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NAME Mascarel, Jose (Deceased Oct. 6, 1899)

PUBLIC OFFICES HELD

(DATE)

CITY:

City Council - May 2, 1864 - May 1, 1865
Mayor - - - - May 5, 1865 - May 10, 1866
City Council - Dec. 7, 1868 - Jan. 13, 1870

COUNTY:

STATE

FEDERAL:

CIVIC ACTIVITIES:

BUSINESS OR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Baker
City official
Banker
Capitalist

PORTRAIT:

ATTACHED OR ENCLOSED IN ENVELOPE: None

PORTRAITS APPEARING ELSEWHERE (DATES)

In Security Trust and Savings Bank
La Reina - Los Angeles in Three Centuries
1929, p 145
Portrait Index

ANECDOTES AND PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS:

Toward the end of the Civil War Major-General Irwin McDowell, the commander of the Army of the Potomac made Los Angeles a long-announced visit.

Anticipating General McDowell's visit, due preparations were made to receive him. It happened however that Jose Mascarel was then Mayor, and since he had never been able to express himself freely in English, though speaking Spanish as well as French, it was feared that embarrassment must follow the meeting of the Civil and military personages. Luckily, like many scions of early well-to-do American families, General McDowell had been educated in France, and the two chiefs were soon having a free and easy conversation in Mascarel's native tongue.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

BOOKS:

Newmark - Sixty Years in Southern California
L. A. Vital Statistics - Death Records
L. A. Probate Court - Mascarel Will # 3402

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS:

PERSONAL INTERVIEW: None

INTERVIEWED BY:

DATE OF INTERVIEW

Written by: Florence H. Goddard
August 23, 1937.

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The Los Angeles Public Library
Local History Collection
Biography

NAME Mascarel, Jose (Deceased Oct. 6, 1899)

Occupation Capitalist

Address

Birth (Date and Place) April 18, 1816 Mentone, France

FATHER

Birth (Date and Place)

If Deceased, When

MOTHER

Birth (Date and Place)

If Deceased, When

IF MARRIED, TO WHOM Constancia Goytino

Birth of Same (Date and Place) Mexico

If Deceased, When 1890 - Los Angeles

When Married Los Angeles, 1844

CHILDREN (Married Names of Daughters)

Charles Marie Larquier Eugenie Hoover

Jose, Jr. Josephine Twist

Constance Margarita Drouet

Hortense Adele Kracke

TITLES OF BOOKS, ARTICLES, MUSIC, OR OTHER CREATIVE WORK

(In the case of printed matter, please give date and publisher; of periodical publica-
tions also name of magazine and date.)

REVIEWS, CRITICISMS, AND OTHER BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES

(Please note printed matter concerning yourself or your work. We would appreciate
any such material you may send, clippings, reviews, portrait.)

Warner, Hayes, Widney, Historical Sketch of Los
Angeles County

Wilson, History of Los Angeles County

Illustrated History of Los Angeles County, p 118
Bell, On the Old West Coast

McGroarty, History Of Los Angeles County, vol 1
Census of the City and County of Los Angeles, 1850

McGroarty, Los Angeles From the Mountains to the
Sea, vol 1

Workman, City That Grew

Layne, Annals of Los Angeles, p 83

Le Guide Francoais, pp 33,47, 53, 56, 87

ANCESTORS OF DISTINCTION OR LOCAL INTEREST

(Please include names of local interest as "forty-niners," or any one connected with the affairs or development of the state or city, as officials, professional men, merchants, etc.)

Multiple horizontal lines for handwritten entries.

EDUCATION (Schools, Colleges, Degrees, Etc.)

Horizontal lines for handwritten entries.

CLUBS, LEARNED SOCIETIES, ETC.

Horizontal lines for handwritten entries.

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION Roman Catholic

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS Republican

RESIDENCE IN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1844.

SKETCH

(Please make this as full as possible, giving business affiliations, positions of honor or trust with dates if possible.)

Jose Mascarel was born in Mentone, France on April 18, 1816. When very young he went to sea, finally becoming a sea captain and master of the ship that brought Don Luis Vignes to California. It was the friendship of these two men that made Mr. Mascarel leave the sea. He settled in Los Angeles near his friend, Luis Vignes, and in 1844 married an Indian woman. He had come with Prudhomme and others, and under Captain Hensley had taken part in the military events at San Bartolo and the mesa.

Mr. Mascarel was elected to the City Council on May 2, 1864 and served one one-year term. Notwithstanding the strong secessionist sentiment in Los Angeles during much of the Civil War period, the City election resulted in a Unionist victory when, on May 6, 1865, Jose Mascarel was elected Mayor. On May 10, 1866 he was defeated for reelection by Cristoval Aguilar. He was reelected to the City Council on December 7, 1868 and resigned January 13, 1870.

By 1865 when he was Mayor of the City he had already accumulated a number of important real estate holdings and owned, with another Frenchman, Juan Barri, the block extending east on the southside of Commercial Street from Main to Los Angeles Streets which had been built in 1861. In the Seventies I. W. Hellman bought the Mascarel block and in 1883 the Farmers and Merchants Bank moved to that location.

Early in February 1871 the first steps were taken to reorganize and consolidate the two banking houses in which John G. Downey and I. W. Hellman were interested. On April 10, 1871 the institution opened as the Farmers and Merchants Bank. Jose Mascarel was made a member of the Board of Trustees; he remained active in this capacity until the date of his death.

Mr. Mascarel died at his home in Los Angeles on October 6, 1899.

WOMAN, 73, FIGHTS TO HANDLE FORTUNE

N.F. 4 4/17/38

Restoration to the status of competency and discharge of guardians appointed to manage her estate and to protect her persons were asked today in Superior Judge Charles S. Burnell's court by Mrs. Constance M. Penilla, 74-year-old daughter of ~~Jose Mascarel~~, who was mayor of Los Angeles 73 years ago.

As a result of a long illness, Mrs. Penilla was declared incompetent to manage her affairs in 1928, and the Security-First National Bank was appointed guardian of her estate, now valued at \$160,000.

Subsequently, Attorney Henry G. Bodkin was appointed guardian of her person, but he testified in court today that he felt Mrs. Penilla should be restored to competency and alleged to manage her own affairs.

Her sister, Mrs. Hortense M. Johnson, 71, filed objections to the proceedings for restoration, to competency, contending that because of Mrs. Penilla's age and physical condition she might be deceived and imposed upon by designing persons. Mrs. Penilla appeared in court briefly in a wheel chair to press her claim that she is able to take over her affairs.

Early Cal. Woman, 74, Regains Right To Handle Estate

The right to administer her \$160,000 estate today had been restored to Mrs. Constance M. Penilla, 74-year-old descendant of a pioneer Southern California Spanish family.

The right was restored by a jury in Superior Judge Charles S. Burnell's court after Mrs. Penilla, who testified from a wheel chair, declared she was competent to handle her estate and should not have been deprived of the right in 1928 when a bank was appointed guardian of the estate and Attorney G. Bodkin was named guardian of her person.

Opposition to Mrs. Penilla's contention was voiced by her sister, Mrs. Hortense M. Johnson, 71.

and Co. 1/19/38