

Mary Cunningham dies after surgery

MAR 1 - 1970

Mary Cunningham, who with her husband, former El Paso Western author Gene Cunningham, was hostess to such literary figures as Zane Grey and Earl Stanley Gardner, died Sunday in Dallas after surgery.

Mrs. Cunningham, 81, was the first Yeomanette to join the United States Navy from El Paso during World War I.

Mrs. Cunningham and her husband returned to El Paso in 1925. While living in their Austin Terrace home, Mr. Cunningham wrote most of his Western novels and his historical classic "Triggernometry," still regarded as one of the most accurate reports of Western gun-

fighters. He also served as literary editor of *The El Paso Times*.

During World War II, Mrs. Cunningham served as section director of a national defense section in San Francisco. After her husband's death in California, Mrs. Cunningham accumulated 28,000 hours as a Red Cross Volunteer at Fort Miley in San Francisco.

She returned to Texas in 1970.

Mrs. Cunningham is survived by three children; Murney Call of Garland, Texas, Jean Weakley of Dallas and Col. Cleve Cunningham of Rough and Ready, Calif.; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Memorial services were Monday in Dallas.