

'UNCLE JOHNNY' WATSON, FRIEND OF FANS, DEAD

Worked for Years as City Tree Planter and Then As
Caretaker at Dudley Field

Philosopher, astrologist, political expert and friend of every baseball player in El Paso, John H. Watson, 71, was buried today in Evergreen cemetery.

"Uncle Johnny," as he was known to thousands of El Pasoans, died in a local hospital Sunday after an illness of three weeks.

Mr. Watson was born in Missouri in 1863. Wanderlust gripped him and while still a youth he joined the westward march of pioneers to the southwest.

For 50 years, he made his home in and near El Paso. Before the days of the railroad, Mr. Watson helped herd cattle from El Paso to Kansas City. The journey required several months and was filled with dangers and hardships.

Mr. Watson was on speaking terms with such notorious western characters as Billy the Kid, Hendry Brown, and others who figured in the wars and feuds of the southwest.

Mr. Watson went into the fruit tree business in 1895. When the old court house was dismantled, Mr. Watson was given permission to remove the fruit trees planted in the yard.

Some of the trees still are standing where Mr. Watson planted them in the Dudley home yard in Kern Place.

He joined the city park department in 1923 as tree trimmer and sprayer. Later he was given position as nightwatchman at Dudley Field.

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