

# EL PASO BUILDER DIES IN MEXICO

**Richard J. Baker Is Fatally  
Hurt by Fall—Family  
Asks For Body.**

A message has been received by the family of Richard J. Baker, a prominent El Paso building contractor, that he had met death by an accident which occurred Friday at the plant of the Guanajuata Development company, at Guanajuato, Mex., where he has been employed for two years. In spite of telegraphic appeals by the widow and children, who live at 809 Myrtle avenue, no assurance of the disposition of the body has been received.

Three telegrams told of the injury to Mr. Baker's chest by a fall, of his critical condition, and the last of his death at 11:30 Saturday morning. In response to a message from the company management stating that interment would be attended to, the family demanded that the body be shipped to El Paso, or at least Juarez. But no answer has arrived, either from the mining officials or the American consul, who was also notified.

If no word is received today the bereaved family, the widow, two daughters, and a son will depart tonight for Guanajuato, a more than two days' journey. Grief at the death is being

increased by misgivings over the disposition of the father and husband's body.

#### **Erect Fort Bliss Buildings .**

Of the El Paso contractors of a decade ago, few were as prominent and successful as was Richard J. Baker. Besides many minor building works, residences and business houses, he was chief contractor of the old Juarez smelter, and under government commission erected the most of the Fort Bliss buildings. He also built the First Methodist church structure. His greatest activities in El Paso occurred from 15 to 20 years ago, for a number of years under the firm name of Whitmore & Baker. Later Mr. Baker engaged in construction work on the Pacific coast in cities of Wyoming, Oregon and Washington. Also, he was engaged in construction work for Greene Cananea properties, and was a minor contractor in building the El Paso Smelting company plant.

Mr. Baker has been engaged two years as general superintendent of construction for the Guanajuato company. At the time of his death he was erecting some aerial tramways. It has been about a year since Mr. Baker visited El Paso. His youngest daughter, Miss Elsie Baker, received a letter from her father last week, arranging for her to visit him.

#### **Many Relatives Survive.**

Mr. Baker was 57 years of age, born in Pennsylvania. He came to El Paso 24 years ago. Surviving are the widow, Miss Elsie, who lives at the family residence; another daughter, Mrs. R. B. Dalzell, of Kansas City; and one son, Richard T. Baker, general foreman for a local contracting concern. Also surviving are six sisters, Mrs. C. A. Houck,

700 Mesa avenue, the others living in Pennsylvania and New York states. Mrs. Dalzell is expected to arrive today from Kansas City, and probably will accompany the family into Mexico, should no word be received.

HERALD 7-11-10