

RETURN EL PASO PIONEER'S ASHES

Walter Earhart Leaves \$50,000 for Building of Crematory

El Paso may have a \$50,000 crematory if the city wants it. For years, Walter Earhart, pioneer El Pasoan, desired to make this gratuitous provision, but opposition prevented it.

The pioneer, who first arrived in El Paso on board a stage Dec. 10, 1880, died in Paris, France, July 9, Mrs. Walter Earhart, his widow, has brought back his ashes in an urn to be interred in the Elks' cemetery.

Arrangements for funeral services are pending. Mrs. Earhart said Thursday. The ceremonies will include special music.

"Walter," Mrs. Earhart said, "believed so strongly in cremation, he wanted to give El Paso a crematory. He wanted to make this provision in his will. However, he encountered a lot of opposition. That is, he found many who did not believe in this method of disposing of the human body, so he gave up the idea. Yet, he wanted to do this so much that I would like to carry out his wishes if the city would care to have the crematory. I would be happy to make the provision in my will."

Her husband was a member of the El Paso Elks' lodge for many years. He wrote the lodge he would be happy to donate \$1000 toward the building fund now being raised to erect a \$275,000 club house.

"The last letter he received," Mrs. Earhart said, "was from the El Paso lodge thanking him for the gift. I am here to make it."

Mr. and Mrs. Earhart sailed for

Europe together for the last time in May of last year. It was their intention to return to America on the Graf Zeppelin.

During the latter years of his life, the pioneer citizen was totally blind, yet he kept up his globe trotting. Mrs. Earhart was his eyes. She led him everywhere.

Mr. Earhart believed in El Paso. He amassed a fortune here, most of it thru real estate investments. During the early years of his residence he purchased from the late U. S. Stewart, who was a president of the old City National bank, the property at the triangle of Texas, Oregon and San Antonio. He paid \$50,000 for the tract. In 1918 he

sold it to Fred Elliott for \$175,000.

Mrs. Earhart said her husband told her when he returned to El Paso he was going to erect a modern building on his property at Third and Stanton. Mrs. Earhart says she would carry this out. The proposed six stores will cost approximately \$60,000.

At the time of his death, Mr. Earhart was almost 81.

In 1914 when the Earharts were returning from Europe, they sealed a note in a bottle offering \$10 reward to the finder who would send the paper to the old City National bank in El Paso. The story of its find four years later on the coast of Spain, was carried in newspapers thruout the world.

"Walter," Mrs. Earhart said, "told me he saw the first brick laid in El Paso. This was the building put up by the late Maj. W. J. Fewel at El Paso and San Antonio."

Mr. Earhart left El Paso in 1881. He returned in 1886 and made the city his permanent home up until the time of his death. His first trip around the world was made in 1898. He was a member of the Theosophical society. He was noted for his generosity and charitableness.

Mrs. Earhart is visiting her mother, Mrs. E. O. Lochausen, Rosedale farms, in the lower valley. She plans to return to New York this fall to fill concert engagements. She is an accomplished singer. Her musical education was completed in Europe.

To Bury Pioneer



WALTER EARHART