

# 82-Year-Old Veteran of Encounters With Apaches, Dies In Valley Home

(Special to The Times)

Mesilla N. M., Nov. 10.—Roman Bermudes, 82-year-old warrior, died at his old stamping ground here following a few days' illness. Mr. Bermudes, pioneer of the Mesilla valley, settled at Mesilla three years before the hoisting of the American flag here. He was born in El Paso del Norte, now Juarez, Mexico, and was the son of the custom collector for Mexico in Mesilla, Don Rafael Bermudes.

In his earlier years, Mr. Bermudes was engaged as trader and freighter on mule wagons from Chihuahua, Mexico, to Trinidad and Kit Carson, Colorado. Many times he crossed

the deserts en route to Las Palomas, Mexico, and Tucson, and encountered the Apaches when they were on the warpath. He was probably one of the last survivors to witness the trial of Billy the Kid when the latter was sentenced to be hanged at Lincoln.

During the latter part of his life, Mr. Bermudes practiced in the justice of the peace courts, and throughout the valley he was regarded as the peace maker and friend of the poor. He was an ardent student of Spanish literature and had a large collection of Spanish poetry and fables of the Campoamor and Iriarte's type.

He is survived by two daughters and one son, making their home in this vicinity.