

REY

Pedro Rey, 89, passed away Saturday. Retired with over 30 yrs. as display manager for Popular & White House. Member of the Catholic Church. Survived by several nieces and nephews. Rosary service will be at 8:30 p.m. Monday at Martin Chapel West. Funeral mass at 9:00 a.m. Tuesday at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church (Fabens). Pallbearers are Alfredo Berroteran, Angel Rey, Juan Angel Rey, Luciano Solis Manuel Provencio, and Oscar Provencio. Burial will be at San Elizario Cemetery. Directed by Martin.
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Visual Artistry Was His Way Of Life

By JERRY LARGE

Times Staff Writer

When funeral mass is said at 9 a.m. Tuesday for Pedro Rey, 89, many El Pasoans will gather to say adios to a man who perhaps brought more actual color and visual artistry into their lives than any other — ever.

For it was Mr. Rey who developed the artistic decorations that graced the display windows of The Popular and, later, the White House department stores. His creations won many awards. In 1929, he became display manager at the White House and it was during his years there that he designed a float for the first Sun Carnival Parade. That float won the sweepstakes award.

On his death Saturday, Mr. Rey left behind scores of nieces and nephews. His brothers and sisters have large families, but most of the people who called him Tio Pete were related to him only in spirit.

He was a member of one of the area's pioneer families. His grandfather came to Mexico as an officer in the Spanish army with a land grant from the mother country.

Mr. Rey's father was born in San Elizario and became a United States citizen when Texas became a part of the U.S. Mr. Rey himself was born in Guadalupe, Mexico.

When he was about 12 years old, a family friend, Adolfo Schwartz, hired him as an errand boy for The Popular. He began to work his way up and to develop the talent for artistic decoration which won him acclaim.

Mr. Rey donated much of his time and talent to the Catholic Church of which he was a member, decorating altars and designing wedding arrangements.

In 1969, he made a significant donation of another kind. He gave the major part of his family's renaissance art collection to the University of Texas at El Paso's Centennial Museum.

Among the artifacts were two paintings estimated to be 600 years old and a flower taken from George Washington's grave shortly after his burial.

Mr. Rey, who died Saturday, retired from decorating 20 years ago. For many years, he raised peacock birds whose lively colors matched his outgoing lifestyle. He was a constant fixture at high society dances in both Juarez and El Paso in his younger years.

A few years ago, the bachelor art collector gave away the peacocks since he could no longer care for them. In Fabens, though, some persons still call his house the peacock house.

The home sits on part of 10 blocks he bought for \$30 dollars when he was a young man, according to one of his many relatives.

Rosary for Mr. Rey was said Monday. Mass will be at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Fabens. Pallbearers are Alfredo Berroteran, Angel Reya, Juan Angel Rey, Luciano Solis, Manuel Provencio and Oscar Provencio.

Burial will be at San Elizario Cemetery under the direction of Martin Funeral Home.

EL PASO TIMES

4 - 4 - 78

(Mr. Rey's Sun Carnival Parade entry of Jan 1, 1936 for The White House Dept. Store was the first "Sweepstakes Award" winner.)