

# Former Secretary Of The Interior, A. B. Fall, Dies

Albert Bacon Fall, U. S. Senator from New Mexico and Secretary of the Interior under President Harding, died at 4:30 a. m. Friday at a local hospital, four days after his 83rd birthday.

He was reading his newspaper when his heart suddenly quit, his physician, Dr. John E. Morrison said. His two daughters, Mrs. Charlotte Fall Huidoso, and Mrs. Jovett Fall Elliott, of El Paso, who have devoted their lives to clearing his name of the stain left by the Teapot Dome oil scandals, were informed immediately.

His family believed that the present war with Japan and oil shortages vindicated Mr. Fall's oil policies which resulted in his going to prison for assertedly accepting a \$100,000 bribe from his former partner, Edward Doheny, who agreed to store oil in Peral Harbor and to drill the Elk Hill reserve.

## **BOTH CLAIMED PERSONAL LOAN**

Both Mr. Fall and Doheny said the \$100,000 was a personal loan. Doheny's family in 1937 foreclosed on Fall's \$750,000 Three Rivers, N. M., ranch, given as a security for the loan.

"By Mr. Fall's establishment of the Pearl Harbor base, naval craft have been able to obtain fuel without returning 2100 miles to the U. S. to refuel," Mrs. Fall said in an interview before her death in March, 1943.

Mr. Fall was never informed of his wife's death. Doctors believed that the shock would be too much for his heart. He never asked about her, but his loss of interest and periods of depression indicated that he knew.

Mr. Fall has been confined to hospitals since 1935, when doctors believed that arthritis of the spine and a bad heart left him but a short time to live. His magnificent stamina carried him through a bout with pneumonia in 1935 and a

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more recent attack several months ago. During the first illness, he was baptised into the Roman Catholic Church.

For the last 10 years he has been hospitalized at William Beaumont General Hospital, the Veteran's Hospital in Albuquerque, Fort Bayard, N. M., and Hotel Dieu.

## **FAMILY SPENT DAY WITH HIM**

Sunday, his last birthday, several members of the family spent the day with him. He was an inveterate reader, especially of war news, and he discussed it then. "Of course, he was more interested in the war with Japan because he had always predicted it," said Mrs. Elliott, who has been ill herself at the family home at 1725 Arizona Street. "He saw it coming in 1914 and he tried to prepare for it. But since mother died, he had very little interest in discussing the war or anything except the family—where they were, what they were doing."

The funeral will be held Saturday or Monday, depending upon the arrival of a grandson, Mahlon Everhart, from Pueblo, Colo.

TIMAS 12-1-44

# Funeral Rites For A. B. Fall Will Be Today

Funeral services for Albert Bacon Fall, 83, former U. S. Senator from New Mexico and Secretary of the Interior under President Harding, will be held at 4 p. m. Saturday at the family residence at 1725 Arizona Street.

The Rev. D. J. Kirgan will officiate. Burial will be in the family plot in Evergreen Cemetery under the direction of the Kaster and Maxon Funeral Home.

Mr. Fall will be buried beside Mrs. Fall, who died March 25, 1943.

Mr. Fall, who had spent most of the last 10 years in hospitals, died quietly at 4:30 p. m. Thursday as he was reading a newspaper in a local hospital.

## ROSE FROM MILL TO CABINET

His death ended a career which saw him rise from a cotton mill worker to a national political figure. It brought him success, tragedy when the Teapot Dome affair exploded, and the unswerving loyalty of his family and friends.

His active pallbearers will be Ed C. Heid, R. W. McAfee, W. D. Wise, Paul Murphy, Rufus Garland of Las Cruces, N. M., and Juan Baldonado of Tularosa, N. M. Honorary pallbearers will be Harris Walthall, Dr. John Morrison, Jake

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Miller, Col.—George M. Edwards, John Snyder, Otis Coles, W. H. Burges, Gov. George Curry, Cutter, N. M.; Judge Thomas Mabry, Santa Fe; Manuel B. Otero, Dr. W. R. Lovelace, both of Albuquerque, Judge Charles Pollard, Deming; J. L. Lawson, Alamogordo; Albert Cox, Orogrande; A. D. Brownfield, Florida; Capt. Burton Mossman, Roswell; Oliver Lee, Jr., Alamogordo, and Charles Madrid of Las Cruces.

Mr. Fall is survived by two daughters, Mrs. Clarence Chase of Ruidoso, and Mrs. Jouett Fall Elliott of El Paso; 10 grandchildren, Mrs. Houck Spencer, Miss Emma Adair Chase of San Francisco; Lt. Albert Fall Chase, a prisoner of war of the Japanese; Miss Mary Alexina Chase, Clarence C. Chase, Jr., Mrs. Burton Rawlins of Pueblo, Colo.; M. T. Everhart, Jr. of Hachita, N. M.; Jack Everhart of Havana; Mrs. Phillip Bethune of Washington, and Mrs. Ernest Haase.

Another daughter, Mrs. Mahlon Everhart, and a son, Jack Fall, both died during the influenza epidemic of 1918.