

Sam Gillett, Pioneer Lawyer, Dies



SAM GILLETT

Sam Benjamin Gillett, 98, practicing attorney in El Paso for over 50 years, died Friday in his residence near Canutillo.

Funeral services will be held in the Harding and Orr Montana Avenue Chapel at 9:45 a.m. Monday. The Rev. Charles De Vries and the Rev. B. M. G. Williams will officiate.

Mr. Gillett was born in Gonzales County, Tex., on Jan. 30, 1863, and moved to New Mexico in 1889. He began studying for his law papers while working on a ranch near Silver City and was admitted to the New Mexico Bar

in Silver City in 1893. He practiced law throughout Southern New Mexico before coming to El Paso in 1903.

"I didn't go to school with Abe Lincoln, but I learned law the same way he did," was one of Mr. Gillett's favorite expressions.

In 1912, Mr. Gillett moved his family to Canutillo and began commuting to El Paso to keep up his law practice. He said he retired from the profession in 1942 but clients kept coming to his home for another three years.

Mr. Gillett was bedridden for the past few years but spent much of his time reading and chatting with friends who dropped by his Upper Valley home.

He was past president of the Downtown Kiwanis Club and was a member of the Knights of Pythias Lodge.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Ruth P. Gillett of Canutillo; five sons, Otis Gillett, Flagstaff, Ariz., Indus and Sam Gillett Jr., Canutillo, Clyde, Claude and Knox Gillett, all of Los Angeles; a sister, Mrs. J. R. Burton, El Paso, and two brothers, Stayton Gillett, Luling, Tex., and James T. Gillett, Lockhart, Tex.

The family has requested that any contributions be made to the Texas Pythian Home, Weatherford, Tex., in memory of Mr. Gillett.