

Smiling, Happy Ben Lewis Is No More; Popular Theater Man Claimed By Death

HUNDREDS of friends of sunny Ben Lewis mourned his death Tuesday.

The popular manager of the Ellanay and Grecian theaters died at 6 o'clock Monday evening, after a brief illness.

He was taken ill more than a year ago, but his failure did not become noticeable to his friends until but a few months, or even a few weeks ago.

In the last few weeks, his decline was rapid and he was confined to his home most of the time, though he visited his office at least once a day until a



BEN LEWIS.

little over a week ago. The last time he was downtown he told a friend he was going home to die.

While doctors had not told him definitely what his trouble was, he felt that he was declining rapidly and knew that his time was short. Regardless of this, he bore up bravely and met his friends smiling and cheerfully. Ben Lewis always smiled. He may have had his blue days, but he never showed that side of himself to his friends.

Here Since 1916.

Ben Lewis came to El Paso in 1916 to take the management of the Ellanay and Grecian theaters for his brother, the late J. M. Lewis, and he was not long in making friends. He became active in the Adclub and the Kiwanis club, and participated in all their minstrel shows and other entertainments as well as in their business sessions. He also assisted in amateur dramatics and had a prominent part in a play given at the Crawford by Miss Lenna Robinson as a Catholic benefit.

He was original as an entertainer and quite frequently wrote his own words for his song parodies. By this cheerful disposition and his willingness to assist in any worthy cause, Mr. Lewis soon made himself popular with a large circle of people. He was urged two years ago to make the race for city treasurer, but, as his health was not so good, he declined.

Born In Russia.

Forty-one years of age, Ben B. Lewis had lived many more years than many people much older, if enjoying life counts, for Ben enjoyed living and he enjoyed making other people smile. He had a fine fund of wit and his friends always enjoyed his society.

Born in Odessa, Russia, he came to this country with his parents when 9 years of age, and first lived in Houston. There he engaged in the advertising business and in cartooning, this work getting him into the theatrical business. Dallas was his next field of action and there he engaged in advertising work and also in theatrical management, being the manager of the Old Mill when it was noted as the finest picture house in Texas. He married Miss Gertrude Black while he was living in Dallas. She survives him. They have no children.

One Of Large Family.

He gave up a rather lucrative advertising business in Dallas to come to El Paso and assist his brother with the management of his two theaters. When his brother died, Ben took the management of the theaters for the widow and continued in this position until he died.

He leaves a wife and three surviving brothers, David Lewis, Detroit; Leon Lewis, Fort Worth, and Abe Lewis, Houston, and two sisters, Mrs. Abe Ginsburg, Houston, and Mrs. H. Kuller, El Paso.

Funeral services will be held in El Paso and interment will be in the Jewish plot in Concordia, but the day and hour of the funeral had not been set at an early hour Tuesday afternoon.

Mrs. Lewis's mother was with her during the last hours of Mr. Lewis' illness and will remain with her for some time.