

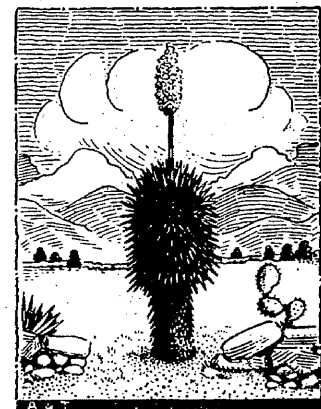
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MUNICIPAL FACTS

Prepared by Governmental Research Department C. of C., at Request of Mayor Chas. Davis



CHAS. DAVIS
Mayor City of El Paso

CHARLES DAVIS was elected mayor of El Paso in April, 1917, and was re-elected again in 1919. He is the son of Chas. Davis, a pioneer citizen of El Paso, who was mayor of this city from 1905 to 1907. Mr. Davis was four years old when his father moved to El Paso from Bryan, Texas, in 1881. After attending the public schools in El Paso, he attended Wharton's preparatory school in Nashville, Tenn.; and the Virginia Military Institute from which southern military college he graduated in 1898.

Mayor Davis through inheritance and his own business ability has acquired considerable real estate holdings and since his college days has been active in real estate, in farming in the El Paso Valley, and in cattle raising. During the year of 1907 he was tax collector for the county and was the representative from El Paso to the State Legislature during the 32nd and the 33rd sessions. In 1909 he was married to Miss Fannie Montgomery of Austin, Texas. They have one child, a daughter, Miss Frances Davis.

Being a good mixer, Mayor Davis is a member of many clubs and institutions, chief of which are the Chamber of Commerce, the Toltec Club, the Country Club, the Knights of Pythias, the Masons, the Shriners, the Elks—while he worships under the roof of the Baptist church. He lives in a home in the Sunset Heights Addition, which is regarded by all those to whom the city is new, as one of the most pleasing and attractive homes of El Paso, without being sumptuous or elaborate.

The homes that men build usually reflect their personality; and the trim pleasant abode in Sunset Heights indicates better than a detailed biographical sketch that Mayor Davis is a man of simple refined taste; that he is genial and hospitable, inasmuch as the home is about as invitational a place as one would want to find; that he stands for progress rather than conservatism; that he is putting into the city the same good judgment and appreciation of what it means to build for the future, that he has put into his home.

As a man, the mayor has many friends and even among those who travel under other political colors—he is generally known as "Charley" to those men who take the leadership in the city and county in law, banking, commerce and industry. His sane and sensible administration, characterized by weighing carefully the pro and con of every issue pre-

FOREWORD

HERETOFORE the City of El Paso has never published in concise and intelligible form the more important facts relating to the city government. Many of our leading and most up-to-date cities are now annually publishing in some form or other, facts pertaining to municipal administration. In order that El Paso may take its place with other leading American cities the Mayor and Council take this opportunity to present in "Greater El Paso" a review of the City's activities and functions.

It is extremely difficult, even for the City officials of long experience, to bear in mind all the details of the government of El Paso; while for the citizens a familiarity with the structure and functions of municipal departments and office has been sadly lacking.

I believe it is important from the standpoint of the development of the municipal administration; as well as from the standpoint of public education, that a current record be maintained appropriately describing the structure, functions and activities of the City government.

I trust, therefore, that the precedent now established may be continued, to the end that municipal facts may be published annually hereafter.

CHAS. DAVIS, Mayor.



R. C. SEMPLE
Alderman

ALWAYS likeable—always consistent in every stand he takes for betterment of municipal problems, R. C. Semple, has made for himself a host of friends since taking office, in addition to those he possessed prior to his election on the City Council to serve with Mayor Davis. The incident of being born in a town called "Liberty" in the substantial State of Missouri may have cast in advance of Semple's feet the path of democratic ideals which he would later follow.

The year, so the record shows, and Semple's face certainly does not register, was 1878.

As a boy he attended the Wornall Academy at Liberty; later to graduate from William Jewell College in 1896 with an A. B. degree. In '96 he went with the Santa Fe railroad at Kansas City, and in 1898 was transferred to Las Vegas, N. M., later to go to Albuquerque where he had charge of the freight and passenger department. In October of 1900 he came to El Paso with the Santa Fe, to leave for Arizona where for nearly a year he was with the Copper Queen Mining Company. In 1901 he returned to El Paso, which he has made his home since, and where until 1903 he was again with the Santa Fe.

In 1903 he went on the road for the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company and in 1906 he entered into a partnership with Mr. Awbrey in the fuel business. They were partners until 1913, when the partnership was dissolved and Mr. Semple went into the roofing and flooring business, in which business he is now engaged.

Mr. Semple was married in 1907 to Miss Ellie Shelton, daughter of Postmaster E. A. Shelton, and resides at 2601 Montana street. There were three children from this marriage Anne, Richard and Ellie.

Alderman Semple, is a big "he-man" proposition with a countenance that registers sympathy and understanding. His ambition is to give to El Paso so far as lies in his power toward making the city more beautiful as a place in which to live and in the development of wholesome and healthful recreation for the citizenship of El Paso. In days past, he says, we have been engaged in the pioneer construction work of building a city and in making money; our concern henceforth is not to minimize the commercial and industrial development; but to give equal interest and support to those things which make a city a better and a finer place in which to live.

sented him; of calling in experts to pass upon matters which he felt should in the interest of the public be considered by men of experience and training in that special field; his constructive program throughout, has all led to bringing together men who in former years had developed ungrounded antagonisms toward each other—with the result that for the first time in years the citizenship as a whole are pulling better together for a better city than ever before.

Mayor Davis has shown wisdom and acumen in the administration of the financial affairs of the city; and his relationship with the business interests through the Chamber of Commerce, has resulted in developing a finer El Paso, socially, commercially, educationally and spiritually.

The Mayor is not a man who stands out as an isolated individual working out abstract problems and disposed to consider fundamental principles alone; he is pretty much of a "human being"—generous, considerate, sincerely earnest in his desire to administer the affairs of the city so well that when his official career ends, he will be as much in the hearts of El Paso as was his splendid and much beloved father.