



CHARLES WESTBROOK.

DEATH OF CHARLES WESTBROOK.

He Will be Given a Fireman's Funeral Tomorrow Afternoon.

Last night at exactly the midnight hour, life passed from the body of Charley Westbrook and his spirit took its flight to that great beyond. Charley Westbrook was a genial, whole-souled young man, whose friends were legion and who had no enemies. He was big hearted and generous to a fault and he has many times inconvenienced himself to help a friend or even a casual acquaintance.

Charles Westbrook was born in New Haven, Conn., July 1, 1870. He came to El Paso in 1888 and was for several years stage manager at the Myar opera house. At the same time he was janitor at the city hall and remained in that position until the organization of the paid fire department in December, 1893. During the first organization Charley Westbrook was not employed, but on June 1, 1894, he was regularly employed in the paid department as janitor. He was intelligent and well posted on the different fire districts of the city and he never failed to ring out the proper district if he was properly informed as to the location, when the fire alarm was turned in. He was the best posted fireman in this regard in the city and his loss will be severely felt by the department.

He was large, robust and healthy in appearance and exposed himself a great deal in all kinds of weather and under all sorts of circumstances and during the early part of this winter he often got wet through and did not take proper precautions afterwards. This probably caused his sickness and about the first of January he contracted a bad cold. He gradually grew worse and on the eighth of January he was confined to his bed at the fire department. The firemen then advised him to go to Hotel Dieu, but he refused to be moved, saying he would be up again in a day or so, but when he continually grew worse he was taken to Hotel Dieu very much against his will. His case was there pronounced pneumonia, complicated with typhoid fever. The doctors from the first said he could not possibly survive the disease as it had taken too strong a hold on his constitution. For several days past Mr. Westbrook came to the conclusion that if he lived through the attack that he would be left without health and probably a consumptive, so he told friends that he would sooner die than live in that condition. While at the hospital he had several hemorrhages and yesterday the doctors announced that one more hemorrhage would prove the last. The doctors were correct for after a severe attack at eight o'clock last night he

gradually sank and breathed his last just as the clock struck the midnight hour.

This morning when the news became generally known that Charley had died there was lamentation on all sides, and more especially in the fire department where he was a well known and liked. When his body was brought to Ross & Co's, undertaking parlors the firemen held out the sad news. Chief Holland immediately ordered the department draped in mourning and preparations were at once begun to give the deceased a fireman's burial.

His brother, Tom Westbrook, who is also well known in El Paso, is grief stricken, as he and Charley were as true in brotherhood as it was possible to make two men in this world. Although Charley's death was not unexpected, still it is almost impossible for Tom to realize that his brother has passed away and will soon be out of his sight forever.

Mr. Westbrook was a member of court Robin Hood No. 1, Foresters of America, but that order waived its rights in the burial services, as Charley requested that the firemen of El Paso bury him and have full charge of his remains.

The body was taken to J. C. Ross & Co's undertaking parlors where it was prepared for burial and now lies there and is being reviewed by many friends and acquaintances.

The funeral services will occur tomorrow afternoon at 2 o'clock at Ross' undertaking parlors and the funeral procession will start for the Evergreen cemetery at 2:30 p. m.

The McGinty band has been engaged to accompany the procession to the cemetery and the Teutonia Singing society will chant a requiem at the funeral services at Ross' undertaking parlors.

Charley Westbrook was a member of Hook & Ladder company No. 1, and that company will meet and pass proper resolutions over the death of a honored member.

Chief Holland requests the full fire department to be at headquarters tomorrow at 1:30 sharp in uniform to march to the undertaking parlors and afterwards to attend the funeral at Evergreen cemetery. The fire bell will toll at 1:30 and will continue to toll during the funeral procession. The remains will be laid to rest in the firemen's plot at Evergreen cemetery.