

## Fermina Montero

WINNEMUCCA — Fermina Montero, matriarch of a pioneer Humboldt County ranching family, died Thursday in a Winnemucca hospital after a long illness. She was 75.

Mrs. Montero was born Feb. 19, 1896 in St. Michele, France, and came to the United States in 1917. Shortly after her arrival in October of that year, she met and married Ramon Montero.

At the time, Montero was partner with Mitchell Bidart Sr. They were running approximately 14,000 head of sheep in the Leonard Creek area northwest of Winnemucca. The ranch land is still operating under the same family partnership.

The Montero-Bidart interests in cattle came by accident during the depression years of the early 1930's, when one of the partners traded one donkey for seven head of cows. From that point on, the partners expanded the herd until sheep interests were eliminated in 1945.

Recitation of the Rosary for Mrs. Montero will be held Sunday at 8 p.m. in Eddy and Son Mortuary Chapel. A Requiem Mass will be celebrated Monday at St. Paul's Catholic Church with burial to follow in the Winnemucca Cemetery.

Besides her husband, Ramon, she is survived by three sons, Ramon Jr., Albert and Laurence, all of Winnemucca; a daughter, Mrs. Helen Rauscher of Lake Tahoe, and eight grandchildren. Another son, John, died during World War II.