

“ORGAN MOUNTAINS AT SUNSET”

E. L. BOONE

1949

COMPILED BY SAM PEMBERTON

JUNE 2023



Elmer L. Boone, was a painter of Southwestern landscapes and Mexican subjects in Texas, Arizona and Mexico. He was born in Joplin, Missouri, in 1883. After 1927, he painted primarily in West Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. Boone died of a heart attack in El Paso, Texas in 1952, some two weeks after returning from a sketching trip to Arizona's Oak Creek Canyon, near Flagstaff. He is buried in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Boone studied in Chicago, Illinois, at the Smith School of Art, and the Art Institute. He eventually moved to El Paso in 1927 because of poor health. He had painted previously in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and in Montana. While in Montana, he painted with and trained under Charles M. Russell, who influenced Boone to focus on southwestern landscapes and Mexican subjects

In El Paso, Boone operated a commercial art studio in the Electric Company building. Some biographical materials state that Boone was a commercial artist for the El Paso Electric Company.

As a founder of the Annual Sun Carnival in El Paso, the artist exhibited across the region as a member of both the Far Southwest Artist Association and El Paso Artist Association. He was one of a number of El Paso artists that were instrumental in the development of early El Paso art.

His work may be found in the collections of the Montana Historical Society, Helena; and Torch Energy Advisors, Houston, Texas.

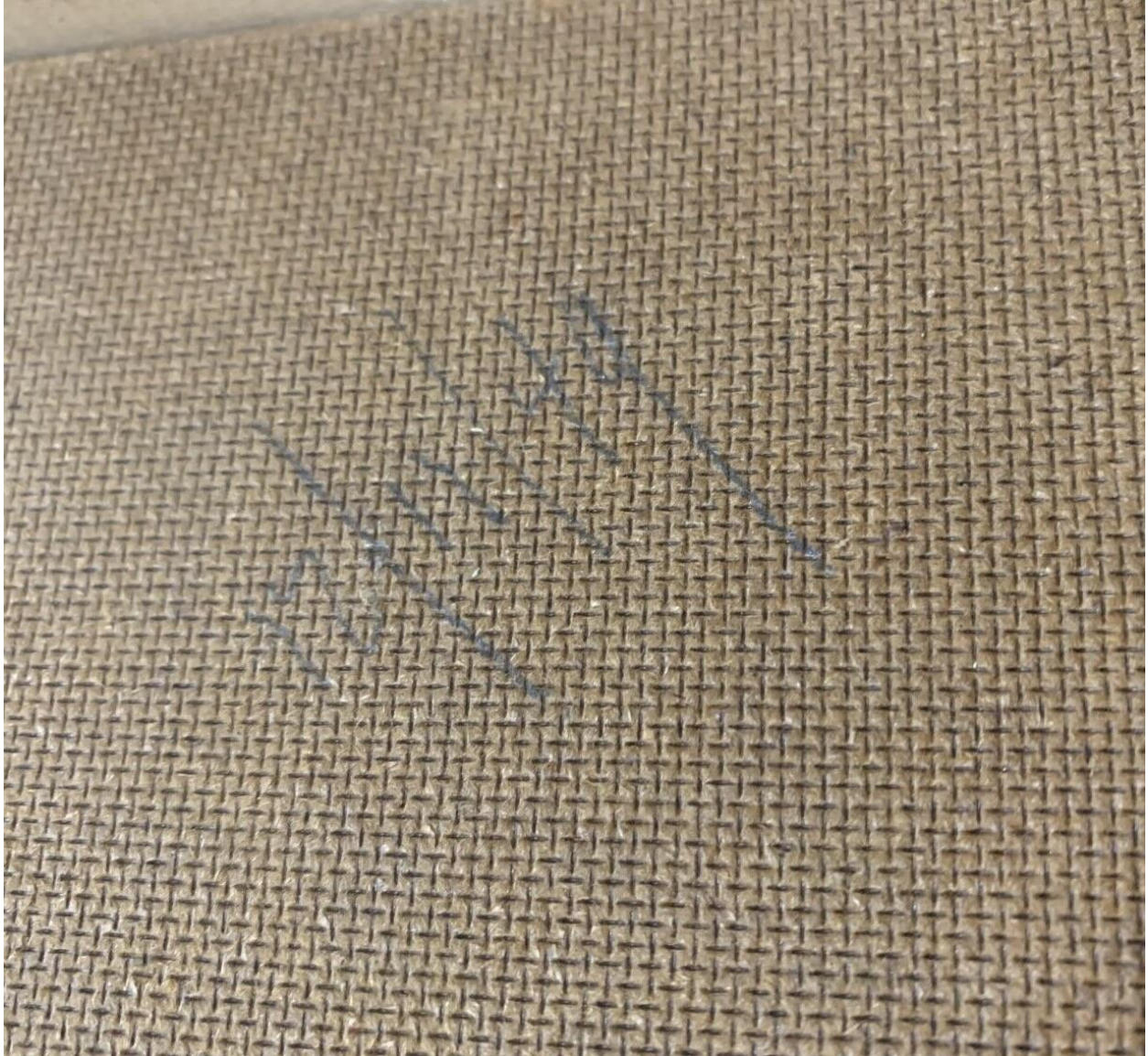
Posthumous exhibitions include the Charles M. Russell Gallery, Helena, Montana; "McKee Collection of Paintings," El Paso Museum of Art, 1968; "Early El Paso Artists," El Paso Centennial Museum, 1981; "Images of Texas, 1880-1950," Waco Art Center, 1994.

This painting, “Organ Mountains At Sunset”, was painted by Early Texas Artist E. L. Boone while he was living in El Paso, Texas. The Organ Mountain range was a typical subject for many of the Early Texas artists that lived in El Paso including Audley Nicols, Eugene Thurston, Lewis Teel, and others.

The painting is signed in the lower left corner with the typical Boone signature. This painting is oil on board and 24 X 18. It is a fine example of the work of E. L. Boone in his later years.



The painting was painted in 1949. On the back of the painting in pencil is the date December 11, 1949.



Sam and Karen Pemberton acquired this painting on June 4, 2023. It was purchased from Michael Manning of Oklahoma City for the sum of \$4250.

When we purchased this painting, I interviewed Michael Manning to establish the provenance of the painting from the artist to Sam and Karen Pemberton.

Here is the history as told to me by Michael Manning, as well as other known facts:

Boone had his commercial art studio in the Electric Building in downtown El Paso. This building also served as the company headquarters of El Paso Electric Company. It is likely that Boone did commercial art projects and illustration work for El Paso Electric. In fact, he may have even worked for the company. It is also likely that he was in casual day to day contact with El Paso Electric Company executives since they were all in and out of the same building on a daily basis.

H. A. (Mickey) Walsh started at El Paso Electric Company when he returned home from World War II. He was an Electrical Engineer.

Walsh told his step-son, Michael Manning, that Elmer Boone gifted three paintings to executives at El Paso Electric Company in the early 1950's. One painting went to the company President, the other two went to Vice Presidents. At that time Mickey Walsh was the Vice President of Operations for El Paso Electric and he received one of the three gift paintings from Elmer Boone. "Organ Mountains At Sunset" is that painting.

In 1970 Mickey Walsh married Syble Manning. Michael Manning is the son of Syble from a prior marriage and the step-son of Mickey Walsh. He remembers this painting being in the home of Mickey and Syble Walsh starting in 1970, after their marriage. He is familiar with this painting as a family item for the past fifty three years.



(Mickey and Syble Walsh)

The painting hung over the Walsh family fireplace for many decades. It was inherited by Syble Walsh when her husband Mickey died and was her favorite painting over her lifetime.

In 2020 the painting was inherited by Michael and Kathy Manning from the estate of Michael's mother, Syble Walsh. The painting was owned by Michael and Kathy Manning from 2020 till June 4, 2023 when it was sold to Sam and Karen Pemberton.

The French style white and gold frame on the painting has now been changed out to a new Taos style 22k gold frame purchased from Motyka Art Frame Company.

There was a label from “Art Center” frame shop in El Paso Texas on the back of the French style frame, when we purchased the painting. Based on the style of the phone number on this label and the fact that this company has been in business since approximately 1950, it is believed that the French white and gold frame is the original frame that E. L. Boone placed on the painting before it was gifted to Mickey Walsh.



The label above has now been relocated to the back of the new Taos style frame. The original frame will be saved and stored so it will hopefully remain with the painting for any future owner.

ADDITIONAL PHOTOS



(Mickey and Syble Walsh)



(Michel Manning and first wife (L), Mickey and Syble Walsh, wedding 1970 (R))

CONCLUSION

As is my custom when I own a painting that I can trace provenance back to the artist, this paper will be provided to CASETA, (Center For The Advancement And Study Of Early Texas Art) to be included in the reference section of their website.



It is my intent to preserve this provenance information for the benefit of future owners of this painting and/or researchers.

My thanks to Michael Manning and the Manning family for sharing the photos and other information in this paper.

Dated this 23 day of June, 2023

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