

Passing Of Pioneer Recalls Services In Building City

W. W. Rose Was Leader
In El Paso Cultural
Circles.

In the death of W. W. Rose, 78, which occurred Tuesday afternoon at his home, 1428 Montana street, El Paso has lost another one of its outstanding pioneer citizens.

The body is at the Hartford company's mortuary, funeral arrangements pending until the arrival of a brother, Frank Rose, from Denver, who is expected Thursday.

The city was a struggling adobe-hut village when Mr. Rose first arrived. This was in 1886. He came here from Denver as the representative of the Waters-Pierce Oil company. In 1897 he went to Mexico City as the manager of the northern division of the republic for the company. Then, in 1900, he was sent to Lower California as the resident director of the Boleto Mining company. In this position he had 15,000 men under his direction. He remained there three years, returning to El Paso in 1906, which he made his permanent home. Mrs. Rose accompanied and was with him in all places to which his work carried him.

Mr. Rose's original home was Newark, N. J. St. Louis is Mrs. Rose's old home and it was in this city the two were married.

Besides Mrs. Rose and the brother, Frank, there are two sisters and another brother, living in New York, who survive.

During his long residence here Mr. Rose was always prominently identified with those activities which meant the further upbuilding of the city, particularly those which tended to increase its cultural standards. The achievement of the city's present high musical standing can be, in a very large measure, attributed to his unflinching enthusiasm, untiring efforts and personal financial support.

Charles J. Andrews launched the idea of the Orpheus club here 11 years ago, but the organization was made possible by Mr. Rose's enthusiasm. Not only this, but the club's continuation is due to the same source. In addition to taking part in all the concerts, Mr. Rose, whenever one of these was scheduled, would personally sell \$200 worth of tickets.

"He was a wonderful character," said Mr. Andrews. "We owe the existence of the club to his enthusiasm and his personal efforts. But for this the club would not have been possible."

Another remarkable fact in connection with the life of Mr. Rose was that at the age of 77 he was holding his place as tenor and singing in all the club concerts, as well as doing the same in the Oratorio society.

He was taken ill with a severe cold early last fall and since that time had not appeared as a singer with the musical organizations. However, about a month ago he phoned Mr. Andrews and asked the latter if he should take his place in the "Messiah," which was given last Sunday. Knowing he had been ill, Mr. Andrews advised Mr. Rose not to do this.

Mr. Rose had also been a singer in St. Clement's Episcopal church choir for a number of years. He had a genuine appreciation for music and he did his full share in promoting the high standards which now prevail here.

"He was a fine man," said Charles Rokahr. "I have known him for 40 years. He was in El Paso a year before I got here, which was in 1887."

Mr. Rokahr and Mr. Rose were brother members in the old McGinty club, which was disbanded more than 10 years ago.

"Mr. Rose was an active member of the club," stated Mr. Rokahr. "As in everything else, he could always be counted on to do his part, and there was always something doing when the McGinty club was on the job."

The club's quartet, Mr. Rokahr said, was composed of Mr. Rose, himself, Ben Roberts, now living in Wichita, Kan., and Tom Weston, residing in Mexico. The club was organized in 1890.