

W. L. Fite, Pioneer Cattleman, Dies

Special to The Herald-Post

SOCORRO, N. M., Jan. 9.—Walter LaFayette Fite is dead. He died Sunday of a heart attack at his home in Socorro.

Walter Fite was born on his father's ranch in Throckmorton County, Texas, January 29, 1887. He came to New Mexico with his parents in 1887.

He grew to manhood on a cattle ranch in New Mexico.

He was married in San Antonio, New Mexico June 21, 1910, to Edna Bruton. Four children were born, William Dean, Sunshine Fite Woofler Charles Bruton, and Melba Lea Wingo who lives with her husband, Maynard Wingo in Memphis.

Walter Fite was a typical western cattleman. All his children are in the cattle business.

When Walter Fite's parents first came to New Mexico, they settled at La Luz a small settlement about six miles from Alamogordo. On April 10, 1896, the day Colonel Albert J. Fountain and his nine-year-old son were killed, Walter Fite then about 15 years old, was out with another boy on foot looking for their horses.

Colonel Fountain and his son, riding in a buckboard, saw them and stopped. The colonel asked Walter Fite if he had seen any men on horseback. Walter Fite always believed that he and that other boy who was with him were the last ones to see Colonel Fountain and his son before they were killed.

Walter Fite had a heart attack about 12 years ago and has been in poor health ever since.

Funeral services were to be held today at 2 p. m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Socorro. Burial is to be in the Masonic Cemetery. The Masonic Lodge will have charge of the funeral.