

30 YEARS OF SERVICE

# Retired El Paso City Planner Recalls Highlights Of Career

By JOHN WRIGHT  
Asst. News Editor

In 1911 a young man of 19 came to El Paso to improve his health. Fifty-eight years later, the same man, his health greatly improved, walked into retirement to cap off a career that had played a significant part in El Paso's development from a small West Texas town to one of the most important manufacturing centers in the Southwest.

He is Walter E. Stockwell, 86, who retired 10 years ago as El Paso's first planning engineer, a post he held for 30 years.

He left El Paso following the death of his wife on Aug. 10, to live with his married daughter, Mrs. Robert L. Street, 1004 Harrington, College Station.

As an engineering graduate of

Cornell University, Stockwell was asked if he had had any particular thoughts of municipal planning in mind at the time he was in college. He chuckled and replied, "Well no. You see in those days engineering was a pretty general subject, and was not divided into specific fields as it is now. I did emphasize the electrical side of it though."

AFTER ARRIVING in El Paso he went to work for American Smelting and Refining Co. "I might say that in those days most people were not very optimistic about the future of El Paso. The climate was hot and arid, and the water supply was a problem. Any city planning was the function of the chamber of commerce."

"Nobody knew much about city planning at that time, although Dallas, under the guiding hand of George Kessler, was setting an example that was to be followed by many Texas communities in the future."

"At that time the editor of the El Paso Herald was Captain H. D. Slater, who was a friend of Kessler's. By this time I had left American Smelting and Refining Co., and became the secretary of the planning department in the chamber of commerce. There was an opening in the department, and the idea of city planning appealed to me."

KESSLER, partly through his friendship with Slater, came to El Paso and set up the Kessler Plan. In 1925 the city created the Planning Department by ordinance, and Stockwell became the first planning engineer, a post that he held until 1953.

One of the most important projects was the elimination of grade crossings, and the building of the Bataan Memorial Trainway which runs through downtown El Paso.

"Of course one of the most important problems in city planning is the development of a realistic highway plan. Thanks to the cooperation of local, state and fed-

eral agencies, El Paso now has access to a fine federal highway."

Asked how the City Planning Department today compared with earlier days, Stockwell replied, "There's all the difference in the world. Besides being much bigger, there are many more important considerations such as economics, all phases of engineering, and budgeting. In the old days the emphasis was on beautification—now it is long range industrial planning, urban redevelopment, and day-to-day strains of living."

He paused for a moment, then said, "Just think of the changes to come in the next 100 years."

## 1,200 Region Teachers Meet Here Nov. 16

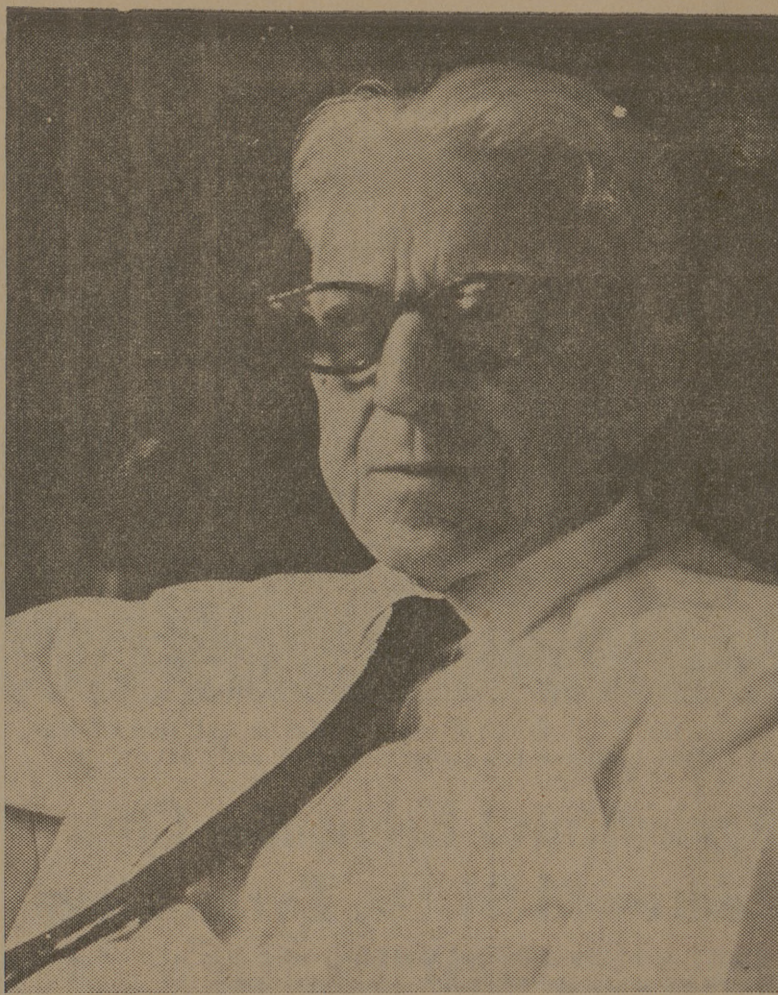
Approximately 1,200 classroom teachers are expected at a regional meeting Nov. 16 on the A&M University campus with the Texas Classroom Teachers Association and the Texas Educational Agency as cosponsors.

This will be the first time for A&M to be the host for one of the four regional conferences held each year, Dr. Paul Hensarling, head of the Department of Education and Psychology, said.

Hensarling and Mrs. Mary Frances Ross, president of the Bryan Classroom Teachers Association, will serve as local coordinators.

"The purpose of the conference is to have an interchange of ideas among classroom teachers of Texas as they prepare programs of excellence for the public schools," Hensarling said.

The program will include a general session and discussion groups. Other regional conferences this year are scheduled at Abilene, Canyon and Denton.



WALTER E. STOCKWELL

## Bryan Horticulture Student Chosen Scholarship Winner

James Demont of Bryan, graduate student in the Department of Horticulture, is utilizing a scholarship to study processing properties of rice.

The young scientist is a winner of the Boy Memorial Scholarship, established to encourage graduate study of rice.

Sponsors of the award are the Texas Rice Improvement Association and the American Rice Growers Association. E. V. Boyd of Devers is TRIA president, and David Winterman of Eagle Lake heads the ARGA.

The scholarship is administered through the Rice-Pasture Experiment Station near Beaumont, a sub-station of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station.

Demont is evaluating various types of rice in relation to their processing characteristics. His findings will help plant breeders at the Beaumont station to develop new strains of rice with desirable processing traits.

The student conducts his research at the Beaumont station and on campus.

Scholarship honors are not new to Demont. As an undergraduate, he won the Brazos County A&M Mothers Club Scholarship and the W. Atlee Burpee Award as outstanding student in horticulture. He has consistently won the Distinguished Student rating and is past president of the A&M Horticulture Society.

## New Librarians Hired At Cushing

Two new department heads have joined the Cushing Memorial Library staff and a third professional librarian has returned, Library Director Robert A. Houze announced Wednesday.

Miss Phyllis L. Brown, recently librarian of the Laredo Junior College, now heads the acquisitions department.

Mrs. Marjorie O. TheBerge is the librarian of the new Science

and Technical Reports Collection. She also serves at the Cushing Memorial Library. She has served at Ranger Junior College.

Mrs. Patricia L. Doyle joined the staff as junior librarian.

Miss Brown has taught and served as librarian with Antonio Public Library, the B.A. degree, the B.S. in library science, and a Master of Education from the University of Texas at Austin. She also has the Warden School of Science and the University of Texas degrees.

Mrs. TheBerge holds a degree from the University of Texas and the Master of Science degree from Texas A&M University. She has worked as a school librarian and a librarian in the Department of Library Science at Texas A&M University. She has also worked on the staff, holds the B.S. in library science from Texas

## Space Brass Defends Joint Moon Venture

HOUSTON (AP)—The chief U.S. space planner said Wednesday President Kennedy's suggestion of a joint U.S.-Russian moon venture represents an extension of basic American policy rather than a change.

James E. Webb said the United States, from the outset of its space program, has been determined to devote its projects to peaceful purposes and to share the knowledge gained with all mankind.

At the same time, he said, this basic space philosophy includes objectives to demonstrate U. S. technological supremacy in the world and to insure national defense.

The administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration spoke before the Texas Mid-Continent Oil & Gas Association.

President Kennedy, speaking last week at the United Nations, suggested that in the case of world peace the United States and the Soviet Union explore the possibilities of joint ventures in space.

"The President's proposal seeks to move the U.S. space program and U.S. space philosophy to its logical, but at the same time to its most challenging, limits," Webb said.

"It is worth emphasizing, however, this is an extension of this basic philosophy rather than a change in policy."

## Chess Committee Holds State-Wide Meet This Week

The first state-wide chess competition to be held in the College Station area will place this weekend in the Student Center, under the sponsorship of the MSC Chess Committee, chairman Joe Watson.

The Brazos Open Chess tournament will be held Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, with the first round starting at 8 a.m. Saturday. Watson's tournament has been several national chess events and inquiries have been from as far away as Canada.

Open to anyone who is a member or becomes a member of the U.S. Chess Federation, the contest will be rated. Watson reported prizes and prizes will be given to winners, and each player will receive a rating card with over 5000 other players throughout the nation.



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