



ELIZABETH GARRETT and dog, "Tinka."

## Elizabeth Garrett Dies EPHP After Fall at Roswell OCT. 17, 1947

*By Associated Press*

ROSWELL, N. M., Oct. 17.—Elizabeth Garrett, blind composer and daughter of the sheriff who killed Billy the Kid, died last night after an accident in which Police Chief Lloyd Blakeney said she apparently fell and struck her head on a curbstone.

She was found unconscious in a street near the Roswell business district during a blackout caused by a power failure. Her Seeing Eye dog "Tinka" was at her side. She died en route to a hospital.

Miss Garrett, blind since birth, was the daughter of the late Pat Garrett, pioneer Lincoln County sheriff who attained fame as the slayer of William S. Bonney, cattle war desperado better known as Billy the Kid, in 1881.

### Composed State Song

She was composer of the New Mexico state song, "O, Fair New Mexico."

Since 1937 she had drawn a monthly annuity from the state in return for all rights to the song.

Accompanied by her Seeing Eye dogdog "Tinka," Miss Garrett was on her way home from a meeting of the Kennel Club last night when she met with the accident. Several other persons present at the meeting had asked to drive her home but she had said that she wanted to walk.

There was a city-wide power failure at the time but this did not affect her ability to get around since she had been blind since she was six.

Police Chief Lloyd Blakeney said today that there was absolutely no evidence of foul play.

Capt. Russell Quay, an R. A. F. doctor first saw Miss Garrett lying in the street. He was driving home from the Kennel Club meeting.

Miss Garrett suffered a deep gash over her right eye apparently suffered when she stumbled against the railing of the first Christian Church.

Miss Garrett died in an ambulance on the way to a hospital.

In an interview with Mrs. Georgia B. Redfield shortly before her death Miss Garrett said: "Quite frequently my father had to bring harmony with a gun in the early days. I tried to do so by carrying a tune."

Miss Garrett's courageousness is typified by this statement.

For the last few years of her life Miss Garrett lived quietly at her home in Roswell but previously she had been feted extensively throughout the United States. She has to her credit many children's songs, ballads, cantatas and Spanish-American songs.

## Funeral Rites Pending For Elizabeth Garrett

*By Associated Press* OCT. 18, 1947

ROSWELL, Oct. 18. — Funeral arrangements for Elizabeth Garrett, author and composer of New Mexico's state song, are pending word from relatives today. The blind musician was found dying on a Roswell street during a blackout caused by a power failure.

Governor Mabry at El Paso last night expressed deep regret upon receiving word of her death.

"New Mexico has lost a great and lovable character in the death of Elizabeth Garrett, the song writer and artist known to every New Mexico household," he said. "She touched deeply the hearts of two New Mexico generations with her music and charm."