

T. Gunning, Drug Firm Head, Dies



T. C. GUNNING

Thomas C. Gunning, of 1123 Rim Road, president of the 14-store chain of Gunning-Casteel Drug Co., died Sunday in a local hospital.

Born in Cherry Valley, Ark., Mr. Gunning came to El Paso in 1911. Two years later, in 1913, Mr. Gunning and W. E. Casteel opened their first drug store at Hueco Avenue and Copia Street, which was a stepping stone en route to one of the largest drug store chains in the Southwest.

By 1914 a second store was opened in Five Points. However, expansion was halted during World War I. When Mr. Gunning returned from the Army in 1919, after serving in Europe, the third store began operating on Fort Boulevard.

Expansion continued steadily for several years and by 1953 the Gunning-Casteel Drug Store chain totaled 14. Mr. Gunning was elected president of the chain in 1953. He also was president of Gunning-Casteel Realty Co. and was a director of Chelmont State Bank and director of Wiggs Appliance Co.

He was an active member of St. Clement's Episcopal Church and was a past vestryman. Mr. Gunning was a member of El Paso Masonic Lodge No. 130, El

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Paso Scottish Rite Bodies, a 32nd degree Mason and a member of El Maida Shrine.

Mr. Gunning was a member and past director of El Paso Rotary Club and was a board director of the Salvation Army. A charter member of the board of directors of the United Fund, Mr. Gunning was also a charter member of the El Paso Historical Society and a member of El Paso Chamber of Commerce.

He also was a member of El Paso County Pharmaceutical Assn, El Paso Country Club and International Club as well as a member of El Paso Symphony Concert Assn.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Velda Gunning; a son, Thomas G. Gunning Jr., and a sister, Mrs. Mary F. Shonyo, all of El Paso.

Funeral services will be held at 4 p. m. Tuesday in St. Clement's Episcopal Church. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery under the direction of Harding and Orr Montana Avenue Funeral Home.

The family suggests memorials be made to favorite organizations.