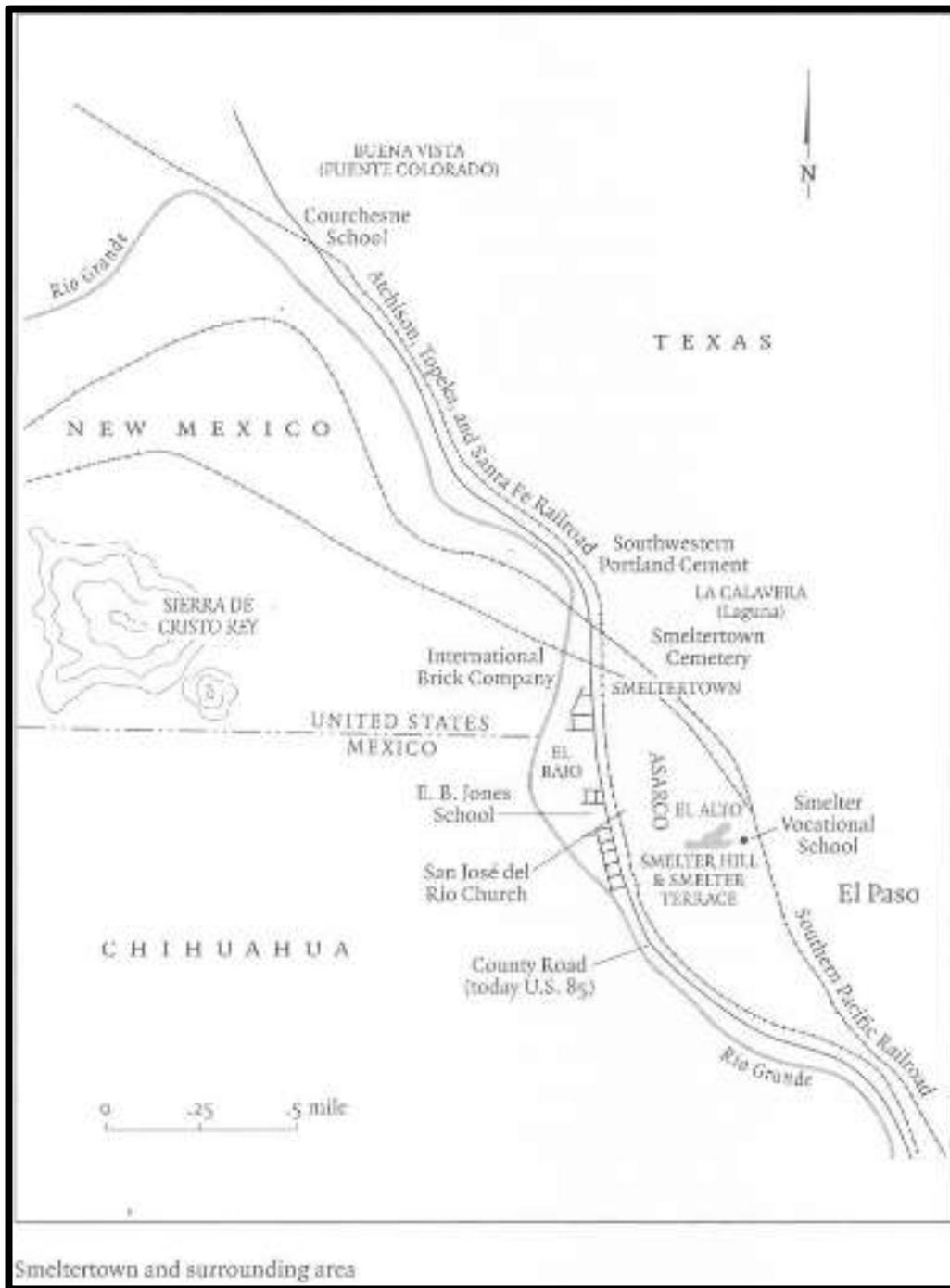


Monica Perales, *Smelertown making and remembering a Southwest border community*. (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2010.), 48.

Smelertown and Surrounding Areas



Monica Perales, *Smelertown making and remembering a Southwest border community*. (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2010.), 64.

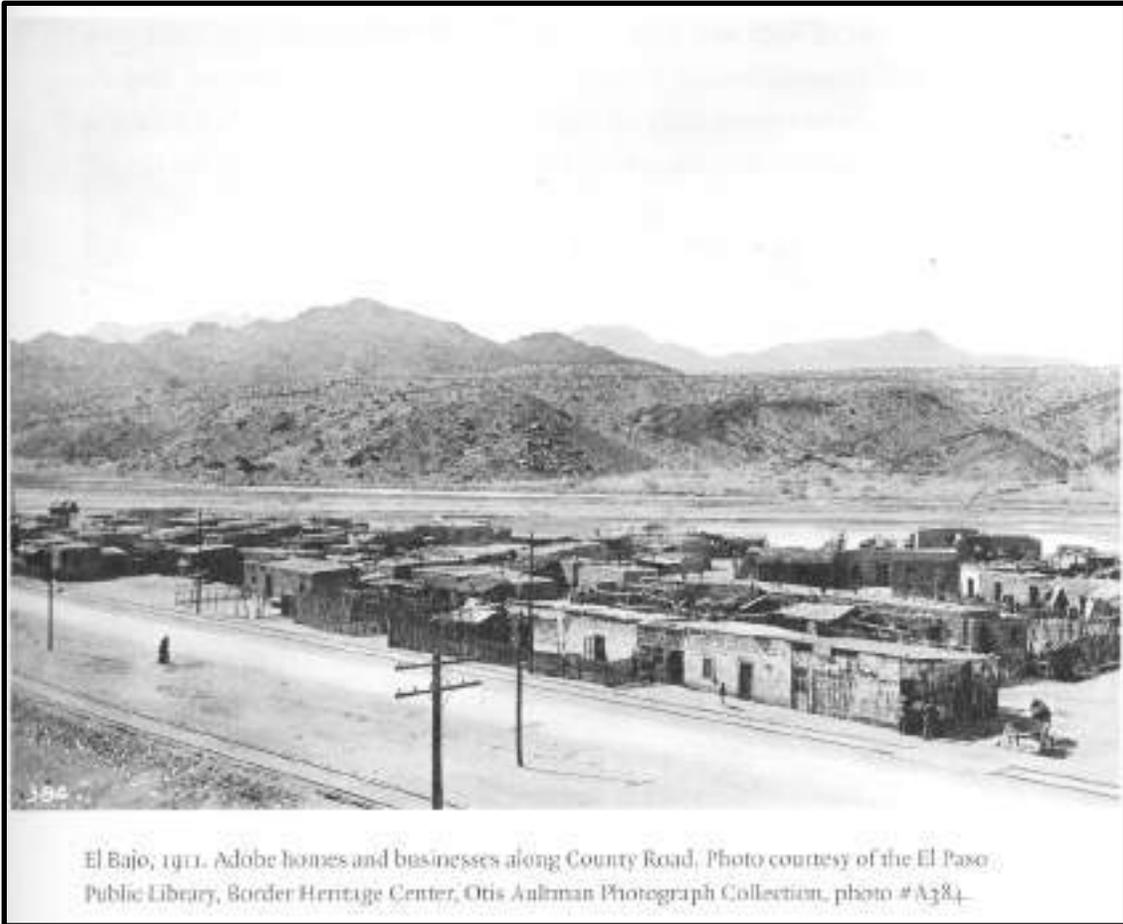
Jesus Perales's Identification Card

DESCRIPTION		DATE
Name	<i>Perales, Jesus</i>	
Occupation	<i>Boilermaker</i>	VACCINATED MAY 1924
Complexion	<i>Dark</i>	Age <i>53</i>
Eyes	<i>Brown</i>	Hair <i>Dark</i>
Height	<i>5-6 1/2</i>	
Marks	<i>small finger hand best.</i>	
Box No.	<i>674</i>	
No.	<i>8023</i>	
<i>Jesus Perales</i>		<i>J. Woodhorne</i> Inspector in Charge

14-7388

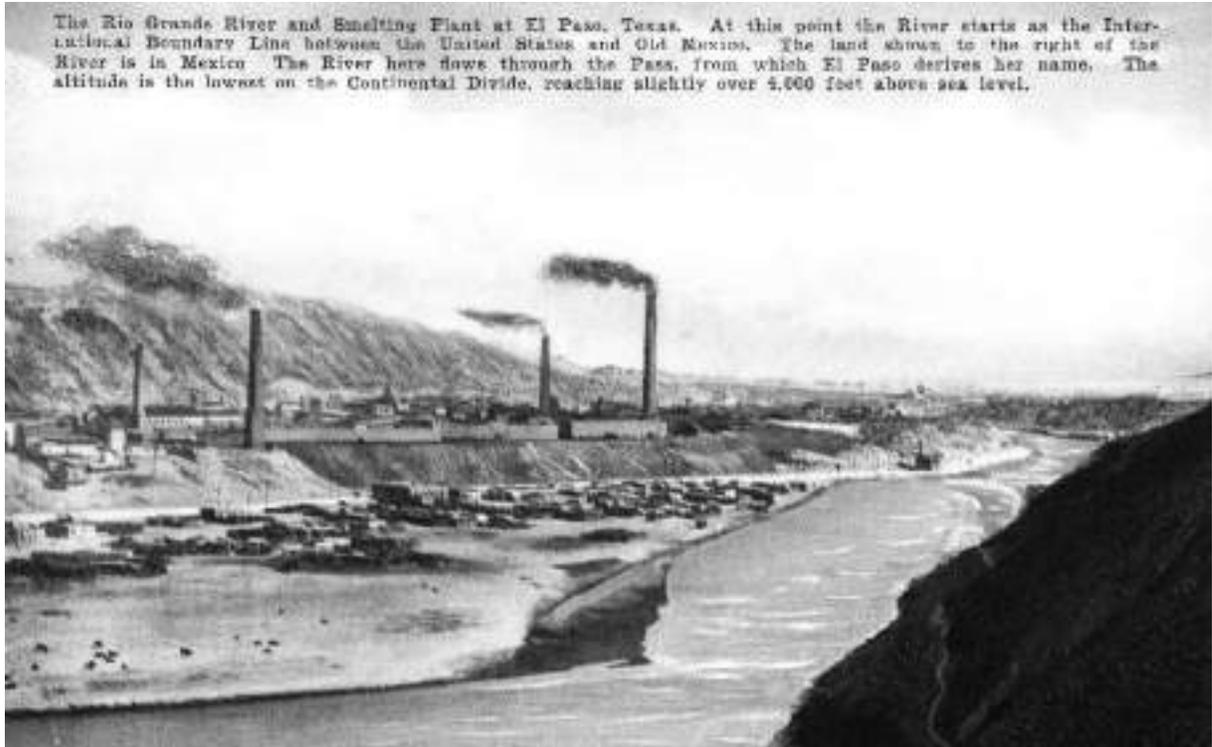
Jesus Perales's identification card listing his occupation as boilermaker. According to a letter from the company folded in the wallet with this card, he worked in that position at the smelter from July 1901 to at least May 1924. Perales Family Personal Collection.

Monica Perales, *Smelertown making and remembering a Southwest border community*. (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2010.), 118.



Monica Perales, *Smelertown making and remembering a Southwest border community*. (Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, 2010.),71.

RIO GRANDE AND SMELTING PLANT postcard



DESCRIPTION

Credit: University of Texas at El Paso Library - Special Collections Department

The postcard probably dates from the 1910s. On the top it says: "The Rio Grande River and Smelting Plant at El Paso, Texas. At this point the River starts as the International Boundary Line between the United States and Old Mexico. The land shown to the right of the River is in Mexico. The River here flows through the Pass, from which El Paso derives her name. The altitude is the lowest on the Continental Divide, reaching slightly over 4,000 feet above sea level."

On the other side of the River Smelertown can be seen. It was an industrial area, which came into being with the construction in 1887 of the Kansas City Consolidated Smelting and Refining Company (later the American Smelting and Refining Company, or ASARCO) copper and lead smelter. In the 1880s the Mexican employees of the smelter began building houses west of the smelter, beside the Rio Grande.

In 1945 the El Paso Herald-Post called attention to the poverty in Smelertown and in the early 1970s it gained a measure of unwanted fame, when it became the center of an environmental controversy. It was found out that the majority of the residents there were suffering from lead poisoning due to a huge amount of lead emission during 1969 and 1971. In May 1975 an injunction ordered ASARCO to modernize and make environmental improvements, which eventually cost some \$120 million. Against their wishes the residents were forced to move; their former homes were razed, leaving only the abandoned school and church buildings to mark the site of El Paso's first major industrial community. *Collection: Gertrude Fitzgerald Photographs*

SMELTERTOWN



DESCRIPTION

Credit: El Paso Public Library

Otis Aultman took this photo of the ASARCO plant. 1910-1919

EDWIN BROOKE JONES



DESCRIPTION

Credit: El Paso Museum of History

E. B. Jones School in the Smelter District was named after Edwin Brooke Jones.

For many years, students of Smelertown attended Courschesne Elementary, about a mile from Smelertown. If they could afford to continue their education beyond seventh grade, they attended El Paso High School. In the 1930s, E. B. Jones Elementary School, named after an administrator with ASARCO, was opened. E.B. Jones, ASARCO purchasing agent, former justice of the peace, and longtime Smelter School Board member and Chair. Children in grades one through four attended E.B. Jones and those in grade five through seven attended Courschesne.

SMELTERTOWN CHURCH



DESCRIPTION

Credit: Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C. 20540 USA

Mexican church at the smelter, El Paso, Texas - 1907

FATHER LOURDES F. COSTA

**DESCRIPTION**

Credit: University of Texas at El Paso Library - Special Collections Department

Father Lourdes F. Costa arrived in El Paso in 1912. He was a local parish priest of the Smelertown Church of San Jose for twenty years, when the Pope summoned parishes in all parts of the world to build sacrosancts or material monuments. Father Costa envisioned a statue on top of the Sierra de Cristo Rey (formerly known as the Cerro de los Muleros, Mule Drivers Mountain), in Sunland Park, New Mexico. He turned in the direction of the conical peak outside of his window every morning. He always thought that such a location was a perfect setting for a monument to Christ the King, the Prince of Peace.

First, a twelve foot high wooden cross was erected in 1933 and a couple of month later it was replaced by an iron cross. In 1939, a 29 ft. tall limestone statue of Christ by sculptor Urbici Soler was erected on top of Mount Cristo Rey. It can be seen from all three states and it serves as a shrine to thousands of faithful in the El Paso and Southern New Mexico area. Consequently, Father Costa had realized his dream to inspire the people who live at the crossroads of three states with a lasting symbol of hope and peace.

Collection: Casasola Photograph Collection