

Royce Martin, Clint Native, Heart Victim

Lexington, Ky. (INS) — Royce G. Martin, owner of Goyamo, which finished fourth in Saturday's Kentucky Derby, died of a heart attack in St. Joseph's Hospital as his horse made a strong but fruitless bid for \$102,050 first prize.

A native of Clint, Texas, and a resident of Toledo, Ohio, Martin owned Woodvale Farm in Bourbon County. He was president of the Auto-Lite Co., a director of Hialeah Park, Fla., and of the Breeders Sales Co. of Lexington.



He was stricken Thursday at Lexington and had been under an oxygen tent since entering the hospital. He was not told about Saturday's event at Churchill Downs.

Martin's career in racing and breeding dated back half a century. He was a close friend of Pancho Villa in Mexico when the latter's interests turned to racing.

Goyamo, piloted by Eddie Arcaro and winner of the Blue Grass Stakes at Keeneland, carried Martin's blue and white colors in the Derby for the eighth time.

Martin was born June 7, 1884 in Clint, the son of George W. Martin and Frances Ann Martin. Listed in Who's Who as a corporation official, he is named as president of the Electric Auto-Lite Co., since 1934 and chairman of the board since 1944.

Martin, according to local recollection, was known to Pancho Villa and was closely associated with the rebel leader for some years. In appreciation of the friendship he had with Martin, Villa is said to have given Martin concessions of considerable value in Chihuahua. Later Martin returned to El Paso after reputedly amassing a considerable fortune in Juarez. In the early '20s he operated a finance company in El Paso, later removing to New York City where he became financially interested in a motor-meter for automobiles.