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## Eugene Manlove Rhodes, 1869–1934

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PASÓ POR AQUÍ  
EUGENE MANLOVE RHODES  
1869-1934

SUCH was the felicitous phrase selected by Gene Rhodes himself for his epitaph. It will be inscribed upon the monument which, it is hoped, will soon mark his last resting place.<sup>1</sup> Of course the phrase is historically famous, for just 330 years ago it was carved on the face of Inscription Rock when Don Juan de Oñate was returning from his journey to the Gulf of California; but it took on new meaning when Gene Rhodes used it as the title of one of his first stories of New Mexico life. And now it has added significance as an epitaph: "he passed this way."

Shy and unassuming, lovably irascible at times, impatient of sham in any form, loyal in his friendships and generous to a fault, Gene Rhodes saw life in its true values—and he interpreted life with his intriguing lisp and a quizzical gleam in his eye. He was a delightful companion with whom to lounge and chat over a pipe before an open fire. Clean and wholesome in thought, interested and interesting, original and stimulating in ideas, he always called out the best in man or woman.

Cowboy, student of life, master of prose, lover of animals and children and all kindred spirits, seeker after truth and beauty, "he passed this way" and his memory will ever remain fresh and sweet in the hearts of those who knew him.

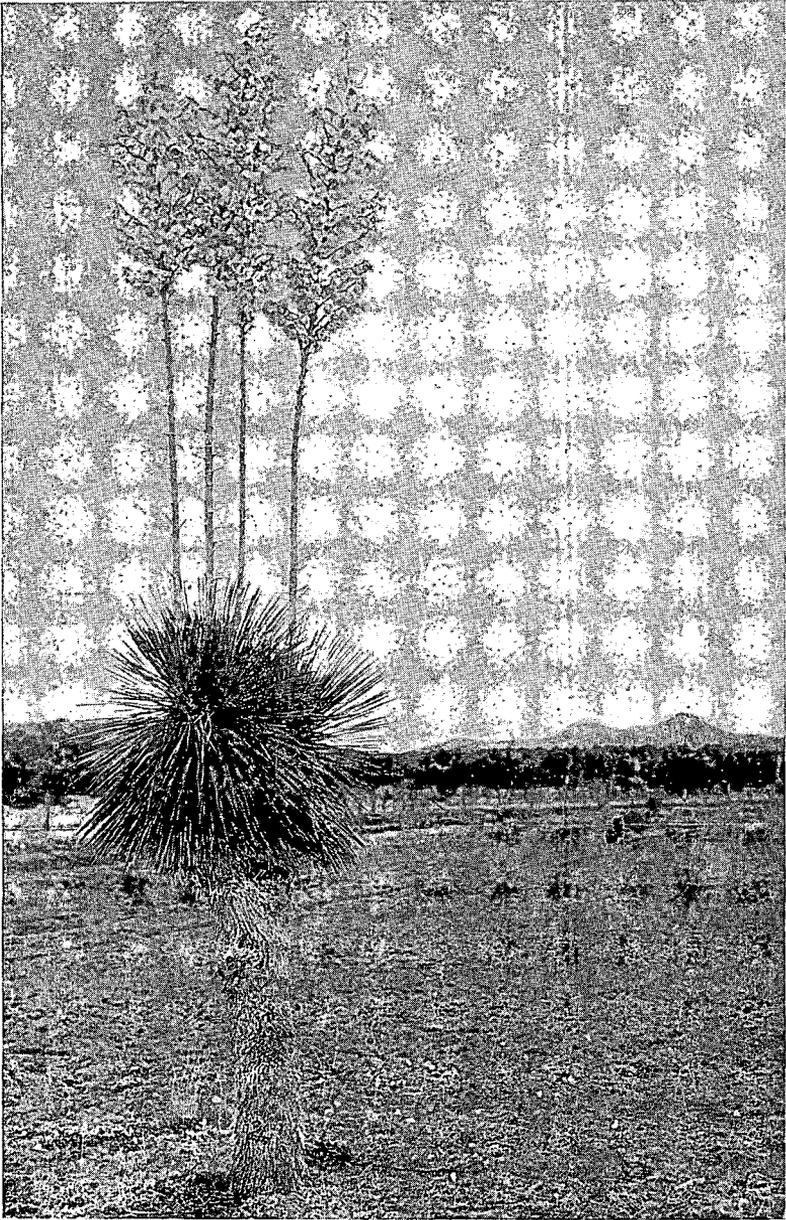
Recently in our editorial browsing, we came across an early poem that was dated at Engle, New Mexico, and was first published in 1899.<sup>2</sup> Anyone who visits Rhodes Pass in the early summer will see along the trail the towering yuccas, "*las velas del Señor*" (the candles of the Lord)—and perhaps he will see them as Gene Rhodes saw them.—L. B. B.

1. Any of our readers who wish to participate in this Rhodes memorial may send their checks to Mrs. Alice Corbin Henderson, Camino del Monte Sol, Santa Fé. The fund is now being collected with a view to placing the monument this summer.

2. In *The Land of Sunshine*, XI (Oct., 1899), 251.



EUGENE MANLOVE RHODES



*Photo by U. S. Forest Service*

THE YUCCA IN FLOWER