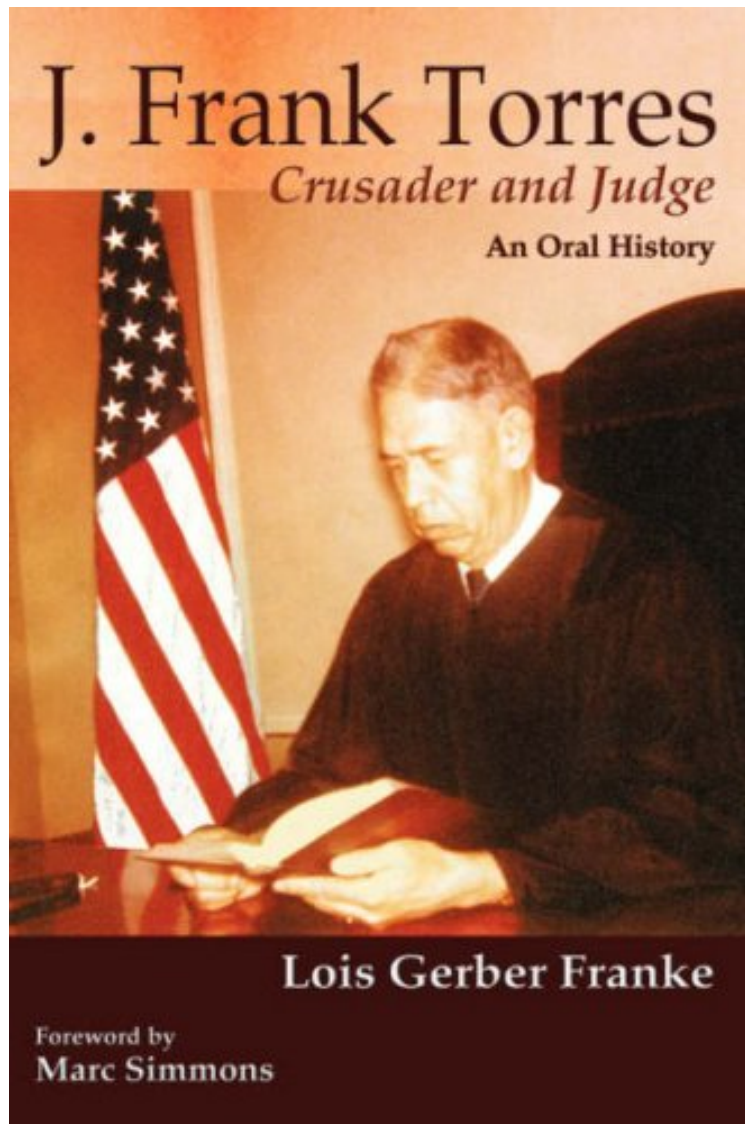


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J. Frank Torres (Softcover)

Lois Gerber Franke

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Lois Gerber Franke : J. Frank Torres (Softcover) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised J. Frank Torres (Softcover):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. J.Frank Torres By P. Torres I guess I am biased since J.Frank Torres is my first cousin twice removed...in other words, he is my grandfathers first cousin so I was thrilled to learn details for my dads family that we were all wondering about. I always wondered why a Torres family saying was "Here come the Judge". Usually said when one of us was in trouble. Frank paints an accurate and very descriptive picture of what life was like in New Mexico and Colorado around the turn of the last century. I found a few of the pages a bit boring

as he rambled on and on about how much he liked listening to the birds, taking long walks, being independent from the normal course of the family at that time, etc. Overall a great investment that my family will cherish into the next generations and that others will enjoy about a man who made a difference for hispanic settlers in the area.

Jose Francisco Torres was born and raised 'up the river' above Trinidad, Colorado and his life spanned from the cowboy days of the late 1800s to the technological era of the late 1900s. Despite the security of his home in the rural Spanish community, there was something lacking: opportunity and respect for his people from the outside world. Early on, he conceived the notion that this was wrong, that he and his people deserved better and, as a child, he felt prompted to do something about it. The question became what and how? Discrimination was everywhere and he had neither money nor support to assist him. But with faith and determination, and to the dismay of his parents, he set out to prove it could be done. Refused entry into law school because of his background, he refused to be stopped by the rejection. This chronicle of the hardships, gains, setbacks and wins in the life of this man details what he felt and what he accomplished in his lifelong battle against prejudice and for equality. In the process, he lost his first love, battled a deadly disease, crossed with the Ku Klux Klan, gained a law degree, defended the poor and disadvantaged, married his Crusita and reared three children, took on the political establishment, joined every civic good cause that came his way, and became the Honorable J. Frank Torres, 'the only honest judge we ever had!'

"J. Frank Torres, born in 1897, was the scion of a New Mexican family that moved to the Purgatoire River Valley in what is today the area of Trinidad, Colorado. Torres was self-educated until the age of 13. His first priority was to master English, and at the age of 15 he finished the eighth grade. From an early age, it rankled him to see Hispanic people treated as second-class citizens by the dominant population. His moral values and keen intellect convinced him that 'integrity, hard work, education and participation in democracy were the only route to a better life for all citizens.' Only by seeking social justice for everyone could equality be achieved, he felt, because separatism led to more discrimination. Torres grew up to be a complex, highly moral, idealistic and committed individual. At 17 he began his own fee-based school for rural youth. He started a Boy Scout troop as a way of building character in boys. Realizing that the practice of law was a way to fight society's ills, he applied to the Denver Law School but was refused entry because they didn't 'want his kind there.' He was accepted by Westminster Law School, where he finished at the top of his class. Torres set up a law office in Trinidad and soon was serving client from all classes of people. He took on the Ku Klux Klan and the corrupt politicians of nimas County, and his fairness won him the trust of the common citizens. He ran for county judge as an Independent and won after bucking the political machine, which had backed another candidate, and assailed discrimination wherever he encountered it. Torres was an issue-oriented individual who had little tolerance for small talk, even on social occasions. After retirement he moved to Santa Fe to be close to his family, and as he aged he shared his life story with the author. The only weakness in the book comes when the author compares Frank to Don Quixote. He wasn't a Quixote--Torres fought real issues, and won most of the time. This book is an inspirational must-read. Torres's example emboldens us to stand firm when confronted by injustice or dishonesty." --La Herencia About the Author Lois Gerber Franke was born and reared on an eastern Colorado ranch where she learned to ride, rope and shoot. She graduated from the University of Colorado and has completed studies from other institutions. After college she lived and worked at jobs in San Francisco and Washington, D.C. She married Paul, an engineer, and lived at Grand Lake, Colorado where she learned trout fishing. The family then moved to Santa Fe, New Mexico where she did city planning before settling into a career of teaching high school English and Journalism and coaching the table tennis team. Lois has three grown children and is a compulsive reader who likes horses, dogs, puns, cribbage, lilacs and rainy days. This book springs from her friendship with an intrepid and unforgettable neighbor.