

"Andrew" Who Gave His Life To Service, Mourned By School Heads, Children

By DOROTHY STEPHENSON.

BLARE, jazz and gaiety came with the new year while the old was taking away a faithful servant whose life has affected the career of many a school child.

In a little alley home, humble but comfortable and neat, Andrew, the janitor died New Year's eve. For over 20 years he had served the El Paso public schools, sweeping the floors and picking up the scattered bits of paper thrown away by heedless children.

In Weakened Condition.

Monday, three days before he died, his wife who helps him in his janitor work at Bailey school, saw that he was in no condition to leave his home or his bed. She told him it would kill him to go to work that day.

"Well, Emma," he said, "the Lord helping me, I am going to die at my post."

Two hours later he fell unconscious on the floor of Bailey school. A blood clot on his brain, the doctor said.

"Poor old Andrew," said those around him for they recognized in him a heroism and a fidelity that few people of any race possess.

All Pay Tribute.

"Principals and teachers by the score, and pupils by the hundred would be willing to pay a tribute to Andrew if they had a chance, for they knew his good qualities and loved his fine spirit and reliability," Supt. A. H. Hughey said.

But there are some who are peculiarly indebted to Andrew. About 12 years ago a new principal of the El Paso high school entered office in the old building which is now Morehead school and found Andrew there as janitor.

"It was a school which was not in

the best condition as to discipline and student behavior. He recognized that he had in Andrew a reliable and loyal coworker. Although only a janitor he had more influence over, or control of 'the boys' than many of the teachers.

"They would listen to Andrew's advice about their misbehavior and Andrew and the principal worked together in keeping the school in good order and in getting ahead of 'the boys' in their pranks.

"The school soon got to running better and attained higher regard and popularity in the city.

"A fine new building was built and Andrew was moved up there. But his best days were over, stairways bothered him, and we tried to make his work easier. Andrew was always proud of the assistance he had given this principal and deserved to feel that he had a share in his success. Now and then he and Andrew at the close of a working day would meet and pause and philosophize on the turns that come in human affairs and Andrew's attitude was always a man's attitude, always sane, tolerant and patient.

Regret At Passing.

"Well, good night, Andrew," he said one cold dark evening at Christmas time as he left the building and saw Andrew's broken and wearied form leaning on his broom in the hallway. "Good night, Mr. Hughey," answered Andrew cheerfully. "A happy New Year to you, Andrew." "The same to you Mr. Hughey."

"And in 1925 is a new year to Andrew and no doubt a happy one but those he left behind it brings a touch of sorrow to think of old Andrew gone."

ANDREW CONLEY.

Funeral services for Andrew Conley will be held Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock from the Peak-Hagedorn funeral home. He died Wednesday in his home, 1011 1/2 North Ochoa street.