



PIERRE M. DUFAU

## Pierre Dufau, Well-Known County Rancher

Pierre M. Dufau, 78, Oxnard, died last night in a local hospital after a brief illness.

Mr. Dufau, who came to the United States as a shepherd in 1908, became one of Ventura County's most prominent ranchers, soil conservationists, and horsemen.

He was born April 19, 1891, in St. Jean Pied de Port, a village in the Basque country in France. When he first came to the United States, he worked in Santa Ynez Valley and for the Kern County Land Co. in Bakersfield. He was a stock foreman in Blythe in 1913. His first business venture was purchase with his brother, Jean, of 42 acres on the Rincon, the area now known as La Conchita. Following sale of his Rincon property, he purchased 80 acres on Oxnard's Etting Road. That property remains as the nucleus of the Dufau holdings. The family home is at 3798 Etting Road.

Mr. Dufau was among Oxnard ranchers who in 1926 established the Oxnard Drainage District to bring the alkaline soil to greater productivity. He was a director of the local soil conservation association, a trustee for 12 years of Ocean View School District.

When he was 57 years old, he earned his private pilot's license. He was a member of the Ventura County Sheriff's Posse, the Ventura County Farm Bureau, the Rancheros Adolpho, Oxnard Council 750 Knights of Columbus, and Elks Lodge 1443.

James A. Reardon Funeral Home, Oxnard, is in charge of arrangements, which are pending.

Mr. Dufau is survived by his wife, Agnes; sons, Jean Pierre of Oxnard, Donald of Camarillo; daughters, Mrs. Kenneth (Madeleine) L. McDonald of Ventura, and Mrs. Bruce (Josephine) Gilchrist of Newport Beach; 10 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.