

Matta's says adiós to downtown Mesa

David Woodfill, Tribune

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Matta's Mexican Food, one of Mesa's first Mexican restaurants and early community gathering spots, is closing its doors.

On Wednesday, Mary Lou Matta, who opened the original Matta's with her husband, Manuel, across the street from its current location in 1953, said she's ready to retire. Her son, David, 62, who began working in the restaurant washing dishes when he was 12, is also ready to retire, she said.

"I'm 85 years old...and I'm tired," Mary Lou Matta said. "I don't want any more responsibility."

The restaurant, on Main Street between Mesa and Stapley drives, will close Jan. 20. It leaves a long and storied past.

Matta, a Texas native, said when she and her husband opened, the only other Mexican eatery in Mesa was El Charro on County Club Drive near downtown.

A Matta's on Higley Road, south of Brown Road, will remain open. It's operated by Chris Matta, David's son. Peter Matta, another of David Matta's sons, will open a restaurant at Mesa Riverview shopping center.



MESA MAINSTAY: Matta's Restaurant on Main Street in Mesa will close Sunday after decades of service.

Julio Jimenez, Tribune