

El Paso Pioneer Dies In Ontario

Mrs. John D. Tays, one of the first two white women to set foot in El Paso, died today in Ontario, Calif., according to word received here today by friends.

Mrs. Tays and Mrs. Elizabeth May, grandmother of Johnny Andreas, county commissioner, came to El Paso about 1851. They arrived together by stage coach from St. Louis after a three month's trip.

The present Mrs. Tays' first husband was Vincent St. Vrain. She ran the Grand Central hotel at the spot where the White House now stands in the old stage coach days. St. Vrain died and later his widow married John Tays.

They purchased the block where the Mills building, White House, Pioneer plaza and old Herald building now stands, from Ponce de Leon, the original grant holder.

They donated the present Pioneer plaza to the city.

Mrs. Tays left El Paso about 1901. Her husband was drowned in South America when his boat capsized, about 1902.

The death of Mrs. Tays, leaves Mrs. May the oldest surviving pioneer woman of El Paso. She lives at Palms Court, 329 West Missouri street.

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(Notes: This is Amelia Rohmann, daughter of Anton & Mary Rohmann. Vincent St. Vrain, Amelia's first husband, owned much of block 17 on the Anson Mills map of 1859. This property was the site of the Central Hotel in which Mr. Rohmann opened a boarding house in 1854.)