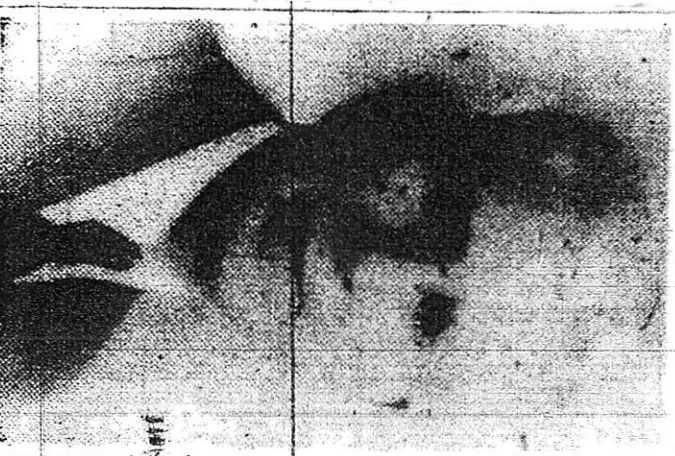


James Marr, Early El Paso Resident, Dies



JAMES L. MARR

James L. Marr, 4427 Oxford Street, one of the earliest El Paso settlers, died Saturday in Hotel Dieu, where he was admitted Nov. 21 after complications developed from a broken hip. He was 68.

He was prominent in civic, banking and real estate development in the Southwest, a leading builder of the metropolitan El Paso of today. Marr formerly was chairman of the board of Mortgage Investment Co. and founder of a real estate firm, started in 1905, that

later became Marr, Piper, Eckford and Jackson.

Marr is survived by his widow, two sisters, Mrs. Angeline Gray, Long Beach, Calif., and Mrs. Fred A. Fable, Germantown, Pa., and several nephews and nieces.

Funeral services will be held at 4 p. m. Monday in the Hagedorn-Harding Chapel, with the Rev. B. M. G. Williams officiating. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery.

In 1878 his parents, Col. and Mrs. James S. Marr, brought him to El Paso as a nine-months-old infant. The journey was made from Philadelphia by train to La Junta, Colo., as far as the tracks ran, and the rest of the way by covered wagon.

Traveling with the family was Dr. Alward White, brother of Owen White, pioneer, Southwestern author. They arrived here to find a chaos wildness threatened by Indian tribes. Along the route their wagon was protected by a cavalry escort. Waiting to greet them were 20 American families among the hundreds of Mexicans.

The Marr family boarded at the Makoffin ranch, in the homestead located on Magoffin Avenue, and later moved to the Leahy ranch, across from the present City-County Hospital. Then Colonel Marr brought his family back to the city to build the first two-story residence, a brick mansion now occupied by the City-County Health Unit at 209 South Campbell Street. It was the first home to be connected to a sewer system.

FATHER BROUGHT PRINTING PRESS HERE

Marr's father also brought the first printing press to El Paso, brought in ox carts from Las Vegas, N. M. The press was set up in an adobe building where the Roberts-Burner Building now stands and in that shop The El Paso Times was started. In those days Overland Street was the north boundary of the river bed.

Colonel Marr was manager for the Overland Mail Co., founder of El Paso Transfer Co., and operator of a ferry between El Paso and Juarez.

James Marr's first job was with Wells-Fargo Express Co., at the age of 13. In 1895 he went to work for the First National Bank, later becoming vice-president. At one time he and Owen White bought an early patent on a glass insulating device that was one of the few family failures.

Never active in politics, he probably contributed more than any one man to the improvement and beautification of El Paso. He laid out Austin Terrace, Richmond Terrace, and Memorial Park. He was a member of the city plan commission.

In 1929 he and his late mother, Mrs. Kathie K. Marr, held a joint celebration of their 50 years' residence here, shortly after Marr was named an arbitrator on the national panel of the American Arbitration Association, with headquarters in New York.