



W. M. Banner

W. M. Banner, Pioneer Leader, Taken by Death

Built Two of Largest Downtown Buildings

W. M. Banner, pioneer cattleman and business man, died in a hospital today. He was 84.

Mr. Banner and his cousin, the late M. D. Roberts, invested heavily in the city's future in the early years of the century. Their main contributions to the city's growth were the Banner and Martin buildings in downtown El Paso.

Born 'n N. Carolina

Mr. Banner was born in Mt. Airy, N. C., Sept. 7, 1864. At the age of 17 he left home and came to Texas. He joined his cousin, Mr. Roberts, a cattleman near Abilene.

The two men became fast partners until Mr. Roberts' death in 1917.

The two men moved their cattle to a ranch they bought in Separ, N. M., near Lordsburg. They shipped the cattle by rail to El Paso and then drove the large herd through the streets out the western part of town and across the desert to Separ.

In 1911, the cattlemen sold their ranch and herds to the Diamond A Cattle Co. and moved to El Paso, where they had bought two building sites.

In 1910 the Banner Building was constructed at Mesa avenue and Mills street. And in 1916 the Martin Building at Stanton and Mills street was completed. Mr. Roberts died in 1917.

Although retired from active business, Mr. Banner contributed much to the community in which he had great faith. He served as a director of the El Paso National Bank from the time the bank was organized. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce until his death. He was a member of the Methodist Church.

Funeral Monday

The Roberts and Banner interests were split in the early 1940s at which time Mr. Banner became the sole owner of the Banner Building. Coles Brothers have represented Mr. Banner's real estate interests for many years.

Mr. Banner is survived by two brothers, Dr. Charles W. Banner of Greensboro, N. C., who was at his bedside at the time of his death, and John Banner of Mt. Airy, N. C.

Mrs. Bertie Holden had been Mr. Banner's housekeeper for many years.

He lived at 1801 North Piedras street.

Funeral services will be held in the Kater and Maxon Chapel at 4 p. m. Monday. Dr. L. L. Evans and Dr. Leland Clegg will officiate. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery.