

Rites Pending for Charles Matthews

Funeral arrangements are pending today for Charles E. Matthews of 3125 Pershing drive, known to boxing fans as "Australian Billy Smith." He was seen slumping to the sidewalk late yesterday, and was pronounced dead by a physician in the lobby of a local hotel.

He was 79. He had been a resident of El Paso since 1890. He had been a city detective, a deputy sheriff and a deputy U. S. marshal. He was grand jury bailiff in 34th District Court at the time of his death.

The nickname became part of his career when a German referee could not pronounce his name. "Just call me Billy Smith," Matthews glibbed, and the name stuck.

He came to El Paso as a trainer of Bob Fitzsimmons, heavyweight champion. He later went on to win the welterweight championship in his own right. He had been active in Southwestern boxing for many years.

He was a member of Theodore Roosevelt's Rough Riders.

He is survived by three sons, George and Jack Matthews of Los Angeles, and Dan of San Francisco; and a daughter, Mrs. D. T. Allen of Tyler, Texas.