

DEATH CLAIMS BEN JENKINS; FUNERAL AT 4 P. M. TODAY

Former Police Chief, Aged 66,
Dies at Home; Came to
El Paso in 1886.

Ben F. Jenkins, 66 years old, died yesterday afternoon at 2:53 o'clock at the family residence, 919 East Rio Grande street. At his bedside when death came were the immediate members of the family—his widow, a son, Kneeland Jenkins of El Paso, and daughter, Mrs. J. L. Sebastine of Mansfield, La.

Mr. Jenkins had been seriously ill for several weeks, having been operated on recently at Hotel Dieu, after which he was removed to his home. He had been confined to bed since before the operation.

Funeral services will be held this afternoon at 4 o'clock at the Trinity church. Dr. W. B. Hogg will officiate. Friends of the former police chief, bank cashier, custom inspector, corporation judge and pioneer physician, will act as pallbearers.

Burial will be in Evergreen cemetery, under the direction of Simmons-Hartford.

Benjamin Jenkins was born in Mansfield, La., in 1857, and there he received a grammar and high school education. He received a higher education at the University of the South, at Spwanee, Tennessee.

In East Estate Business

Mr. Jenkins came to El Paso in 1886, and immediately engaged in the real estate business with W. E. Kneeland, who later became his father-in-law. Remaining in this business for a period of a year, Mr. Jenkins secured a position as assistant cashier with the El Paso National bank, remaining with that institution for nearly two years. Because of the confining work of the bank, he took a position with the United States Customs service here, remaining in that work until 1901, when he was elected city tax assessor and collector.

Mr. Jenkins was assessor and collector for the city three successive terms.

In 1909, he was appointed chief of police by Mayor Robinson. Mayor Robinson died before the expiration of his term, and Joseph U. Sweeney became mayor. Chief Jenkins was retained as police chief under Mayor Sweeney, and was later made chief under Mayor C. E. Kelly. He resigned in the latter part of 1912.

Mr. Jenkins gained the reputation as a fearless officer of the law early in his career back in 1884, when W. H. Austin was elected mayor of El Paso, he was one of a small coterie of men who supported Austin strongly. A certain faction opposed Mr. Austin's election and threats were made to take his life. When the mayor-elect went to assume his duties as chief executive of the municipal government, Mr. Jenkins and a number of loyal followers escorted him to take the seat of office, regardless of the fact that the council room was filled with a crowd of armed men, who had promised themselves that they would not permit Austin to serve. It was largely through the loyalty of men like Mr. Jenkins, that Mayor Austin was able to carry on his work without difficulty for a year and a half, when he resigned on account of ill health.

The loyalty of Mr. Jenkins was unquestionable, according to men in every walk of life, who have much to say about his career.

Returns to Private Life.

Because of private interests, Mr. Jenkins retired from public life in 1912, when he went back to Mansfield, La., the old family home, to take over the Jenkins estate there, besides looking after his oil interests near Mansfield.

Mr. Jenkins remained out of public office until November of 1922, when he was again appointed chief of police under Mayor Charles Davis, serving until after the inauguration of the Dudley administration when he was succeeded by Chief Reeder.

In the 80's and early 90's he was among one of the most prominent young men in El Paso society. It was in 1898 that Mr. Jenkins married Miss Kie Kneeland, daughter of W. E. Kneeland.

Mr. Jenkins is survived by his widow and two sons, Kneeland Jenkins, of 519 East Rio Grande street; and Capt. Walter E. Jenkins, stationed at Camp Stotsenburg, Philippine Islands, and a daughter, Mrs. J. L. Sebastine, of Mansfield, La.

Another son, Ben F. Jenkins, Jr., a reserve corps officer in the aviation section, was killed in a plane fall near the William Beaumont hospital on June 2, 1922. It was in the young aviator's memory that the Ben Jenkins cataclyc was named. The former police chief gave the lots at Wyoming and Virginia streets for its erection.