

Ben Levy, Long-Time Resident, Dies At 83

Fast thinning ranks of El Paso pioneers lost another member Thursday when Ben Levy, 83-year-old merchant and former City alderman in the C. E. (Henry) Kelly and R. E. Sherman administrations, died in his home, 1001 E. Robinson Blvd.

Mr. Levy, born in St. Louis, Mo., Oct. 9, 1870, had been a resident of El Paso for 55 years.

Mr. Levy was re-elected president of the El Paso Volunteer Firemen's Association at its annual meeting Wednesday night in the Central Fire Station, Overland and Campbell Sts. He served as president for many years.

In an issue of the old El Paso Herald, Mr. Levy was quoted as saying his boyhood ambition was to be chief of a fire department.

Mr. Levy was 27 when he arrived here on Feb. 10, 1898, on a Southern Pacific passenger train from San Francisco to visit a friend. He was on his way back to St. Louis and had no intention of remaining in El Paso. However, he immediately liked the town and the next thing he knew he was working for the Union Clothing Co.

Early El Paso history is tied up with that store. It was established in April, 1892, by Louis N. Heil, who came here from Montrose, Colo. The first location, with a floor space 20 by 75 feet, was 111 S. El Paso St., quarters now owned by Hotel Paso del Norte and occupied by E. F. Hutton & Co., brokers. Date of the original opening of the store was some 20 years before the advent of Hotel Paso del Norte.

The store was moved to its location in the Coles Building, Oregon and San Antonio Sts., in April, 1912, where it has been ever since. It is now the Union-Fashion Clothing Co., Inc.

Mr. Levy was a salesman for the Union in 1898 and a partner in the business by 1904. He was the sole owner in 1920, after Heil died. In January, 1946, Mr. Levy sold the store and retired.

Mr. Levy served as an alderman with the late Mayor Kelly, being elected in 1913, and with the late Mayor R. E. Sherman when he was elected in 1935 a member of the City Council on a split ticket.

Forty-nine years ago last Nov. 2, Mr. Levy and Mrs. Levy, who survives him, were married. She was the former Irma Ullmann, daughter

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BEN LEVY

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of Maurice Ullmann, pioneer merchant, whose store was next door to the famous old Myer's Opera House on South El Paso St. Mr. Ullmann came here in 1856 from San Francisco. His family joined him later.

The Levy's only child, a son, Leroy, was an officer and prisoner of the Japanese in World War II, and was killed when a Jap transport was bombed by American planes. He had survived the Death March in the Philippines.

Mr. Levy was an Elk and charter member of Temple Mt. Sinai. He had been active in many civic programs.

Awaiting the arrival of Mrs. Levy's nephew, Maurice Blumenthal from Los Angeles, and niece, Mrs. Stuart Greenberg from San Francisco, funeral arrangements were pending with Harding and Orr Funeral Home.