

J. D. PONDER TIMES EDITOR MANY YEARS, DIES TUESDAY

**Pioneer El Pasoan Is
Stricken Suddenly While
Editing Western Amer-
ican; Dies In Hospital.**

**SERVED LONG TERM
AS E. P. TREASURER**

**Veteran Editor Associated
With El Paso Times
For 18 Years; Active In
Democratic Circles.**

JAMES D. PONDER, 67 years old, pioneer editor and publisher of El Paso, died suddenly in Hotel Dieu at 8 o'clock last night, after having been removed to the hospital at 10 o'clock yesterday morning suffering from a kidney affliction. Judge Ponder, as he was affectionately known to many El Pasoans, had been a resident of this city since December, 1888. For 18 years he was editor of The El Paso Times. Since 1923 he had been editor of the Western American.

Judge Ponder complained of illness yesterday morning, but would not leave his work. Finally the pain became so acute that he went to a physician's office, where he was attacked with convulsions. He was taken to the hospital, passing away last evening.

Besides his widow, Mrs. Fannie Ponder, he is survived by three sons, James Hart, Daniel R. of El Paso and Jack of Albuquerque. Funeral arrangements are pending with the Harford company, waiting the arrival of the son from Albuquerque.

Judge Ponder was born in Decatur county, Georgia, May 21, 1861. He attended a boarding school at Marianna, Fla., the public schools of his native state and Mercer institute of Macon, Ga. During his vacations he worked in the printing office of Congressman B. E. Russell at Bainbridge.

A business venture in Atlanta proving unsuccessful, Mr. Ponder entered the newspaper profession, which he followed until the end of his life. After serving as a reporter on various Georgia papers, including the Atlanta Constitution, then edited by Henry W. Grady, he founded the Home Courier, in Rome, Ga. He served as editor of this paper until 1883, when he went to Washington, serving two years on the Washington staff of the New York

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J. D. Ponder Dies; Once Times Editor

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Herald. He later worked on papers in Chicago, St. Louis and Houston.

In 1888 Mr. Ponder's health began to fail and he started for the Pacific coast. Stopping off in El Paso, Capt. Juan S. Hart, publisher of The El Paso Times at that time, persuaded him to stay here long enough to edit a special edition of The Times.

Mr. Ponder liked El Paso so well that he stayed and became a member of The Times's editorial staff. Later he became editor and general manager, acquiring stock in the company, and continued in active charge until 1907, when he disposed of his interests to Captain Hart.

In March, 1911, the county commissioners appointed him county treasurer to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of James W. Magoffin. In the fall of 1912 he was elected county treasurer, a post which he filled until 1917. During the Charles Davis administration, 1917 to 1923, he was in charge of the city warehouse.

In 1923, when the Western American made its first appearance, Mr. Ponder's name was listed as editor. He had the unique experience of editing a Catholic publication, although he was a Presbyterian himself. He was confirmed in the Catholic faith in May, 1925, two years after assuming the editorship of the Western American.

The wedding of Mr. Ponder and Miss Fannie Gemoets was solemnized November 23, 1904. Mrs. Ponder's father, F. L. Gemoets, a native of France, settled in Texas after having served as an orderly in the army of Emperor Maximilian of Mexico.

Mr. Ponder was always a staunch Democrat. He was an active member of the old "McGinty Club". He was nominated for judge of corporation court, but refused the nomination. Nevertheless, the title of "Judge" remained with him thereafter. He was a long-time member of El Paso lodge of Elks, and was also a member of the El Paso Pioneers' society.

Mr. Ponder was one of the organizers of the El Paso Chamber of Commerce and for several years was active in its work. In 1919 he purchased the West Ysleta Country club, where the family had since resided, although the clubhouse has been leased to others.