

Former Times editor dies

By James Martinez

El Paso Herald-Post

William Jarvis Hooten, a retired newspaper editor and father of County Commissioner Charles Hooten, died Friday at a local hospital. He was 90.

Commissioner Hooten said his father began having trouble breathing last Sunday after fluids began accumulating in his lungs. He appeared



Hooten

to have gotten better, but the illness apparently caused heart failure on Friday, Charles Hooten said.

Hooten was born in Chocowinity, N.C., on Sept. 5, 1900, and came to El Paso in 1918.

He telegraphed for the Associated Press for nine years before becoming a reporter for the El Paso Herald in 1927. The El Paso Herald later merged with the El Paso Post to become the Herald-Post.

In 1931, Hooten went to work for the El Paso Times. He was managing editor of the Times for nine years before becoming editor in 1940. Hooten served as editor until 1970.

"Not only was he my father, he was my good friend and excellent advisor," said Charles Hooten.

The younger Hooten said his father was interested in government and community affairs and kept up on what was going on in Commissioners Court. He was known to fire

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off numerous letters to the editor to both newspapers about local government and other subjects.

After he retired, William Hooten wrote a book titled, "52 Years a Newsman." The book recounts events he experienced in El Paso as a reporter and editor.

Other survivors include a son, William P. Hooten of El Paso, and a daughter, Dr. Grace Hooten Gates of Anniston, Ala.; a sister, Mildred Hooten Fagette of El Paso, and numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren. Hooten was preceded in death by his wife, Grace.

Funeral services are scheduled for 4 p.m. Monday in the Pro Cathedral Church of St. Clement. A private burial service will follow in the Masonic Cemetery.

HOOTEN

WILLIAM JARVIS HOOTEN died March 1, 1991, in Southwestern General Hospital. He had lived the last eight years in the home of his son, County Commissioner Charles Hooten, and his wife, Virginia. He is also survived by another son, William P. Hooten of El Paso, and a daughter, Dr. Grace Hooten Gates of Anniston, Alabama, nine grandchildren, twelve great grandchildren, and a sister, Mildred Hooten (Mrs. Woody) Fagette of El Paso. He was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Grace Bull Hooten, Sept. 14, 1987. He was retired editor of the El Paso Times, serving in that capacity fro Nov. 19, 1940, until March 31, 1970. Born in Chocowinity, N.C., Sept. 5, 1900, he came to El Paso April 27, 1918. He telegraphed for the Associated Press nine years, becoming a reporter for the El Paso Herald Sept. 7, 1927, when the Associated Press wires became automatic. He joined The Times April 2, 1931, when the Herald was merged with the El Paso Post and became the Herald-Post. He was managing editor of The Times nine years before, becoming editor. He was a life member of the Rotary Club of El Paso, a 33rd degree Scottish Rite Mason, past potentate of El Maida Shrine Temple, a Knight Templar, past sovereign of St. Alphege Chapter of the Knights of the Red Cross of Constantine and an honorary Sojourner. He and his wife were in a group of 38 Americans who were granted an audience with Pope Pius in the Vatican in March, 1956. Funeral services will be held 4:00 p.m. Monday in the Pro Cathedral Church of St. Clement with Very Rev. Ron Thomson officiating. Private burial service will be in Masonic Cemetery beside his wife. Pallbearers will be family members. Funeral arrangements by Futrell Funeral Home.
201 E. Yandell 532-3431

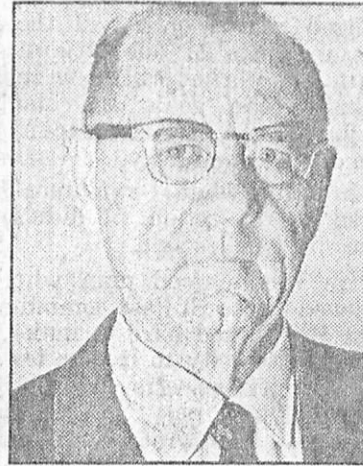
Former Times editor Hooten dies of heart failure at 90

By Joe Olivera
El Paso Times

William Jarvis Hooten, 90, El Paso Times editor for 30 years, died early Friday of heart failure at Southwestern General Hospital. He retired in 1970.

"I'm going to miss him not only because he was my father, but because he was also a close personal friend and a great adviser," said his son, Charles Hooten, an El Paso County commissioner. "As a reporter when he first started at the El Paso Times, he covered Commissioners Court. When I ran for office, he gave me some insight into how the court runs.

"I greatly cherished his strength of character and his determination. I will miss him terribly. He seemed to understand me and what I was trying to do in both my



William J. Hooten retired from the Times in 1970.

personal and my political lives."

W.J. Hooten, as he was widely known, was a friend of the late former President Lyndon Baines Johnson. He lived the last eight years of his life in his son Charles' home.

Born in Chocowinity, N.C., Sept. 5, 1900, W.J. Hooten came to El Paso April 27, 1918. He was a telegrapher for The Associated Press nine years and

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March 2, 1991

Hooten

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became a reporter for the El Paso Herald Sept. 7, 1927.

He joined the El Paso Times April 2, 1931, when the Herald was merged with the El Paso Post and became the El Paso Herald-Post. W.J. Hooten was managing editor of the Times for nine years before he became editor.

W.J. Hooten and Herald-Post Editor Ed Pooley waged some fierce editorial battles in the middle part of the 20th century. One of the fiercest was during the 1957 mayoral campaign between Ambassador Raymond Telles and Tom Rogers. Pooley supported Telles, while Hooten supported Rogers.

"While he opposed my election as mayor of El Paso and fought Ed Pooley because Pooley was behind me 100 percent, I still believe

that he was sincere in his efforts," Telles said. "I was an unknown, and W.J. Hooten wanted to do what he could to protect the city. He thought I would be a negative influence.

Rite Mason, past potentate of El Malda Shrine Temple, a Knight Templar, past sovereign of St. Alphege Chapter of the Knights of the Red Cross and Constantine and

"Once I got elected and began my term, however, he realized that I only had the best interests of our city at heart. He worked with me in realizing the goals we had set for the progress and expansion of our community.

"In 1959, when I ran unopposed for re-election, he didn't fight me," Telles said.

"He was a good man who believed in the El Paso community. He worked hard to make this a better city to live in for all its citizens. He will be sorely missed."

Hooten, who wrote his own obituary a few days before he died (he even counted the words — 286), was a life member of the Rotary Club of El Paso, a 33rd degree Scottish

an honorary Sojourner.

He and his wife of 65 years, Grace Bull Hooten — who died Sept. 15, 1987 — were in a group of 38 U.S. citizens who were granted an audience with Pope Pius in the Vatican in March 1956.

He also is survived by another son, William P. Hooten of El Paso; a daughter, Dr. Grace Hooten Gates of Anniston, Ala.; and a sister, Mildred Hooten Fagette of El Paso.

Funeral will be at 4 p.m. Monday in the Pro-Cathedral Church of St. Clement with the Rev. Ron Thomson officiating. Private burial service will be in Masonic Cemetery beside his wife.

Funeral arrangements are by Futrell Funeral Home.

back," said 10-year-old Moses Noriega, who said he's going to be a pilot or an artist.

Principal Arturo Delgado said the whole school, but in particular the pre-kindergarten class, followed the war closely. The children sent letters and small gifts to Plemmons and other soldiers in his unit. An exhibit with pictures and reports of the campaign and war's progress was set up

in the hall.

"That helped the children to understand what was happening on the other side of the world," Delgado said. "It brought the message of the war closer to us."

Plemmons said the letters from home, especially those from the children, and the gift boxes received kept soldiers' spirits up.

"And we needed it because