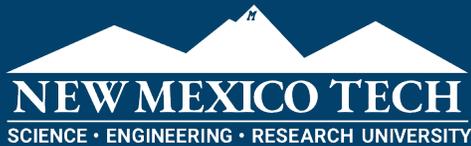


NEW MEXICO TECH AND THE TRINITY SITE CONNECTION



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Introduction

“New Mexico Tech and the Trinity Site Connection” is a special project initiated by Dr. Daniel H. López to spotlight the historical links between the internationally recognized science and engineering research university and the Manhattan Project’s Trinity Test Site 35 miles southeast of the city of Socorro. The 2023 release of the award-winning film “Oppenheimer,” and an 8mm clip capturing the image of Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer strolling across the Socorro Plaza at a 49ers Parade in 1952, inspired Dr. López to launch this retrospective. He is the longest serving President of New Mexico Tech (1993 - 2016), returning as Interim President in May 2023.

And the beat goes on.

Cover Photo Credit: White Sands Missile Range

Special thanks to NMT alumnus Charles A. “Chuck” Zimmerly and Mr. Gary Jaramillo, both natives of Socorro and members of the Socorro County Historical Society; Dr. Steve Simpson, NMT Dean of Arts and Sciences; Stephanie Chavez and the Office for Advancement; and alumna Valerie Kimble, also a native Socorroan. A protected area of the basement in the Skeen Library at NMT houses its archival collections, including a file with Dr. Marvin Wilkening’s notes from July 15-16, 1945 titled “My Day at Trinity.” Lucinda Whitehorse, Library Operations Coordinator, safeguards access to these historic documents.



1949 49ers Parade



J. Robert Oppenheimer

Joe Wills captured this image of J. Robert Oppenheimer during the NMT's 49ers parade in 1952

New Mexico Tech and the Trinity Site Connection

Long before the advent of digital technology, the most affordable option for anyone wishing to record and preserve visual recordings of people, places and events was the 8mm film format, the primary choice of home movie enthusiasts nationwide. Developed by the Eastman Kodak company during the Great Depression, the standard 8mm format was released to the market in 1932 as a less expensive alternative to 16mm film.

Within the following decades, a Socorro gentleman by the name of Joe Wills had embraced the hand-held 8mm video camera, most likely related to his job as manager of the Loma Theater, the city's only, then and now, indoor public theater. The original Loma Theater opened on the Socorro Plaza in 1937; in 1956, a fire forced its relocation several blocks east to Manzanares Street.

But in 1952, the movie theater still occupied a space in the Socorro Plaza. Wills may have rushed out of the building, camera in hand, to record one of the most celebrated events in the community - the New Mexico Tech 49ers parade, which drew hundreds of participants and spectators of all ages. The parade reflected the close ties between the college and Socorro community at that time.

And who doesn't love a parade?

One image from that 49ers parade of 1952 caught the figure of one of the most recognizable men in American history. Wills had captured the full-frame, black and white



image of J. Robert Oppenheimer himself, casually strolling across the Plaza – a celluloid portrait that indelibly links the Birth of the Atomic Age with the role that Socorro County and New Mexico Tech played in its continuing history.

At first glance, the image of the famed theoretical physicist walking solo across the dirt streets that bordered the Socorro Plaza, almost seven years after the signing of the Armistice on November 11, 1945, seems incongruous. And yet, at that moment, Oppenheimer is no different from Joe Wills, both individual spectators at a community celebration, unlikely partners linked to events that changed the world.



Silver Bar 1952



The Capitol Bar 1952



Cooney Mining Club 1952

Captured by Joe Wills & Courtesy of Gary Jaramillo and Socorro County Historical Society

On that temperate fall day in 1952, the mood in America was celebratory and bright. Servicemen had returned home to their wives and girlfriends, and the Baby Boom Generation was in full bloom. The G.I. Bill and FHA loans propelled an unprecedented economic swell. Life was rich with opportunities.

The Socorro Plaza of that time is easily recognizable in the video by several buildings that still stand. Among them is Ben's Finer Foods, on a northeast corner of the Plaza, now called Casa de Regalos, a gift store owned by Ben Zimmerly Jr.; Ben Sr. was the original proprietor.

The Plaza appears to be a sleepy affair with its scattered park benches and shade trees. Long-gone businesses include the Silver Bar and the Park Cafe. Anchoring the Plaza, then as now, is the Capitol Bar, a popular mainstay since 1896.

In a way, small-town parades haven't changed too much since that 49ers celebration of 1952. The School of Mines had changed its name in 1951 to the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology. But some traditions prevailed: parade entries featured bearded mining students (grow a beard for 49ers or be "jailed"), old Navy surplus vehicles – and

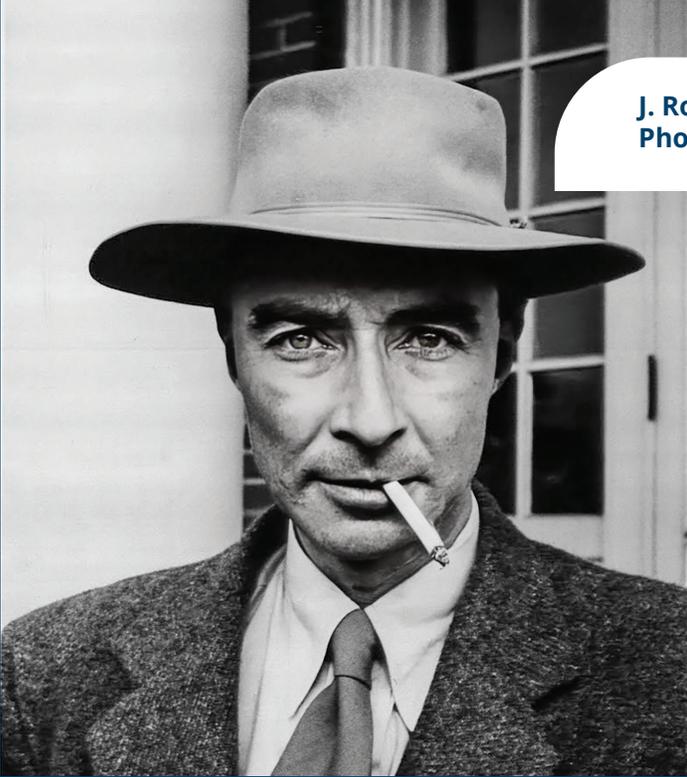


Photo Credit: Los Alamos National Laboratory. This photograph is the only existing color shot of the test. It was taken by Jack Aeby.

one float urging November voters to elect Richard Nixon as Dwight Eisenhower's vice presidential running mate. Surely, someone must have thrown candy to kids.

Spliced into the video are scenes from 49ers parades in 1945 and 1949, featuring school marching bands, square dancers and floats, among them two sponsored by the Cooney Mining Club and the Petroleum Club. In the background are Gerard's Cafe, the Stapleton store (which later became Zimmerly's Furniture; yes, a relative) and an advertisement for "The Singing Hill" movie at the Loma Theater featuring Gene Autry.

**J. Robert Oppenheimer & LANL Main Gate,
Photo credit: Los Alamos National Laboratory**



It is with great appreciation to the Jaramillo family, and the Socorro County Historical Society (SCHS) and its president, Charles A. “Chuck” Zimmerly, that a digital rendering of that 1952 parade, and other of Joe Wills’ 8mm films featuring clips from other community events, have been preserved for posterity in digital format.

Gary Jaramillo, a nephew of the late Joe Wills, several years ago turned over the digital videos to Zimmerly, then as now, president of the SCHS.

After viewing the videos, Zimmerly shared them with several New Mexico Tech faculty and administrators. They affirmed that, yes, the tall, slender figure in the light-colored, flat-top fedora with a wide brim, was indeed the man often called “the father of the atomic bomb.”



The 2023 release of Christopher Nolan’s celebrated movie, “Oppenheimer”, reignited an explosion of interest in this pivotal point in American history. This retrospective is not a retelling of the history of the atomic bomb, but is intended to shed light on what Socorro and the New Mexico School of Mines were like in the early 1940s and early post-war years, and how they are part of the historical tapestry of the Manhattan Project and the Trinity Test site.

“A lot of people, when they talk about that event and what eventually became White Sands Missile Range, think about Alamogordo,” said Zimmerly, sitting in the home that has housed five generations of his family.

“You hardly ever hear about Stallion Range, Socorro, or San Antonio, the closest places to Trinity Site,” he said. And, safe to say, anyone familiar with the history of the Manhattan Project knows about Los Alamos, a city built on an isolated mountain top in the cooler climes of northern New Mexico. Little more than a sleepy town at the time, military agencies transformed it into base headquarters for the preparations and machinations that led up to the Trinity Test, the capstone of the Manhattan Project.

Among others, it is Zimmerly's hope that this fresh focus on the people and events of 79 years ago will add local color to the portrait of that period in American history, filling in small details to help complete the picture. What happened afterwards determined much of the direction of both Socorro and New Mexico Tech, creating ripples across the globe in terms of scientific achievement and research, a mission the University continues to advance.

Indeed, the small town of Socorro, New Mexico may seem light-years from the University of Chicago in terms of distance and culture. But as fate would have it, both are inextricably linked through events that led to the detonation of the world's first atomic bomb at 5:30 am on July 16, 1945, in a remote desert some might have considered the middle of nowhere.

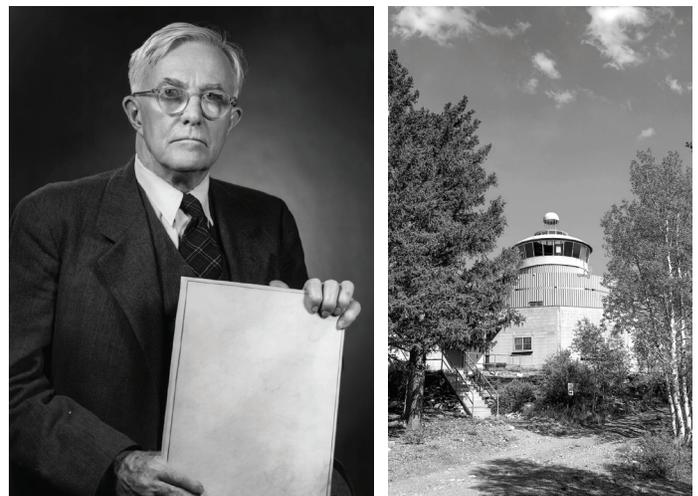
And that was exactly the point.



E.J. Workman, Credit: New Mexico Tech Porphyry, 1965

We might wonder why one of the most recognizable figures in American history was at the Socorro Plaza that October day. It is known that Oppenheimer was a close friend of then-President E.J. Workman (1946 – 1965), the first of a series of physicists who served as the college's chief executive, and a prominent figure in WWII defense research. Workman played a significant role in the development and deployment of the proximity fuse during WWII.

When he left the University of New Mexico in 1946 after a dispute with its president, Workman brought to the N.M. School of Mines his research, key personnel, and a philosophy that embraced the hard sciences. A name change in 1951 to the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology reflected that change in terms of research, curriculum and scientific culture. As President, Workman established the Terminal Effects and Research Analysis (TERA) group, the first research division at the N.M. School of Mines. TERA later expanded into warhead design and testing. As its work diversified, TERA was renamed the



Irving Langmuir & Langmuir Lab, Credit: New Mexico Tech Porphyry, 1965

Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center (EMRTC), an internationally recognized facility for its wide spectrum of research and testing capabilities.

Another Workman colleague was Irving Langmuir, whose research led him to study thunderstorms in the Magdalena Mountains of the Cibola National Forest, and for whom the Langmuir Laboratory for Atmospheric Research is named. Under Workman, Langmuir Lab was established in 1963 on Mt. Baldy in the Magdalena Mountains. Its most recent research neighbor is the Magdalena Ridge Observatory and Interferometer (established in 2004) located on one thousand acres at an elevation of 10,600 feet.

Among New Mexico Tech faculty in 1952 was Marvin Wilkening, a physicist who had worked with Enrico Fermi at the University of Chicago; in fact, Wilkening was present when the reactor went critical on December 2, 1942. Of that day, he wrote: "Fermi's measurements that morning established the approximate position of the control rod at

which point the pile would become a self-sustaining chain reaction – the critical point."

In time, Wilkening joined Fermi and other Manhattan Project scientists and staff at "Site Y," code name for Los Alamos, N.M., with his wife, Ruby. Wilkening was among those to witness the detonation of the nuclear device, known as Gadget. He wrote:

"Facing south, a blinding flash and warmth felt on any exposed skin. Estimation of cloud height, 26,000 feet. Huge cloud mushroomed and was purplish red...estimate of about 10 to 15 thousand tons of TNT equivalent. ... Beautiful sunrise...Audience reaction: first awe, then loud exclamations."



Marvin Wilkening, top row, far right. Enrico Fermi, bottom row, far left. Source: *The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, December 1992.

Ruby and Marvin Wilkening in Socorro 1995. Credit: Atomic Heritage Foundation



The Wilkenings moved to Socorro in 1948 during the Workman years; Marvin joined the Physics Department and later served as Graduate Dean. Ruby taught math and English in Missouri until her marriage. In an interview many years ago, she recalled sitting on a hill above Los Alamos in the early-morning darkness with other wives, looking southeast for any signs of the classified experiment in the New Mexico desert. The couple planted deep roots in the Socorro community. Wilkening was esteemed by both his colleagues and students, among whom were a host of international students he nurtured and advised as Graduate Dean. Ruby focused on environmental, historical and cultural causes, was very active in fund-raising projects; and, with her husband, entertained research scientists and



MARVIN H. WILKENING 1948
Professor of Physics and Geophysics
Head of Department
Credit: New Mexico Tech Porphyry, 1965

students from Socorro in their home and at a log cabin they built in the Gila National Forest. Ruby died in 2003; Marvin, in 2006.

Oppenheimer specifically mentions Giovanni Rossi (Ross) Lomanitz, a protégé of Oppenheimer's when Lomanitz was a graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley. Lomanitz, like his mentor, later was targeted for alleged "red" affiliations during the Cold War era that emerged after the war. Lomanitz eventually joined the NMT Physics Department faculty in 1962, later serving

as department chair. He retired in 1991 and moved to Pahoia, Hawaii where he died in 2002.

Two former New Mexico Tech presidents, also physicists, had ties to Los Alamos and development of the hydrogen bomb. Stirling Colgate (1965 - 1975), born in New York City, N.Y., in 1925, attended Los Alamos Ranch School until 1942 when the school was closed and its students “graduated” without notice. Colgate, in an oft-quoted interview with the Atomic Heritage Foundation, described visits to the school by Oppenheimer and other project leaders. When Colgate saw Oppenheimer, he claimed, he knew that fusion had been achieved. In fact, much of this interview with Colgate is included in the Oppenheimer biography on which the movie is based (although his name in the credits was misspelled as Sterling).

For his part, Kenneth Ford (1975 – 1983) has published books about his hydrogen bomb research. His academic advisor was John Wheeler, a student of Niels Bohr. Wheeler himself was involved in the Manhattan Project, and recruited Ford to work on the hydrogen bomb. Years later, Ford co-wrote memoirs of Wheeler, going on to win the 1999 American Institute of Physics Science Writing Award.

It has been said that New Mexico Tech Regents, in light of the somewhat-controversial Colgate, chose another physicist to succeed him; albeit, one who wore a suit and tie to Board meetings, as the collegiate culture, and higher education itself, changed. Both Colgate and Ford remain prominent among nuclear physicists. Colgate continued his research at Los Alamos National Laboratory and at Tech as an emeritus professor until his death in 2013 in Los Alamos. Ford, a prolific writer on physics and flying, is still living in Pennsylvania as of this writing (December 2023).

Dr. Steve Simpson, Dean of Arts and Sciences at NMT, recently interviewed former President Laurence Lattman

(1983 - 1993), who also has a connection to the Trinity Test. Lattman was in the military service during WWII. Because he had a degree in chemical engineering, Lattman was sent to Oak Ridge, Tennessee, where the uranium used in the bomb was being processed. His role entailed finding ways to clean and dispose of uranium waste at the facility.

Meanwhile, the old Loma Theater has been modernized, thanks to a collaborative effort between the Holm O. Bursum family and New Mexico Tech. Gone are the large film reels and projectors, the smoke room, the cry room and the stage where local kids competed in talent shows. Throughout the 1950s in Socorro, a local operator would ask, “Number, please?” to direct the caller using a basic-black telephone; and people got their news from



An Official Scenic Historical Marker in Socorro's Veterans Park alerts visitors to a fragment of Jumbo, a remnant from the world's first nuclear explosion. Credit: Valerie Kimble, NMT

radio (including short-wave), television and newspapers. Today, cell phones are as common as summer flies, and social media are the platforms of choice for anyone who wants to contribute their two cents' worth on any issue at any time. The Bursum family has its own link to the Trinity Test. Holm O. Bursum, Jr., one of the ranchers displaced by the project; and, later, a successful banker, civic leader and benefactor to New Mexico Tech, recalled in an interview about that morning, saying a herd of his cattle turned white overnight.

Reverberations from that day in July of 1945 continue still, as legacies of "the downwinders" pursue their quest for compensation. A triangular-shaped monolith sits silent among unabated winds that blast at its sides. Soldiers and civilians still die in conflicts that are none of their doing. Children are orphaned. The sun rises in the East. It sets in the West.

And, once upon a time, a man named Joe Wills stood on the sidelines of a 49ers parade in Socorro, New Mexico and aimed a hand-held 8mm video camera, recording images of people who have long since passed. One of the figures he captured was that of J. Robert Oppenheimer, a tall, slender man wearing a signature fedora, who today

is enjoying a renaissance of sorts. And a small college sitting in the Rio Grande Valley in the shadow of a mighty mountain continues its long legacy of educating the best and the brightest.

And the beat goes on.



Photo Joe Wills, Courtesy of Gary Jaramillo

In Focus: The Zimmerly Family, Athletics and WWII

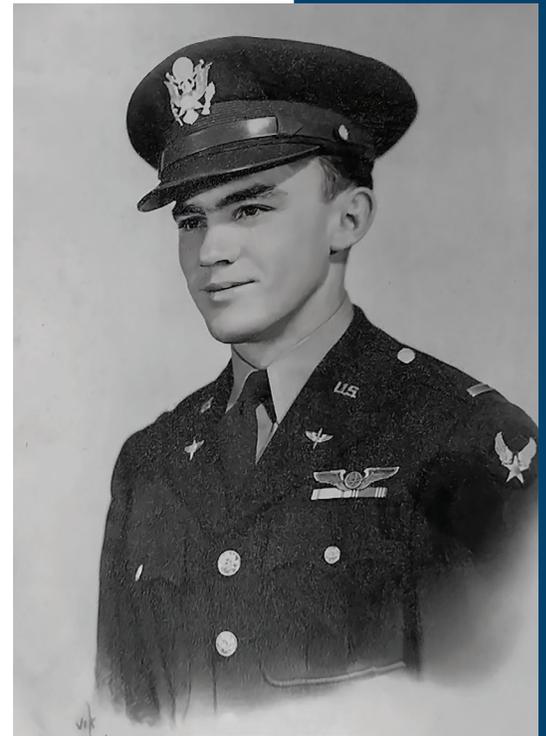
One may be surprised to learn that the history of this small college nestled in the shadow of M Mountain (for Mines) has another link to the Zimmerly family through a cultural phenomenon far removed from scientific research...but linked to the physical properties of playing the sport of basketball. "It's kind of funny how athletics is a part of this tie-in with Tech," Charles A. "Chuck" Zimmerly said.

His family tree is lined with branches that intertwine public service, education, teaching and sports. One need only visit with Zimmerly in his home, an homage to the five generations that have occupied the structure hand-built almost one hundred years ago by his grandfather, with its high ceilings and walls lined with portraits of ancestors; and archives of newspaper clippings and mementos.

It's a museum inside a house...or a house inside a museum. Its walls tell a story of their own.

Zimmerly's late father, Richard, was the fifth of six sons: Sam, Joe, Charlie, Ben ("Mr. Ben" of the Plaza store), Richard and Eddie. Richard Zimmerly graduated from the N.M. School of Mines in 1936 with a degree in Geological Engineering with a Petroleum option. He also played on the Miners basketball team.

Back in those days, the Miners played their games in the National Guard Armory on Manzanares Street, which had the largest open floor layout in the county. Socorro High School basketball teams, which in the early decades of the 20th Century played their games in the Opera House, by 1940 had their own gymnasium when a dedicated high school was built.



**Photo of Eddie Zimmerly,
Courtesy of Chuck Zimmerly**

Zimmerly has a clipping from the *Denver Post* dated March 15, 1936, announcing that all amateur basketball teams in the country were invited to a national tournament. The Miners were among those teams. "As a reward for making the nationals, the old Gym was built, and that floor was considered the best around," Zimmerly said. "In fact, the School of Mines became such a powerhouse in basketball, they entered the national rankings in the 1940s."

And so it was that a young man from Seminole, Texas named Elmore Morgenthaler enrolled at the small college in 1946. He stood seven-feet and one-inch tall. That year coincided with the arrival of post-war President E.J. Workman, who dropped intercollegiate athletics (although he later designed and had built the school's original nine-hole golf course).

Morgenthaler promptly transferred to Boston College (1946-1947), eventually playing for the Providence Steamrollers and the Philadelphia Warriors. Today, he is recognized as the first seven-foot player in the NBA.

Meanwhile, the basketball program at Socorro High School was mirroring the success of its collegiate counterparts.

Zimmerly has the actual March 6, 1937 Western Union telegraph heralding an SHS victory, 27-25, over Albuquerque High School, as one of 13 teams invited to the tournament played at UNM's Carlisle Gym. The coach for that team was Charles (Chuck) Finley, for whom the City of Socorro's Finley Gym is named.

It should be noted here that the Zimmerly family also has a long and distinguished legacy of military and public service. Chuck Zimmerly served two terms on the Socorro County Commission and spent many years as a Socorro City Councilor.

Like his father, Zimmerly served on the New Mexico Tech Board of Regents. Richard Zimmerly was on the Board that hired Stirling Colgate to succeed President Workman in 1965. Chuck Zimmerly was on the Board that hired Daniel López in 1993 to succeed President Laurence Lattman. Kenneth Ford served as President between the Colgate and Lattman administrations.

"My mom stayed here when dad was serving in World War II, and I have a lot of information from her diaries," Zimmerly said. Yvonne Zimmerly wrote movingly of one of the events that took place on a spring day in 1944: Her mother-in-law, Eloisa Zimmerly, married to Richard Sr., was standing at the kitchen sink washing dishes, when she looked outside and saw three of her sons walking toward the front door of the house on S. California Street.

Instinctively, she knew they were carrying news about one of her sons in the service -- either Richard Jr. in the Pacific Theater or the youngest, Eddie, navigator on a B-17 in Europe. Eloisa's husband gave voice to her fears: "Is it Richard or Eddie?"

As related by Chuck Zimmerly, on April 11, 1944, his Uncle Eddie was flying his 25th mission, and the last before he would have been furloughed, when his plane was hit by a 20mm cannon shell over Germany. Eddie Zimmerly was the only one on board killed; the others secured their parachutes before they strapped the mortally wounded Eddie into his own. The survivors of that mission were captured. The body of the youngest Zimmerly son was retrieved in 1949 and returned home.



Rose Garden Plaque, Credit: Valerie Kimble, NMT

The name of Edward E. Zimmerly is engraved on a plaque outside of NMT's Brown Hall, alongside those of other local soldiers who perished during the Great War. A garden of rose bushes was planted as a living memorial to those men and others who served, and died, for the cause of freedom. Not all of the rose bushes survived. "Our family always hoped his (Eddie's) was one of those that did," said Chuck Zimmerly.

(Please refer to "A War Aviator's Last Letter Home" written by Edward (Eddie) Zimmerly two days before his plane was shot down over Germany.)

Born in Hobbs, N.M., Chuck Zimmerly grew up and attended schools in the Texas cities of Denver City, Midland and Austin, before attending a Catholic boarding school, graduating in 1966. He was appointed to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md., until he was sent to Vietnam from 1969 to 1970. Zimmerly returned to Socorro and spent the next two years completing a



Chuck Zimmerly, Credit: Valerie Kimble, NMT

degree in Petroleum Engineering at New Mexico Tech. He also was among the early graduates of the school's Master of Science Teaching program, which gave him his first experience teaching and coaching at Socorro High School.

Zimmerly eventually put his petroleum degree to work, but it wasn't long before he realized that the oil fields couldn't compare to the joy he found on the football and track fields, and the challenges of the classroom. He turned down an offer for three times his salary as a petroleum engineer to return to Socorro as a teacher and coach. "Mr. Z" retired from formal teaching around 2005 - 2006; 2023 marked his 52nd year as an assistant high school football and track coach.

And the rest, as they say, is history.

A War Aviator's Last Letter Home

Editor's Note: The following is a verbatim account of a handwritten letter Lt. Edward Zimmerly wrote to his parents. It is dated Sunday, April 9, 1944, two days before his final mission as the navigator among eight other "fly boys" on a mission in Europe. It was Easter Sunday. Lt. Zimmerly was 21 years old.

"This has been a lovely day – the sun was actually shining – this must be the second day of summer the weatherman said we'd have this year. It's already 6:30, but it seems like midday. The sun is still out. Felt like going out walking this afternoon – but settled to going to a movie. The English people really take advantage of their Sundays off – they all seem to go out walking in the country – young and old alike.

"This morning early when they came to wake the boys to fly, I lay in bed awake -- but with my eyes shut, just hoping they wouldn't pick on me – luckily they didn't – but I figured it was a mistake. I didn't want to fly 'cause I wanted to go to church and to communion.

JULY 8, 1944

Last Mission



Lt. Edward E. Zimmerly, Son of Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Zimmerly Sr. of Socorro, has been reported killed in action in Germany as of April 11. The notification came from the German, government through the International Red Cross. Previous reports had listed Lt. Zimmerls as missing in action. He had completed 24 missions over Europe as navigator on a bomber and was on his last mission before being returned to the United States when his plane went down Lt. Zimmerly graduated from Socorro High School and attended the School of Mines there for two years before enlisting in the Air Corps in June, 1941. He was sent to England in October, 1943. A brother, R. M. Zimmerly Jr., recently was promoted to first lieutenant in the South Pacific. Another brother, J. L. Zimmerly, lives at Pueblo Solano here.

Newspaper Clip 1944

I went back to sleep and got up for 7:30 mass – the turnout was terrific, and everyone went to communion. The priest was really pleased.

"The usual big Sunday meal today was saved till supper so the boys flying could be there. Chicken with all the trimmings.

“Our crew is all apart again – Urban went to the hospital today with an upset stomach – and Raedeke (John) has a cold. You remember the boy I told (you about) that had undergone an appendectomy? Well he’s back flying with us again – and plenty happy to be.

“Officially now, I’m not on Raedeke’s crew anymore. I’ve been transferred to another crew – the flight commander crew – which makes me the flight navigator. It doesn’t really mean much – but I won’t be flying as often as I used to – and it also makes it easier for my promotion to come through.

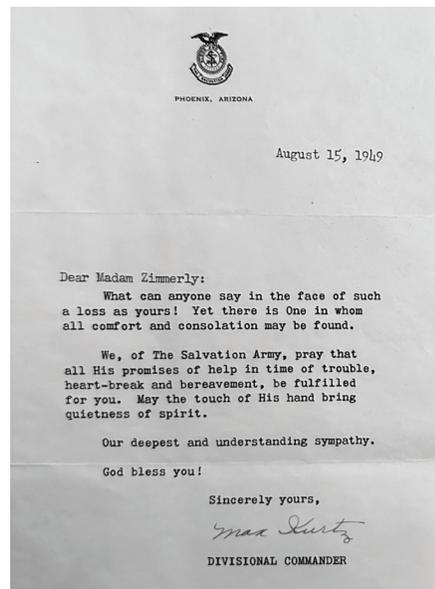
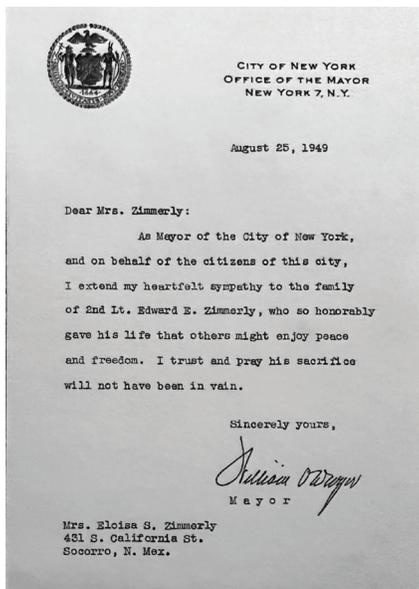
“How was Easter at home? Bet all the family was at home and the babies getting pampered more than ever. Cookie and Sharon Sue really sound like a pair – bet they keep you laughing and running all the time. I sure laughed about

Cookie getting Grampa out to do the polka – she can teach me soon.

“They’ve been playing ‘The Easter Parade’ over and over and the fellas get to talking about how the women always look forward to this day so they can show off that new dress ... I know most of them – they’re always sending me Xmas, New Year’s, birthday, Valentine cards and always manage to pick out the really comical ones – crazy bunch.

“I’ve been expecting a letter from Richard – and one from Ben too. It’s been some time since I wrote them and they haven’t answered. I owe Peggy and Agnes letters – I’ll try to get myself to writing them soon. In the meantime, give them all my regards and love.

“Your loving son, Edward”.



Two Letters to Mrs. Zimmerly 1949

Zimmerly Navigator on Successful 'Hit Parade' Mission

In his letter to his parents, Lt. Zimmerly referred to "The Easter Parade," a song written by Irving Berlin, with its lovely lyrics about taking a girl, in all her finery, to an Easter parade. There's also "Your Hit Parade," an American radio program broadcast from 1933 to 1950 (and, later, television).

For example, in 1945, Bing Crosby and the Andrews Sisters were among recognized "Your Hit Parade" recording artists.

But another "Hit Parade" emerged during WWII.

"It was a perfect day for bombing, and we could see plenty of damage," Lt. John Raedeke, commander of the Flying Fortress Hit Parade, was quoted as saying in an Associated Press account of the incident, bearing the dateline London, Jan. 13, 1944.

The article continued, "After a complete loop, we went into a spin. I told the boys to bail out. Before they did, I got the plane out of the spin. Five fighters were on our tail, so I kept diving. Four of them dropped off and we went into a cloud. When we came out, the other fighter was gone."

The Flying Fortress Hit Parade was recognized for "bagging nine German planes and eluding a swarm of fighters..." in a raid over the Reich on January 11, 1944. The article specifically recognized "the big bomber's navigator," Lt. Edward Zimmerly of Socorro, NM...(who) had to lie flat on his face...as the ship came in amid thickening weather and gathering dusk.

According to the official report, Lt. Raedeke ordered all crew members to prepare for a crash landing. "However, the Navigator (Lt. Zimmerly) volunteered to remain in the nose of the ship to direct the Pilot and Co-Pilot in their approach and a final landing."

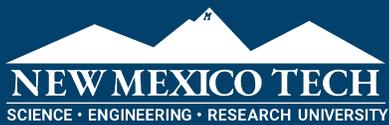
"That's the story," wrote Raedeke. "We now know from experience that a B-17 will loop, spin, pull out of a dive (at 400 mph), fly without a rudder and very little horizontal stabilizer, and will land normally without a rudder, and a flat tire added."

Reported the Associated Press in the Jan 13, 1944 article: "The whole story of one of the war's great battles probably will never be told because it is a thousand things to thousands of men."

Lt. Edward Zimmerly of Socorro, NM was one of them. And there were many thousands more whose stories never will be told. Eddie Zimmerly, 21 years old, died three months after the Flying Fortress Hit Parade's most successful mission.



Pilot John Raedeke: (top row, second from left) and his crew posing in front of their B-17 during WWII
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