

OLD PAL SEES PIONEER DIE

Came to West Texas Before S. P.

August Franzel, Indian fighter, who came to west Texas before the building of the Southern Pacific line into El Paso from the east, died in Sierra Blanca last Saturday night at the age of 83.

W. W. Nichols, who stood by the bedside of his old friend until the last breath left Franzel, said that he first met the deceased in 1881 when Franzel was driving the old stage between San Antonio and El Paso.

Later in the same year the pioneer quit the stage and became a Texas ranger. Nichols, now 81 years of age, relates stories of Franzel fighting Indians and braving the hardships of pioneer life.

One battle with the Indians occurred north of Van Horn near the Apache canyon, where five Indians were killed and one squaw and one papoose were captured and sent to Ft. Davis.

This engagement was the result of the Indians killing a stage driver near Quitman canyon.

In later years Franzel prospected and worked on ranches, spending much of his time with the Loves, who were ranching on a large scale at that time.

He was a strong old man up to less than a year ago, when he was stricken with pneumonia and taken to an El Paso hospital, where it was thought he would never recover.

After a long seige of the disease, he became able to return to Sierra Blanca, where he was cared for by Nichols, the two pioneers living alone in "Adobe Row."

Franzel left no close relatives and nothing is known of distant relatives. He was born somewhere in the southern part of Texas.

The Rev. J. I. Kelley, pastor of the Methodist churches at Van Horn and Sierra Blanca, conducted the funeral services at the Sierra Blanca cemetery Sunday.