

First Mayor of San Elizario Taken by Death in El Paso

Gregorio N. Garcia, who spent his life serving the people of the Rio Grande Valley, was dead today. He was once a mayor, a peace justice, a Texas range, and several times was county commissioner of El Paso County. He died yesterday a retired city patrolman. He was 83.

Funeral services will be held for Mr. Garcia tomorrow at 10 p. m. at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Father D. Kirgan will officiate. Rosary service will be held today at 8 p. m. at Martin Mortuary Chapel.

Mr. Garcia was born at San Elizario. He became a Texas Ranger in 1879. The same year, he became justice of the peace at San Elizario, though only 24 years old.

He was a leading figure in the incorporation of the town of San Elizario, which was then one of the largest towns in this section. The population was 2000.

He was the first mayor of San Elizario, an office he held for two terms. He later joined the U. S. Border Patrol. His popularity among the people he had helped resulted several times in his election as county commissioner.

He joined the El Paso police department in 1921.

He was retired from the police department on pension in 1933.

Survivors are his widow and eight children, Rutilo, Ildonso, Gregorio, Esteban and Ignacio Garcia, and Miss Jessie Garcia, Mrs. F. G. Alarcon of San Elizario, and Mrs. R. G. Aranda of El Paso. Martin Mortuary will direct burial at San Elizario. A police escort will accompany the body to the city limits.