

# GEO. EMERSON, PIONEER, DIES

## Expires of Paralysis in Grand Rapids; Early Fur- niture Man Here.

Announcement was received in El Paso Saturday of the death of Geo. W. Emerson, El Paso pioneer, who died in Grand Rapids, Mich., Monday, from a stroke of paralysis. Mr. Emerson had gone to Grand Rapids to attend the marriage of his youngest son, Joseph R. Emerson, and was stricken with paralysis before the wedding occurred. The body has been taken to Potsdam, N. Y., for burial.

Mr. Emerson came to El Paso with E. V. Berrien in 1881 and they opened the first furniture store here. Being unable to get a building they began business in a tent located on San Antonio street, where the Hondo saloon is now located. They did business in the tent seven months until the State National bank building was completed and then moved into the store now occupied by the China Palace. A few years ago Emerson & Berrien went out of the furniture business. They came to El Paso from St. Louis.

### Arranged First Catholic Mass.

When he was in El Paso several weeks ago Mr. Emerson spoke of himself and Mr. Berrien arranging for the first mass held by the Catholic church. When they came here the Catholics of El Paso attended the Juarez church, but Mr. Emerson and Mr. Berrien in 1881 assisted in the erection of a tent where the Coles block now stands, on the southeast corner of San Antonio and Oregon streets, and the first services of the church of the Immaculate Conception were held in that tent.

Four children, two sons and two daughters, J. G. Emerson and J. R. Emerson of El Paso, Mrs. E. E. McIntyre, of Los Angeles, and Mrs. W. M. Clark of Potsdam, N. Y., survive the deceased. After his wife's death a year ago, Mr. Emerson, who was 68 years of age, went to live with his daughters at Potsdam.

The deceased was a member of the El Paso Pioneer association. He bought considerable real estate in El Paso when his firm was doing the biggest furniture business in this section 25 years ago, and leaves a comfortable fortune.