

# FORMER SLAVE, AGED 85, HOLDS JOB AT BANK 40 YEARS; HANDLED BIG SUMS; IS NOW NEAR DEATH

**J**OSEPH TIMBERLEY, 85 years old, pioneer negro resident of El Paso, is near death at the home of his niece, 2331 Magoffin avenue.

**Timberley came to El Paso immediately after the civil war, and has been porter for the First National bank for 40 years.**

Before he was employed at the First National bank, he worked for Ketelsen & Degetau, here. Two years ago he was retired on full salary by the bank, but often came down to do light work of mornings.

### **Handled Big Sums.**

"He is absolutely honest and of a deeply religious temperament," said J. E. Benton, vice president of the bank, who has been in its employ for 20 years.

**"He rolled the busses containing money and notes from the cages into the vaults and probably has handled more money than any other man living in El Paso.**

"When Joshua Reynolds was president of the bank he bought Timberley a \$3800 house at 504 South Virginia street, where he lived until his recent illness. Until the time he was retired he missed only a few days' work outside his annual vacations.

### **Wife Doesn't Like Chicago.**

"His second wife who died three years ago, decided one day that she wanted to go east. We gave her money to go to Chicago. She started back the same day she arrived there. She said she couldn't see the town for the houses and they had railroads built there on stilts. She spent her vacation in Cloudcroft.

**"Timberley was a slave and ran away just before the civil war.**

**After the war, he came to El Paso where he has been ever since. He never learned to read or write."**

Timberley has been ill two weeks with bronchial trouble and is not expected to live. His nearest living relative is his niece, Mrs. M. F. Hurtz, 2331 Magoffin avenue.