

# R. M. Shaver, Weather Man, Taken by Death



R. M. Shaver

Robert Melvin Shaver, El Paso's weather forecaster for 29 years, died today at his home, 700 Wellesley road. He was 64.

Born Sept. 5, 1880, in Fayetteville, Tex., he spent his boyhood at Greenville. He attended the University of Texas for three and a half years and quit to accept a job in the Department of the Secretary of State in Austin.

In 1907 he was sent to El Paso as assistant in the U. S. Weather Bureau. He left El Paso several years later to serve in St. Joseph, Mo.; New Orleans and Phoenix.

In 1916, he was made official in charge of the El Paso Weather Bureau. This position he had held ever since.

#### Period of Development

"Doc," as the El Paso weather man had become affectionately known to the thousands he has served, was meteorologist during a period when the science of weather forecasting has shown its most rapid and far-reaching development.

When he came to El Paso, he had one assistant. They worked in a small office downtown. Farmers and transportation companies were the principal persons who sought his aid in the early days. The farmers depended on the weather for planting and harvesting their crops and the transportation companies wanted to determine travel conditions. Anticipating floods and river rises were his contributions.

As the area became a health cen-  
(Continued on Page 12, Col. 6)

# R. M. Shaver Taken by Death

(Continued from Page One)

ter, "Doc" Shaver's compilations of humidity and sunshine were factors in bringing health seekers to El Paso.

Development of aviation brought new importance to meteorology, and the U. S. Weather Bureau under Mr. Shaver's supervision was expanded to a large suite of offices at the Municipal Airport, with a staff of 11 assistants on duty day and night. He supervised the work of drawing weather maps, sending balloons and using the radio-sonde to give constant and reliable service to the commercial transports and planes of the Ferry Command, ATC.

Taking pride in his work, his record as a local forecaster was regarded highly by the regional office at Ft. Worth and the central office at Washington of the U. S. Weather Bureau.

#### Keen Sense of Humor

"Doc" had a keen sense of humor, that withstood ribbing when he was wrong on predicting rain, high winds and sandstorms in El Paso's varied climate. His technical knowledge made it possible for him to explain in terms all could understand why a cold wave coming down from the Rocky Mountains had by-passed El Paso or why the area was dry when rain fell all around it.

For relaxation, Mr. Shaver played an excellent game of bridge.

Mr. Shaver was a charter member of the old University Club and the El Paso Club, social organizations. He also belonged to the Elks and the Knife and Fork Club. He was president of the alumni chapter of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity.

#### Nephews Are Officers

Survivors are his widow, Mrs. Lucile Smith Shaver, member of a prominent pioneer family of El Paso; and three nephews, Maj. Robert Terrell Shaver of Base Supplies, stationed at Manila; Maj. Ben B. Shaver, a doctor recently sent from France to the Pacific area, and Lieut. Commdr. Philip J. Shaver, on duty with naval amphibious forces in the Pacific. The nephews are sons of his late brother, Dr. P. J. Shaver, who lived in

El Paso, and Mrs. Shaver, who lives in Chautauqua, N. Y.

Mr. Shaver was a son of Mrs. Lillie Terrell Shaver, pioneer woman educational leader and dean of women in the Southwest Texas Teachers' College at San Marcos. She died in 1941.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a. m. Wednesday at Hagedorn-Harding Funeral Home. Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery.