



—Associated Press Photo.

**FORMER GOVERNOR**—Pat Morris Neff, former Texas governor and Baylor University president, who died Sunday at Waco.

## Funeral for Pat Neff to Be Held This Afternoon

WACO, Jan. 21 (AP).—Former Gov. Pat Morris Neff, outstanding Texas political, educational, church and fraternal figure for 50 years, is dead.

The colorful, white-haired Neff died Sunday after suffering a heart attack. He was 80 years old.

"He is the last of a group of giants who blessed this state in so many ways," said Dr. W. R. White, who succeeded Neff as Baylor University president in 1948.

Mrs. Neff said the former governor complained of a pain in his shoulder Saturday night. Sunday at 8:30 a. m. she found him in his room suffering a heart attack. When a doctor arrived 30 minutes later, the man who was governor from 1921 to 1925 was dead.

Funeral services were scheduled Monday at 3:30 p. m. in the First Baptist Church of Waco, presided over by Dr. White and the pastor, Dr. Forrest C. Feezor. Burial was to be by the Masonic Grand Lodge of Texas in a Waco cemetery.

Neff's political stature was recognized throughout the Southwest. An ardent worker for anything he felt would benefit Texas, he was also a devout Baptist and a strong prohibitionist.

In Austin, Governor Shivers said:

"Texas has lost not only a revered elder statesman, but also a notable symbol of integrity in the conduct of public affairs."

### Loved People.

He loved people . . . kids who helped around the state Capitol, college students and his colleagues in politics and school and

church. His memory for faces and names was amazing.

One boy he knew as a door-keeper in the State Senate in 1930, he called "senator" when he found him working as a filling station attendant years later.

Even after his retirement Neff refused to put aside public contacts. They were legion. Once he explained that the downtown office "is to keep them from arresting me for vagrancy."

Imposing in appearance, he "looked like a governor." His shock of iron gray hair, his white wing collars, wide black hat and black string bow ties added to his distinguished appearance.

As large in physical stature as in public esteem, Neff liked to boast that he had never touched alcohol, tobacco, coffee or tea.

Senator Connally, an old friend and Baylor classmate of Neff, liked to say that "Pat never drank anything stronger than Brazos River water."

### Born Near McGregor.

Born in the Central Texas blacklands near McGregor, Nov. 26, 1871, he was the son of Noah and Isabella Shepherd Neff.

He got his first glimpse of Baylor from a wagonload of cotton he drove 17 miles from McGregor to Waco. The income from that bale of cotton, which he raised, started him in school. He graduated from Baylor with a B. A. degree in 1894 and received a law degree from the University of Texas in 1897. A year later he took a masters degree from Baylor.

Neff taught school in Arkansas in the '90s, but returned to Texas to open a law office in Waco. Beginning in 1901, he served four years as a state representative from McLennan County, the last two as the youngest speaker of the house.

He learned his politics fast and thoroughly. Next he became county attorney and during four years in that office returned nearly \$25,000 to the county treasury—over and above his salary and expenses—from fines and court costs.

After serving as McLennan

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# NEFF

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County attorney, he decided to run for governor. His campaign in 1921 was a record-breaker for the number of speeches. He spoke vigorously from three to seven times a day and stumped every county in Texas. It was said he thrived on watermelons, buttermilk and invective.

## Defeated Bailey.

Neff ran second to Joseph Weldon Bailey in the primary but beat Bailey decisively in the run-off. He defeated Fred S. Rogers by a top-heavy vote for a second term.

Although a staunch churchman and member of the Baylor board of trustees for 25 years before becoming its president, he never failed to use force when he thought it was needed.

He sent Rangers and National Guardsmen to Denison when a strike of railroad shopmen there erupted into violence. Denison's city park became an Army camp. Rangers patrolled the streets. And machine guns bristled on a viaduct crossing the MK&T shops. But violence ended.

Similarly, he declared martial law in Limestone and Freestone Counties when lawlessness spread through the booming oil fields around Mexia.

Neff forced his Legislature into continuous special session until it followed the constitutional mandate to redistrict the state. Politically powerful, he used the power to "follow the law."

## Park Advocate.

He originated the state park movement and appointed the first state parks board. His mother donated land for the first state park.

Texas Tech at Lubbock and the College of Industrial Arts and Industries at Kingsville were established during his administration.

Neff re-entered public life in 1927 as a member of the National Mediation Board, appointed by President Coolidge. He was appointed by Governor Moody to the Texas Railroad Commission in 1929 and served on that body until 1932 when he was elected president of Baylor.

Even in the depression years, Neff brought Baylor out of debt, tripled the enrollment, doubled the campus size, increased the endowment, and built new units for the college plant.

In 1947, as president of the Baptist school, Neff invited President Truman to Waco for an honorary degree. Truman, known as a social drinker and card player, brought down some criticism on the Baylor president which Neff ignored.

He was president of the Baptist General Convention of Texas from 1927 through 1929 and president of the Southern Baptist Convention.

A long-time member of the Masonic order, he was grand master of the Grand Lodge of Texas in 1946. Neff was one time a vice president of the Anti-Saloon League of America, grand chancellor of the Knights of Pythias of Texas, a Shriner and a member of the Waco Rotary Club.

Neff married Miss Myrtle Mainer, a college classmate at Lovelady, May 31, 1899. The couple had two children, Mrs. Frank Wilcox of Waco and Pat Neff Jr. of Houston. A sister, Mrs. Sallie Calvert, Dallas, also survives.

## SHIVERS TO ATTEND NEFF FUNERAL.

AUSTIN, Jan. 21 (AP).—Governor Shivers will attend the funeral of former Governor Pat M. Neff in Waco Monday.

The governor's office will be closed at 3:30 p. m. in honor of Neff's memory, Shivers announced.