

John B. Garat, 66, Basque Leader, Dies in Riverside

Funeral services were held Tuesday morning from the St. Francis de Sales Catholic church, Riverside, for John B. Garat, 66, widely-known Chinoan and leader in Basque circles from Los Angeles to Riverside. Rev. A. L. Hagenauer officiated and interment was in Olivewood cemetery.

Mr. Garat, a resident of Chino since before the turn of the century, died Saturday at the Riverside hospital following a stroke and pneumonia. He was ill only a few days.

He is survived by his widow, Mrs. Grace Garat; three sons, John L., Frank C., and George J. Garat, all of Arlington; three sisters, Jeanette, Bernice and Alexandria, all in France, and two cousins, Joe and Miguel Garat of Riverside.

Mr. Garat has been operating a ranch southeast of Chino for many years. At one time he worked for the American Crystal Sugar company when its factory was in operation here as a ranch hand and later as a beet grower. He also was a bartender for several years.

A man of keen sense of humor, he delighted in telling stories of the early days here with humorous twists. He loved jokes at the expense of his friends but laughed equally as hard when he was the victim.

Of strong physique and powerfully muscled, he was active in athletics as a youth and boasted that the only man or animal to put him on his back was a goat which caught his foot in its horns and threw him. This episode was his favorite story on himself.

Mr. Garat was a leader in Basque circles of the valley and took an active part in all the festivals of that people in this valley and elsewhere. A widely-read man, he was an authority on the people of the Pyrennes.

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