

# Death Takes Mrs. Sullivan, Library Head

Mrs. Maud Durlin Sullivan, 72, librarian of El Paso Public Library for 30 years, died in a local hospital early Tuesday after a brief illness.

Mrs. Sullivan had been in the hospital since Dec. 21 when she broke her ankle when stepping off the curbing near her home at 234 North Davis Street.



Mrs. Maud D. Sullivan

Mrs. Sullivan is survived by sister, Mrs. Laura Flower of San Diego.

Funeral arrangements were pending with Kaster and Maxon.

The library was closed Tuesday out of respect to the memory of Mrs. Sullivan, and will be closed Wednesday and Thursday, according to Irving Schwartz, president of the library board.

The death of Mrs. Sullivan marks the end of the career of a gracious, understanding woman who devoted the major part of her life to persons and the promotion of their literary interests by developing for them one of the finest libraries in the Southwest.

Her keen mind and enthusiasm enabled Mrs. Sullivan to make friends with persons in all walks of life. She encouraged everyone to select the books they wanted and was ready at all times to advise them on almost any subject.

## OBTAINED BOOKS FOR SOLDIERS

One of her main interests in the past two years had been obtaining books of interest for soldiers, and she spent endless hours in collecting and packing volumes of reading material for service men in Fort Bliss, Biggs Field, Logan Heights and Marfa Army fields.

One of Mrs. Sullivan's greatest delights was to see the library reading rooms filled with soldiers and civilians. It was always perplexing to her how any person could resist taking advantage of the books available to them in the library.

"The people in the United States are the most fortunate people in

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the world, with public libraries, schools and colleges open to everyone," Mrs. Sullivan said on her return to the International Congress of Libraries and Bibliography in Spain in May, 1935, where she was sent by the Carnegie Corporation as a member of the International Congress of Libraries.

"In Europe, it is only the privileged and wealthier classes who have such opportunities as ours," Mrs. Sullivan commented.

Mrs. Sullivan was born in Ripon, Wis., and was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fayette Durlin. She was one of six children, two boys and four girls, and her father was a rector of the Episcopal Church.

Her family later moved to Madison, Wis., at which time Mrs. Sullivan became interested in art and music. She attended Kemper Hall, Episcopal school in Wisconsin, and Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, where she majored in music and art.

## INTEREST CENTERED ON LIBRARY WORK

She opened an art studio in Madison, but her interests leaned more to library work, and she became assistant librarian at the public library in Eau Claire, Wis. She studied in the Pratt Library School and following her graduation she became librarian of the Public Library at Oshkosh, Wis.

She came to El Paso in 1908 and served as librarian of the Public Library from that year until the time of her death, with the exception of five years.

After her marriage to the late John Kevin Sullivan, Southwestern mining engineer, she went with her husband to live in the Mogollon Mountains of New Mexico near his mining interests. The couple returned to El Paso in 1917 and Mrs. Sullivan resumed her position as librarian.

Mrs. Sullivan developed outstanding collections on art, the Southwest, mining, music and Latin-American countries for the library.

The library has 46,188 pictures, which includes the Carnegie Art Reference set of 1400 prints and 127 books. Many old masters, circulating and exhibits are included in the library's art collection.

## LOVED COLOR OF SOUTHWEST

A total of 3481 books on the Southwest is shelved in the library. Mrs. Sullivan wanted to perpetuate the color, history and tradition of her "adopted" country. J. Frank Doble, in appreciation to Mrs. Sullivan's help to him, gave her the original manuscript of "Apache Gold and Yaqui Silver," as well as other manuscripts of his work.

Many private papers of pioneer citizens of the Southwest have been contributed to the library.

Mrs. Sullivan began her collection of books on Mexico long ago and today there are more than 2000 volumes in that division.

In 1932 she was appointed by the Carnegie Corporation to survey libraries in Puerto Rico. In 1928, she conducted six librarians from Mexico on a tour of the libraries of the United States. The tour was sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation of International Peace.

## WAS INTERESTED IN EL PASO ARTISTS

Mrs. Sullivan was also active in the promotion of music in El Paso. Music collections and scores in the library bear early dates. She also took an interest in talented El Paso artists. Tom Lea, Jr. and Peter Hurd are among the local artists Mrs. Sullivan helped to bring to public attention.

Mrs. Sullivan organized the "Friends to the Library" Club this year. One hundred and fifty El Pasoans are members. They are kept posted on books available on their favorite subjects, and of special library exhibits.

Mrs. Sullivan was president of the Texas Library Association from 1923-25, during which time she started the association's official bulletin and served as its editor until 1927.

Mrs. Sullivan was active in the American Library Association and was a member of the Committee for Work with the Foreign Born.

She was an honorary member of the El Paso Woman's Club, and its auxiliary, the Art Department, and a member of the Auxiliary to the American Institute of Mining and Metallurgical Engineers.

Mr. Sullivan died April 5.