

FUNERAL OF JOHN LORANG

HELD MONDAY MORNING

The funeral of John Lorang, whose sudden death was chronicled last week, was held from St. Mary's Catholic Church on Monday, February 22, at 10 o'clock, with the solemn requiem high mass conducted by Rev. Father Godschalx, assisted by Rev. Father Gordon of Clarkston, Wash., and Rev. Father Wurtzberger of Moscow, with interment in the family plot in St. Mary's cemetery. The day of his being placed in the final resting place was his birthday anniversary, at which time he would have been 68 years of age, had he survived.

John Lorraine was born on a farm near Johnsburg, Wisconsin, February 22, 1858, where he spent his early childhood. At the age of about 17 he went to the lumber woods in Wisconsin and Michigan. Through hard manual labor and thrift, he succeeded in accumulating, during the following few years, what was considered at the time a small fortune—a few hundred dollars.

On February 19, 1884, he married Mary Anna Gesellchen, and two weeks later Mr. and Mrs. Started on their journey west on one of the first immigrant trains across the Rocky mountains to the state of Washington. Upon arrival at Riparia, Washington their trip was continued by boat to Lewiston, Idaho, and from there by wagon to Colton, Washington, where they arrived on March 21 of the same year. At this point Mr. Lorang rented a farm and remained there until December, 1885, at which time he moved to and located on the place known as the Jameson farm—the present Lorang home—which he purchased shortly prior to the survey of the railroad into Genesee. This farm has long been known as White Spring Ranch.

During the years that followed, he succeeded in developing the prairie land into one of the most productive and modernly improved farms in the entire Palouse country.

During 1910 Mr. and Mrs. Lorang toured through European countries—England, Switzerland, Germany, Spain, Turkey, Egypt

and Italy—it being their sumpreme pleasure to have witnessed the Passion Play at Oberammergau, Germany, and to have had a personal interview with Pope Pious X, as well as seing all the holy places in Palestine.

Not many years subsequent to his return from Europe he retired from his activities as a farmer and devoted the remainder of his life to his favorited hobby, that of taxidermist, naturalist, and collector of natural history specimens.

At all times during his life in Idaho he took an active interest in community and public affairs, even to within a few days prior to his untimely death, which occurred on February 16, 1926.

He was a devoted member of the Catholic church and was ready at all times to do whatever he could to further the interests of his chosen church and his friends, who were number by his large number of acquaintances.

Mr. Lorang leaves to mourn their loss besides his devoted wife, ten children—P.J. Lorang, New York City; B. T. Lorang, Wall Walla, Wash., H.M. Lorang, Genesee; A. P. Lorang, Pueblo, Colo.; Christine, Martha, Viola and Charles, Spokane, Wash., Mrs. C.P. Whalen and Mrs. Ray Kennedy, Genesee, and one brother Theodore Lorang, Spokane.

The funeral was largely attended and the floral offering were numerous and very beautiful.

The pallbearers were his five sons, Peter J., Barney T., Henry M., Albert P., Chas. Lorang and C.P. Whalen, son-in-law.

The Lorang farm is one of the show places of the Palouse country. Mr. Lorang not only took a great delight in his home life, but he was ever seeking some new rare tree or shrub to plant in his “park” which surrounds the home, and which contains many different varieties of shrubs and trees from many parts of the United States and many from foreign countries.

Not only was he interested in procuring all kinds of growing woods, but he procured all kinds of animals, both alive and dead. The former he placed with his collection of animals and the latter he stuffed, for he was no mean taxidermist.

As is well known all over the country, Mr. Lorang had one of the finest private collections of curios and museums in the Northwest, of which T. O. Greene, traveling representative of the Lewiston Tribune, who was a friend of Mr. Lorang, has the following to say:

Mr. Lorang's hobby was the collecting and placing on display specimens of birds, plants and animals—first those found in his own beloved state, Idaho; but later, after he had acquired a competence for himself and family, the scope of his collection of curios was greatly widened, and is, perhaps, the most valuable collection of its kind in the state of Idaho, and possibly in the entire Northwest.

Several years ago the writer of this sketch suggested to Mr. Lorang that if he wished to leave an unperishable monument to his memory, as well as to leave something of a most educational value to present and future generations of the youth of our state, it would be a fine idea if he would leave, by will, his entire collection of curios to the State University of Idaho at Moscow. He said he had been giving much consideration to that suggestion, already, but whether this was carried out the writer does not know. (*Yes, in 1953, then moved to the Conner Museum, WSU campus*)

Among the larger division of Mr. Lorang's collection, mention may be made of the eggs of numerous birds from the ostrich to and including the humming bird. The egg of the mammoth ostrich and that of the smallest member of the feather creatures were to be seen side by side, for better contrast. Not only land birds' eggs, but many of the rivers and seas were represented—and many of the birds themselves were there, as well as their nests.

In the display of coins, hundreds of rare and unique kinds, such as would be sure to stir covetousness of any numismatist in the land, were he to see the collection, were most interesting.

Sea shells of vast numbers and varieties, with their delicate colorings; the shells of the coral insets as well as many other articles of intense interest to the favored visitor whose privilege it was to inspect them, but too numerous to list here, constituted objects of interest such as would cause to become an enthusiast even a man of very dull comprehension.

In Mr. Lorang's garden, or park, he had gathered and preserved for the pleasure of his friends and visitors—and all his visitors at once became his friends—several varieties of oak, hickory, ash, sycamore, bass wood or linden, elms, nut trees, haws, persimmons, sassafras, and scores of other varieties such as grace the forests, which are rarely to be met with in this country.

Nearly every wild shrub and flowering plant to be found within the state—I mean the unusual or rare ones only, of course—were to be seen and admired.

Mr. Lorang had made collections for and exchanged with the Smithsonian Institute many rare specimens of animals and birds. In fact, the United States government had issues special authority to Mr. Lorang to take any animal or bird anywhere at any time or in any place—well knowing that he would never abuse the privilege.

