

# H. Lesinsky Passes Away In His Home In New York

First Came To El Paso In 1866; Was A Pioneer  
New Mexico Merchant Before Going To Ari-  
zona and Building First Smelter.

**HENRY LESINSKY**, president of the H. Lesinsky company, of El Paso, died Thursday in his home in New York city. Mr. Lesinsky was about 89 years of age and was one of the pioneers of the southwest.

News of his death was received in El Paso by H. B. Stevens, a friend of long standing.

He came to New Mexico in 1857 and was engaged for several years in mercantile businesses at different places along the Rio Grande valley. From Mesilla, he and his brother, Charles Lesinsky, went to Arizona and opened the first copper mining operations in that territory at the Longfellow mine, near which the town of Clifton was afterwards located.

A smelter was built at Clifton and connected with the mine by a narrow gage railroad, the first railroad built in Arizona. They smelted ore under very adverse conditions.

All supplies were freighted from the nearest railroad point, at Pueblo, Colo., and fuel was obtained from wood and charcoal in the nearby mountains. Indians were a serious menace and mining was carried on under great difficulties.

**Came Here First in '66.**

Mr. Lesinsky first visited El Paso in 1866, and was always firm in his belief that there would be a great city lo-

ated at this point. In 1882 the Lesinsky brothers sold their interests at Clifton to the Arizona Copper company for a very large sum. After this sale he moved to New York, where he became interested in the manufacture of typewriters. In 1897 Mr. Lesinsky, together with some of his former associates in the mining business at Clifton, organized the jobbing business of the H. Lesinsky company at El Paso, and while he was never active in the management of the company he remained as president of the organization until his death.

Mr. Lesinsky always took a keen interest in public affairs and wherever he lived was always known and highly esteemed for his probity.

## **A PIONEER GONE.**

Just after the death of former senator Mark Smith, of Arizona, comes that of H. Lesinsky, one of the very early American pioneers of the southwest.

Mr. Lesinsky's arrival in the Rio Grande valley considerably antedated the journey of the brilliant and jovial young Mark Smith from placid Cynthiana, Kentucky, to roaring Tombstone, Arizona, but they both had an important part in the making of the southwest as we know it.

Mark Smith's part was that of the law courts, politics, and the halls of congress.

Mr. Lesinsky's part was that of the storekeeper first, and the large merchant last, with an important time in between when he gave life to mining in eastern Arizona, established the first smelter in Arizona at Clifton, and built the first railroad in the then territory.

One by one these fine old pioneers are passing on, leaving the work they did here in the southwest as their best monuments. They will be remembered by the younger generation with respect and affection.

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