

Owen Labbe taught at Austin 37 years

Owen Arthur Labbe, who had taught at Austin High School from the school's opening in 1930 until his retirement in 1967, died Sunday. He was 85.



Owen Labbe

Labbe began teaching at Austin High School in 1930, and he later was named head of the school's science department.

He also had been president of the Texas Teachers Association and the Texas Classroom Teachers Association.

"Students loved him," said Marilyn Bradley, Labbe's daughter. "He had many, many plaques and letters. He was very gentle, loving; very simple, with no pretensions whatsoever."

Labbe also is survived by his wife of 60 years, Rosalee of El Paso; two daughters, Doris Lee Young of Estancia, N.M., and Nancy Ann Walker of Tornillo, Texas; eight grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday in Martin Funeral Chapel, where services will be at 2 p.m. Thursday. Burial will be in Evergreen East Cemetery.

Labbe was born March 31, 1900, in St. Martinville, La. He received a bachelor of science degree in education from Louisiana State University in 1923, and his first teaching assignment was in a one-room schoolhouse in Weed, N.M.

He moved to El Paso in 1925 and taught at El Paso High School, then the city's only high school.