

JOHN M'ELROY FUNERAL FRIDAY

Millionaire Cattleman Will Be Buried at Pecos; Widow in Seclusion

Burial in his beloved "Pecos country" today awaited John T. McElroy, El Paso packer and pioneer rancher, who died at 12:30 a. m. today at Hotel Dieu. He was 87.

Mr. McElroy had been seriously ill since Sept. 26, when he caught a cold that led to a general collapse.

Funeral services will be held at the Kaster & Maxon Mortuary at 10 a. m. Friday, with Rev. Wistor R. Smith, First Presbyterian Church pastor, officiating.

Burial at Pecos

After the El Paso services the body will be taken to Pecos for services at 5 p. m., with burial in the family plot three miles west of Pecos.

Active pallbearers will be: Ed Godden, Deming N. M.; Clarence B. Morgan, Deming; A. W. Marshall, Deming; W. C. Simpson, Faywood, N. M.; Ed Ardoin Jr., M. C. Shriville, T. D. Swearingen and Paul D. Thomas, all of El Paso.

Honorary pallbearers will be: Charles Swisher, Gus Wilcox, C. M. Harvey, W. G. Peterson, Sam D. Young, Henry C. Lang, Frank Coles, J. B. Spears, W. W. Turney, C. M. Newman, Joe M. Evans, Tom Coggin, Dr. J. M. Britton, C. N. Bassett, R. W. McAfee, M. S. Asbell, A. B. Poe and Jack Gibb, all of El Paso; Thomas H. Beauchamp, Pecos; S. H. Veater, Arrey, N. M.; William H. Dunning Jr., Ft. Worth; Glenn Durrill, Noria, N. M.; Ed Cox, Mt. Riley, N. M.; Judge Carl Dunifan, Silver City, N. M.

To Close Plant

The John T. McElroy Packing Co. plant in El Paso will be closed Friday.

Condolences were received today

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by the family from ranchers, cattlemen, and business men in all parts of the Southwest.

The end came suddenly but peacefully. Among those at his bedside were Mrs. McElroy and Thomas D. Swearingen, office manager of the John T. McElroy Packing Co. plant. Mrs. McElroy was in seclusion today at Hotel Paso del Norte.

Will Run Plant

William C. Simpson, for many years manager of Mr. McElroy's ranch near Deming, will be in charge of the packing plant and the McElroy Union Stockyards.

Besides his widow, Mr. McElroy is survived by a sister, Mrs. Sarah J. Dawson, who is now an El Paso resident.

Mr. McElroy was born in Clinton County, Ohio, in 1849, the year of the California gold rush. When he was three years old his father caught the gold fever and went west.

The boy ran after his father, pleading to be taken to the fabulous land to the west. The elder McElroy was gone two years. He returned with the intention of taking his family to California, but his wife demurred, and as a compromise they moved to Iowa.

Mr. McElroy grew up on the frontier. Long trains of prairie schooners were a common sight in his youth. In his teens he migrated to the Northwest, engaging in various activities. For a while he ran a livery stable.

Gold Lure Fades

For several years he lived in Salt Lake City and often expressed a friendship for the Mormons of that vicinity. In Eugene, Ore., young McElroy broke into the cattle business by selling a few head to a man named Bill Miller.

His youthful ambition to seek gold gradually faded, and he became immersed in the cattle business. After seven years in the Northwest he returned to Iowa, and then went to the Uvalde, Texas, country. He was a driver on such famous trails as the Chisolm trail.

Drives Cattle

Mr. McElroy finally became tired of hunting cattle in the brush country and determined to move to open country. He drove his cattle to the Pecos country where he was a rancher for many years. Mr. McElroy drove his cattle to Kansas until the railroads was built to Amarillo. He also drove his neighbors' cattle on a commission basis.

Once he drove a herd of cattle from Guaymas, Mexico, to Kansas, a distance of about 2000 miles. The trip took three years.

Nearly 50 years ago he and T. H. Beauchamp founded the First National Bank of Pecos. Mr. McElroy was president of the bank at his death.

Struck Oil

When Mr. Elroy acquired 70,000 acres of ranch land in Crane and Ector counties he laid the base for his present fortune. In 1928 gushers were brought in on the property by oil companies and Mr. McElroy sold out his entire holdings to the Gulf interests and other companies. This transaction made him a multi-millionaire.

In 1919 Mr. McElroy was dissatisfied with the price he obtained for his cattle in El Paso, and decided to build his own packing plant. Thus was born the El Paso Packing Co., at 1210 Myrtle Ave. In October, 1934, he built a new plant in east El Paso and changed the name of the company to the John T. McElroy Packing Co.

Bought NAN Ranch

Mr. McElroy disposed of all his large Texas ranch holdings, retaining 1000 acres of cotton land near Ft. Hancock.

With his oil profits he bought the 175,000 acre NAN ranch near Deming, N. M., now the Y-Bar ranch. In 1928 he and Mrs. McElroy built a beautiful mansion on the ranch at a cost of more than \$100,000. It is a show place.

About 28 years ago Mr. McElroy and W. H. Austin acquired about 100,000 acres extending 14 miles down the Rio Grande from Elephant Butte Dam. Most of the Caballo reservoir site is former McElroy property.

In connection with his packing plant Mr. McElroy leased about 150,000 acres from the American Investment Co. on the Newman road 20 miles north of El Paso. Practically all cattle on the Newman ranch have been slaughtered in recent months.

Mr. McElroy also owned a Fort Worth subdivision.

Mr. McElroy's fortune at one time was estimated to be in the millions. Friends said that because his oil profits were invested in scattered properties the value of his estate will be hard to estimate.

MRS. M'ELROY DIRECTS FIRM

Widow of Packer Elected President of Company; Pick Other Officers

A determined, forcible gray-haired woman, who is credited with unusual business ability, today had taken over direction of her extensive ranch and meat packing interests.

She is Mrs. Mamie Parker McElroy, widow and sole legatee of the late John T. McElroy, millionaire rancher and packer, who died Oct. 14.

Mrs. McElroy was elected president of the John T. McElroy Packing Co. of El Paso, which operates a meat packing plant and stockyards.

Other officers elected were: Atty. Paul Thomas, vice president; Ed A. Ardoin Jr., secretary and treasurer, and William C. Simpson, general manager.

Mr. Simpson will continue as manager of the Y-Bar ranch near Deming, N. M., and of other McElroy ranch interests. He said no changes will be made at the local plant.

Mrs. McElroy is now at the Y-Bar ranch.