

Rabbi Roth Dies After Suffering Heart Attack

Death Comes To
Educator at 58

Dr. Joseph M. Roth, rabbi of Congregational B'nai Zion and head of the psychology and philosophy department at Texas Western College, died this afternoon at Hotel Dieu.

He suffered a heart attack Monday. He was 58.

Last Nov. 1, Dr. Roth started his 30th year as spiritual leader of B'nai Zion. At that time he was honor guest at a testimonial dinner at which prominent speakers told of his outstanding educational, religious and civic contributions of El Paso.

Born In Hungary

Dr. Roth was born in Hungary Dec. 21, 1894. He came to the U. S.



Dr. Joseph M. Roth

as a boy, of eight and spent his youth in Connecticut, New Jersey, and New York.

He was inclined to books, and he majored in Greek and Latin, as well as philosophy and psychology, at New York and Columbia Universities and Jewish Theological Seminary.

At NYU he held a fellowship in classics the year he graduated, 1919-20. He also studied Hebrew. In 1923 he obtained both his rabbinical and Ph. D. degrees. He became a rabbi, he said, chiefly because there was a dearth of English speaking rabbis at the time.

Came Here in 1923

He came to El Paso Nov. 1, 1923, to take over Congregation B'nai Zion and he built it up into an important religious community. This was the only ministry he ever held.

In 1931 he became head of the TWC psychology and philosophy department. He worked long hours at his two jobs and used to say that religion and philosophy took up all his time. He could see no conflict

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Dr. Joseph Roth Dies

(Continued from Page One) at 906 North El Paso street. Three years after he arrived the congregation completed its present building at Mesa avenue and Cliff street. B'nai Zion now has 325 members. His Orthodox-Conservative congregation always maintained good relations with the Reformed branch at Temple Mt. Sinai.

He took pride in his college classes, which he said strengthened instead of weakened, students in their respective faiths.

When he took the B'nai Zion post it had 120 members and was housed

Dr. Roth is survived by his widow, Mrs. Millie Roth, who resides at the family home at 1125 Terrace street; a son, Dr. Dover Roth of Chicago; and two daughters, Mrs. Judith Lukoff, and Miss Carmel Roth.

Funeral services are pending with Harding-Orr Funeral Home.