

# Pioneer Passes



ERNEST KRAUSE

## HART'S DAM BUILDER DIES

### Death Takes Ernest Krause, Pioneer Builder

Ernest Krause, 85, who came to El Paso before the railroads, died last night after a long illness.

Mr. Krause was a pioneer El Paso architect and building contractor. He designed Hotel Dieu, the Ellanay theater, the A. B. Fall home on Arizona and designed and built his own home of seven gables at 906 N. Stanton, one of the oldest houses in the city.

He built the house in 1833. In the same year he built the dam in the river at Hart's mill that is still giving service.

Mr. Krause came to El Paso by stage coach in 1831 from Arkansas after his carpenter shop there was destroyed by floods.

#### Sailed Around World

He braved Indian attacks to make the trip. Prior to coming to the United States from Germany, he was a sailor on various ships, sailing around the world.

When he arrived in El Paso, he found a few scattered huts. There was nothing above what is now the railroad tracks except a Chinese cemetery. The whole town laughed when he bought three lots for \$60 on Stanton near Montana and began erecting a home.

He was twitted for moving "out in the country."

He brought his bride to the new house from Gonzales in 1833. Mrs. Krause recalls that beds could not be bought in El Paso at that time. They were made from wooden boxes.

#### Saw Officer Slain

The day before Mr. Krause arrived in El Paso, Sheriff Steudemier had killed four men in a gun battle and a few days later Krause saw the sheriff slain by Doc Manning.

Manning ran to the fallen officer and beat him with his gun butt after shooting him down, Krause recalled.

Mr. Krause was a member of the Masonic lodge here the longest of any El Pasoan.

He is survived by his widow and three daughters: Mrs. Earl Sidebottom, Los Angeles, Calif.; Mrs. Charles Montfort and Mrs. Preston Ball, El Paso.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a. m. tomorrow at Peak-Hagedorn chapel with burial in Masonic cemetery.

## Architect Tells of Days of Indians, Blood and Thunder In Early El Paso

**E.** KRAUSE, pioneer resident of El Paso, and architect of Hotel Dieu, is ill at his home, 206 North Stanton street. It was reported yesterday afternoon at the El Paso Pioneer club, of which he is a member and former president.

Krause's illness recalled to W. S. Huggett, secretary of the club, a mishap to the pioneer, which he related to club members several years ago. The mishap indirectly led to his coming to El Paso.

Krause, years ago, was a contractor in East Texas. His contracting outfit caught fire and was destroyed, "lock, stock and barrel," as Krause told it to the club members. He, too, was injured, and while recuperating he met a man who suggested that he go to El Paso to rebuild his finances.

Krause worked a couple of months in Houston as an architect and then set out. He went by train only as far as Abilene, Texas, where the Texas & Pacific had reached in its push toward El Paso. He rode a "fast express" of a team pulled coach to Concho, and there prepared to board the Butterfield stage for the Rio Grande village.

### Warned of Indians.

"Is there anyone here who wants to go to El Paso?" the Butterfield stage driver asked as the passengers climbed from the Concho stage.

Krause was the only one who spoke up. "Indians are on the road again," the driver announced, discouragingly.

"Well, I can die only once," Krause responded. He was the only passenger on the trip.

En route he heard lurid tales of the border city's wildness. He found, too, that he was en route to Franklin, not Paso del Norte. Franklin, he was told, was the name of the village on the American side.

### Sheriff Was Gunner.

Shortly after his arrival, in July, 1881, he was convinced that the tales of the border city were not exaggerated. The village's picturesque peace officer, Sheriff Steudenmier, had just the day before "laid out four men" in a gun battle.

It wasn't but a few days later until Krause was attracted by a rush of men out of a saloon door. Following the crowd of scattering men came Sheriff Steudenmier. He strolled out and then leaned back easily on the portals of an adobe building, waiting. Out of the saloon next came a familiar early day figure here, Doc Manning. The two began shooting at each other.

Because of the sheriff's fame as a marksman, Krause expected to see Manning fall. Instead, the officer crumpled, fatally wounded. Manning, as Krause relates it, hurried to the dying officer and beat him with his gun butt.