

Death Takes Explorer Of Carlsbad Caverns

By Associated Press

CARLSBAD, N. M., April 29.—James L. (Jim) White, first known white man to enter the Carlsbad Caverns, which he did in 1901, at the age of 19, died in a hospital here Sunday at the age of 63. Death was attributed to coronary thrombosis, his physician said.

He had been about town Friday and at that time told a reporter that he was "feeling ok" but not yet ready to take another horse-back ride to California, a feat he achieved in 1908.

Born in Mason County, Tex., July 11, 1882, White preferred broncs to schooling and at the age of 10 was riding the range. He came to New Mexico in 1892 and worked for the Triple X Ranch near Carlsbad. It

was while with this outfit he first decided to explore the caverns which, he has told many persons, he knew existed and that a "lot of cowboys knew of the entrance hole" but had never been in it.

For 19 years he tried to draw public attention to the caverns and on October 25, 1923, the area was made a national park and White event-

ually became chief ranger, from which position he resigned in 1929. He maintained a concession at the 750-foot level where he made public appearances and sold his book on the explorations of the caves.

He is survived by his widow, a son, James Jr., four sisters and three brothers. Funeral services will be held late Tuesday, with burial in Carlsbad Cemetery.