

J. J. MUNDY, A PIONEER, DIES

Passes Away As Result Of Intestinal Obstruction. Here 38 Years.

J. J. Mundy, aged 74 years, a resident of El Paso for the past 38 years, died early Wednesday morning at a local hospital as a result of intestinal obstruction. Mr. Mundy was one of El Paso's best known and most public spirited pioneer citizens.

Mr. Mundy was at Indian hot springs, near Bowie, Arizona, for rheumatism, when taken ill with intestinal obstruction last Friday night. He was brought to El Paso as soon as possible, but did not reach here until Tuesday afternoon. Drs. M. O. Wright and Hugh Crouse operated upon him to relieve him Tuesday afternoon, but stated at the time that they saw but slim chance of his recovery because of the length of time which had expired since he was at-



J. J. MUNDY.

tacked. He passed away early Wednesday morning. The remains are being held at the Peake-Hagedorn undertaking establishment pending funeral arrangements, which have not yet been made by the widow.

Mr. Mundy was married to Mrs. Harriet Dickinson in El Paso on November 22, 1903. They have no children.

Besides his widow and one brother, L. L. Mundy, of El Paso, deceased is survived by several nieces and nephews. The nieces include Mrs. D. P. Stewart and Mrs. C. A. Kinkel, formerly Misses Nellie and Clara Mundy.

A Poor Boy.

J. J. Mundy was very poor when a lad and his greatest ambition was to get rich. In the generally accepted term of riches, he accomplished his ambition, for he is reputed to have been one of the wealthiest men in El Paso.

His father was a hard working farmer and did not accumulate much of anything but a hillside farm and a family. The boys knew only hard work with little spending money.

The late H. L. Capell, who came from the same portion of western New York state as Mr. Mundy, used to say that J. J. Mundy built more rock fences when he was a boy than any other man in the world. They did not have barbed wire fences in those days and they enclosed their property by piling up the rocks that they took off their hillside farms in the particular locality where J. J. Mundy was born. With his brothers, H. M. Mundy, L. L. Mundy and George Mundy, the deceased did his share of building rock fences.

Came Here in 1881.

He was contented to remain a farmer, he often said, and stayed on the old home farm until he was 24 years of age, coming to Kansas in 1909, where he farmed until 1881, when he came to El Paso to manage the butcher business for his brothers, H. M. and L. L., who had preceded him here. They had been here for several years and were in the butcher business. They wanted him to take charge of the shop, while they spent the time killing meat and raising cattle and sheep. He arrived here on May 15, 1881. His brother, George, had also preceded him. This left the parents alone back in the old New York home—near Canasauraga—but soon the four boys sent for the parents and they, too, came to El Paso. The father died in 1893, and the mother about 15 years later. George Mundy, one of the brothers, died in 1888, and H. M. died only a few years ago.

Family Pioneered.

H. M. Mundy and L. L. Mundy came here in the fall of 1887 when El Paso was a mere village, and lived to see it grow to become a large city. L. L. is still living here, the last of the four pioneer El Paso brothers.

The four brothers eventually became partners in the business and erected the first El Paso "sky scraper," the old Mundy building on South El Paso street, where the Elanay theater now stands. It was a three story building and towered loftily above the other buildings along the thoroughfare, none of them anything but one story adobes. It attracted much attention at the time. The property is still owned by the Mundys—J. J. and L. L. being the owners now. J. M. Lewis and H. M. Andreas have a 15 year lease on the property for a theater.

The Mundys had much to do with the growth of El Paso. H. M. Mundy put Mundy Heights addition on the market and donated Mundy park to the city.

Had Helped City to Grow.

J. J. Mundy placed Sunset Heights

upon the market, and was the principal owner in the El Paso Commercial company, which owned the property. Originally Sunset Heights consisted of 1050 lots. The company still owns about 70 lots in that addition and other property about the city and Mr. Mundy at his death was president and principal owner.

He was also the owner of Concordia cemetery, which he purchased in 1897 from Thos. Leahy, the founder of the cemetery, who started it in 1882.

At death, J. J. Mundy was interested in a great many of the larger enterprises of El Paso. He was president of the Shelton Hotel company and of the Central Building and Improvement company, which owns the White House building; vice president of the First Mortgage company, a director in the First National bank, vice president of the company owning the Del Norte hotel; president of the Southwestern Oil Development company, which has one well completed in the Ranger field and three more under way, and was interested in many other enterprises in and around El Paso, including The El Paso Herald.

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