

JUDGE FALVEY TAMED BAD MEN OF WOOLY WEST

Intimate Sketch of El Paso
Judge Who Is Taken by Death
After Long Career.

By LLEW H. DAVIS.

The sudden death of Judge Thomas A. Falvey Saturday night was not only a shock to his family and the community, but marked the passing away of one of the most prominent and beloved members of the bar of El Paso and the state of Texas. Born in Jasper county, Texas, in 1855, he grew to manhood and studied law and soon after being admitted to the bar he struck out for the then wilds of western Texas. He soon afterward became district attorney of the largest judicial district, including Tom Green county and all the counties west of the Pecos river, including Brewster, Pecos, Jeff Davis, Presidio and El Paso, which now includes Ward, Reeves, Culberson and Hudspeeth counties.

At that time he traveled by stage from one county seat to another to attend court, presided over by the late Judge Allen Blacker, at San Angelo, Fort Stockton, Fort Davis and Ysleta through an unsettled country subject to constant raids of Apaches, Lipans, and other savages, and infested by cattle thieves, outlaws and desperadoes who defied the law and made the life of a brave prosecuting attorney one of constant danger.

In an incredibly short time he cleared the frontier of this element by his fearless prosecution.

About 1880 he was elected district judge and removed with his family to Ysleta, the county seat of El Paso county, to live, later on moving to El Paso upon the removal of the county seat to this city.

The late James P. Hague had also been district attorney of the same judicial district and used to travel over the same circuit.

During Judge Falvey's first terms as district judge, the late John M. Dean was district attorney and together they traveled together through the different counties to attend court.

A Jolly Party.

In those early days the few members of the bar of El Paso used to accompany them on the long stage journeys, hundreds of miles away, through the different counties, including Judges W. M. Caldwell, J. A. Buckler, Allen Blacker, J. P. Hague, John Bailey, Noah Flood and other pioneer members of the bar. At that time the nearest railroads were at San Antonio and Fort Worth. They constituted a jolly party and furnished their own amusement as they journeyed or stopped at some lone stage station for the night. Judge Falvey was the life of the party and entertained them with his inimitable wit and stories. In those days he was considered the handsomest member of the bar, his hair as black as the raven's wing and his dark eyes twinkling with mirth. Politeness was his religion and consideration for others his nature.

While on the bench he tried some of the most important civil and criminal cases ever tried in the district. He displayed a marvelous acumen and ability in analyzing the evidence and applying the law to the same. Rarely were his rulings and decisions overruled or reversed by the higher courts. The jurors loved and respected him, and it was their common talk on the streets that when Judge Falvey charged them it was correct. When the history of the El Paso bar is written a large part of it will be devoted to the important transactions of which Judge Falvey was a prominent participant.

Has Large Practice.

About 1892 he resigned from the bench and became a member of the legal firm of Hague, Falvey and Davis, which partnership continued until he became a member of the firm of Falvey and Davis. They at once had a large and lucrative practice, trying some of the most important cases in the history of the bar. For the past few years he practiced alone, or in association with his friend, Judge Price. He was retained in many of the leading cases and his counsel was sought by a large clientele.

One of the most popular traits and endearing memories will be his interest in and advice to the younger mem-

bers of the bar. Without exaggeration it may be said that scores of young lawyers sought his counsel, advice and encouragement which were freely given. His death will be an irretrievable loss to the younger lawyers.

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