorority lodges in 1969, this one was used as the Geology Annex. It was razed in 1976 for construction of the Library Annex; that building has been redesignated the Academic Services Building.

The Lambda Chi Alpha lodge, facing Hawthorne, was built by the fraternity in 1949. It was acquired by the University in 1969 and was used for classes and the News Service offices. The building was razed in 1980 and the area, near the back entrance to the Liberal Arts Building, was planted in grass and trees, with a rose garden near the street.
Hundreds of luminarias outlined the buildings and sidewalks of the campus in 1967, with the new "UTEP" identification in front of Magoffin Auditorium.

Luminarias are a Southwestern Christmas tradition, made by placing candles in paper sacks anchored with sand. Photo by Chuck Miller.
This July 1976 aerial shows the dormitories, Student Health Center, and Dining Commons, lower left, with the baseball field across the street from the commons. Lower right is the Engineering-Science Complex. The Library Annex has not yet been built across the street. The white-washed "M" above the Sun Bowl was first laid out in 1965, after the letter on Mount Franklin was discontinued.