

J. E. Morgan, E. P. Contractor, Taken By Death

Came To El Paso
In 1893, Helped
Build City

Joseph Edward Morgan, pioneer El Paso contractor, died today at 1 a. m. at Hotel Dieu. He was 71. He had been seriously ill for more than a year.

Funeral arrangements are pending at Kaster and Maxon Mortuary.

Mr. Morgan lived at 715 North Campbell street.

Mr. Morgan, a native of Florida, came to El Paso in 1893 from St. Augustine. There was a depression that year. Mr. Morgan came to El Paso because his uncle, the



Joseph Edward Morgan

late J. L. Whitmore, thought the town had promise.

A year after his arrival in the town of 15,000 of one and two-story structures, Mr. Morgan went into business as a contractor because he couldn't get a job working for a contractor, he often said.

His first contract was for an addition to the home of H. B. Clardy

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on Mesa avenue. Mr. Morgan earned a profit of \$21 on the job, working 31 days.

In the years that followed the firm handled many millions of dollars of construction in the Southwest, including vast construction work at Ft. Bliss.

Mr. Morgan never lost faith in the destiny of El Paso. His firm kept pace with a growing city, building such structures as the County Court House and Loretto College. It built State and University buildings at Austin.

Mr. Morgan had seen many changes in the building world, particularly in the matter of wages and working conditions. He always looked upon higher wages levels as desirable to eliminate deplorably living conditions of large parts of the population.

Four Sons Survive

He was active in various civic organizations until ill health forced him to slow up. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus and St. Patrick's Cathedral. He served as a city alderman.

Associated with him in construction work were four sons, who survive.

J. Francis Morgan, former city alderman, is now a captain in the construction division of the U. S. Army, and stationed at the Army Air field at Pecos. Leo P. Morgan is a lieutenant in the Army Engineers at Fort Leonard Wood. Bernard C. Morgan and William D. Morgan live in El Paso.

Surviving also are two daughters, Mrs. Agnes Wittman and Mrs. Margaret Halloran of El Paso, and a sister, Mrs. T. C. McCarthy of Phoenix.