



Fred Hervey in 1983

## Former mayor, Circle K founder Fred Hervey dies at 90

By Sito Negrón

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Former El Paso Mayor Fred Hervey, a banker and founder of the Circle K chain of convenience stores, died Wednesday. He was 90.

"He's probably one of the most successful people who ever came out of El Paso," said former El Paso Mayor Don Henderson, a longtime friend and political associate

of Hervey's. "He started as a young boy, working and selling Cokes and snow cones and whatever at Memorial Park, when he was like 13 or 14 years old."

Hervey went on to found the Circle K chain, run Sun World Savings and Sun Publishing, and lead the El Paso Chamber of Commerce. Hervey, who served as mayor in 1951-55 and again in 1973-75, had "tremendous foresight,"

Henderson said.

One of Hervey's key accomplishments was the creation of the Public Service Board in the 1950s, a move meant to "separate water from politics," El Paso Mayor Carlos Ramirez said.

The Public Service Board oversees the El Paso Water Utilities. Its five members are independent of the city, although they are appointed by the mayor and confirmed

by the City Council. The mayor also is on the board.

The PSB owns millions of dollars worth of land, which it sells to ensure a flow of money for capital improvements to the water and sewer system.

In Hervey's administration in the 1970s, the city bought the streetcar system, fought adult bookstores and clashed with the press over open-meetings laws, according to

El Paso Times archives.

Hervey had been ill for some time, Henderson said. His passing leaves very few of the "old guard" of El Paso's leadership left, said Henderson, who served on the City Council with Hervey in the 1950s.

"With the Sam Youngs and ... Judson Williams and now Fred Hervey, that old guard and the real hard-core leadership of El Paso is gone," he said.