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PAUL A. F. WALTER 1873-1966

PAUL A. F. WALTER, distinguished citizen of New Mexico and resident of Santa Fe, died on February 13, 1966. Born in Berlin, Germany, in 1873, he soon became a member of the emigrant stream to America when his parents crossed the sea to found a new home in Pennsylvania. The young man took full advantage of the opportunities offered by free entry into the United States, and free enterprise for those with ambition, energy, and talent.

Mr. Walter's career followed several lines of activity, a tribute to his talents and to his new homeland where a man could strive to make of himself what he chose. Training as a printer led him into newspaper work in Pennsylvania, and in New Mexico, where he edited the *Santa Fe New Mexican* for some years, as well as the *New Mexico Educational Journal*. He studied law, was admitted to the Bar, and served as reporter for the State Supreme Court from 1908 to 1912. He was active politically as a member of the Republican Party, and was rewarded with the postmastership of Santa Fe from 1902 until 1909.

Along with his professional and political interests, Mr. Walter found time to help foster the cultural development in the Southwest that reached a high point between the two World Wars. He established and edited *El Palacio* from 1913 to 1944, and served as co-editor until 1957. The magazine, sponsored by the Museum of New Mexico, for which he worked as a member of the Board of Directors, provides an outlet for writers in various fields of learning. When the *New Mexico Historical Society* was revitalized in 1926, the members were fortunate to have Mr. Walter serve as president, a position he held until 1963. He also served as co-editor for the Society's publication, the *New Mexico Historical Review*, for the same period. In addition to these varied activities, he found time to write many articles for publication, and numerous topical items on men and events.

Editing became his avocation when he turned from law and journalism to banking and other business activities. He was President of the First National Bank of Santa Fe from 1933 until his retirement in 1949, a position that gave him additional pleasure because the bank was the oldest one in the state, and the well-known historical personage, Lucien Maxwell, had had a part in its founding.

The life span of this American of German ancestry in New Mexico covered the years when Santa Fe sparkled under the influence of modern technological development from the advent of the railroad to the atomic age, from the disappearance of the ox-drawn cart to the installation of parking meters around the plaza. Mr. Walter was not only aware of the changing times, but played his part in bringing about the changes.

A quiet-spoken gentleman with a sharp mind and a smiling exterior, he wrought well in his own particular corner of his adopted country, as millions of other Americans from overseas have done—and what he wrought can be seen by those curious enough to look, for he was of such stuff as commonwealths are built of and left his impress on time and place.

FRANK D. REEVE