

CITY PIONEER H. B. STEVENS DEATH VICTIM

Prominent Civic Leader
Passes Away Following
Two Weeks' Illness.

CITY OWES MUCH TO DEAD LEADER

Work Was of Permanent
Character And Will
Carry On.

FUNERAL services, incident to the death of Horace B. Stevens, who had been a resident of El Paso for 40 years, will be held at St. Clements Episcopal church Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Rev. B. T. Kemerer will officiate. Interment will be made in the family plot in Evergreen cemetery.

Mr. Stevens died at his home, 412 Upton avenue, Thursday evening at 6 o'clock. He had been ill about two weeks. A severe cold contracted after an automobile ride was held to be one of the contributing causes of his death. Prior to this he was enjoying his usual excellent health.

Although he was far from well, before he was compelled to give up and go to bed, Mr. Stevens worked with the executive committee of the El Paso Real Estate board on the program for the booster rally which was recently staged. He was president of the board in 1925 and a member of the executive committee. A. P. Coles, present president of the board, succeeded Mr. Stevens in this office.

As in his connection with the real estate board, so with all his other connections, Mr. Stevens was an active and prominent figure. Expressions of grief over his death were heard in every quarter Friday morning, coupled with the statement that the city had lost in him one of its real builders.

Appropriate resolutions were passed by the city council Friday morning and this will be done by the real estate board and the chamber of commerce. He was one of the charter members of the latter.

At the time of his funeral, the city hall will be closed and the flag will be at half mast. The county will observe this in like manner.

Surviving him are a wife, two daughters, Mrs. Thomas D. Hurley and Miss Margaret Stevens; a son, Phillip C. Stevens; four brothers, Charles B., M. B. at Las Cruces, E. P. at Summerland, Calif., and F. S. Stevens, Cutler, Me., the old family home.

The body is at the Hartford company mortuary.

Pioneer Dies



H. B. STEVENS

Mr. Stevens, born in 1858, came to the southwest from Maine, his birth state, in 1882, and was engaged in mining and mercantile business in Arizona, around Clifton and Solomonville, being associated then with the late Henry Lesinsky. Coming to El Paso a few years later, he established himself in the realty and general insurance business, in which line he continued throughout his life. He had an enviable record with many of the great insurance companies he represented, having held their agencies continuously more than 40 years. As a realtor, he was always active and energetic in developing the city, strong in organization, and a recognized leader. In recent years especially he has taken keen interest in the national assemblies of realtors, in perfecting business codes, and in effecting reforms in insurance practice. In connection with his insurance service he has always been active in spreading knowledge of fire prevention methods and enforcing ordinances for safety against fire. He served at different times as presi-

dent of the Real Estate board and of the Insurance Men's exchange.

But while "real estate and insurance" was his daily occupation in the way of established business, to one looking back over some 30 years of intimate acquaintance with the man his work in the regular calling he had chosen seems to be only a very small part of his life after all.

It is possible here to mention only a few of the activities in which he engaged, and to give only a rapid survey of the important contributions he made to El Paso's security, prosperity, and growth. Throughout his residence here he has been a leader and a creative power—"beautifully hated" as he himself once remarked, but more beautifully loved, and respected even by those who could not go with him or who felt his power to thwart evil aims.

To put Horace Stevens into a sentence, let it be said that he would contest to the last ditch against his best friend for what he thought was right, and would offer up his life for that friend next moment if need be. He was a positive, virile, aggressive character, generally right, always certain, strongly independent, and never neutral. Brave without being foolhardy, he was dependable in any fight and a stayer. He asked no odds, and offered none. And his loyalty to a friend, or to a cause, or to an ideal, knew no bounds. No one ever was in doubt as to where Horace would be found.

At his passing, the community will "close ranks" and his work will go on, it will be done by somebody. But there is none to take his place in his friends' hearts.

Mr. Stevens was of the true pioneers. From a Boston banker's office he came out with the Santa Fe trek, and located in Arizona when Indian warfare was still rife. He was a miner and prospector, and he took his turn at scouting and fighting. Coming to El Paso when the town was a raw village of a few thousand, rough and primitive, he kept his ideals and fought for them. From the beginning he took his stand for law and order, and perhaps it is his record as an active champion of law and order that marks this community most indelibly. He participated in the first serious movement to clean up the town, and he was one of five men who, in 1904, inaugurated the final campaign that ended public licensed gambling here forever. At intervals, through the years, he has taken renewed part in every movement for law enforcement and improved civic conditions, and he was chiefly responsible for the legal move a few months ago which resulted in closing several lawless establishments that had been defying the authorities.

But through those early times, Stevens did not keep himself apart or participate in any clannish or sectarian movement. On the contrary, he was always "one of the fellows," and maintained friendly relations with all kinds and classes. During all the long fight against open gambling, Horace held the respect and friendship of the gamblers, as a fair fighter and an open enemy who was striking for a principle, not for private gain, political purposes, or personal considerations. He was an active member of the famous old McGinty club, which led in all popular celebrations and upheld civic pride. He was a volunteer fireman, foreman of an engine company. He was one of the founders of most of the important clubs of his time. He was everybody's friend in need.

And this suggests another phase of his work and character. Always he was active in St. Clement's Episcopal church, though not any too orthodox. But this affiliation did not prevent him from helping Roman Catholics, Jews, Baptists and Mormons. And on the charitable side, he reached out into the great body of humanity, and drew no line. He was a member of the old Committee of Fifteen which inaugurated many important civic enterprises a quarter century ago, among them the organizing of local charities, and throughout his later life he was active in the Associated Charities, having served many terms as president, vice president, or treasurer, and having always been a willing and hard worker, which, in such endeavors, often counts for even more than mere financial support. But he gave liberally, too.

Stevens was one of the earliest colonizers of Cloudercroft, and for nearly 30 years he has taken an active part in building up the mountain resort, promoting interest in it, and assuming arduous responsibility for financing and executive management. He was one of the founders of the Cloudercroft Baby Sanatorium, a perpetual member of the board, and a liberal contributor. He was one of the incorporators, in 1890, of The Herald News company, publishing The El Paso Herald, and for years was active in the direction of the newspaper. He was long a director of the First National bank and member of its credit committee. He was one of the chief promoters of the Hotel Paso del Norte, and it was due to his efforts and the friendship of Gen. Anson Mills and the limitless trust the general reposed in him as friend and local representative, that the splendid Mills building was built. He and associates were interested in many other real estate and building enterprises of importance. He was active in the organization of the Southwestern Portland Cement company.

Always he was deeply interested in reclamation of the valley, and from early times he was active in all endeavors having for their aim, and ultimate result, the building of a great storage dam and the bringing into intensive cultivation of this rich farming region. He attended, as a delegate, many irrigation and farm conventions and participated in the settlement of disputes with Mexico and New Mexico. He was one of the founders of the Chamber of Commerce, and many times a director or officer.

One of the important local institutions whose founding and successful development were due in large measure to Horace Stevens is the El Paso School for Girls. Stevens was one of the founders, one of the largest financial contributors, and no other person put in more time or thought or did more to establish the school and insure its permanence than he.

In politics, Stevens always was a Republican and wanted everybody to know it. He was ready at any time and all the time to put up time, money and hard work for the welfare of his party and the promotion of its valued principles. Locally, he never lost interest or courage, and kept on fighting long after

others had quit. He took active interest in state and national, as well as local party politics. He never held or sought public office, though he sometimes allowed his name to be used as a candidate when the ticket-makers were at a loss.

Stevens was always an enthusiastic hunter and out-of-doors man. He hiked, rode, and loved to "rough it." He often went after big game, and was game himself, to the very end of the story. He was a high-way enthusiast, and in later years an automobile bug, active in national and local movements for trail-marking, road improvement and promotion of touring. He was one of the organizers of the Southwest Park association and a powerful ally of all forces working for forest conservation, game preservation, and national and state parks and playgrounds. Nearly 25 years ago he and a few others rode overland, made surveys, and inaugurated the movement for a Carlsbad short line railroad; while the railroad never has been realized, it looks as if the original plan may at last materialize in a grand transcontinental highway through the same route he and his associates marked out long ago.

One project dear to his heart was the acquiring of Hueco Tanks for a public recreation ground. It is appropriate that announcement of the splendid act of the Committee of Fifty in taking an option to buy Hueco Tanks and announcing determination to reserve that wonderland to the people forever, should come as Horace Stevens, servant of humanity, closes his eyes forever on this world.