

# Zach T. White, 81, Pioneer Builder Of El Paso, Dies

Develops Valley



Zach T. White

Illness Of Several Months Is  
Fatal To Prominent Real  
Estate Man.

Came Here In 1881

Aided In Building Some Of  
City's First Modern  
Improvements.

Zach T. White, 81, pioneer builder of the southwest, died at the family residence at 1201 North Mesa avenue at 2:50 a. m. yesterday.

Mr. White had been seriously ill for several months, and his death yesterday was not unexpected.

He came to El Paso early in 1881 from Dallas, Tex. He made the long trip by train to Denver, San Francisco, Tucson and thence overland by stage coach, taking a circuitous route to avoid the Indian infested territory in New Mexico and Arizona.

#### Starts Work.

Immediately after coming to El Paso, Mr. White saw the possibilities of building a great city on the banks of the Rio Grande, and started to work to do his part in making the city it is today.

Acquiring land was a hobby as well as an interesting business for the pioneer. He purchased land in the upper valley, which in the early '80s and '90s was little more than waste land. This he improved by clearing of greasewood brush and leveling.

White was 30 years old when he first stepped from the stage coach here. He saw and participated in the erection of the first gas plant, the building of the first street car system and in operating the first electric light plant in the city.

#### Born In Virginia.

Had Mr. White lived until March 23 he would have been 82 years old. He was born in Amherst county, Virginia, of an old family. He left his old Virginia home as a young man and moved to Austin, but shortly afterward went to Waco to make his home.

Not satisfied with life in central Texas, Mr. White moved to Dallas and then came west to make his permanent home.

After establishing his residence here Mr. White returned to Sherman, Texas, where he married Mrs. White, then Miss Maude Bounds.

His first real business venture here was in the hardware business, but he quickly spread out his ac-

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tivities and became interested in the operation of the gas plant, the old El Paso street car system, the light plant, and many other major businesses. His mule-drawn street cars operated in El Paso and Juarez for 20 years.

White was a developer. He was instrumental in founding the Hotel Paso del Norte and was president of the El Paso Hotel company.

#### Interested In Irrigation.

One of Mr. White's greatest interests was in the development of the Elephant Butte irrigation project. He was one of the directors of the old Water Users' association.

During his early residence here he was a leader in many public undertakings. He served as a member of the El Paso school board and at one time was a member of the city council.

He was an authority on boundary questions, and was a party to the famous Texas-New Mexico boundary litigation.

#### Aids Boy Scouts.

He was a philanthropist, and was intensely interested in character building institutions. He was especially interested in boys, and was active in doing what he could for Boy Scouts. He gave the El Paso Boy Scout council a 20-acre tract in the upper valley for a park site and camping ground. The Boy Scouts of El Paso honored the man by naming the park for the donor.

Mr. White also was a lover of wild birds, and years ago established a 60-acre bird sanctuary in the upper valley, where birds are protected from hunters.

#### Survivors.

He is survived by his widow; three daughters, Mrs. Jess Boykin and Mrs. Paul Harvey, of El Paso, and Mrs. E. Rodolf, of New York, and by two brothers, Marlon White, of Tishomingo, Okla., and C. W. White, of Waco.

Funeral services for the pioneer