

Harry Blumenthal, Famed EP Photographer, Dies

Harry Blumenthal, 83, the man responsible for The Times' collection of historic photographs of El Paso area, died Tuesday in San Francisco, according to word received here Thursday.

Funeral arrangements were pending with Mt. Sinai Funeral Home in San Francisco.

Mr. Blumenthal, a professional photographer in El Paso nearly 40 years, left El Paso in 1955 to live with a brother, Lane, in Los Angeles. When he left El Paso he sold all the equipment connected with his business, the National Photo Print Co.

While selling the equipment, Mr. Blumenthal offered his collection of historic photos and photo copies of El Paso to Times Editor W. J. Hooten. The collection, 462 pictures, was bought and is now housed in The Times library.

The collection contains photos of Gen. J. J. Pershing, Gen. G. S. Patton, Pancho Villa, Billy the Kid and many others who walked the streets of El Paso. Also pictured are former President Harry Truman and Francisco Madero.

Mr. Blumenthal, born in Philadelphia in 1876, was a printer by trade when he arrived in El Paso. He worked for a time with The Times and Herald-Post before going to work for the schools. He



HARRY BLUMENTHAL

set up the first print shop in El Paso High School and taught many of El Paso's present printers their
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Blumenthal, Ex-El Pasoan, Dies At 83

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trade. In 1925 editors of The Spur honored him by dedicating the school annual to him.

In 1925, Mr. Blumenthal set up his first photo shop in what is now the Gateway Hotel. In 1928 he left the schools to devote all his time to photography.

Mr. Blumenthal came to El Paso from Oakland, Calif. He had been active in the printing trade in many California cities before he came here. He was working in Fresno, Calif., when the 1906 earthquake rocked San Francisco.

His arrival in El Paso helped to launch his photographic career, as the Mexican revolution broke out within a year after he arrived. He already was an avid free-lance photographer when he arrived.

It was during this period he began making his famous collection, with pictures he had taken, and with copies of pictures taken by others.

Mr. Blumenthal's skill as a photographer was exceeded by his skill at copying photos. He designed and built a special printer, and a special enlarger for his work along these lines.

El Pasoans brought many old photos to his shop for copying and Mr. Blumenthal began building his albums from these pictures.

He was a retired member of El Paso III Local 370.

Survivors include his brother, Lane, of Los Angeles.