

# Mrs. Brown, 'First Lady' Here, Dies

El Paso's "first lady," Mrs. William R. Brown, 73, died suddenly at 1:45 p. m. Wednesday in her home, 519 Los Angeles Street. She failed to regain consciousness after she suffered a stroke Wednesday morning.

Funeral services for the pioneer civic and social leader of El Paso were pending Thursday with Barry Hagedorn Funeral Home.

Mrs. Brown was the widow of the late W. R. Brown, division freight and passenger agent of the Santa Fe Railroad in El Paso for 30 years.

She was born in Sherman, Texas, Dec. 17, 1871, and moved to El Paso as a girl with her parents. She was one of the two graduates in first exercises held at El Paso High School in 1887. She was graduated from the San Diego High School in June of 1889 and remained in California studying music until 1890. An outstanding pianist and musician, the former Miss Kate Moore returned to El Paso in 1890 to become El Paso's first music teacher in the Public Schools. She was a familiar sight in early El Paso days, pedaling to and from school on her bicycle.

She resigned from the Public School System when she became the

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bride of Mr. Brown, June 29, 1908, at an elaborate wedding held in the old Myrtle Avenue Church. Roster of attendants at the wedding of the prominent young couple included the names of families identified with the settling of El Paso and the Southwest.

## BUILT HOME IN 1908

Mr. Brown and his bride built a spacious home at 519 Los Angeles Street in 1908, which was the scene of many El Paso social and civic affairs during the 37 years Mrs. Brown lived in the Los Angeles Street home. The ninth telephone installed in El Paso was placed in the Brown home and their telephone number remained Main 9 throughout the years.

Mrs. Brown, who had studied music as a girl at Kidd Key Girls' School in Sherman, was organist for the Presbyterian, Episcopal and other El Paso churches for many years, and continued to teach music in her home until her death. Talented, young and often struggling musicians, who studied with "Miss Katie," as she was known to countless El Pasoans, idolized the willing and sympathetic music teacher. Often referred to as the "Dean of Music in El Paso," Mrs. Brown devoted her life to the musical and cultural improvement of the town she loved. She introduced the teaching of music in the public schools for the first time in the state of Texas at the time she was El Paso's first music teacher and continued to support efforts to further music in the schools. She organized the El Paso Music Teachers' Association.

Active until the time of her death, Mrs. Brown was prominently identified with many El Paso circles, civic and social, and founded the MacDowell Club, musical auxiliary of the El Paso Woman's Club.

There is hardly an organization in the city that Mrs. Brown has not been identified with during her lifetime and her death will be felt by members of the organizations to which she belonged. She served as president of the Woman's Club, director-general of the Pan-American Round Table, member of the board of directors of the El Paso Public Library, member of the El Paso Symphony Concert Association Board, Community Concert Association, and first chairman-director of the Woman's Department of the Chamber of Commerce. She was a member of the Pioneer Womens' Association, Garden Club, Robert E. Lee Chapter, U. D. C., an organizer and first vice-chairman of the El Paso International Museum Board and was one of the few women who have served on the El Paso School Board. She was an honorary member of the Delta Kappa Gamma, national teachers' sorority.

Mrs. Brown, who was called "El Paso's Mrs. John Jacob Astor" by society editors of El Paso newspapers in early days, served on the advisory board of the El Paso Junior League and was a member of the Compadres Club, composed of socially prominent pioneer El Paso women, who grew up together. She was an organizer and member of the first board of directors of the El Paso School for Girls, now Radford School for Girls.

A collector of fans and shawls of famous women the world over, Mrs. Brown had acquired an internationally famous collection of the precious works of art. She traveled extensively and added to her collection while on trips to the Continent and Orient.

Mrs. Brown's only immediate survivor is Francis L. Moore, nationally known concert pianist of Palham, N. Y. Mr. Moore, who lived in El Paso during his youth with his sister and late mother, Mrs. F. M. Moore, is well known in El Paso and New York music circles. Other survivors include an aunt, Mrs. Felix Robertson, of Fayetteville, Ala.; a niece, Mrs. Ward Hiller, of Rochester, N. Y., and two nephews, Ensign Bill Moore, USNR, and Pvt. Ellis Moore, U. S. Army, both on active duty in the South Pacific area.

Among last requests made by Mrs. Brown is that no flowers be sent to her funeral. Officials of the El Paso International Museum Board said late Wednesday a memorial would be established in honor of Mrs. Brown.