

Former El Paso Engineer Dies

Joseph L. Burkholder, former El Pasoan and outstanding irrigation and water engineer, died in San Diego, the U. S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission was informed today.

Mr. Burkholder was general manager and chief engineer of the San Diego Water Authority.

He was known for engineering achievements on the Rio Grande Reclamation Project and on other projects in the U. S. and in foreign countries.

Directed Drainage Project

Mr. Burkholder was in charge of extensive drainage works on the Elephant Butte project beginning in 1917. Under his direction 375 miles of drainage canals were constructed in the Valleys. He was credited with laying out a drainage system that resulted in crop yields that were among the highest in the U. S. During this period he and his family resided in El Paso.

Served Here After War

He left here to supervise drainage works in Santa Domingo, returning to the U. S. to become assistant chief engineer of the Metropolitan Water District of Los Angeles, a \$220-million project that took Colorado river water to Southern California.

During World War II he did naval defense work in Puerto Rico. After the war he served with the International Boundary and Water Commission in El Paso.

Mr. Burkholder is survived by his widow, four daughters, and a son. Funeral services will be held Thursday in San Diego.