

## El Pasoan was city's 'biggest fan'

Chris Fox, known as "Mr. El Paso" because of his lifelong accomplishments for his hometown, died Friday. He was 86.

The former El Paso County sheriff, who once lied about his age and drove a truck for Black Jack Pershing chasing Pancho Villa, was a "walking chamber of commerce" and talked constantly about his hometown, grandson Bill Peterson said Friday.

"He was the biggest fan this city ever had," Peterson said. "But you had to practically hit him with a wrench to get him to talk about himself."

Born in El Paso in 1897, Christian Petrus Fox was a member of the first graduating class from El Paso High School, where, at 13, he founded the Student Council.

Fox lettered in four different sports in each of his four years at El Paso High and earned the title "The Greatest Tiger of Them All."

After high school, Fox joined the U.S. Marines and was ready to head to Europe with his com-

pany when the armistice was signed in 1918.

He returned to El Paso, drove an ice wagon, then a delivery truck for Popular Dry Goods Co. He later became master mechanic for the store's delivery trucks.

During the 1930s, when other law enforcers were carrying traditional sidearms, Sheriff Fox supplied his deputies with sawed-off .30-30 rifles by special permission of the Treasury Department.

Private services for Fox tentatively are scheduled for Monday.

He is survived by his wife, Gladys, and daughters Nan Fox Peterson and Carolyn Fox Smith, all of El Paso; grandchildren W.H. Peterson III of El Paso; Christian Fox Peterson of Indianapolis, Ind.; Daniel H. Smith and Carolyn E. Smith, both of El Paso. His sister is Charlene Jones of Brawley, Calif.

Death notices are listed according to location of the mortuary.