

Matriarch of old Castaic family passes to reward

By A. B. Perkins

Mrs. Marie Darles, long time matriarch of one of our oldest local families, passed to her reward Wednesday morning, December 19. Rosary will be held at the Hilburn Chapel Friday evening. Mass will be recited at the Church of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Saturday morning.

Her ninety-fifth birthday was celebrated by her family last May 8.

She is survived by two children, Mrs. Roy Smith, and Pierre Darles, by three grandchildren, Wilbert Smith, and Duncan and Stanton Darles, and eleven great grandchildren.

Marie Larramendy came from the French Basque province via stock boat, then nearly a month's trip, about 1883, joining other members of her family already in Los Angeles. For awhile she worked as a waitress, then meeting, and marrying J. B. Darles, then running stock up in the Castaic Canyon. The couple established their home in the canyon in 1886. Mrs. Darles' sister shortly afterwards married Martin DeCeta, another old Castaic family who established themselves near by.

J. B. Darles is reported to have been in the Castaic Hills much of his time since about 1906. After his passing, in 1927, the stock ranch was managed by his son in law, Roy Smith.

The ranch proper held well over a thousand acres in fee ownership, and is one of just two working cattle ranches left in the area, the other being the Cordova ranch, further up the canyon.

It is quite true that several families run stock to some degree, Mitchells, Jaureguis, Schmidts, Cooks, and Swansons among them, but they could not be called almost pure cattle spreads. The Feather River water project, as planned, may erase the stock in the Castaic Canyon.

Very few remain with as long a local life as the deceased, and her passing punctuates an ending era.

Interment will be Calvary Cemetery in East Los Angeles.

Clipped By:



m_gariador

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