



R. E. Sherman

R. E. Sherman, Former Mayor, Taken by Death

R. E. Sherman, former mayor of El Paso, died at 9:30 a. m. today at Providence Memorial Hospital.

He was 62.

Mr. Sherman had been seriously ill for about a year. He lapsed into a coma early this morning at his home at 909 East Rio Grande street and was taken to the hospital in a Hagedon-Harding ambulance.

Mayor Three Terms

He was mayor for three terms, from 1931 to 1937. Before that he had been a City alderman and mayor pro tem, having been elected to the City Council on the R. E. Thomason ticket in 1927. By appointment he was County Commissioner for about a year.

He was a member of the insurance firm of Leavell, Sherman & Barnes. For many years he was a partner in the real estate firm of Leavell & Sherman, with the late C. H. Leavell.

Ray E. Sherman was born in Humboldt County, Iowa, Oct. 16, 1884. He was reared on a farm, and attended the University of Iowa, where he studied law. His first job after leaving school was that of a newspaper reporter, in San Antonio.

Came Here in 1912

Mr. Sherman came to El Paso in 1912 for his health. He became an ardent El Paso booster and was an active civic leader.

Taking office as mayor in the dark days of the depression, Mr. Sherman kept a tight rein on finances and pulled the City through repeated financial crises with an unshaken credit rating.

Early in his career he acquired what was to be a life-long interest in slum clearance and housing. He began El Paso's first slum clearance survey in 1931 by appointing a special committee. He was a guiding spirit behind the Alamito and Tays Place housing projects.

Rotary Charter Member

Clarence Harper, manager of the El Paso Housing Authority, called Mr. Sherman "the best informed man on slum clearance in America." He was a Housing Authority director from 1941 to 1946.

Mr. Sherman, after serving three terms as mayor, withdrew from politics. He described himself politically as a liberal.

He was a charter member of the El Paso Rotary Club, an organizer of the El Paso Real Estate Board, a member of the original City Plan Commission, president of the Advertising Club, vice president of the Texas Assn. of Real Estate Boards and of the League of Texas Municipalities, and a director of the El Paso branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas.

An Eloquent Speaker

During World War II he was area director for War Bond sales.

Mr. Sherman was an eloquent speaker, and was fond of poetry and other literature. He once delivered a prize-winning address at the Texas Realtors' Convention in Houston on his favorite subject—El Paso. He said: "Born of strong men's hopes it (El Paso) is the pioneer's dream city come true, a realized vision at the desert pass, a castle in the air that God let stay—the City of the Lily in the Valley of the Rose."

Mr. Sherman is survived by his widow, the former Mary Steadmond; two sons, Ray Jr. and Edward; a daughter, Katherine Sarah; three sisters, Misses Margaret May, and Clara Sherman of Los Angeles; two brothers, Dr. Richard Sherman of Farley, Iowa, and Joseph Sherman of Bancroft, Iowa, and a nephew, Richard Sherman, well known author, of Los Angeles.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Hagedon-Harding Funeral Home.