

Pete Espil

Pete Espil, 80, well-known Valley sheep rancher, died early yesterday morning in his home at Litchfield Park.

Rosary will be recited at 8:30 p.m. today in Memory Chapel, A. L. Moore and Sons Mortuary, 333 W. Adams.

Requiem high mass will be sung at 10 a.m. tomorrow in St. Francis Xavier Church, 4715 N. Central Ave. Burial will be in St. Francis Cemetery.

A native of Bigorri, France, Mr. Espil came to Los Angeles as a shepherd 68 years ago. Until 1909, he was employed by Miller and Lux Land and Livestock Co. of California and Hugh Campbell, an Arizona rancher.

In 1909, he purchased his own herd of 2,000 sheep in the Salt River Valley. Eventually he developed one of the largest herds in the state.

Mr. Espil had been a member of the Arizona Wool Growers Association the past 53 years.

He is survived by his wife, Isidora; a daughter, Mrs. Herbert Prouty, Denver; two sons, Pete Jr. and Louis both of Litchfield Park; and eight grandchildren.