Nine El Paso Parks Get New Playground Equipment

Gear Valued At $4700

Kids in the Palm Grove park area climbed aboard the "Little Engine Climber," a new playground toy installed at the park, today and gave their delighted approval.

Gene Stogner, City Parks and Recreation employe in charge of the project, announced that new playground equipment valued at $4700 will be installed at nine El Paso parks. The Palm Grove park was first to receive some of the new equipment.

Besides the Little Engine Climber, an animal swing set, a whirl-a-way and a Castle Slide Tower were also installed. Children started playing on the new equipment almost before installations were completed.

Other park areas due to get new equipment are Cork Street, Memorial, Memorial (old bridge area), Grandview, Tobin, Cedar Grove, Carl Leonardt and Alamo. The equipment will be painted in polka dots and candy stripes to attract the youngsters' attention.

The equipment includes swing sets, towers, whirl-a-ways, slides and turtles. The turtles are made of concrete and are fine for climbing over and under.

ENJOY SLIDE TOWER—A Castle Slide Tower has also been installed at Palm Grove park. Eager youngsters climbed aboard while a worker was still laying a cement base under the Tower.

NEW FUN TRAIN—Palm Grove children are delighted with the Little Engine Climber in their park which was installed by the City Parks and Recreation Dept. Notice the polka dot wheels on the stationary "choo choo."

Retired Minister Taken by Death

The Rev. Lou O. Vermillion of 4418 Trowbridge drive died yesterday. He was 78.

He was a retired Baptist minister and had lived in El Paso 37 years. He was a former pastor of the Highland Park and Immanuel Baptist Churches here. He had served five years as an evangelist for the Southern Baptist Conference. He was a member of the Relief and Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. He was a member of Immanuel Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, Mrs. Adah R. Vermillion, a daughter, Miss Lillie Mae Vermillion, both of El Paso, four sons, Lewis C. Vermillion of Tucson, Ariz., Eugene M. Vermillion of Salt Lake City, John H. Vermillion of Aztec, N. M. and Herbert L. Vermillion of Seattle, Wash., and two brothers, Brady Vermillion of Artogoa, Texas and Marvel Vermillion of Anna, Texas.

Funeral services will be held Monday at 3 p. m. at Immanuel Baptist Church. The Rev. George Park will officiate. Burial will be in Restlawn.

Three Employes Get Bliss Awards

Maj. C. L. Wilberger, Division Chief of the Stock Control, G-4 section of Ft. Bliss, presented three civilian awards to El Paso residents. They are James C. Bean, who was presented the Commendation Certificate for his outstanding performance at Center Ordnance as Supervisory Administrative Officer; Mrs. Mary A. Maynes, clerk-stenographer, was awarded the outstanding performance rating; and Hector Acosta for submitting a usable suggestion, was presented a cash award and certificate.

Young Speakers Reminded of Opportunities

"You boys have an unlimited business future, but only if you will let nothing stand in your way in getting a good solid education and continuing your work through your Toastmasters Club towards acquiring the important ability of clear self-expression," said Mike Brumbelow in his address to the members of the El Paso Boys' Club Junior Linguistic Toastmaster Club.

The occasion was the new officers' installation party held in the banquet room of the Ramada Inn.

Eddie Marquez, the adult volunteer director of Junior Toastmasters, installed officers who will serve for six months. They are: Sergio Reza, president; Willie Chavez, vice president; Sal Garcia, secretary and Ben Garcia, sergeant-at-arms.

Outgoing President Sal Garcia presided and Ben Garcia was toastmaster. Topicmaster was Sergio Reza who asked Junior Toastmasters and three of the adult guests to speak extemporaneously on a variety of subjects. The three main five minute speakers were Johnny Uranga, Joe Renteria and Willie Chavez.

Planners Adopt Terrace Hill Map

City Plan Commission adopted a subdivision map for unit six of Terrace Hills adjacent to Fairbanks drive in northeast El Paso.

The map, submitted by Blackmon and Associates, developers of the area, includes 71 lot sfor residences.

Ken Braxton of El Paso appeared before the Commission meeting in City Council chambers to discuss land used in Stiles Gardens adjacent to Dale road in the Lower Valley. He asked the Commission to consider change of zoning in part of the area from residential to commercial.

City Plan Engineer Jonathan Cunningham said the Commission would study the area and bring it up for discussion next month.

In other action the Commission approved a change in the building set-back line from 70 to 40 feet in the 2300 block of Dyer street. The request was made by A. A. Shamaley, owner of the property, who said he plans to build a dry cleaning establishment there.

KEY REMINDER—Jay Sweeney, Northeast 20-30 Club president, left, and Jimmy Hicks, subdistrict governor, display key. These keys will be placed on all cars in various shopping centers throughout the City advising owners to take their keys out of the ignition. Members sponsor this campaign to help reduce juvenile crimes as studies reveal 55 per cent of such crimes involves auto thefts, and that most cases of stolen cars occur as result of keys left in ignition.

Two Join Staff At Texas Western

Two Doctors of Education have been appointed to the Texas Western College faculty, it was announced by Dr. Joseph M. Ray, TWC president.

They are Dr. Marion Cline Jr., and Dr. Lloyd Gayle Cooper.

Dr. Cline, who is originally from Indiana, received his bachelor's degree from Ball State Teachers College, his master's from New Mexico Highlands University and his doctorate from the University of Southern California.

He has held several educational positions in New Mexico, including that of director of education of the Santa Fe County Schools and instructor at New Mexico Highlands University.

Dr. Cline is expecially qualified in the area of remedial reading and the teaching of bilinguals. He and his wife, Betty, have two children—Sally, 24, and Candace, 18.

Dr. Cooper attended high school in Capitan, N. M., and received both his bachelor's and master's degrees from New Mexico State University. He received his doctorate from the University of Oregon.

He has taught at Las Cruces High School and the University of Oregon, where he had a teaching fellowship.

Dr. Cooper and his wife, Carolynn, have four children, Mark, 5; Kirk, 4; Kelt, 2; and Shaun, 7 months.

Patterson's Sold; No Operational Changes Planned

Continued operation of Patterson Photo Supply under that name was in prospect today with announcement that David E. Goodman has bought the firm whose owners, Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Patterson, vanished without a trace in March, 1957. The sale is subject to approval of Judge William E. Ward of 34th District Court, who is on vacation.

Application for court authority to sell the property to Mr. Goodman was made by Herbert Roth, receiver for the Patterson estate.

Price Is $80,000

The proposed sale price is $80,000, and will include merchandise, fixtures and leasehold at 718 North Stanton street. Patterson Photo Supply moved to that location early this year from where it was located for years at 113-15 East Main drive.

Mr. Goodman, engaged in real estate and property management at 917 North Oregon street and one of the most widely known business men in El Paso, said his offer to buy Patterson Photo Supply is intended princiaplly as an investment, but he expects to give some personal attention to the photo business.

He said the new manager will be Jerome S. Reed, who now operates Reed's Photo Mart at Mills and Stanton streets, and James W. Lyon, present manager of Patterson Photo Supply, will assist Mr. Reed in the management. Mr. Goodman said no changes in personnel is contemplated.

'Good Investment'

"Patterson Photo Supply is a long-established business of the finest reputation," Mr. Goodman said. "I consider it a good investment. I also desire to see the firm continue in business under the name that is so well established, instead of possibly sold to outsiders or maybe liquidated in the event its former owners are declared legally dead less than two years from now.

"If the sale is approved by the Court, it is my intention to continue the business under its present and long-established name. It will be a firm wholly owned in El Paso. It is in a good location. The same franchises will be kept, assuring supplies and equipment manufactured by the nation's foremost photographic sources."

Rev. Lyman Coleman

'Crusader' Sets Breakfast Talk

The Rev. Lyman Coleman, one of the members of the Billy Graham team directing the local Crusade, will be the speaker at the Youth Activities Week Inspiration Breakfast on Wednesday, Aug. 22 at 6:30 a. m. at Trinity Methodist Church.

His topic will be: "The Personal Life of the Christian." The breakfast will be held in the Church Undercroft. The Inspiration Breakfast, held in the week prior to Youth Activities Week, is an opportunity for youth to prepare themselves spiritually for the opportunities during the coming week.

Mr. Coleman is a graduate of Baylor University, and the Biblical Seminary in New York. He began as the "errand boy" of The Counseling and Follow-up Department in 1954 in Nashville, Tenn., and has since served in practically every phase of the Crusade organization. Just prior to coming to El Paso, he served as the Regional Co-ordinator for the Greater Chicago Crusade.

All youth of the Senior High, College, and Covenant Classes are invited.

Completes Course

Thomas E. Cannon of 6212 Bel Mar avenue, who is associated with Buckner and Bymark, certified public accountants, has returned from Austin upon completion of two weeks of professional training, at a course sponsored by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants at the University of Texas.

Sands Unit Gets New Supervisory Agency

Nearly 100 personnel charged with cataloging and co-ordinating millions of radio frequencies so the missiles can fly at White Sands will continue their job here under a new supervisory agency.

The 90 Frequency Co-ordination personnel, formerly part of the U. S. Army Signal Missile Support Agency at White Sands, are assigned to the U. S. Army Signal Radio Propagation Agency. They will continue to be located at WSMR.

Counseling Classes Set For Graham Crusade

Forrest Layman, assistant director of counseling and follow-up for the Billy Graham Crusade, is the latest member of the advance team for the event to arrive in El Paso. Classes to train counselors will begin Oct. 1, with locations to be announced at a later date, Mr. Layman said.

Volunteers from the membership of local churches attend four class periods which will qualify them to meet with the individual convert, help the convert to understand his problems, and recommend portions of the scriptures, Mr. Layman said. He will also do follow-up work, seeing that the convert becomes affiliated with a church, answering questions the convert may have and preparing an information sheet concerning the convert for the use of his minister.

The first class will deal with qualifications of a counselor. The second class is "Use of the Scriptures in Counseling." Class three is "Counseling for Restoration and Unconverted," and class four is called "New Testament Follow-up."

A fifth session will cover procedures in counseling.

Mr. Layman is from Southbend, Ind., and has been with the Crusade since 1958. He is a graduate of Columbia Bible College and will be in El Paso through most of December.

He served with Nato in Naples, Italy for tree years as secretary to the U. S. Army General for the "readiness of forces in southern European countries," he said, and he has come to El Paso from the Chicago Crusade.

Forrest Layman

Advance work, making preparations for the appearance of Mr. Graham, Nov. 4 through 11, has been under way in El Paso for some time.

The meetings are interdenominational, Mr. Layman said, with most churches actively participating. Churches from other cities in the area have planned to send delegates.

REGISTRATION BEGINS at Grace Methodist Church for the weekday kindergarten which opens Sept. 4. From left: Mrs. Glenn Elwood, director, Chrissy Cooper, a graduate of the school, who is registering her brother Lon and her sister, Susie. They are the children of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Cooper. Registration is still open.

Church Services

BAPTIST

The Rev. L. Bryant Adams will speak on CHRISTIANITY SELF-ILLUSTRATED at the 10:45 a. m. service at Second Baptist Church. At the 7 p. m. service he will speak on THE GROWTH OF APOSTOLIC POWER.

At Immanuel Baptist Church the Rev. George C. Park will speak on THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT at the 10:45 a. m. service and THE LOVE OF GOD at the 7 p. m. service.

The Rev. W. E. King will speak on LETS FACE THE LIGHT at the 10:55 a. m. service at Mount Franklin Baptist Church.

At Tigua Baptist Church the Rev. James H. DeBusk will speak on HAVE YOU BEEN WITH JESUS? at the 11 a. m. service and THE TRUE CALL OF GOD at the 7:30 p. m. service.

Dr. W. Herschell Ford will speak on THE GREAT SERMON OF THE KING at the 10:50 a. m. service at First Baptist Church. At the 6:40 p. m. service he will speak on "R.S.V.P."

At Grandview Baptist Church Dr. Leon P. Woods will speak on A CHALLENGING RACE at the 10:40 a. m. service and THREE ELEMENTS OF CHRISTIAN LIFE at the 7:05 p. m. service.

UNANSWERED PRAYER is the subject of the sermon to be given by the Rev. Jack C. Burton at the 10:50 a. m. service at Valley View Baptist Church. At the 7:15 p. m. service will speak on THE MARKS OF A SOUL WINNER.

The Rev. George Cook will be guest speaker at the 9:55 a. m. service at Skyline Baptist Church. At the 7:30 p. m. service the guest speaker will be Dr. Frank Patterson.

At Highland Park Baptist Church the Rev. Raymond Sanders will speak on CLEARLY PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL MESSAGE at the 10:40 a. m. service and UNIVERSAL SIN AND THE GOSPEL REMEDY at the 7:30 p. m. service.

LUTHERAN

The Rev. John B. Rupley Jr. will speak on LAW OR LOVE? at the 10:30 a. m. service at St. Timothy Lutheran Church.

At St. Paul's Lutheran Church Dr. John F. Putths will speak on OPERATING INSTRUCTIONS at the 10:30 a. m. service.

The Rev. David Peters will speak on LET GOD BE GOD at the 8 and 10:15 a. m. service at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church.

At Mount Hope Lutheran Church the Rev. Elnar R. Larson will speak on WISE STEWARDSHIP at the 10 a. m. service.

The Rev. W. P. Clausen will speak on TREASURE SEEKERS at the 8 and 10:45 a. m. services at Grace Lutheran Church.

At Ascension Lutheran Church the Rev. H. W. Brill will speak on PAUL: THE CHRISTIAN AND THE APOSTLE at the 8:15 and 10:45 a. m. services.

The Rev. Paul F. Stueckler will speak on GODLINESS WITH CONTENTMENT IS GREAT GAIN at the 8:30 and 11 a. m. services at Zion Lutheran Church.

METHODIST

At St. Paul's Methodist Church the Rev. James J. Spurlin will speak on THE LONG LOOK AT LIFE at the 8:30 and 10:50 a. m. services.

DEALING WITH GRIEF is the subject of the sermon to be given at the 8:45 and 11 a. m. services at First Methodist Church by the Rev. Robert M. Templeton Jr. At 6:15 p. m. he will conduct candlelight communin services.

The Rev. Leroy Smith will speak on THE LAYAWAY PLAN at the 8:30 and 11 a. m. service at Mt. View Methodist Church. At the 7 p. m. service he will speak on SIMON MAGUS, THE MAGICIAN.

At Ysleta Methodist Church the Rev. Alfred C. Pace will speak on UNDERWRITE YOUR FAITH at the 10:55 a. m. service and at the 7 p. m. service, the Rev. William R. Plumbley will be guest speaker.

Dr. John L. Carpenter will speak on SAFELY THROUGH DARKNESS at the 8:30 and 10:55 a. m. services at Asbury Methodist Church.

At Tobin Park Methodist Church the Rev. A. W. Robinson Jr. will speak on GOOD MEN, BAD MEN AND GOD at the 8:30 and 11 a. m. service and CHILD ARISE at the 6 p. m. service.

The Rev. Rodney E. Roberts will speak on SECURE IN OUR FAITH at the 10:30 a. m. service at St. Luke Methodist Church.

HE TOOK HER BY THE HAND is the subject of the sermon to be given at the 11 a. m. service at Western Hills Methodist Church by the Rev. Charles E. Price.

At Grace Methodist Church Dr. J. R. Scrimshire will speak on A LITTLE RELIGION at the 8:45 and 11 a. m. services and at the 6 p. m. service Don McCune will be the speaker.

At the 8:30 and 10:55 a. m. services at Trinity Methodist Church, the Rev. Jack R. Wallis will speak on THE PRIORITY OF GOD AGAIN at the 7 p. m. service.

The Rev. A. V. Olmos will speak on ASK AND YOU WILL RECEIVE at the 11 a. m. service at Open Door Spanish Methodist Church and THE DIVINE INSTRUCTOR at the 7:30 p. m. service.

At St. Mark's Methodist Church the Rev. Robert Baird will speak on THE SEVENTH VEIL at the 8:30 and 11 a. m. services.

The Rev. Horacio Vargas will speak on TODAY'S CHALLENGE at the 11 a. m. service and REVIVAL TIME at 7:30 p. m. service at El Divion Redemor Methodist Church.

EPISCOPAL

At the Church of St. Clement the Rev. Robert T. Gibson will speak on SPIRITUAL INTELLECTUALISM—FAD, FOLLY, OR . . . ? at the 9:15 and 11 a. m. services.

The Rev. Malcolm N. Twiss will speak on SUFFER UNDER PONTIUS PILATE at the 9:30 a. m. service and HEALTHY MINDS at the 11 a. m. service.

At the Church of St. Christopher the Rev. Kenneth L. Rice will speak on ARE YOU SAVED? at the 11 a. m. service.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

SOUNDS is the subject of the sermon to be given at the 11 a. m. service at Valley Assembly of God by the Rev. Wesley J. Lange. At the 7:30 p. m. service he will speak on THE HOLY SPIRIT'S PLACE IN THE BELIEVER.

The Rev. William Hagerman will speak on AS A MAN THINKETH at the 8:30 and 10:30 a. m. service at First Assembly of God and 7:30 p. m. a film "Decade of Decision" will be shown.

NAZARENE

At First Church of the Nazarene the Rev. Harold W. Morris will speak on CURING SOCIETY'S LEPROSY at the 10:40 a. m. service and THE FINAL VICTORY at the 7 p. m. service.

The Rev. T. H. Suddarth will speak on WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW CHRIST at the 10:55 a. m. service and THE GREAT QUESTION at the 7:30 p. m. service at Immanuel Church of the Nazarene.

CHRISTIAN

At Bethany Christian Church the Rev. Clifford D. Parker will speak on WHY DO YOU COME TO CHURCH? at the 9 a. m. service.

Guest speaker at the 8:30 a. m. service at Northgate Christian Church will be the Rev. C. Don Manning who will speak on AND THEN THERE WERE NONE.

At First Christian Church the Rev. Keith Pierce will speak on SERVING THE MASTER at the 8:15 a. m. service and at the 10:55 a. m. service the Rev. Harold Edward will speak on THE FREEDOM OF FAITH.

At Austin Park Christian Church the Rev. Lee G. Hobart will be guest speaker. At the 10:50 a. m. service his subject will be THE ASSURANCE OF SALVATION. At the 7:29 p. m. service he will speak on GLORYING IN THE CROSS.

CONGREGATIONAL (United Church of Christ)

The Rev. Wilburn O. Harmon will speak on LIVING WITH MYSELF at the 8:30 and 10:50 a. m. services at Valley Congregational Church.

PRESBYTERIAN

The Rev. Glenn J. Bixler will speak on MAN: SIGNIFICANT OR INSIGNIFICANT? at the 10:50 a. m. service at Meneely Memorial Presbyterian Church.

At First Presbyterian Church the Rev. George W. Burroughs will speak on THE TRUE GOD at the 8:30 and 11 a. m. services.

Dr. Hobart Bennett will speak on REAPING THE WHIRLWIND at the 10:50 a. m. service at Hillside Bible Presbuterain Church. At the 7:30 p. m. service, Dwain Holsapple will speak on TO LIVE IS CHRIST.

At Altura Presbuterian Church the Rev. E. E. Diggs Jr. will speak on UNBOTTLING GOD at the 10:50 a. m. service.

The Rev. John H. Justus will speak on THE GRACE OF GOD at the 11 a. m. service at Manhattan Presbyterian Church.

At St. Andrew Presbyterian Church the Rev. Charles G. Burton will speak on THE MISSION OF THE SON OF MAN at the 11 a. m. service and THE COMING OF CHRIST at the 7 p. m. service.

At Trinity Presbyterian Church the Rev. Jim Brock will speak on THE CHRISTIAN FUNERAL at the 8:30 and 11 a. m. services.

The Rev. Ronald M. Guinn will speak on SEARCH OR STUMBLE? at the 10:45 a. m. service at University Presbyterian Church.

At Highland Presbyterian Church the Rev. Paul O. Ellis will speak on NO HIDING PLACE at the 8:30 and 11 a. m. services.

METAPHYSICAL CENTRE

Llewis Trubey will speak on FIRST CORINTHIANS, 11TH CHAPTER at the 7:15 p. m. service at Universal Harmony Metaphysical Centre.

REORGANIZED CHURCH OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

Jack Delaney will speak on LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE at the 9 a. m. service at Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

UNITY

The Rev. Mabel B. Peck will speak on WHO IS A PROSPEROUS MAN? at the 11 a. m. service at Unity Temple.

ORTHODOX

At St. George Orthodox Church the MATIN SERVICE will be presented in Arabic from 10 to 11 a. m. From 11 until 12 noon, the Dvine Liturgy will be presented in English and in Arabic. The theme will be THE FALLING ASLEEP OF THE MOTHER OF GOD. The Pastor is the Rev. Nicholas Husson.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE

At First Church of Christ, Scientist the subject of the 9:30 and 11 a. m. services will be SOUL.

SOUL will be the subject of the service at 11 a. m. at Second Church of Christ, Scientists.

NON-DENOMINATIONAL

The speaker for the 10:45 a. m. service at El Paso Christian Institute will be Mrs. Maxine Gallo.

UNITARIAN

At First Unitarian Church the Rev. Charles C. G. Marker will speak on MAN'S RESTLESS SEARCH at the 11 a. m. service.

Charles Kangas will present a program of poetry, THE MODERN CRISIS, at the 10 a. m. service at Unitarian Fellowship of El Paso.

FOURSQUARE

At First Foursquare Church the guest speaker at the 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m. services will be Dr. Orlando J. Shields.

Out of the West

$100,000 Villa Assassination Fee Rejected

By BILL McGAW

Emil Holmdahl, soldier of both fortune and misfortune, denies emphatically he opened Pancho Villa's grave in 1926 and decapitated the corpse of the revolutionary leader for a reputed $50,000, but he admits he was offered $100,000 in 1917 to assassinate Villa — and he turned that proposition down for several reasons. "I was offered $100,000 after our troops came out of Mexico under General Pershing in 1917 to go back down into Mexico on my own and as a private citizen to assassinate Villa," the 79-year-old soldier told me in a recent interview at his home in Van Nuys, Calif.

McGaw

Holmdahl charged that the offer was made to him at Ft. Bliss by General Bell, at the behest of Col. Herbert Slocum, commander of the 13th Cavalry stationed at Columbus, and General Pershing, who led the expeditionary troops into Mexico to disperse Villa and his forces.

"General Pershing came to me one day with Colonel Slocum and gave me three $20 gold pieces for my expenses to Ft. Bliss to talk with General Bell," explained Holmdahl. "Bell said I would be paid $100,000 if I would slip into Mexico and murder Villa. They figured I was the only man alive who would be able to get near enough to Villa to assassinate him.

* * *

"I ASKED General Bell who would pay the money, where it was coming from and he told me the $100,000 would be paid by Russel Sage, the millionaire father-in-law of Colonel Slocum.

"I was informed that Colonel Slocum considered Villa's raid on Columbus as a reflection on his personal honor and the only way this blot could be removed was by the death of Villa."

Holmdahl told about the offer in reply to another question I had asked him. Old-timers who were in Columbus at the time of the raid have insisted that the circumstances were such to lead them to believe that Villa raided the border town in collusion with our Government —or at least some pretty high representatives of it.

Holmdahl said he didn't think this was true—and then he told of the Slocum-Pershing-Bell offer to kill Villa as a refutation that there could have been collusion.

"If there had been collusion," asked Holmdahl, "then why would they offer me $100,000 to kill Villa?"

Holmdahl's answer at the moment satisfied me, but reflecting later, I could see that there was another side to the coin, even $100,000 worth of coin:

They could have wanted Villa silenced.

Holmdahl said they picked him because they figured he was the only man who could get to Villa. Holmdahl had been a captain under Villa in the early days of the revolution and he had even been convicted in a U. S. Federal Court and sentenced to one and one-half years for participating in the Mexican Revolution. His trial was in El Paso.

But let's go back into Holmdahl's background and see how he got mixed up in the fighting down there to begin with.

* * *

EMIL HOLMDAHL was one of eight children born to Mr. and Mrs. Frank Holmdahl at Fort Dodge, Iowa. Both of his parents had come to this country from Sweden as small children and his father was an electrical engineer. Emil was born in 1883.

Emil had an older brother, Monty, who had joined the Army and served in the Spanish American War; Emil wanted to join up, too, but was too young.

"Anyway," said Emil, "I left home and got to Kansas City. When I got there, I had only $2 and I gave this to some bum to come with me to the recruiting station and swear I was of age."

Emil served in the Philippines, was discharged and arrived back in San Francisco just the day before the big earthquake. The city needed rebuilding and Emil got a job as a pipe-fitter, but after a few months of this, the job began to cloy. Holmdahl heard the Southern Pacific was building a railroad in Mexico, along the west coast, near Mazatlan. He applied for a job and got it.

* * *

WHEN EMIL arrived in Mexico, his soldiering background came in handy. They put him in charge of guarding the wagon carrying the right-away money. Emil explained that a half-breed Mexican named Douglas went out ahead of the track layers and negotiated right-of-ways and paid for them immetiately in gold, which was carried in a wagon. Now running around Mexico with a wagon-load of gold wasn't then —and isn't now — a healthy thing to do unless you have a heavy guard. Emil was put in charge of 250 rurales and they saw that nobody knocked off the right-of-way wagon. And nobody did.

But one night their camp was attacked by about 1000 peones and the latter stole most of their horses. Emil and his boys saddled up the ones left and took out after them.

"When I caught up with these peones, I asked them what the hell they were doing, stealing our horses.

"They told me they were starting a revolution, that Madero was fixing to take Juarez and that they were going to take over the west part of the country. I told these yokels they'd get hurt messing around in the amateur way they were going about it. I could see with a revolution going on, there wasn't going to be any railroad building, so I said to them, 'Tell you what. I'll let you take the horses, but I'm going along, too. I'll take charge. You guys don't know how to run a revolution.' "

So, Emil found himself at the head of an army, a private army all of his own, which is something he had been wanting for a long time.

* * *

THEY FOUGHT in Western Mexico and secured that portion of the country for Madero, around Mazatlan, then when Madero was murdered, the call went out for all of the old Maderistos to gather at La Ascencion, Chihuahua, and Emil took his outfit across Senora and the Sierra Madres and arrived in La Ascencion in 1912.

"I got there before Villa did," said Holmdahl, "as a matter of fact, Villa wasn't anybody much in those days. He came in there from El Paso with nine men and there were thousands from all parts of the country. It was here, by the barest chance, that Villa and his destiny got together. With all these soldiers running around loose, things were in a helluva shape. Looting, raping—anything went and it became obvious that somebody was going to have to take charge—and quick—to restore order.

"A meeting was called of all the officers at an old abandoned grocery store at the edge of La Ascencion. I was there when it was decided that the officer who had the greatest seniority under Madero would take charge—regardless of any other qualifications.

"It turned out that Villa's commission under Madero was just seven days older than that of Aclovio Hernandez, so that made Villa boss. Just by seven days. And that really was it; Villa would have been just another guy, otherwise.

"Our first big battle was at San Andres, where we captured a lot of stores and that put us on our feet," explained Holmdahl. And it was at San Andres where Holmdahl was cited for gallantry in action, for which he was later awarded the Mexican Legion of Honor. Holmdahl received this award in 1952 and is one of not more than two dozen revolutionary heroes in all Mexico given this honor.

Holmdahl said that during the various other engagements that he and Villa became close friends, sat night after night around the campfires talking. It was during these times Holmdahl learned something of Villa's early life. Holmdahl contends that virtually all the printed material on Pancho is wrong.

* * *

"THE TRUE STORY, as he told me," said Holmdahl, "is that his father's name was truly Arango and that his father and the father of Tomas Urbina were cattle rustlers, which was the only way a poor man in Mexico could get enough to eat under Diaz. Villa's father and Urbina's father were put to death on the same day my Federales. Then Pancho's mother remarried, married a man named Villa, so Pancho took his stepfather's name when he was just a boy. Then Pancho's mother had Hipolito, which makes him only Villa's half-brother, and Hipolito's father was really named Villa. That's the way Villa told it to me and he had no reason to lie in those days."

Holmdahl went on to serve with the American Army in Europe and came out a captain in the Engineers. Emil did not tell me, but Chester Chope, associate editor of The Herald-Post who knew Holmdahl in the early days, says the Swede from Iowa came back with decorations, but made no public mention of it.

"Holmdahl," Chope said, "was in the army which saved Paris and was cited for bravery in action. But he never told anybody; he didn't brag about it."

Holmdahl has spent most of the time since in Mexico, in various mining ventures and right at this very moment is someplace in Western Mexico, on a mule, working on another "big project." When I talked to him, a few days ago, he was just preparing to leave California for Mexico and he told me about his newest plans, but they are of such a nature that any publicity about them would injure chances of success, so I swore to Emil I wouldn't write anything about his projected ventures.

As a part of his preparation, Emil was cleaning and getting ready his two guns, his sidearms. And he wasn't happy about it.

"You know," he said, "Fifty years ago when I was down there fighting in the revolution, I would have sworn that by now nobody would have to go armed in Mexico. But here I am, 50 years later, carrying the same damned guns I was then. I didn't think it would be like this. I wish it wasn't."

* * *

BUD RUTHERFORD, formerly a city editor and sports editor of the old Herald, had told me about a time when Holmdahl had showed up in Los Angeles, where Bud was working on the Times, and asked Rutherford if he knew where he could hire a 100-piece symphony orchestra.

Bud asked Emil what in the devil he wanted with a 100-piece orchestra.

"I want to hear the symphony they wrote about me," replied Holmdahl. "I've got the music all written out, but I need a bunch of musicians to play it."

I asked Emil if he ever got to hear his music. He laughed.

"I sure did," replied Holmdahl. They played it specially for me down across from Ysleta, at the old Waterfill-Frazier bandshell. It was called 'The Soldier of Fortune,' and it was written by Mexico's top composer, Contreras. It was beautiful and I remember the people stood up and cheered at the conclusion. It must be pretty good music. Since it was about me, I was guest of honor."

I asked Emil when this was.

"Oh, I don't remember exactly," he said, "I only remember it was during prohibition. I think that's why so many of my gringo friends went down to hear it. They didn't care about me or the music, but they knew they'd get a good drink of whisky."

"Why, I asked Emil, did he turn down the $100,000 to kill Villa?

"First," he said, "I am not an assassin; second, I liked the guy, and third, I'd never got out alive."