

DEATH TAKES W. D. GREET, COUNTY CLERK

El Paso Official Was
Widely Known Through
Southwest

County Clerk W. D. Greet died at Providence Hospital today at 6:25 a. m.

Mr. Greet, who was 57, had been ill for several weeks with a blood infection.

He rallied slightly yesterday when his son, Dr. Cabell Greet, of New York City, arrived. He then lapsed again into a coma.

The family was at the bedside when death came.

Persons from all walks of life in every state in the union will mourn the death of Mr. Greet.

Mr. Greet probably knew more persons in the United States and Mexico than any other one person



W. D. Greet

in El Paso. Among them were scores of celebrities.

He knew practically every movie star of importance in Hollywood.

Greet was born in Huntsville, Ala., and came to El Paso Feb. 1, 1900.

Amazing Figure

He was the most amazing and paradoxical political figure on the border. He had been County Clerk since 1916. Political wise men said "Greet can't be beat!" And he made their boast true. He believed that he should hold the office all of his life because of the efficiency of his service.

Politicians say that Mr. Greet's strength laid in his vast acquaintanceship and the fact that he was a "perpetual campaigner." He had no organization other than his deputies and kept no poll lists. He knew most voters by their first names.

Mr. Greet was a policeman and detective captain for 15 years before he ran for office. He seldom had to fight a criminal. He outwitted them.

Widely Read

Mr. Greet was one of the best read men in El Paso. He had a store of knowledge that won the admiration of his son, Cabell, who is a Ph.D. and an English professor at Columbia University.

He knew almost every bartender in El Paso and Juarez, but drank nothing stronger than coffee. He knew every gambler in the Southwest and never played a game of cards in his life.

"He-men" were his favorite companions. Jack Dempsey, Jim Tully, and every wrestler on the circuits were his friends. Pancho Villa was one of his friends. A book on the Mexican bandit's life was dedicated to Greet. Jim Tully dedicated one of his most successful novels to him.

James Cruze, movie director, was one of his friends.

Jobs His Hobby

Mr. Greet's favorite hero was Sam Houston.

His hobby was finding jobs for friends and helping those who were down and out. He couldn't refuse

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a panhandler. Most of his salary went toward charity.

He was a big man with wavy, gray hair and piercing eyes.

Mr. Greet's loud colored shirts and ties as brilliant as the rainbow were known all over El Paso. But he didn't mind his friends "kidding" him about them.

Square Shooter

He was a "square-shooter" and his advice was sought by politicians, professional men, bankers, the rich, the poor, and even underworld characters. Those who took their troubles to him were not confined to El Paso. They telephoned and wrote him from all over the country. One of the desks in his office was covered with telephone directories from every large city in the United States.

He believed that western people are the most broad-minded and likeable in the world. He bemoaned the passing of the western towns like El Paso, Sacramento and Reno.

Mr. Greet's 14-year-old daughter was his greatest pleasure. He showered her with affection. His son was his greatest pride.

Funeral Monday

Besides his daughter and son, Mr. Greet is survived by his widow; and two sisters, Mrs. Carl Lundgren of Liverpool, England, and Mrs. C. M. Stanley of Montgomery, Ala.; a nephew, Mayo Seamon; a niece, Mrs. H. C. Gillespie.

Funeral services will be held Monday at 2 p. m. at St. Clement's Episcopal Church, Rev. Dubose Murphy officiating. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery under direction of Peak-Hagedorn Mortuary.