

W. F. Payne, 1895 Mayor, Dies At 86



W. F. PAYNE.

Walker F. (Uncle Floyd) Payne, mayor of El Paso 53 years ago, died Thursday in his home, 1020 Montana Street, after a lingering illness. He was 86 years old.

He had been a resident of El Paso since 1886 and was active in business, civic and political affairs of the city almost until his death. In 1894 he was alderman and in 1895 served out the unexpired term of Mayor Bob Johnson at the time when the noted outlaw, Wes Hardin, made El Paso his headquarters until he was killed by Constable John Selman.

Mr. Payne was born in Petersburg, Va., Sept. 17, 1861. He, together with W. S. McCutcheon, or-

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ganized the McCutcheon-Payne Co., wholesale hay and grain business. In 1894 he disposed of his interest and started a real estate business. He was a partner in the Sheldon-Payne Arms Co., later sold to Don Thompson, and was active in mining interests here and in Mexico. He was a leading promoter of the Elephant Butte irrigation project and the Lower Valley.

He organized the first bicycle club here, "The Border Wheelmen," and was a founder of the old Social Club. He also was a pioneer member of the Toltec Club and past-president of El Paso Country Club. In recent years he was vice-president of Purity Baking Co. Mr. Payne was a member of St. Clement's Church.

He was an uncle to Owen White, late Texas and Southwestern historian. Surviving him are his widow, Nellie; a nephew, Jesse Payne; and niece, Mrs. Leigh White Osborn, of El Paso; two nieces and three nephews, now residing in California, and a nephew, Frank Payne, Fort Worth.

Funeral arrangements were pending with Hagedorn-Harding. Burial will be Saturday in Evergreen Cemetery.