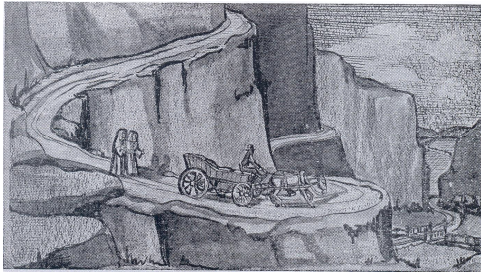


## “Unrelenting Spirit” By Sister Mary E. “Buffy” Boesen, SL



*Sisters of Loretto moving Westward from Bold Light in Yucca Land, Centennial Commemorative Edition 1952*

The road that led the Sisters of Loretto from Santa Fe to Denver also led, in time, from Santa Fe to Las Cruces, NM, then to San Elizario, TX, and finally to El Paso, TX in 1892.

Loretto Academy as we know it today owes much to Mother Praxedes Carty. In 1923 she returned to the Southwest after serving as the Superior General for 26 years. Building Loretto Academy seems to have been her retirement project. Oral history has it that she told architect Henry Trost to change the direction of the building so the two arms would reach out towards our neighbors in Mexico. According to the same oral tradition, Mother Praxedes was advised to construct one section of the building at a time. She responded that if she did that there would never be enough money to complete the building. So, she built the shell, and the sisters spent the next 13 years raising money to complete the interior. For years, there were no windows and the sisters would shovel the sand out of the rooms in the morning.



*Photo courtesy of Alumnae Office  
Loretto Academy El Paso*

Today, Loretto Academy stands proud on Government Hill. It can be seen from all points east and south in El Paso, including Juarez.

The campus is home to an active co-education pre-school and elementary school, as well as to a middle school and high school program designed especially designed for young women. A number of steadfast Loretto community members contribute to the success of the school. Sisters Mary Elizabeth “Buffy” Boesen, Liz Deines, and co-ember Irma Portillo are actively involved with the daily life of Loretto Academy. Sisters Frances Ratermann, and Marie Patrice Hoare, served on the Loretto Academy Board of Trustees for many years.

Loretto Academy has been the education home of over 7,000 graduates over the years. There are countless others who spent a year or two here while a parent was stationed at Fort Bliss or working in El Paso.

Loretto Academy offers advanced placement classes



*Sr. Mary E. “Buffy” Boesen, SL  
Photo courtesy of  
Loretto Academy, El Paso, TX*

in Calculus, English Language, English Literature, Psychology, Government, Art and Spanish.

The Loretto Academy class of 2011 was awarded \$7,132.844 in scholarships, grants and loans. 100% of the 81 graduates applied to colleges and were accepted. They received acceptance letters from numerous colleges

and universities throughout the United States and Europe.

Throughout 2012 the Loretto Community in El Paso invites all its friends, alumnae, and supporters to join in the celebration of the 200th anniversary of the Sisters of Loretto at the Foot of the Cross.