

Frank R. Tobin, Realty Operator, Dies

Once a Sign Painter; He Achieves Success in City Building.

FRANK R. TOBIN, president of the Tobin Real Estate and Trust company and many subsidiary corporations, died at 5:55 Wednesday evening, after an illness of less than one month.

Mr. Tobin went to his old home in St. Louis Christmas to visit his father, Capt. John D. Tobin, who was ill. He was accompanied by his son, Jack, and daughter, Jane. They spent Christmas at the old home and returned after the holidays. Mr. Tobin contracted a severe cold while in St. Louis which developed serious symptoms and compelled him to be confined to his home in Tobin's second addition. His condition did not improve and he was in the care of a trained nurse for the past two weeks. Wednesday evening he became weaker and his death occurred at 5:55.

Started as Sign Painter.

Frank Tobin came to El Paso in 1906 from St. Louis. He was the junior member of the firm of Tobin & Son, sign painters. They made a specialty of real estate signs and large sign boards for new additions. Mr. Tobin saw the possibilities of St. Louis real estate preceding the opening of



FRANK R. TOBIN.

the Louisiana exposition at St. Louis and opened a number of suburban additions near Forest park. He was very successful in these investments and, with his father, built the Tobin building, a seven story steel structure in the business district of the city.

Built Railroad to Tobin Town.

After the fair Mr. Tobin's health failed him and he moved to El Paso. His first real estate venture was the town of Tobin on the north mesa near the city waterworks. He built a narrow gage steam railroad from the street car line at Fort Bliss to this addition and also ran an auto line from the fort to Tobin. Later he opened the Franklin townsite and placed Orchard park, Washington park second addition, and other east El Paso realty on the market.

Prominent in Valley Enterprises.

In 1912 he transferred his activities from the suburban additions to lands in the lower valley. He laid out Cincuec park, West Ysleta, the Christy tract and other valley acre tracts. He was one of the men who succeeded in getting the interurban line down the valley, taking active charge of the campaign to raise the bonus asked for by the Stone & Webster corporation. He also erected a tea garden at West Ysleta and had plans drawn for a valley automobile club.

Owned a Postoffice Site.

In addition to his holdings in the valley and suburbs Mr. Tobin owned much city property, including the property at the corner of North El Paso and West Franklin street which was one of the sites considered for the new postoffice. He made his home in Orchard park, one of his East El Paso additions, and drove his children from there to St. Joseph's academy each day.

Leaves Wife and Five Children.

Mr. Tobin was born in a suburb of St. Louis in 1875 and was 38 years old at the time of his death. He was educated in the St. Louis high school and the University of Missouri, entering business with his father after graduating from the university. He is survived by his widow, who was with

him at his death, and by five children, Jack, Katherine, Jane, Adreene and Marjorie.

His father, Capt. John D. Tobin, is living in St. Louis and has visited his son here many times. He also has a sister, Miss Jane Tobin, living in St. Louis, another sister, Miss Tom Tobin, attending Leland Stanford university and a brother, John E. Tobin, in St. Louis.

Body Sent to St. Louis.

A brief funeral service was held Thursday afternoon, at the request of Mr. Tobin's friends. The body was sent to St. Louis on the Golden State limited Thursday afternoon and will be placed in the family vault there. The service here was held at 1:30 and the body was accompanied to the train by a large number of the real estate man's friends. The real estate offices in the city closed at 1:30 out of respect for the memory of Mr. Tobin. Mrs. Tobin and family made up the funeral party.