

Silverio Escontrias, Pioneer Valley Resident, Passes Away

Silverio Escontrias, 60, pioneer resident of the lower valley, died at the family residence near Socorro at 2 p. m. yesterday. He had been seriously ill of heart and kidney disease for 15 days.

Escontrias was born at Tularosa, N. M. He moved to the El Paso valley with his family 55 years ago and made his home there since. He was owner of the great Hueco Tanks ranch and for 35 years served El Paso as a deputy sheriff.

Shortly after buying the Hueco Tanks property, Mr. Escontrias opened it up to the public as a playground for El Paso. The property was kept open until two years ago when hunters carelessly killed off a number of the Escontrias herd. Mr. Escontrias then permitted the property to be used only by parties with special passes. Few were denied the privilege of visiting the place, however.

Mr. Escontrias was known throughout the El Paso valley as a peace officer for his courage and honesty. Those who knew him best made their dealings with him verbally, knowing his word could be respected as well as a written agreement.

He was a political power in the lower valley. Politicians sought his advice probably more than any other person in the valley. He retired from active politics several years ago however.

He is survived by his widow, six sons, Juan, Jim, Joe, Silverio, Jr., Ramon and Charlie Escontrias, and three daughters, Mrs. Fidencia Aguirre, Mrs. Feliberta Marquez and Mrs. Manuel Apodaca.

Funeral services will be held at the Socorro mission at 9 a. m. tomorrow. Burial will be in Evergreen cemetery.

'Be Good Children,' Says E. P. Pioneer on Death Bed

Silverio Escontrias Smiles as End Comes; Tells Sons,
Daughters He Is "Going to Rest Now"

"I'm going to rest now, and to see Pete. I want you all to be good children—and be careful."

Silverio Escontrias, pioneer El Pasoan, uttered these words to his children gathered around his bedside shortly before he died at the family residence, Socorro.

"Father's voice was quiet and soft as he spoke to us," said Juan Escontrias, a son. "He seemed happy at the prospect of seeing Pete, my brother, who was accidentally shot at the farm four years ago.

"Pete was the only one missing from the family circle around father's bed. Father talked about Pete and the rest in store for him all during those last few hours. He kept us near him until he died quietly."

Funeral services for Escontrias will be held at the Socorro mission at 9 a. m. tomorrow. Burial will be in Evergreen.

Escontrias was born at Tularosa, N. M., 60 years ago. He came to the El Paso valley when he was 15. Later he bought the Hueco Tanks ranch. For 35 years he was a deputy sheriff in the county.

Escontrias rode with his men on his ranch until doctors advised him last year to leave the saddle.

His gifts to needy families and to his church were numerous. He gave the county land on which the Escontrias school was built in Socorro.

Escontrias is survived by his widow, six sons, Juan, Jim, Joe Silverio Jr., Ramon and Charlie Escontrias, and three daughters, Mrs. Fidencia Aguirre, Mrs. Felberto Marquez and Mrs. Manuel Apolaca.