

# John M. Wyatt Succumbs To Injuries



JOHN M. WYATT

John M. Wyatt, 79, one of El Paso's pioneers in business, banking and politics, died Saturday in a local hospital from injuries received a week ago Saturday when struck by an automobile.

Mr. Wyatt never regained consciousness after the accident. He was crossing Montana Street at Octavia Street when the accident occurred. Funeral services will be held at 3 p. m. Monday in Kaster and Maxon Chapel with the Rev. B. M. G. Williams officiating. Burial will be in Concordia Cemetery.

Mr. Wyatt served as director of the "Sunshine in January Carnival," which first attracted attention of the outside world in 1901. In 1923 he was elected city tax assessor and collector and was an unsuccessful candidate for election as sheriff in 1926.

Becoming the first potentate of El Maida Shrine in 1909, Mr. Wyatt

was a charter member of the Shrine and 10 years later was selected as permanent representative on the Imperial Shrine Council at Toronto, Canada. He was also a first vice-president of the Texas Shrine Council.

Mr. Wyatt was born in Rome, Ga., in 1867. He moved to Dallas as a young man and started his business career in Fort Worth as a porter in a wholesale grocery house. He advanced to shipping clerk and held important positions in the firm before moving to Alamogordo.

Coming to El Paso in 1902, he opened the International Exchange Bank in the old Sheldon Building. The bank was later consolidated with the Guaranty Bank and Trust Co., which was located at San Antonio and Stanton Streets. After the consolidation Wyatt served the institution as vice-president.

He later became vice-president of the American National Bank. When that bank was consolidated with the First National Bank, Mr. Wyatt continued to serve as vice-president.

He resigned from the bank in 1920 to open a real estate business and was active in various business enterprises until his retirement four years ago. He resided recently at 1217 East Yandell Boulevard.

He was president of El Paso Chamber of Commerce, chairman of the Civil Service Commission, and in 1925 was chosen president of the City-County Democratic Club.

Mr. Wyatt was chairman of the entertainment committee for the meeting of President W. H. Taft and President Porfirio Diaz of Mexico on the International Bridge in June, 1909. During the same year he was president of El Paso Fair Association.

During World War I, he was a member of the advisory committee of the Texas Fuel Administrator, chairman of Registration Board No. 2, El Paso County representative in the Military Training Camps Association, member of the War Labor Board, and local chairman of the Red Cross. He received a gold medal for having sold more Liberty Bonds than any other person in El Paso.

He was married to Miss Gertrude Hall of England in 1922. Mrs. Wyatt died in June, 1942.

Mr. Wyatt lent his support to the Elephant Butte Dam project. At one time his name was connected with a scheme to build a scenic railway up the sides of Mount Franklin to connect with a \$1,000,000 year-round hotel on the mountain.

Mr. Wyatt is survived by a sister, Mrs. Bertha McCurry of Rome, Ga.; two nieces, Mrs. Barney Little and Mrs. Lula Stanley of Atlanta, Ga.; three cousins, Mrs. Lula McDaniel, Roger McDaniel and George Hardaway of El Paso, and Mrs. Francis Burke of Las Cruces.

Active pallbearers at the funeral Monday will be Frank McCollom, Lawrence T. Robey, Harry Vaughan, Fred Bunsen, Dorrance Roderick and Walter Pofahl.

Honorary pallbearers will be James Keough, Jack Jagoe, J. Stolaroff, Dick Tatman, W. J. Hooten, A. C. Snyder, Barry Hagedon, George Simpson, Wallace Thew, Dr. J. M. Ridley, Paul Anderson, A. J. Stryer, Battelle White, A. L. Eaton, John W. Gibb, O. J. Allen, John Hays, John Ellis, Ted Cooley, John W. Peak and Hope Smith.

An investigation into the accident has been begun by military officials at Fort Bliss.

Police charged Sgt. Ernest O. Cotton, driver of the Army vehicle involved, with aggravated assault with a motor vehicle but then released him to military authorities at their request for investigation and handling.

The Army investigation is being conducted by the claims officer, the provost marshal and the judge advocate.