

Ord Gary Dies At Age of 84



ORD GARY

Funeral services were pending today for Ord R. Gary, outstanding farmer, ranchman, civic leader and former County Commissioner, who died last night at the home of his daughter. (Continued on Page A-4, Col. 1)

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(Continued from Page 1)
ter, Mrs. Erich Brandes of 801 County Club road. He was 84.

Mr. Gary had been a driving force behind El Paso agriculture for many years. He was often called the "father of Pima cotton," and was an organizer of the El Paso Valley Cotton Assn.

BORN IN Hayes County, Texas, Mr. Gary attended Texas A. and M. College and came to El Paso in 1927 to operate the White Spur cotton gin.

In 1940 quotas on upland or short staple cotton were lowered. At that time the Government did not regulate Pima and there was no limit on the amount that could be planted. It meant a chance for El Paso farmers to get much-needed income. Mr. Gary and some others went to Arizona, where the long staple was being grown, and shipped back seven boxcar loads of Pima (the old SXP) seed to El Paso.

Growing the long staple Pima made it necessary to construct roller gins. Mr. Gary and five others borrowed \$75,000 from the State National Bank and built the first roller gin at Canutillo.

DURING WORLD War II, long staple cotton went to war in many ways. It had special uses in parachutes, rubber boats and tropic uniforms. Top prices were paid El Paso growers.

After the war the government placed quotas on Pima and price supports were so high that most of the cotton went into the loan rather than into markets. The result was that Mitchell Landers, Mr. Gary and others organized the SuPima Assn. of America to promote use of the long staple. Through the years Pima has become recognized as top quality cotton.

In 1943 Mr. Gary helped to organize the El Paso Valley Cotton Assn. He was its first president and held that post for four terms.

BECOMING INTERESTED in local politics, Mr. Gary in 1944 was elected County Commissioner in Precinct 4 (Upper Valley) and served two terms. In 1947 and 1948 he made unsuccessful races for Congress and for County Judge.

Besides farming, Mr. Gary operated a ranch in New Mexico. Five years ago he moved to Pecos, where he had farming interests.

Mr. Gary and Louis Ivey were paid special honors in 1966 by the El Paso Valley Cotton Assn. for their outstanding leadership in agriculture.

MR. GARY is survived by his widow, Mrs. Ara Gary of Pecos; two daughters, Mrs. Erich Brandes of El Paso and Mrs. Marvin Hayes of La Union, N.M., two sisters, Miss Lola Gary and Mrs. Wayne Silliman of Ganado, Tex.; two brothers, Enos Gary of San Antonio and W. H. Gary of Hatch, N.M., and five granddaughters and 10 great grandchildren.

Funeral arrangements are in charge of Harding-Orr and McDaniel Montana Avenue Funeral Home.