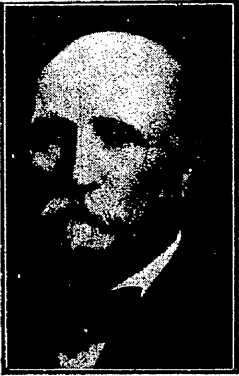


## Municipal Facts—City of El Paso



**PARK W. PITMAN**  
Alderman

I 'VE BEEN broke three times—in New Orleans, Kansas City and Santa Fe and I've been bent a number of times since—but I'm still here" says Park W. Pitman when asked to epitomize his life in a single phrase. Mr. Pitman prior to having the title of Alderman, for a long term of years carries the title of "The Best County Clerk that El Paso Ever had." The story of how he got the title is Mr. Pitman's strictly and being copyrighted, and for conversation only—the facts may be had of that estimable gentleman first hand.

It was the first year of the civil war that Mr. Pitman gave life notice that he "was here." The exact date was July 18, 1861. The township was Havanah, Illinois, and the glad tidings were circulated about in the household of his father, John W. Pitman—that Park was a boy. It's worthy of observance that Mr. Pitman has succeeded in remaining very much of a boy in cheerfulness and goodfellowship since 1861 and because of his unflagging youthfulness explains the fact that after 18 years as "The Best County Clerk that El Paso County ever had" he was elected with a big majority as city alderman. Only a man with a lot of "boy" in him comes back after that fashion.

Mr. Pitman went to school in Havanah and graduated in due time from the High School in that town. He then attended The Lincoln University (Cumberland Presbyterian) for a period of two years. We next find him in Chicago working for five years as a clerk with the Wabash Railroad. At 24, he came to El Paso, that is to say in 1885. He was not destined for El Paso—but the Pacific Coast. He liked the town, and felt that there were opportunities here and stayed. It was not until 12 years later that he did see California; nor has he ever regretted the fact that he remained here.

His first venture in El Paso was the brick business. With his partner, Mr. Look, they established the first brick kiln in Juarez, from which the Post Office in Juarez, so successfully wrecked by Villistas, was made. Two or three years later he joined hands with P. E. Kern (The Honorable Peter) who was then operating a jewelry store and during that period Mr. Pitman did the bookkeeping while the Honorable Peter made the sales.

From jewelry Mr. Pitman passed over to men's clothing, clerking in the store of Charles Merrick. Not satisfied with one clothing store Mr. Pitman cast his lot with Blumenthal Brothers. He left the Blumenthal store to go on the road for two joyous years for a firm styled J. P. Dieter & Company who handled a line of which little is now known in these United States.

An opportunity came about the second year of road traveling and Mr. Pitman lined up into a partnership with George Look and they took the contract for laying the track of the Rio Grande Sierra Madre Pacific Railroad from Juarez to Casas Grandes in 1894-1895. In 1896 Mr. Pitman was elected county clerk of El Paso County in which post he served for 18 years.

Upon the conclusion of the county clerkship Mr. Pitman went into the real estate business and in 1919 was elected alderman. In 1899 he was married to Miss Nancy Chick of Bowling Green, Kentucky, and the marriage has brought to the home three children Anne E, Mary C., and Park W., Jr.



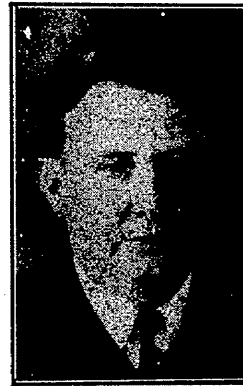
**MARTIN SWEENEY**  
Alderman

ALDERMAN Martin R. Sweeney, is the most Irish man on the El Paso City Council. His mother came from Cork and his father from Mayo. He was born in St. Louis and received his childhood education in the Catholic Parochial schools of that city, later to complete his education under the direction of the Jesuit Fathers in St. Louis College. For eight years he was in the dry goods business in St. Louis, and came to El Paso in 1903 where he became a manufacturer and is now president and general manager of the Woodlawn Bottling Works. In 1915 he was married to Miss Margaret Condon.

There is a paradox in the council in that Alderman Semple looks as if he might enjoy a knotty problem like improving the parks and increasing the park area; taking care of the drainage system and sewerage system; as well as the engineering program and the building program, instead of being the champion of good music, museums and so forth; while the actual situation is that the mild and pleasant mannered Alderman Sweeney is wrapped up in these utilitarian issues—hat, coat, pants and shoes.

Alderman Sweeney is deeply interested in the work and ambitions of the City Planning Commission, and is co-operating with this group of citizens in every way that lies in his power. He believes that if a city like El Paso is to grow, adequate provision must be made for park areas, for drives, tree planting and gardens; and he is working strenuously toward that end.

"When the High Line Canal is completed" says Mr. Sweeney, much of the difficulty we now face in planting trees and furnishing them with sufficient water will be passed; and in time El Paso will be as green a city for its foliage as any city in the East where nature and rainfall make foliage an easy matter; and not a continuous conflict with nature itself.



**W. T. GRIFFITH**  
Alderman

WILLIAM T. GRIFFITH was born upon a farm in Lee County in the year 1875. His parents upon his mother's side were Scotch and Welsh; and upon his father's side Welsh and English. For this reason Alderman Griffith has the frank impulsiveness of the Irish, considerable zeal and eagerness for any cause he champions; while because of the Welsh strain, he exercises on alternate periods that conservative, careful methodism which is peculiar to the Welsh alone.

He received his early education in the public schools of Lee County and later finished his education in the Normal School of Bastrop. Prior to coming to El Paso in 1911, he was in the State and County Assessor's office in Houston; and for a period of four years with the grocery firm of Kessler & Dixon in Houston. He went into the customs service in El Paso in 1911 and was in that service until 1915, when he entered the immigration service. He was in the immigration work until 1918 when he was appointed alderman to succeed W. G. Jolly.

Mr. Griffith is a man of distinct leadership and among his ideals is that of placing all employees of the city under a civil service and abolish the appointive plan. He would place the city upon a strictly business basis and has co-operated splendidly with Mayor Davis toward this end. He is for a reasonable enforcement of laws; and believes in a reasonable adjustment of industrial problems, taking the position that extreme radicalism in either capital or labor is a detriment to the advance of the community.

Mr. Griffith was married to Miss Nell Ellis in 1907 and lives at 709 North Virginia street. The issue from this marriage are two boys: Wilfred Thomas and William Ellis—two boys all the way through as their father states. Being a home man and a "dad"—Mr. Griffith is deeply interested in all those factors which make for a better city and better living conditions and he is earnestly working toward this end in all he does.

## EL PASO FIRE DEPARTMENT

### Insurance, Key Rate and Fire Losses

Year	Alarms	Valuation	Ins. Carried	Estimated Loss	Per Capita	Key Rate
1909	237	\$1,985,475.	\$ 974,255.	\$ 95,799.40	\$2.20	
1910	239	1,475,960.	996,550.	226,131.99	5.02	
1911	248	1,622,543.	1,103,950.	38,757.67	.84	\$22
1912	318	3,045,440.	1,623,144.	26,825.44	.50	.22
1913	308	3,763,105.	2,436,744.	104,400.98	1.90	.19
1914	310	5,353,931.	3,169,879.	60,374.53	1.01	.18
1915	301	4,502,104.	2,910,213.	77,557.55	1.19	.18
1916	436	4,499,857.	2,140,601.	296,203.64	5.45	.18
1917	471	5,240,650.	2,911,855.	412,698.18	6.07	.17
1918	301	5,695,725.	2,617,725.	211,690.19	2.82	.15
1919	308	6,660,216.	4,219,951.	94,798.35	1.16	.15