

Del Valle's Colorful Career Ends in Death

Aided Fight for Water Supply

Former State Senator Reginaldo F. del Valle, 84, yesterday had joined in death other late and lamented members of that valiant band of pioneers who did so much toward the development of Los Angeles and environs.

Stricken a week ago with a heart ailment that was attributed by attending physicians to his mounting years, Mr. del Valle passed away peacefully Tuesday night at 817 South Beacon street, where he had been a house guest.

As a boy and man, Mr. del Valle centered his interest prin-



PHOTOGRAPH SHOWS former State Senator Reginaldo F. del Valle, busy with everyday affairs, shortly before his death Tuesday night. —Los Angeles Examiner photo

cipally on water. The city's present water system is a monument to his energetic leadership and his faithful cooperation with others who thought as he did.

Water first became a problem to Mr. del Valle as a boy. He was born in a little hacienda fronting the old Mission. That was on December 15, 1854.

Nearby, but none too near, in his boyish thoughts, was the Los Angeles River. It carried an abundance of water in the days of his youth.

Brought Water In Pails

One of his chores was to bring it in wooden pails to the home of his father and mother, Senor Ygnacio del Valle and Senora Ysabel del Valle.

His youthful thoughts could easily have been turned to gold. But water remained uppermost in his plans.

When death claimed Mr. del Valle, a large ring of heavy gold was on his finger. He often had been asked about it, explaining

"This gold was among the first ever discovered in California. It was found on my grandfather's place near the present Newhall Station. That was in 1841, eight years before the lure of gold brought hordes of people across the continent, and around the Horn."

And as a result of his early

convictions, he was to become responsible, in a big share, for water coming from faucets—instead of from the river—and electricity supplanting candles and kerosene lamps in Los Angeles.

Day Dreams Come True

The city's present system of reservoirs, power dams, water distribution and the aqueduct from Owens Valley came from those early day dreams, as he dipped water from the Los Angeles River.

During the time Los Angeles was acquiring water rights in Owens Valley, and the turbulence, including frequent dynamitings of the aqueduct, Mr. del Valle was in the midst of the controversy and saw it through to successful conclusion.

Then came the St. Francis Dam disaster in 1928. Waters from the collapsed tower of masonry rushed into San Francisquito Canyon.

Mr. del Valle, as a member of the water and power commission, guided that group's policies, with the result that amicable, though costly, restitution was made, in so far as possible.

San Francisquito Canyon meant something to Mr. del Valle, for within its shrub-covered confines was his father's historic Camulos Rancho, spreading out for thousands of acres over Los Angeles and Ventura counties.

Rancho's Role In History

Early-day California history, in numerous instances, may be traced to that rancho. It was under a spreading black walnut tree, still standing, that William Manley recruited a party to succor the stranded Jayhawker party from the arid wastes of Death Valley.

There, too, under the beneficent shade of the black walnut, Helen Hunt Jackson penned most of her historic novel, "Ramona."

He attended St. Vincent's College here before completing his education at Santa Clara University.

He was elected to the California State Assembly in 1879, and later reelected.

Always a champion of public ownership, Mr. del Valle won for himself widespread support among the electorate. He was ever a staunch Democrat.

Presidential Elector, 1880

He was made a presidential elector in 1880, and in 1882 was elected a member of the Califor-

nia Senate from Los Angeles County, which office he held until 1886.

Thereafter, he became familiarly known as "Senator," a cognomen he carried until death.

In recognition for his many years of relentless campaigning for more water, more accessible waterpure water, cheap water, Mr. del Valle was appointed a member of the water and power commission in 1908.

He retired from this position, with high honors, in September, 1929, with 21 years' outstanding

accomplishment and achievement back of him.

While a water and power commissioner, in 1913, President Woodrow Wilson appointed him as special representative to report on conditions in Mexico.

His Daughter Speeds Here

Mrs. Lucretia del Valle Grady, his daughter, and wife of Henry F. Grady, one of San Francisco's outstanding business leaders, sped here yesterday to take charge of her father's body. It rested at the Cunningham and O'Connor Mortuary, pending funeral arrangements she is to complete today.

Besides his daughter, Mr. del Valle leaves a sister, Mrs. Josefa del Valle Forster, 1248 West Chester place, and a niece, Mrs. Isabel Marquard, of the same address.

Rosary will be recited for Mr. del Valle tomorrow at 8 p. m. in the chapel of Cunningham and O'Connor, 1031 South Grand avenue. Requiem mass will be conducted at 10 a. m. Saturday in the old Plaza church, with interment in Calvary Cemetery.

City officials were discussing plans last night to have the late State Senator's body lie in state in the City Hall several hours tomorrow.

SOLEMN MASS IN OLD PLAZA FOR DEL VALLE

Chapman
Archbishop of Panama, Fifty
Monsignors, Priests and Nuns
Walk in Funeral Procession

9/27/28
In solemn requiem mass in the old Plaza church, only a stone's throw from the site of the house in which he was born 84 years ago, Los Angeles paid its last respects yesterday to one of its best-known pioneers, Senator Reginald F. Del Valle.

Early-day residents and men and women prominent in the city's life of today bowed their heads together at the simple but impressive funeral rites conducted by Rev. Joseph Truxeau, pastor of the Church of the Immaculate Conception, of which Senator Del Valle was a parishioner.

ARCHBISHOP PRESENT

The most Rev. John J. Maiztegui, Archbishop of Panama, and formerly pastor of San Gabriel Mission, walked in the procession of 50 monsignors, priests and nuns which followed the gray casket from the church where Franciscan Father Joseph Thompson recounted the Senator's part in Los Angeles development.

Interment was in Calvary Cemetery with more than 100 of the city's and county's leading citizens as honorary pallbearers. Leading the long funeral procession were the pioneer's daughter and son-in-law, Mrs. Lucretia Del Valle Grady and Henry F. Grady; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Marquard, cousins, and Hugh Frank Del Valle, a nephew.