

John Etchemendy Sr.

John Etchemendy Sr., 103, died Monday at his residence.

A native of Arneguy, France, he was born August 27, 1886, and had been a Reno resident for the past 12 years, coming from Gardnerville. He came to America in 1907, and had been a longtime Nevada resident.

Etchemendy worked for Western Pacific Railroad, herded sheep in Blue Lakes, Red Lake and Hellhole areas of California, came to Carson Valley in 1910, and Smith Valley in 1911, where he worked for Reading Co. He moved to Wellington in 1916, and Gardnerville in 1917, where he operated the East Fork Hotel. Etchemendy bought and raised sheep, and in 1921 purchased the Overland Hotel in Gardnerville, operating it for 51 years. He was a member of St. Gall's Catholic Church in Gardnerville, Zazpiak Bat Basque Club, and Carson City Eagles F.O.E. 1006 since 1917, and bought wool until he was 100 years old.

His first wife, Jenny, died in October 1949, his second wife, Jeanne in 1973, and he was also preceded in death by four brothers, three sisters, and two sons.

Surviving are sons, Col. John Jr. and Col. William Etchemendy, and daughters, Josephine and Marie Uhalde, all of Reno; sister, Marie Cubialde of Buffalo, Wyoming; 13 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation was scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sunday at Walton's Chapel of the Valley Cemetery and Mausoleum, Carson City, with a Christian wake service at 7 p.m. at the church.

A Mass of Christian burial was celebrated at 10 a.m. Monday at the church, with burial at Garden Cemetery, Gardnerville.

A memorial is being established with the church's memorial fund, 1343 Centerville Lane, Gardnerville 89410.

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