

MRS. TOWNSEND DIES, PIONEER WOMAN LEADER

For 36 Years This Noble
Earnest Worker Has Kept
El Paso's Light Burning.

Mrs. Grace B. Townsend, widow of the late judge J. E. Townsend, died Wednesday morning at 3 o'clock at the home of her daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. George R. Le Baron.

For 36 years El Paso has had the full benefit of her life. El Paso's good name for hospitality, for tolerance, for straightforward, courageous public speech, for keen interest in life and in the world, has been made for it largely by a group of strong hearted women pioneers, who have always placed their standards high and secure. Of this little group, Mrs. Townsend was the center.

Her hospitality was bountiful, beautiful, spiritual. The stranger, the lonely, the downhearted, the timid were her special care; and there was always a seat at her table and cheer for body and soul for them where she abided. Interwoven in El Paso's best and truest hospitality is the standard set by Mrs. Townsend.

We owe our beautiful library and its living force to the work of a few devoted women, among them for all the 36 years Mrs. Townsend. Shelf by shelf they built it up, and with every book they have insisted upon the building up of public happiness and help.

If the spirit of the Woman's club is one of unusual hospitality, breadth of vision, and liberal interpretation of civic duty, it is because a few strong souled women leaders, including Grace Townsend, from the first have held it steadily to the true way.

The city loses a citizen who has always cleared the way towards the whitest living for one and all who has helped as a good and brave woman can to make its name a good name.

Her life was rich and golden. Surrounded by devoted children and grandchildren whose brightest hours were when they held her kind hands, and with deeply appreciative friends always beside her as she followed her path, one could not wish for any woman a brighter sunset than Mrs. Townsend's. Flowers she has always had, and blessings. Loving thoughts and remembrances follow her.

Mrs. Townsend was 63 years old. Thirty-six years of her life have been lived here in El Paso. Her husband, judge James Elbert Townsend, died in 1914. She had two sons, J. S. Townsend of Harvey, Ill., and J. E. Townsend of Los Angeles, Calif.; and one daughter, Laura Townsend Le Baron, wife of George Le Baron of this city. There are seven grandchildren. Three sisters and one brother survive her, Mrs. B. F. Elbert and Miss Laura Bass of Des Moines, Iowa; Mrs. F. W. Ingersoll of Bay City, Mich.; and Frank W. Bass of Freeport, Ill.

Mrs. Townsend had been ill for three months. She came back to El Paso to Mrs. Le Baron's home in the spring from her son's home in Los Angeles. Her sister, Miss Laura Bass, has been with her and Mrs. Le Baron for a month or more.

Mrs. Townsend was a member of the Presbyterian church. The funeral will take place at the residence of George R. Le Baron, 1226 East Boulevard, Thursday at 5 p. m. Rev. Floyd Poe will conduct the service. Interment will be at Evergreen.

Elbert Townsend, a son, will arrive from Los Angeles Thursday. The El Paso Realtors will close their places of business at the hour of the funeral out of respect to the memory of Mrs. Townsend.

The family, deeply appreciative of the many flowers that have kept Mrs. Townsend's days of illness in beauty, now request that no flower offerings be sent for this last service.