

Lucy Barbee, the very efficient janitress of the Sheldon Block for the last nine years, died this morning at the Sister's hospital from blood poisoning. She was engaged to Lieut Flipper, who was wired at Washington, but he was so tied up with business that he could not come on. Miss Barbee came to this city from Bloomington, Ills.

HERALD 4-28-98

In Memoriam.

To every man who has ever been sick for any time in the Sheldon block the death of Lucy Barbee, the janitress comes in the nature of a personal bereavement, for she beautifully exemplified the French proverb, "Every sick man is our brother." The element of pecuniary gain seemed in no way to influence her, but from pure kindness of heart she carried sunshine with her cheery voice, her ready smile and her wonderful capacity for accomplishing results. To many a poor fellow who came to El Paso seeking health Her quick, springy step, more like that of a healthy girl of eighteen than that of a woman of mature years, her cheerful disposition and appearance of robust health, up to a short time back caused all of us to look for many years of usefulness for this gentle and kindly woman who leaves so many sorrowing friends behind. A janitress in a large building has many opportunities, if of a gossiping disposition, to cause disagreeable things to come to a person; to Lucy's credit be it spoken that in her years of service in the Sheldon no heart was made sad, no tears were caused to fall by anything said by her. To Mr. H. B. Stevens, to whom her death comes as of a dear friend, we tender our sincerest condolences in his grief; she cannot be replaced. Her blood was a mingling of the white and black races; she inherited the good qualities of both—the bad qualities of neither—and she was an honor to our common humanity. Let us hope that as "her feet were in the water," she saw across the dark river the beckoning hands of the numbers whose pillows she had smoothed and whose spirits she had cheered on this side, and who will cry, "Lord, help me, and to me, she was ever a present help in trouble." W. M. Y.

HERALD 4-30-98