

12/2/62

Dando

Dear Miss Gilpin -

How can I
thank you?! The
picture is so very
beautiful -

I do hope you
will think this a
fitting obituary for
a wonderful woman
whom we all
loved -

I shall be
in touch with
you soon -

Sincerely -
and with gratitude.
Dorothy Perkins



Mrs. H. S. Griffin

(Laura Gilpin photo)

Summer Resident Mrs. Griffin Passes Away

Mrs. Herbert Sydney Griffin of Taos and Wichita Falls, Tex., died at Bethania Hospital, Wichita Falls, November 21, following a two - week illness. Funeral services were held at her Wichita home by the Rev. Mitznak of Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Church, the afternoon of November 23 and interment followed in the family mausoleum, Riverside Cemetery. The requiem high Mass was solemnized that morning and the evening before a recitation of the rosary was conducted by the Rev. Mitznak. Pall bearers were Charles Milion, C. W. Soddy, H. R. Thomason, Joe H. Staley and Franklin Henderson. Named as honorary pall bearers were Taos friends of the deceased, Andrew Dsburg, Joseph Fleck, Frank Chase, Saki Karavas and John Concha; and Judge Leslie Humphrey of Wichita Falls.

Attending the funeral were two grandsons, William B. Nichols of Midland, Tex., and Gary Griffin of Palos Verdes, Calif., the only immediate survivors; Mrs. Dorothy Perkins, Midland; Mrs. Eli Romero, Candido Romero and daughter, Marguerita Romero, of Ranchos de Taos.

Mrs. Griffin established summer residence here after purchasing a more - than - century-old adobe house from the James Valentines at Ranchos de Taos in 1945, and which he named "Mi Casita del Norte" and developed into one of the most impressive in the area. Prior to this she had sojourned in Taos on numerous occasions.

From Taos artists she acquired paintings for this home, her Wichita Falls' home and another, "Mi Casita del Sud", she maintained for some years at Brownsville, Tex. Furnishings for all three included rare antiques from over the world.

Several years ago, Mrs. Griffin became a convert to the Catholic faith. To St. Francis de Assisi Church, Ranchos de Taos,

she gave the famed mystery painting, "Shadow of the Cross", which glows in the dark, two eleventh century paintings, one in gold leaf of the Virgin and child, a bulto of St. Francis, mosaics of St. Anthony, a handsome silver crucifix and an oriental rug for use before the altar during special ceremonies. Other noteworthy gifts were the church organ and historical items. She also made financial contributions to the church, the parish and needy of the community; and provided education for a number of young people in New Mexico and Texas.

Among institutions benefiting from Mrs. Griffin's quiet generosity were the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, Tex., of which she was a board member; Texas Technological College Museum, Lubbock; Holy Cross Hospital, Taos; Nazareth Sanatorium, Albuquerque; Narazareth Hospital, Mineral Wells, Tex.; and Bethania Hospital, Wichita Falls, Tex. Her museum gifts included paintings, art objects and Indian handicrafts.

The former Johnnie Powelson, daughter of a well known Kiowa, Kan., family, Mrs. Griffin was born at Ft. Scott, Kan. During girlhood she enjoyed extensive travel, developing interest in the arts. Married in 1914 to a member of a pioneer ranching and oil family in Wichita Falls, Mrs. Griffin went to that city as a bride. She had collected along with paintings, art objects and antique furniture, three fine libraries two of which were lost in ranch home fires.

Her husband, well known throughout Texas, died in 1925, and their only child, a son, Ephram, died in 1938.