

DEATH TAKES MAN, 115 YEARS OLD; SAW MEXICO GAIN HER FREEDOM; 18 CHILDREN AND WIFE SURVIVE

MR. JUAN FLORES, age 65, 4100 Stephenson street, was in mourning yesterday. Her husband, Juan Flores, aged 115 years, is dead. Funeral services were held yesterday morning at 10 o'clock. Burial was in Concordia cemetery.

Tears stole silently down her cheeks as Mrs. Flores talked of her husband's death.

"It seems so sudden, and was unexpected by us all," said the woman.

By "us all" she meant, she said, herself and 18 children, who survive.

Flores, said to have been the oldest man in El Paso, was active until a few weeks ago. He frequently walked from his home to "town" and it was just recently that he adopted a walking cane.

Smoked; Did Not Drink.

"He never drank, though he smoked tobacco—good tobacco—all his life," said Pedro Flores, a son, yesterday. Pedro is a child by a former marriage.

"My father," added Pedro, "never dissipated. He married when quite young and settled down."

When Flores' first wife died he had passed three score and ten, man's allotted time. But he was not old.

"He told his friends that he didn't feel old, that he didn't look old and that he wasn't old," said Pedro yesterday.

Flores then met the woman who was to be his wife. She was 40 years old. He courted her. On Sundays he left Pedro and other members of the family in charge of the smallest of the group and, armed with a bouquet of flowers, he went to see his "novia."

Brings Bride to El Paso.

"I have lived a married man too long to put up with this sort of thing," Flores told Pedro one day. "It isn't good that man should live alone, therefore I'm going to marry again."

He did. He bought his bride to El Paso.

There was a child by this marriage,

then another and still another. Old Doc Stork continued to visit the Flores household, until the family by both marriages had increased to 18.

As the children became of age, they left home. Some went to Mexico, others to all parts of the United States. The girls married and began to raise families of their own. One by one all of the children departed from the old homestead save one. That was Pedro.

Mr. Flores as a boy witnessed the attainment of Mexico's independence, whose centenary celebration was observed throughout Mexico recently.

Saw Miguel Hidalgo.

"My father remembered having seen Miguel Hidalgo, the priest who led the crusade which resulted in Mexico's coming from under the yoke of Spanish oppression," said Pedro. "He remembered the execution of the priest. I have heard him speak of it a number of times."

A monument was recently erected in Juarez in honor of Hidalgo.

Mr. Flores came to El Paso 50 years ago. He was then 65 years "young." When he first came here he drove an ox cart. The city was then only a village. The last actual work Flores did was at the El Paso smelter.

"My father remembered well the first edition of the Times," said Pedro. "He was then an old man in point of years. For a long time he kept the initial edition of the paper, but it has been misplaced."