

■ OBITUARIES

Joseph Apalategui

Joseph "Joe" Apalategui, the son of Basque immigrants who once herded sheep through Santa Maria back when Main Street was still a dirt road and later helped build Diablo Canyon's nuclear power plant, died May 10 of natural causes at a local convalescent hospital.

He was 77.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Tuesday in the chapel of the Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary. Gordon Hermann of the Church of Christ will officiate. Burial will follow in the Santa Maria Cemetery.

Mr. Apalategui was born the youngest of four children on Oct. 19, 1918, in Goleta to Agnacio and Marie Arrosagary Apalategui.

His youth was spent in the traditional Basque trade of sheep herding, and as a boy Mr. Apalategui could be seen herding his flock from the Santa Ynez Valley to Oso Flaco via Main Street in Santa Maria.

In 1937, Mr. Apalategui and his family moved to Santa Maria where he farmed several acres on Whitney Road, now Donovan Road.

In addition to farming, Mr. Apalategui was a welder pipefitter for 40 years and an active union member in Local 403. He retired working on Diablo Canyon's power plant.

He was an avid member of the National Rifleman's Association and one of the founding members and one-time president of the Santa Maria Gun Club.

He was also an active participant and a founding member of the National Hot Rod Association and of the original "Gold Coast Speedway Dragstrip" on McCoy Lane in the 1950s.

Mr. Apalategui was also a member of the Church of Christ.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Wilma Apalategui of Santa Maria; daughter Beulah Apalategui-Schwartz of Central Point, Ore.; sister Rose Morrissey of Santa Barbara; four grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Mr. Apalategui was preceded in death by his parents, daughter Julia Ann Apalategui, his brother Frank Apalategui and sister Grace Warrecker.

Memorial contributions can be made to the Visiting Nurse Service, Inc. P. O. Box 1029, Santa Maria 93456.

Visitation is from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. Monday at the mortuary.

Arrangements are under the direction of Dudley-Hoffman Mortuary.

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