

Veteran Resident Of Ysleta Dies Friday Morning, Age 89

DURING a half century Moritz Loewenstein, who died at Masonic hospital early Friday morning, has taken such a big part in the commercial development of the ancient town of Ysleta that at the mention of one name, one automatically thinks of the other. And since the aged man had retired, he was replaced in active business life in Ysleta by four of his sons, now conducting stores there. He was 89 years of age.

Mr. Loewenstein was born in Westphalia, Germany, in 1836, and at the age of 15 years left home, traveling about several years, moving from Philadelphia to Santa Fe in 1855 or 1866. At the old New Mexico city, he worked for Spiegelberg Brothers, general merchants. In 1870, he made his first trip to the El Paso valley. There was no El Paso then, and San Elizario was the county seat, Ysleta being the center of an agricultural district.

He returned several times to Ysleta and on May 10, 1873, just about a half century ago, he was married to Miss Juana Buchanan, a Juarez girl. They lived in the valley a year or so, when Mr. Loewenstein and his wife moved to Fort Davis. There they remained about a year, returning to Ysleta to remain. Mr. Loewenstein entered mercantile business almost at once, and had more than ordinary success. Fifteen children were born to the couple, the following surviving:

Children Survive

Morris J. B., assistant manager of the Aguila Oil company, Mexico City; George, cashier and purchasing agent, Potosi Oil company, San Luis Potosi; Joseph, Julius, William, business men of Ysleta; James, deputy sheriff, engaged at county jail; Gustave A., former overseas man, and now an automobile salesman at Los Angeles; Mesdames L. A. Fox, Jesse Waldrige and W. B. Glardon, of the lower valley. Morris, the eldest, is 48 years of age, while the youngest, Mrs. Glardon, is 22.

There are 22 grandchildren, and no great grandchildren.

Mr. Loewenstein loved the little city of Ysleta and the valley. He had erected during his long career about 200 front feet of business structures in Ysleta, while he has been responsible for much other development.

While his life had been devoted chiefly to commercial pursuits, Mr. Loewenstein never failed his fellow citizens when called on to occupy public office. From 1878 to 1884, he was county treasurer. The county was not so wealthy then, an \$85,000 bond being all that the treasurer had to give, and he handled both school and general funds. For two terms ending in 1892, he was county commissioner, while at various times he was one of the Ysleta school trustees.



MORITZ LOEWENSTEIN

Liked Old Times

Mr. Loewenstein talked interestingly of old times in the lower valley. "We didn't have half as much disturbance then as now," he often said. "Why, you are having more killings in one month now than we had in 10 years. By the time I reached Ysleta, 1870, the Indian menace had disappeared.

"We had considerably more Mexican people on this side then than in later years, and Americans and Mexicans lived together on the most cordial terms. This applied to those on the other side of the river as well. We were truly neighbors, everybody treating everybody else as such. When a Mexican family in Juarez gave a dance or other entertainment, American friends were invited, and vice versa when an American at Ysleta entertained; while the lower valley residents near the river mingled freely at each other's bailes.

"The valley was a great grape producing center then. While we have a few vineyards left, they are nothing to compare with the great number we had in years gone by. Our principal field crops were wheat and corn. Pears, peaches and other fruits came later.

"The Rio Grande used to overflow frequently in those days. Ysleta itself was too high to become inundated, but it was no uncommon thing for vast orchards to become inundated."

HERALD

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