

Owen White Dies Saturday In New York

Owen P. White, 67, chronicler of Southwest and El Paso history and first Anglo-American child born in El Paso, died at 4 p. m. (El Paso time) Saturday in a New York City veterans' hospital.

Mrs. O. S. Osborn, 3618 LaLuz Street, El Paso, a sister, was in New York City at the time of his death. She left Thursday.



Owen P. White.

White entered the hospital about seven weeks ago following a nervous breakdown in his Cutchogue, Long Island, N. Y., home, where he had nearly completed his ninth book. Hospital physicians said death was from a "chronic illness."

The ninth book, tentatively entitled "Old Spanish Trails," was to have been a history of most of the old trails west of the Mississippi River, and particularly concerning the trail from El Paso to Albuquerque.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday in Cutchogue. O. S. Osborn said Saturday night after a long-distance talk with Mrs. Osborn.

Mrs. White is the only other immediate survivor.

In addition to his wife and sister, White is survived by a nephew, Oliver Osborn, Freeport, La.; an uncle, W. F. Payne, El Paso; and a cousin, Jesse Payne, El Paso.

White was born in 1879 in a one-room adobe house which then oc-

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cupied the spot where the Caples Building now stands at the corner of San Antonio Street and Mesa Avenue.

His father, "a red-headed Army surgeon" according to White's history of El Paso, "Out of the Desert," came to El Paso first in the late 1860s, and later returned to set up practice.

It was publication of "Out of the Desert," characterized as a 'romantic history of El Paso', in 1923, that first brought White into the limelight.

H. L. Mencken, then editor of "American Mercury," hired White in 1925 and he left El Paso forever so far as a permanent home is concerned. He established his Cutchogue home shortly after going East, and later worked for the New York Times.

In 1926 White joined the staff of Colliers' weekly magazine as an associate editor, a post he held until 1940, at that time he resigned to write his life story, "Autobiography of a Durable Sinner," which proved to be a best seller.

Since 1940 he has devoted his

time to writing. Included in his publications, in addition to "Out of the Desert" and his autobiography, were "Them Was The Days," a collection of tales centering about El Paso, published in 1925, which proved the best seller of all his works; "Texas—an informal Biography," and "My Texas 'Tis Of Thee."

He was a veteran of World War I.

His last visit to El Paso was in February of this year, when he spent several days with Mr. and Mrs. Osborn. It was the first time he had been in El Paso since 1938.

At that time he called El Paso "a carbon copy of other American cities of its size," and preferred to talk of El Paso of 40 years ago, scene of most of the anecdotes of his books. Biggest item of his reminiscing then was the number of old time friends who were missing.