

HENRY BENEKE DEAD.

Asphyxiated by Water Gas—A Pioneer
El Paso Merchant.

Yesterday the sad intelligence reached this city of the death of Henry Beneke. A St. Joseph, Mo., special to the Wichita (Kansas) Daily Beacon of the 19th tells the sad story as follows:

"Henry Beneke, general agent for the Anheuser-Busch Brewing Co., died at the Hotel Truckenmillet at noon today from the effects of breathing water gas. He went to bed at 1 a. m. this morning, at which time he was shown how to fix the gas fixture. When he found the room was full of gas which was pouring from an open fixture. It is supposed he turned the gas on by mistake during the night."

This was confirmed yesterday by the following telegram:

St. Louis, Dec. 21.—To Fassett & Kelly, El Paso: My beloved father died suddenly in St. Joseph, Mo., Friday and was buried here yesterday.

(Signed) HENRY BENEKE, Jr.

The deceased was well known and highly esteemed in El Paso. He was

the pioneer hardware man of this city. He came here in 1881, ahead of the railroads and opened El Paso's first hardware store, which is still doing business at the old stand under the proprietorship of Fassett & Kelly, who bought out Mr. Beneke the first of this year.

Mr. Beneke was a genial and companionable gentleman, honorable and just in all transactions with his fellow-man and always and under all circumstances as true as steel to his friends. He counted his friends by the hundred in El Paso, and the announcement of his death will fill with sorrow many hearts in the southwest.