

FELIX MARTINEZ, LEADING CITIZEN OF EL PASO, DEAD

**Banker, Developer and Father of
Elephant Butte Project Is
Victim of Pneumonia.**

**Death Closes Career of Man Who
Played Important Part in Up-
building of Southwest.**

Felix Martinez, banker, real estate man and former stock raiser, who has played a leading role in the development of New Mexico, Texas, Colorado and the entire southwest, died of pneumonia yesterday afternoon at his residence at Tobin Place and Dunne boulevard, at the age of 59 years. In compliance with wishes expressed before his death, his body will be sent to the ranch near Trinidad, Colo., where he spent the early days of his life, for burial.

Felix Martinez has played an important part in the upbuilding of El Paso and the southwest. He was the father and strenuous advocate of the storage flood waters of the Rio Grande behind the massive walls of the Elephant Butte dam, for the reclamation of the Palomas, Rincon, Mesilla and El Paso valleys. Though a citizen of New Mexico, he has been a resident of El Paso and has been closely identified with its interests since 1897.

Was born at Taos.

Mr. Martinez was born in Taos, N. M., March 29, 1857. His father was Felix Martinez, a lineal descendant of Don Felix Martinez, who was appointed captain-general and governor of the old Spanish province of New Mexico in 1715. His mother was Dona Reyes Cordova Martinez.

When 20 years of age Martinez engaged in business in El Moro, Colorado, moving in 1879, two years later, to Las Vegas, N. M., where he handled cattle, sheep, lumber and merchandise until 1888. He entered the real estate business shortly afterward, building homes and selling them on the installment plan.

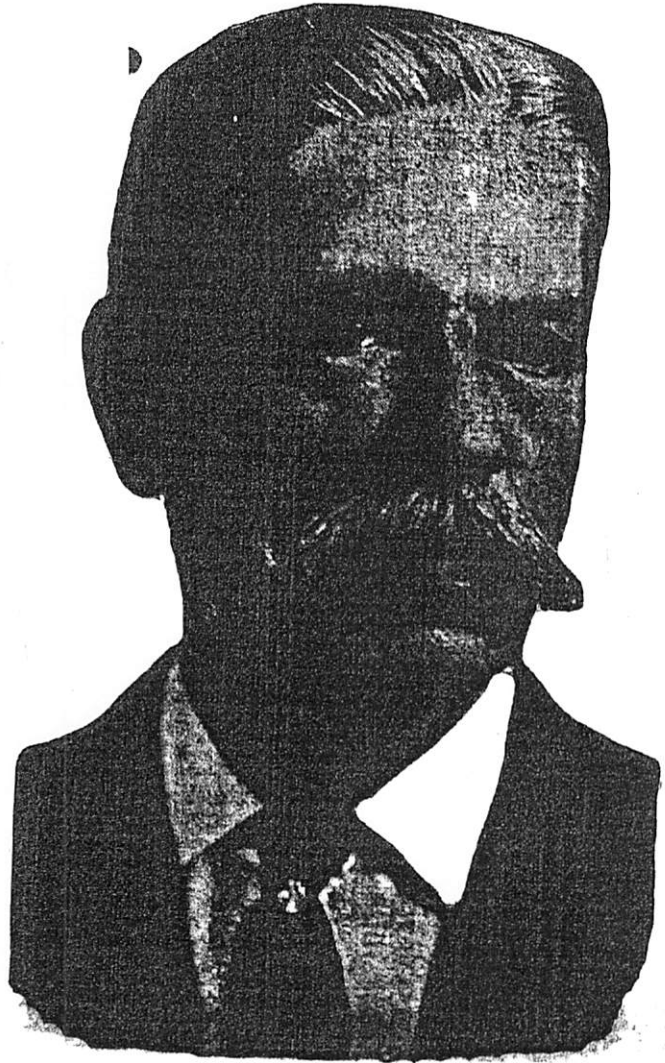
He was elected assessor of Miguel county, N. M., in 1886. In 1888 he was elected a member of the lower house of the territorial legislature. Four years later he was sent to the territorial senate. Shortly afterward he was made chairman of the new Mexico delegation to the National Democratic convention in Chicago. In 1913 he was made head of the commission from the United States sent to South America to invite the South American countries to partake in and send exhibits to the Panama-Pacific exposition.

Until a few years ago Mr. Martinez was a director of the First National bank of El Paso. At the time of his death he was a director of the Federal Reserve bank, district No. 11, at Dallas, Texas. He was president of the El Paso Water Users' association, the Central Building and Improvement company and the Martinez Investment company, and vice-president of the S. W. Portland Cement company. He had been prominently mentioned as a possible candidate for the United States senate from New Mexico shortly before his death.

Besides his wife, Felix Martinez is survived by two sons, Felix Martinez, Jr., of Colorado, and Alfonso M. Martinez of El Paso, and three daughters, Mrs. Reyes M. Drummer of Los Angeles, Mrs. M. T. Hernandez and Miss Virginia, both of El Paso. Funeral services will be held at the residence Friday afternoon.

The body will be sent to his ranch near Trinidad, Colo., where a private burial will be held.

*Felix Martinez, Father of Government
Reclamation Project in Rio Grande Valley*



EL PASO TIMES

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(See vertical file for more in-depth Herald story.)

PUBLIC FUNERAL TODAY FOR LATE FELIX MARTINEZ

Body to Lie in State at Chamber
of Commerce From 5:30 to
7:30 This Afternoon.

Flag at City Hall Half-Masted in
Honor of Distinguished Dead;
Municipal Offices to Close.

Funeral services for the late Felix Martinez, who died at his home Wednesday afternoon of pneumonia, will be held at the residence, Tobin place and Dunne boulevard, this afternoon at 4 o'clock. The body will lie in state at the Chamber of Commerce building from 5:30 until 7:30 o'clock, when it will be sent to the Martinez ranch, near Trinchera, Colo., for burial.

Mayor Tom Lea has announced that the city hall will be closed at 9 o'clock this afternoon in respect to the memory of Felix Martinez. The flag on the city hall has been at half mast since his death.

Beautiful Musical Program.

Music at the funeral services will be rendered by the quartet from the First Presbyterian church. The order of services follows:

Orchestral selection (hymn)—"I Am a Pilgrim."

Reading of the scripture, by the Rev. Charles Overstreet.

Hymn—"It Is Not Death to Die."

Address by the Rev. Miles Hanson.

Hymn—"Oh, Love Divine."

Prayer and benediction.

Following the services, the funeral procession will leave the residence at 4:45 o'clock, marching to the Chamber of Commerce. Some of the most prominent men of the southwest will act as pallbearers. Names of the active pallbearers follow: James O. McNary, Lieutenant Governor E. C. de Baca, of New Mexico; Juan Terrazas, H. D. Slater, W. W. Turney, U. S. Stewart, H. B. Stevens and A. Silberberg. Honorary pallbearers: Gen. Luis Terrazas, Federico Cisnera, A. Courchesne, Carl Leonardt, Judge Peyton F. Edwards, R. Burt Orndorff, Z. T. White and J. J. Mundy.

The funeral procession will form in the following order: Mounted police, ministers, Sixth infantry band, city officials, Chamber of Commerce directors, bank directors and officials, and directors of other organizations with which Mr. Martinez was connected; honorary pallbearers, active pallbearers, the hearse, and automobiles with the family and friends.

Body to Lie in State.

The body will be taken to the Chamber of Commerce, where it will lie in state until it is escorted to the train at 7:30. A squad of police will guard the casket. Shortly before he died Wednesday Mr. Martinez requested that he be buried beside his mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Felix Martinez, Sr., on his ranch near Trinchera.

"Such men as he are a rarity," said Mayor Tom Lea Thursday. "El Paso, as well as the state, can ill afford to lose such a type of citizen. Unknown to many, he was of a most charitable nature, and the good which he did was always done in a quiet and unobtrusive manner."

Conscious to the Last.

"I cannot die now," Mr. Martinez said to the friends about his bedside Wednesday afternoon. "I have so much to do for my country and my community." Realizing that the end was near, he appointed James McNary, one of his closest friends, administrator and executor of his estate. He remained conscious until a few minutes before his death, recognizing friends and members of his family about his bedside, and conversing about the final details of his affairs. Mr. McNary will accompany the body of his friend to its last resting place in Colorado.

At a meeting of the Spanish-American society of El Paso last evening resolutions of respect were passed and J. A. Escajeda and E. Sambrano named honorary pallbearers to represent this organization.

MESILLA VALLEY CITIZENS TO ATTEND FUNERAL.

By Times Special Correspondent.

Las Cruces, N. M., March 23.—A call has been issued by President L. Clapp, of the Elephant Butte Water Users' association, addressed to all the members of the council and board of directors of the association to attend the funeral services of Felix Martinez, which will be held in El Paso tomorrow afternoon at 4 o'clock from the Martinez home. The council includes a membership of thirty, while there are ten members of the board of directors. It has been ascertained that a number of these men will be unable to make the trip, but it is expected, nevertheless, that there will be a large delegation in attendance from the upper valley association.

The trip will be made by most of the people from the Mesilla valley by automobile, the start to be made about noon. The officials of the Water Users' association will be joined by a number of other citizens of Las Cruces and the Mesilla valley who have been life-long friends of Mr. Martinez, who has been a prominent figure in the development of the Elephant Butte project and this section of the southwest. He was the owner of a large farm on the west side, and had otherwise identified himself financially and in sympathies with the valley.

Mr. Martinez, at the time of his death, was president of the El Paso Valley Water Users' association, the sister organization to the Elephant Butte Water Users' association, and the call that was issued by President Clapp was but a fitting recognition of the respect that was due this broad-visioned pioneer builder of the southwest.