

Funeral Rites Arranged For Hugo C. Meyer

Funeral services for Hugo C. Meyer, City Park superintendent for more than 30 years, will be held at 2 p. m. tomorrow at St. Clement's Episcopal Church.

The Rev. B. M. G. Williams will officiate. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery under direction of Kaster and Maxon Funeral Home.

Mr. Meyer died yesterday in an El Paso hospital. He was 70.

Active pallbearers will be W. R. Collins, C. P. Henry, Chris P. Fox, Alton Poe, J. J. Kaster, and Dr. E. W. Rheinheimer. Honorary pallbearers will be employes of the City Park Department.

Flags over City Hall and Park Department offices were flying at half-staff today in memory of "the man who made El Paso bloom." City Hall will be closed during the funeral.

Mr. Meyer retired as park superintendent last June 30.

Born in Iowa

Mr. Meyer died of complications resulting from injuries received in an automobile accident last Tuesday. He had not fully recovered from an injury received in another auto accident more than a year ago.

Mr. Meyer was born in Davenport, Iowa, and was graduated from the University of Colorado. He came to El Paso 35 years ago to take a job with Evergreen Cemetery, after having worked with the U. S. Forest Service in Albuquerque.

Before becoming park superintendent he had held jobs as a freight inspector, a musician, piano salesman, and artist. His varied talents were put to use for the City when he took over the Park Department May 15, 1923.

Park System Grew

The park system at that time consisted of six parks, a few sickly trees, and patches of yellow grass.

When Mr. Meyer retired in June it included 61 parks, 11 baseball diamonds, golf course, and swimming pools. He directed the City zoo in Washington Park. He was in great demand as consultant to numerous landscaping, beautification and recreation projects. Most of the major beautification projects took shape on his own drawing board. On retirement he said, with wistful pride: "Everywhere I look I see a little bit of Hugo Meyer sticking out."

During his three decades in office Mr. Meyer served under 12 mayors. In that time he planted more than 400,000 trees all over El Paso. He spent much of his spare time aiding and advising El Paso garden and civic clubs.

He planned the landscaping at



Hugo C. Meyer

William Beaumont General Hospital, Texas Western College, a large part of Ft. Bliss, City schools, fire stations and "parkways, and the yards of countless friends.

Mr. Meyer was justifiably proud of the annual Christmas tree project in San Jacinto Plaza, which he originated in 1934. The tree had been obtained each year in the New Mexico mountains and transformed into a thing of beauty under his skillful direction. In 1949 the Christmas tree was dedicated to him.

Received High Award

Also in 1949 the Southwestern Sun Carnival Fine Arts Committee named Mr. Meyer the "Artist of the Hour," and commended him as the man "who has done more to beautify or to encourage others to bring beauty to the city." In 1951 he was presented with the first honorary membership in the El Paso Optimist Club. He was a 32nd degree Mason and a member of El Maida Shrine.

Mr. Meyer resided at 3116 Wheeling street.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Hugo Meyer; two daughters, Mrs. Jesse H. Loehausen of El Paso and Mrs. John Frierson of Birmingham, Ala.; one brother, Ed R. Meyer of Denver; and four grandchildren.