

Judge Leigh Clark Passes Away; Funeral Wednesday

JUDGE LEIGH CLARK, 75, veteran El Paso barrister and former district attorney, died Monday at his home, 1216 East Yandell boulevard. He had been in failing health for the past four years.

In the passing of Judge Clark, he may aptly be viewed in the light of one of the stalwart pioneers of El Paso. Born in Mississippi in 1854, he attended school in that state and later was a student in the University of Virginia. His health failing, he returned to Mississippi and later became a law student in his brother's law office, and when granted his license began practice. He rose rapidly in influence while still a young man, being instrumental in the creation of a new county in Mississippi, the county of Sharky, and later becoming a member of the Mississippi legislature.

Taken From Train

Again his health failed and on the advice of his doctor he started for San Diego, Calif., in 1884. He was removed unconscious from his train on arrival in El Paso, having a high fever, and was taken to the old Grand Central hotel. Upon his recovery he decided to cast his lot in El Paso, and at once became one of the prominent fixtures of the El Paso bar, and continued as one of the influential citizens of El Paso until his health failed about four years ago, at which time he retired from active practice.

During his legal career in this city he had participated in numerous political campaigns and was elected three times to office, once as city recorder, again as city attorney, and in 1916 as district attorney, which



JUDGE LEIGH CLARK.

office he filled with credit to himself for six years.

He had a prominent part in the organization of what is now the El Paso Electric company, and was for a number of years the company's attorney. He was also, at one time, the head of the firm of Clark, Fall, Hawkins & Franklin, then one of the leading law firms of the city.

Had His Fights.

Judge Clark was of a kindly, considerate disposition, and his greatest ambition while he was district attorney was, as he himself expressed it, to deal fairly with everyone. But he was also uncompromising in his ideas of right and never gave ground when those ideas were assailed.

He did not hesitate to fight and engaged in more than one fistful battle in the old days when times were tempestuous in El Paso. Yet he never nursed grievances and passed out with no enmity toward any human being. Loving his friends and meeting his enemies always in a spirit of fairness and conciliation, he was affectionately esteemed by hundreds who knew him for his splendid and magnanimous traits of character. He never forget a kindness.

On one occasion, illustrative of his fighting spirit when aroused, he was elected chairman of one of the old-time Democratic county conventions in which there were two factions, each determined to control. Judge Albert S. Eylar was elected by the other faction. Both he and Judge Eylar

attempted to preside over the same convention from the same rostrum. A fight between the two resulted and blood was drawn. Friends intervened, peace was effected, he and Judge Eylar shook hands and were ever afterward friends.

Judge Clark again was prominent in what was known in the early days as the "Cutting affair," being the occasion of imprisonment in Juarez by Mexican authorities of Editor Cutting, who had published something in an El Paso newspaper which was distasteful to the Juarez officials. The incident threatened war between the two countries for a time, but Cutting was finally released. Judge Clark was Cutting's friend and admirer and played a prominent part in that affair.

Wrote Autobiography.

In a brief autobiography written shortly before his demise, Judge Clark exhibits the kindness of his nature. There is nowhere an allusion to anything unpleasant in his life, no criticism, no cynicism. All is kindness, love and affection. He alludes to things beautiful and to nothing dark and gloomy. He loved literature, poetry, nature, companionship.

Judge Clark served as county attorney for a time and also as county judge by appointment, and on numerous occasions he was elected by the El Paso bar to serve as special district judge.

He was an orator of power and a lawyer of distinguished ability who has left his impress upon the early history of El Paso. He was one of the old school whose conception of legal ethics remained with him until the last as the lawyer's first duty to himself and to the public.

Judge Clark was married twice. His first wife, the former Fannie Echols, by whom he had a daughter, Mrs. James Vance, 1717 North Mesa avenue, died several years ago. In 1922 he married Miss Myra Prater, who survives him.

Funeral arrangements are pending with the Peak-Hagedon mortuary.

Hold Funeral Wednesday

Funeral services will be conducted at 4 p. m. Wednesday from the Peak-Hagedon chapel.

The active pall bearers will be Henry S. Beach, Lamar Davis, W. D. Greet, C. W. Harper, Maury Kemp and W. H. Shelton.

The honorary pall bearers will be Judge J. A. Buckler, Dr. J. B. Brady, W. W. Bridgers, W. H. Burges, Charles Davis, James A. Dick, W. H. Fryer, W. H. Holt, of Las Cruces, C. B. Hudspeth, A. H. Hughey, William Jessen, C. E. Kelley, Tom Lea, Jake Miller, Frank M. Murchison, Tom Powers, W. G. Roe, A. Schwartz, W. A. Stigler, Mayor R. E. Thomason, Charles H. Tyler of Boston, Mass., Judge C. L. Vowell, Owen D. Young of New York City and Emmett Hines.