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SAN ANTONIO
BUSINESS MEN'S CLUB

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SAN ANTONIO

TEXAS

THROUGH A CAMERA



ISSUED BY DIRECTION
OF THE
Business Men's Club

SAN ANTONIO



THE HEALTHFULNESS of the climate of San Antonio has probably extended her fame throughout all the civilized world. It is warm, dry, healthful and incomparable, with its clear skies, equal temperature and snow is almost absolutely unknown. It possesses a combination of advantages such as cannot be found elsewhere on the continent. It is a well-known fact that the health and pleasure seeker who once visits San Antonio always returns. He may go in quest of better places, but upon investigation they cannot be found.

As a winter resort San Antonio possesses attractions and advantages such as cannot be found elsewhere on the continent. Every winter from 6000 to 8000 visitors from all sections of the United States as well as parts of Europe become residents of this city, many of whom permanently locate. No city can have a more available asset than San Antonio possesses in her climate.

The altitude of San Antonio is 651 feet in the center of the city, and 752 feet at the Government Post.

The average annual temperature is 68, maximum in summer 99, minimum in winter 27. The average annual temperature as compared with other leading resorts is as follows: San Antonio 68, Jacksonville 70, New Orleans 70, Los Angeles 62.

The average relative humidity is 65, which, compared with other leading resorts, is as follows: Jacksonville 80, New Orleans 76, Los Angeles 73.

In San Antonio the average of clear days during the year is 254. The average rainfall is 23.76 inches the past ten years.

On the subject of schools the following extract, taken from the report of an examination made by a special committee of the Merchants' Association of New York, who made a tour of Texas by invitation of the Governor and Legislature of Texas in the year 1901, is sufficient to establish San Antonio's claim as to an educational center.

"San Antonio is not only the largest city in the State of Texas, but in proportion to its population it is one of the most active and vigorous, and its schools are in full keeping with this fact. Although a city of nearly 70,000 inhabitants, the superb quality and number of fine buildings would indicate a city of even much larger dimensions. The public buildings of a city are justly considered as an index of its character, especially in an educational way, and it will be seen that those of San Antonio speak eloquently and well for the taste and the ability of a people who have full faith in the future. San Antonio has the finest schools and school houses in the State, which is saying a good deal, for there are many splendid public educational edifices through the State that can scarcely be surpassed anywhere. She has more than forty schools, public and private, several of which were visited by your committee."

There are twenty-six colleges and private schools and sixteen public schools; the public schools occupy twelve massive stone structures owned by the city, and four other commodious buildings which are rented. In the public schools there are 135 teachers, 119 white and sixteen colored. The pupils in the public schools number 9952; pupils in the parochial and private schools number 5637; total 15,589.

The public school system is under the control of a non-political board of trustees and the system is one of the most

thorough in the United States. Graduates from the High School are admitted to the State University without an examination.

In presenting the claims and charms of San Antonio to the reader, any attempt in that direction must be prefaced by the statement that it is a city so many-sided as to make it impossible to convey a definite idea of its innumerable interesting and commercial features in any one article. There is probably no city of its size on the continent in which there is so much to see, and any attempt at description would fall far short of the actual condition.

San Antonio is in fact the metropolis of Texas, and rests her claim on the Federal Census of 1900. This is supplemented by growth in population unequaled by that of any other city in the State. A conservative estimate at this time would be 62,500. Her gain in population for the last thirty-two years has been steady, logical and rapid. It has always advanced each year; there has never been a retrograde movement.

To the man who asks—What keeps San Antonio up? an answer is found in the fact that any city that can point to such an uninterrupted growth needs no other answer, when its solidity is questioned. San Antonio is sustained by varied and substantial resources. It is a commercial metropolis as well as any other kind. Its tributary territory is greater than that of any other city in the great State of Texas. There is no rival city within 200 miles. It is the nearest important American city to the great Republic of Mexico, and except New York, San Antonio is more often mentioned in Mexico than any other city in the United States. The wholesale trade of San Antonio reaches large proportions and has more than doubled within the last ten years. The retail trade of the city has likewise kept pace with the increase in population.

It is not so well known that San Antonio is a manufacturing city on a very considerable scale. The Federal Census of 1900 shows that the percentage of increase in factories in San Antonio was greater than that of any other city during the same period. To the man who remarks that San Antonio needs more factories, may be stated, San Antonio already is largely engaged in manufacture. There are 150 factories within her limits, some of which employ as many as 1000 people. San Antonio is also the great live-stock center of South and West Texas. It is the home of the cattle kings of that section. It is also a great financial center. There are nine banks in the city, five National and four private, with deposits exceeding \$8,000,000. The names of San Antonio banks are synonymous with conservatism and solidity, and are everywhere recognized as strong, conservative financial institutions, amply able to take care of the banking business of that vast section of the country tributary to this city.

San Antonio is the financial center of Southwest Texas, which means a great deal, it being a section of vast resources and great development demanding the use of capital in large amounts. The great live-stock industry of this portion of the State, of which San Antonio is the center, requires heavy capital for its successful management and there exists a feeling of mutual confidence between the cattlemen of Southwest Texas and the San Antonio banks which largely redounds to the advantage of both these great interests. The banks are always ready and willing to give material aid to any safe and legitimate enterprise, having for its object the development of local resources.

The climate of San Antonio is one of the most available assets possessed by any city on the continent. While her business salvation is not dependent upon this fact, it is a sustaining factor, which in addition to her commercial advantages, is one of the strong points in considering what keeps San Antonio up. Viewed from the standpoint of healthfulness, there is no city in the United States possessing greater advantages than San Antonio. Her water supply, obtained from artesian wells, is health-giving and pure. Her splendid sewer system is a strong safeguard to the health of the community, especially when supplemented by stringent sanitary laws. Her 425 miles of streets, seventy-one miles of

which are macadamized, and fourteen paved with asphalt and mesquite blocks, afford ample driving facilities in all directions. Her parks and plazas are things of beauty, to which any city in either the Old or New World might point to with pardonable pride. With her fifty-five churches and more than forty public and private schools, San Antonio offers advantages in a religious and educational way such as can be found in few cities in the world. With her street car system of fifty-five miles, the matter of transportation is a comfortable and easy subject to contemplate, not to speak of its economy under the transfer system which is in force. The suburbs of San Antonio are beautiful places, being located on hills surrounding and overlooking the city, and the stranger within her gates can find pleasure and entertainment in a series of trips to the different suburban localities.

Another great resource of San Antonio is found in the hot sulphur water supply adjacent to the city, there being four hot sulphur artesian wells within or adjoining her limits, one of which has been developed on a large scale.

San Antonio was settled in 1689. The Alamo, on Alamo Plaza, was built in 1718. San Fernando Cathedral, on Main Plaza, was built 1734. Mission Concepcion de la Acuna, two miles from Main Plaza, was built in 1731. Mission San Jose, four miles south of Main Plaza, was built 1720. Mission San Juan, six miles south of Main Plaza, was built 1731. Mission Espada, eight miles south of Main Plaza, was built 1731.

Gov. Antonio Cordero was the first of four governors to occupy the governor's palace, No. 105 Military Plaza, in 1749. He was tried for treason, executed and his head was placed upon a pole where the city hall now stands.

The Veramendi palace, No. 128 Soledad street, was occupied by Gov. Veramendi, who was the father-in-law of Col. James Bowie.

Milam was killed in the rear of the Veramendi palace December 5, 1835, by a sharpshooter from the top of a cypress tree standing where the old court house now stands. His grave is in the center of Milam Square.

Eight battles for the independence of Texas were fought in and around San Antonio in the following years—1776, 1812, 1813 (two battles), 1835 (three battles), 1836, under the following flags: Spanish, French, Mexican, Mexican Charter flag and the Texas flag. After Texas independence, and when the republic became one of the States in the Federal Union the United States flag was used until the Civil War, when the Confederate flag was used, followed by the United States flag after peace was restored. Thus San Antonio has lived under eight different flags.

Santa Ana invested San Antonio February 23rd, 1836, in command of a force estimated at from 4000 to 6000 soldiers, and Col. Travis and his men were driven into the Alamo, his force consisting of 188 men. After a siege of eleven days the Alamo fell on March 6th, 1836, and the entire garrison was killed and their bodies burned.

The officers defending the Alamo were Cols. W. B. Travis, James Bowie, Davy Crockett, J. B. Bonham, J. Washington.

The battle of San Jacinto was fought April 21st, 1836. "Remember the Alamo" was the slogan. Santa Ana was defeated and captured, which ended the war and gave Texas independence.

Previous to the Civil War Gen. Robert E. Lee and Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston were stationed in San Antonio and had their headquarters on the corner of Crockett and Losoya. They resided in the old Howard mansion on South Alamo street.

Gen. Albert Sidney Johnston also resided on the west side of St. Mary's street, where No. 225 St. Mary's now stands, the third door south of Houston street.

The Post has always been one of the features of San Antonio, especially so as it is the third largest in the United States. Fort Sam Houston is a beautiful and attractive place developed in the substantial way that Uncle Sam always

does his work. In addition to the Post being one of the points of San Antonio most attractive to visitors, it is a source of great revenue to the city.

San Antonio has always been noted as a great military center through its being the most suitable point for the distribution of troops through the entire southwestern part of the United States, and has been so used by the United States Government since the annexation of Texas. Previous to that time it was the military headquarters, and afterwards Mexican Province of Coahuila and Texas. The stronghold of the Alamo about which is built the city of San Antonio, was the largest and most important chain of forts erected by Spain to guard her frontier upon the north, and to repel the gathering tide of Anglo-Saxon conquests threatening them from the east, and it was in this stronghold that was fought the bloodiest battle, so far as percentage of killed and those surviving among the defeated are concerned, that the history of independence can boast of.

The Post was selected not only on account of its strategical position, but also on account of the exceptionally healthy climate and fine water.

The military post as it exists at present comprises quarters for fourteen companies, forty-three sets of officers' quarters, offices, commissary and quartermaster's depot, large corral and stables, all of which have been erected by the Government at a cost approximating \$1,000,000.

The Government also owns and maintains an arsenal and cavalry equipment factory in this city, and about two miles north of the city it has a fine target range. It was on account of these numerous advantages that the renowned "Roosevelt's Rough Riders" were mustered into service, equipped, drilled and fitted out in this city and went from here to Florida to embark for the country which they glorified by exploits of men who had lived within the shadow of "The Alamo," and drilled upon soil sanctified by the footsteps of men who had proven by death that they loved freedom better than life.

Gen. Frederick Dent Grant is present Commander of the Department of Texas, with headquarters at San Antonio.

The mingling of the old and the new, the touch of foreign life and the personnel of the army give an added touch of interest to social life to San Antonio. There are many literary, social and musical clubs which are well organized and in no city in the South can there be found more progressive and up-to-date women. The romance and song which is interwoven in the history of this beautiful old city lends a special charm to its gay life, and each year many large functions are given, which vie in brilliancy with any in the country, and they are attended by strangers who come here in search of pleasure and health, allured by the sunny skies, the soft breezes and the roses.

Golf and tennis are among the outdoor sports that flourish all the year round, and almost any day a merry crowd can be seen at the golf links or the tennis court. Among the leading social organizations in the city are the San Antonio Club, Harmony Club, the Casino Association, the Turners, the University Club, the Beethoven, the Married Ladies' Dancing Club and the San Antonio German Club. Among the best known literary clubs are the Woman's Club, the History Club and the Ladies' Reading Club. The Ladies' Chorus Club is one of the leading musical organizations of the State.

The San Antonio Business Men's Club is the strongest commercial organization in Texas, and one of the most active and aggressive in the country, with a membership of more than four hundred and fifty (450). This organization is recognized as a chief and moving factor in the community in all matters pertaining to the city's welfare. It generally leads and always co-operates.



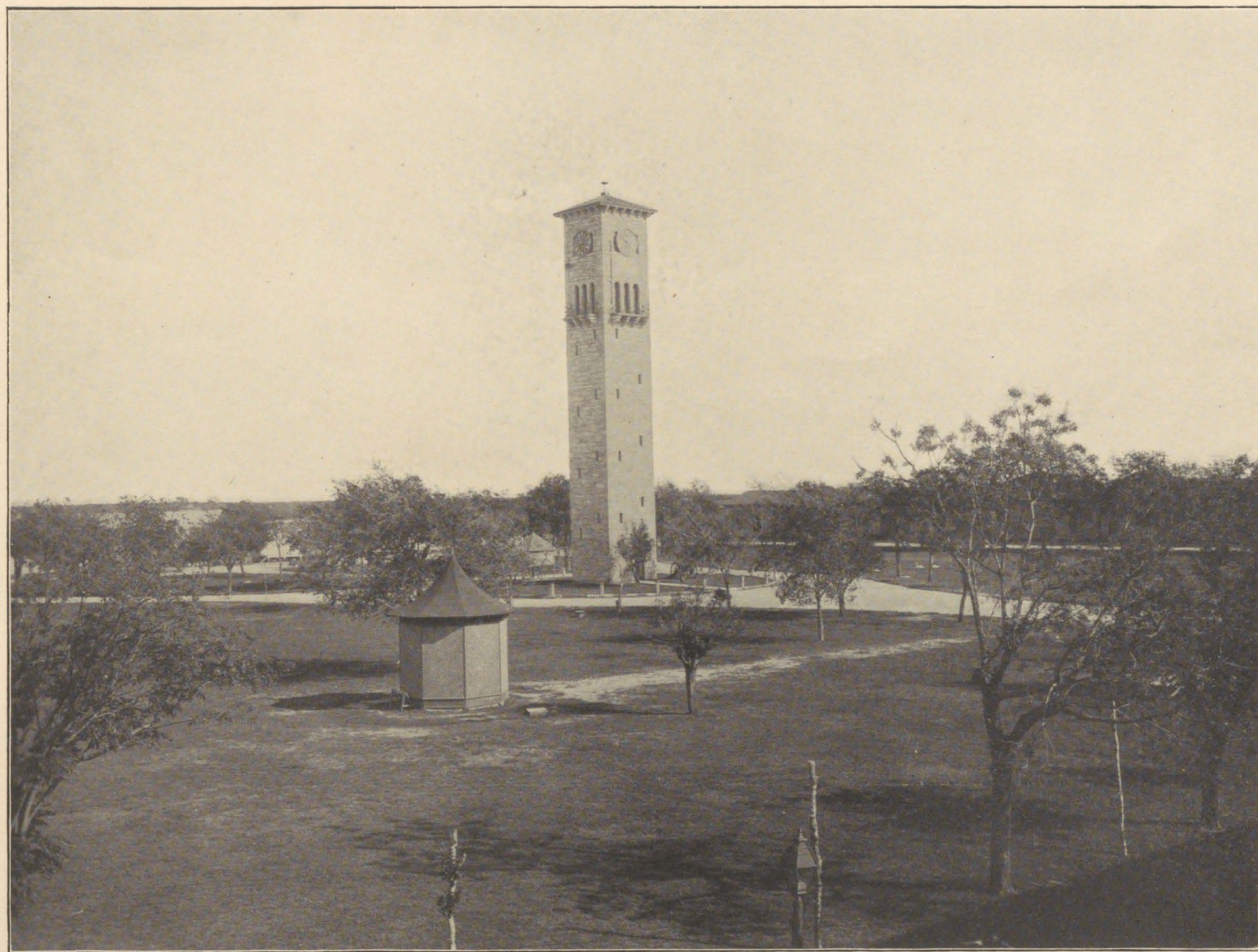
BANQUET OF SAN ANTONIO BUSINESS MEN'S CLUB AT THE OPENING OF THE NEW SOUTHERN PACIFIC DEPOT, FEB. 1, 1903.



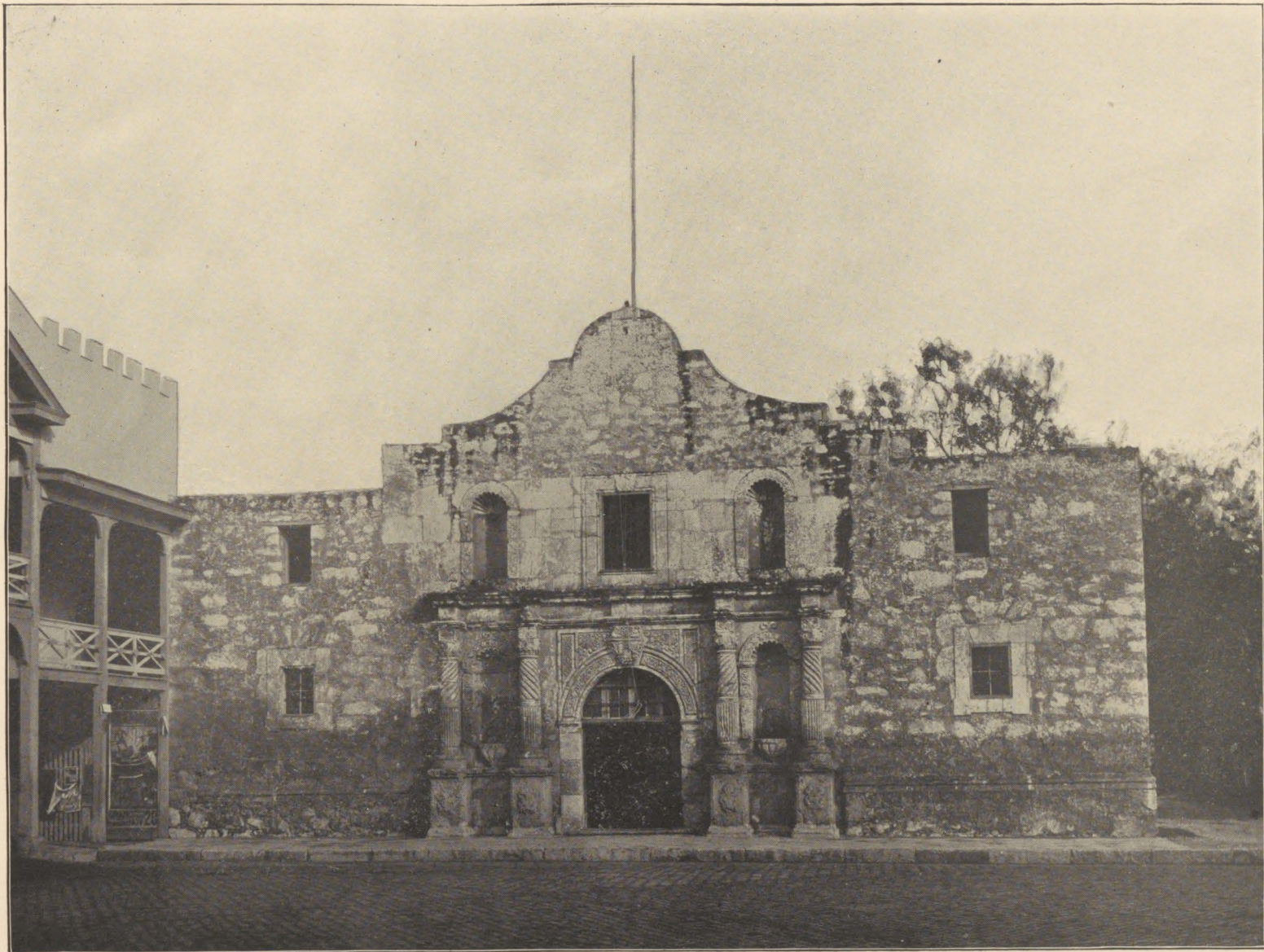
RESIDENCE OF OTTO KOEHLER.



ALAMO NATIONAL BANK, COMMERCE ST.



OBSERVATORY, FORT SAM HOUSTON.



THE ALAMO. BUILT 1718.



OFFICERS' QUARTERS AND BARRACKS, FORT SAM HOUSTON.



MENGER HOTEL. McLEAN AND MUDGE.



CITY HALL, MILITARY PLAZA.



RESIDENCE OF T. T. VANDER HOEVEN, SAN PEDRO AVE.



HOTEL HOT SULPHUR WELLS.



SCENE IN SAN PEDRO PARK.



RESIDENCE OF WM. NEGLEY, HOWARD ST.



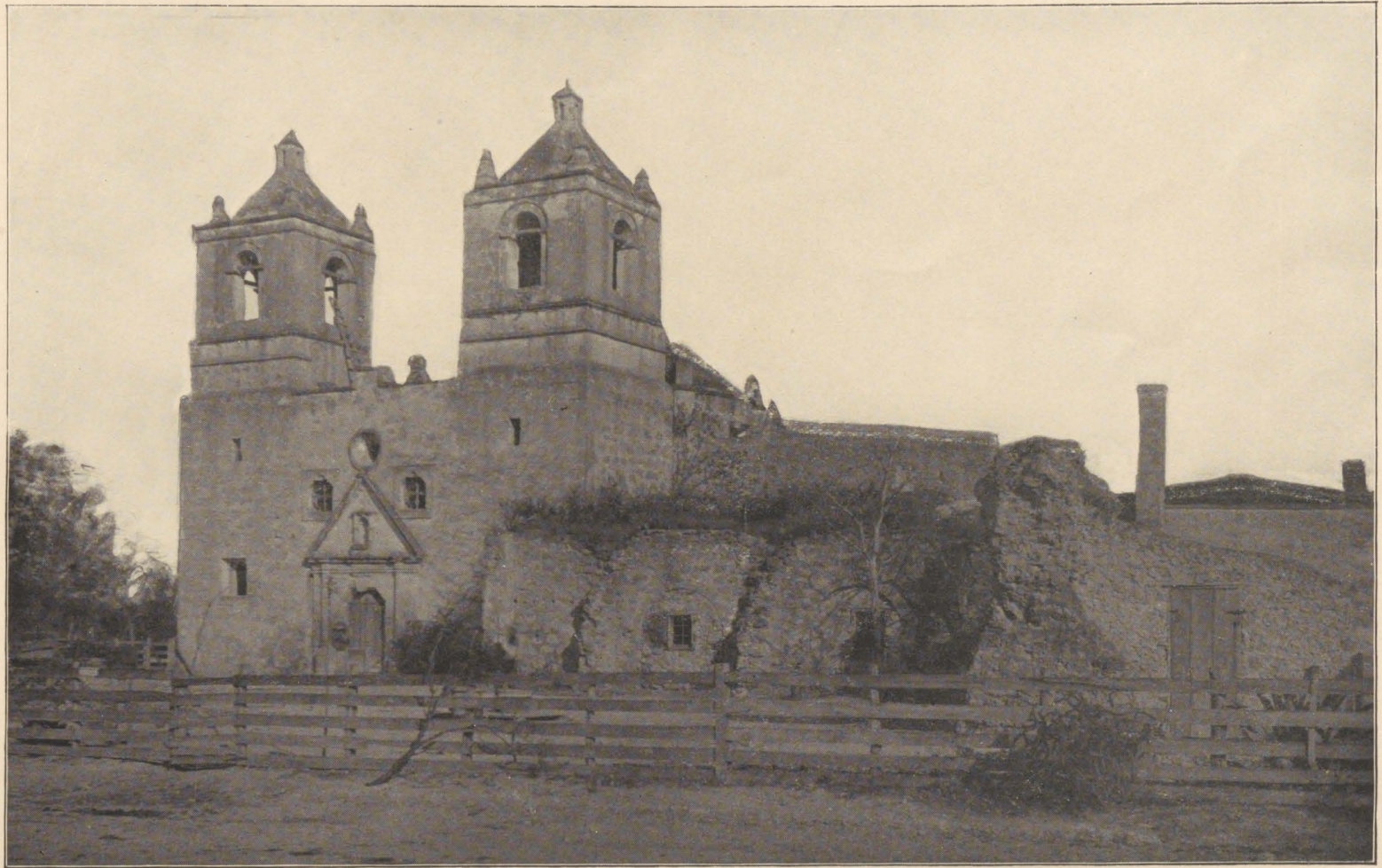
HICKS BUILDING, CORNER HOUSTON ST. AND AVENUE C.



UNITED STATES ARSENAL.



RESIDENCE OF HON. E. H. TERRELL, GRAYSON ST.



MISSION CONCEPTION DE ACUNA (FIRST MISSION), BUILT 1731.



RESIDENCE OF HON. CHAS. W. OGDEN, SAN PEDRO PLACE.



ALAMO PLAZA, GOVERNMENT BUILDING IN THE BACKGROUND.



RESIDENCE OF JAY E. ADAMS, BLANCHO ROAD.



MARKET HOUSE AND CONVENTION HALL, MILAM SQUARE.



RESIDENCE OF MRS. H. D. KAMPMANN, FOURTH ST.

COUGHLIN & AYRES, ARCHITECTS.



BATH HOUSE, HOT SULPHUR WELLS AND SANITARIUM.



RESIDENCE OF J. J. STEVENS, MARTIN ST.



RESIDENCE OF J. J. STEVENS, MARTIN ST.



MADAM CANDALLERA
THE ONLY SURVIVOR
OF THE ALAMO



MAKING
AND
BAKING
TORTILLAS

MEXICAN
HOME
LIFE



MADAM CANDALLERA, THE ONLY SURVIVOR OF THE ALAMO. DIED AT THE AGE OF 115 YEARS.



NEW SOUTHERN PACIFIC DEPOT, COMMERCE STREET.



RESIDENCE OF DR. FRANK PASCHAL, CYPRESS ST.



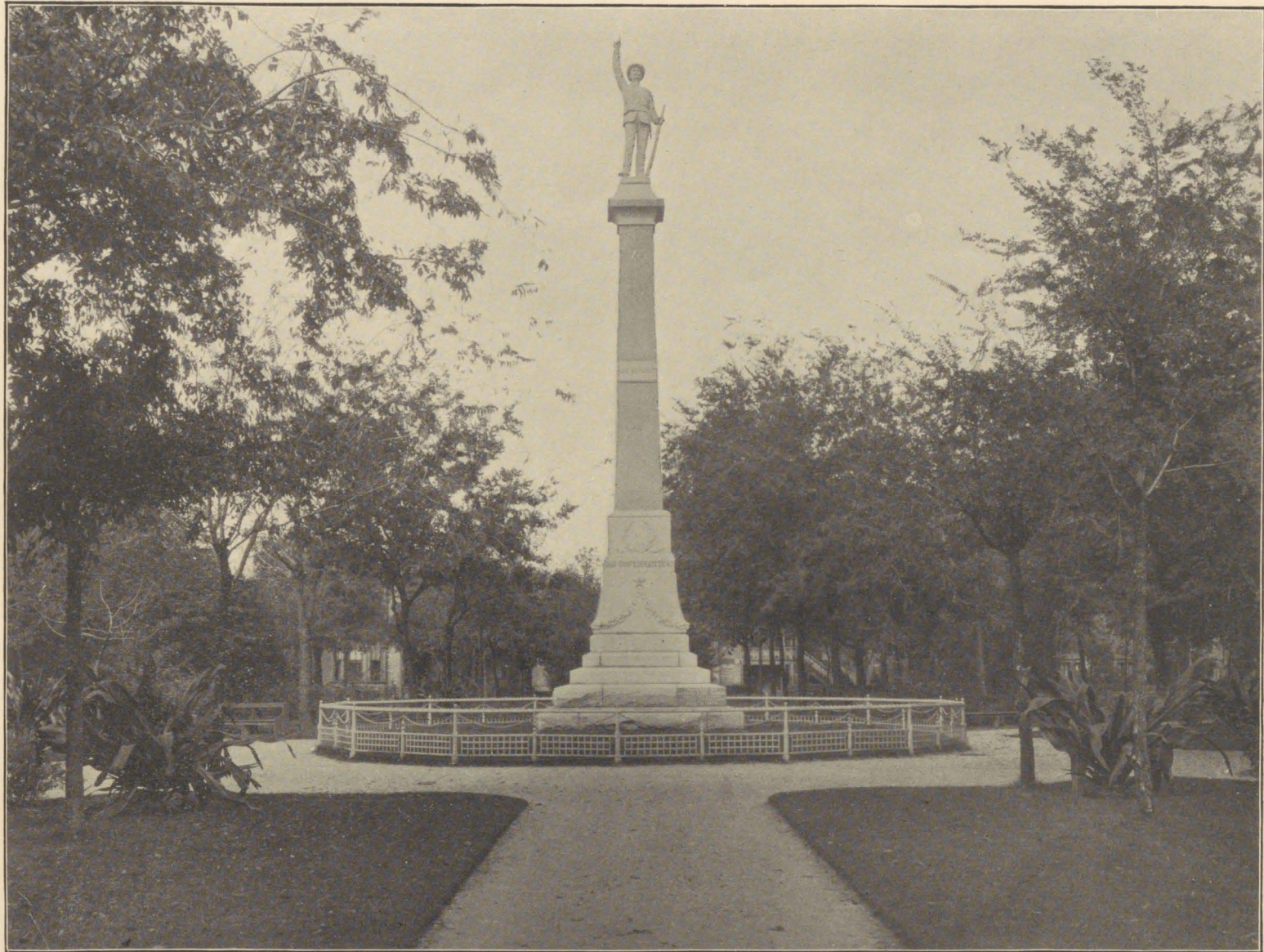
MISSION SAN JOSE (SECOND MISSION), BUILT 1718.



MILL RIVER BRIDGE, SAN ANTONIO RIVER.



RESIDENCE OF GEN. FREDERICK DENT GRANT, FORT SAM HOUSTON.



CONFEDERATE MONUMENT, TRAVIS PARK.



RESIDENCE OF SILVA HEIMANN, WEST LAUREL STREET.



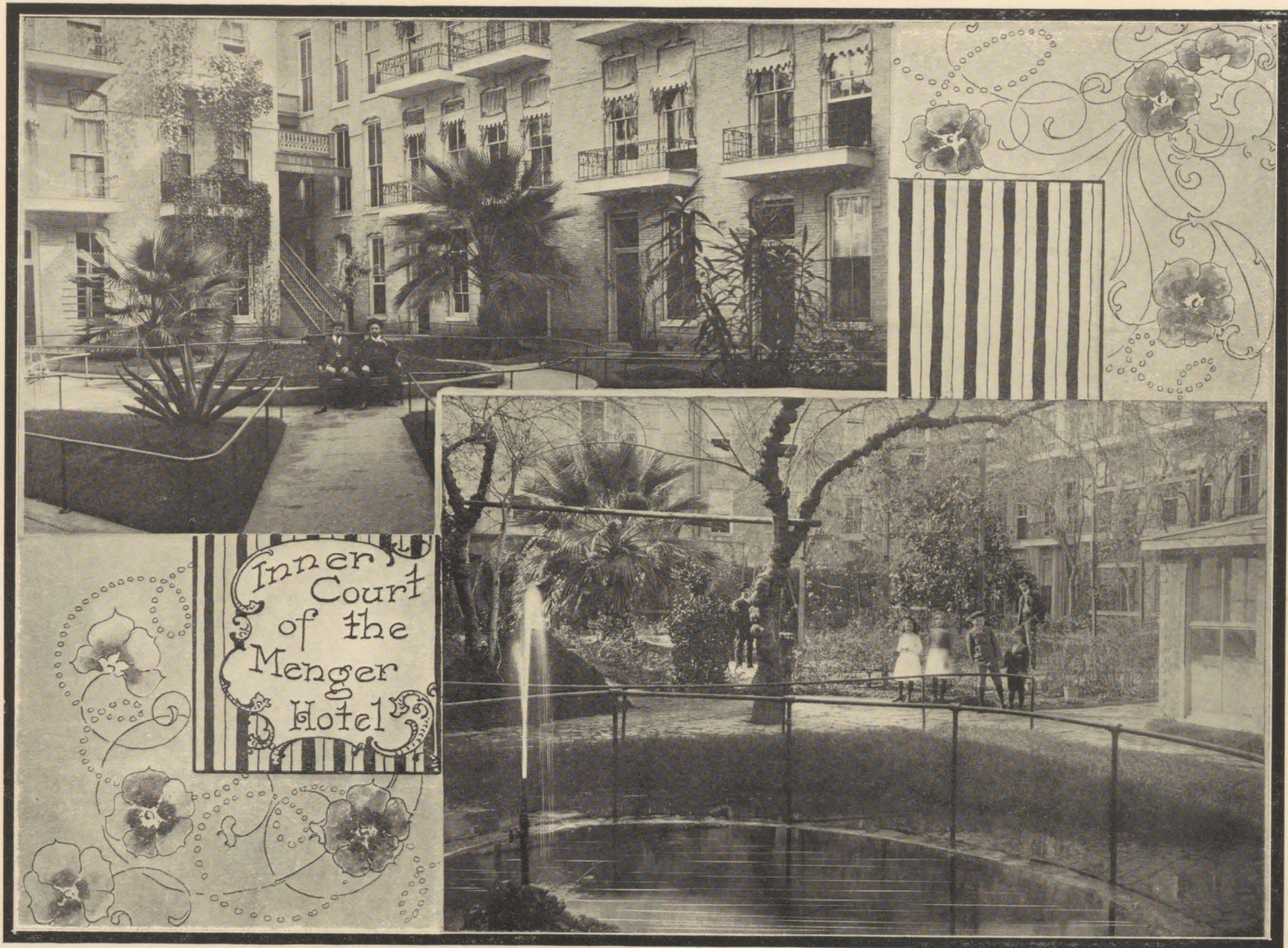
ELK AND MOOSE, BRACKENRIDGE PARK.



MAIN PLAZA, COURTHOUSE AND SAN FERNANDO CATHEDRAL.



INNER COURT, MENGER HOTEL. McLEAN & MUDGE.



INNER COURT, MENGER HOTEL. McLEAN & MUDGE.



DR. W. B. SEELEY'S SCHOOL, NORTH FLORES STREET.



SAN FERNANDO CATHEDRAL, MAIN PLAZA.



TYPICAL MEXICAN SCENES.



MISSION SAN JUAN CAPISTRAN (THIRD MISSION) BUILT 1716.



RESIDENCE OF G. BEDELL MOORE, WEST FRENCH PLACE.



SCENE IN BRACKENRIDGE PARK.

