

*The*  
Ventura County Historical Society  
*Quarterly*

Grant W. Heil, Editor

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WILL OF JOSE DE ARNAZ

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*Notice*

Msgr. Francis J. Weber, Archivist of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles, publicized Mrs. Comstock's account, showed how it could be abridged and wrote the note. The will was found by Madeline Miedema. Juanita Callender and the Ventura County Historical Museum furnished the old pictures; and David Hill photographed the title-pages. The map was supplied by Richard Beamer of the Ventura County Surveyor's Office. Danilo Matteini sketched the cover.

IN THE  
**Superior Court**

Of the State of California,  
In and for the County of Los Angeles.

*In the Matter of the Estate of*  
**Dr. Jose de Arnaz**

*Deceased.*

**WILL**

*Filed* \_\_\_\_\_ 189\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_, Clerk

*By* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Deputy Clerk*

Service of the within \_\_\_\_\_  
is hereby admitted this \_\_\_\_\_  
day of \_\_\_\_\_ 189\_\_

*Attorney for Dr. Jose de Arnaz*

**THOMAS L. WINDER**

Rooms 213 and 214 Simson Block  
LOS ANGELES, CAL. Telephone 1440

*Attorney for* \_\_\_\_\_

STATE OF CALIFORNIA, }  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES. } ss.

*Dr. Jose de Arnaz being first duly sworn, on oath says:*

*that he has heard read the foregoing will and knows the contents thereof, and that the same is true of his own knowledge, except as to the matters and things therein stated on his information or belief, and that as to those matters and things he believes it to be true.*

*Subscribed and sworn to before me this*

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 189\_\_

Jose de Arnaz

**In the name of Almighty God!**

**I** Jose de Arnaz

Spanish through birth, and resident in the State of California, County of Los Angeles

Being of sound mind and good health, make this my testament and last will in the following form:

1. I declare that I was married to Dona Mercedes Avila de Arnaz, of which marriage we had twelve children known as Virginia, Elvira, Luis, Adela, Amada, Ventura, Manuel, Maclovio, Camila, Jose Maria, Eduardo and Mercedes; Adela, Camila and Mercedes are now dead.

2. I declare that I was married the second time to Dona Maria Camarillo de Arnaz, of which marriage I had seven children and they are Praxidio, Pragedes, Juan Nisefero, Alfonso, Jose Adolfo, Adela and Edilberto.

3. I declare that during my first marriage I had no gains but large losses indeed, owing to the bad year from 1863 to 1864 in which all our animals died: away went our fortunes!

4. I declare that I have some properties acquired with the personal property I had before my first marriage, which I bequeath in the following manner:

1st I bequeath to my sons Manuel, Jose Maria, Maclovio and Eduardo a note of fifteen thousand silver; or its value if it were to be paid; and if not, by the lots A, B, C, E on the map of my property in the Rancho Rincon de las Buelles; the said map is filed in the Recorder's Office of the County of Los Angeles in Book 37, pages 53 and 54.

2nd I bequeath to my daughter Ventura a note of five thousand silver (5,000) deposited like the former of fifteen thousand (15,000) in the Farmers' and Merchants' Bank; or by having its value if it were to be paid; and if not, the lot letter D with almost all the property that I own in the County of Ventura known by the name of Casa Vieja de Arnaz and Casa de Anguisola, which forms the major part of Block 51 of the map of Ventura, which titles of the property my executor will deliver to my said daughter Ventura with seven more acres that I own in Rancho Ojai, now lent to Teodoro Lopez.

3rd I bequeath to my daughter Elvira lots 49 and half of 48 of the map referred to.

4th I bequeath to my daughter Amada until the end of her life and for the benefit of her children after her death lots 24, 25 and 26; or the vacant part itself of the said lots, deducting the portion which the enclosure of the pasture occupies and which I sold to Juan Zorraquino.

5th I bequeath in favor of the children of my son Luis five hundred silver to each one, which my executor will deposit in a savings bank in order that they may be delivered to the young man on reaching his majority and to the young woman assuming estate.

6th I bequeath to the children of my daughter Virginia five hundred silver to each one of the same manner as the previous clause so that the beneficiaries are Carlos and Camila.

7th The rest of the property I bequeath to the children of my second wife, cited before. The property to which I refer is the residue of my said ranch on the map already mentioned.

8th I bequeath to my wife Maria [Camarillo] de Arnaz all the rents and produce of the property bequeathed to her children in order that she may use them through the term of her life, at the end of which the heirs will take possession of the legacy.

9th I bequeath in favor of my said wife all the animals of every kind which I own, just as also all the notes and mortgages or any other credit to my favor together with the money which might be deposited in some bank.

The children, Virginia and Luis, were heirs before. My executor who is going to be my said wife [Maria Camarillo] de Arnaz whom I relieve of bond has this authorization, which I would consider convenient, a division among the older children of the part due when they assume rank or profession.

I declare that I hold a claim against the government of the [United States] if some day justice is practiced for me, what I obtain I leave a third part to the children of my first mate, another to the children of my second mate and the other to my wife [Maria Camarillo] de Arnaz.

I declare that this is my testament and last will; and if some other turns up, I declare it void and not of any validity and that I write this by my hand. The handwriting done today names my wife Maria Camarillo de Arnaz administrator and executor, and I relieve her of all bond.

Los Angeles, May 31st, 1890

Jose de Arnaz

The foregoing instrument consisting of two pages besides this was at the date thereof by the said Jose de Arnaz signed and published as and declared to be the last will and testament in presence of us who at his request and in his presence and in the presence of each other have subscribed our names as witnesses thereto.

Dated this 31st day of May, 1890.

Henry M. Smith,  
Residing at Monrovia, Los Angeles County, California.  
Thomas L. Winder,  
Residing at the City of Los Angeles, California.

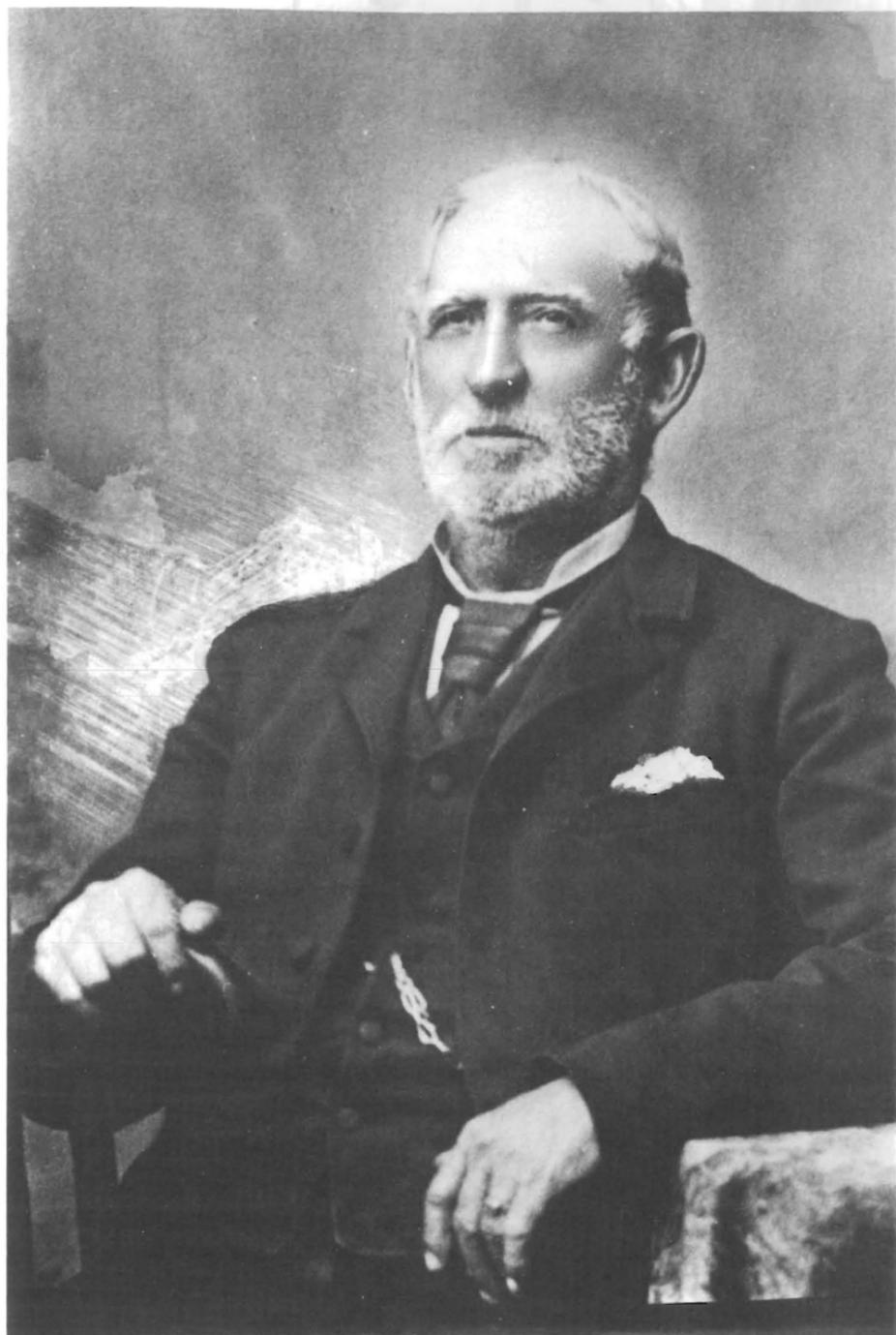
## ADDENDA

Variants of names:

Mrs. Adela (or Adelia) Arnaz de Stelle  
Mrs. Amada (or Amanda) Arnaz de Sepulveda  
Miss Elvira (Minita) Arnaz  
Luis (Louis) Arnaz  
Mrs. Praxidio Arnaz de Lavin  
Mrs. Ventura Arnaz de Wagner (Mrs. John Wagner)  
Mrs. Virginia Arnaz de Anguisola

Excerpts from memoirs:

Colonel Fremont . . . then asked me for assistance: horses, saddles, meat for his troops; and permission to take some beef cattle on the road. I gave him everything for which he asked, and he went away, promising to pay for everything; but to date I have never put in my claim.



Don Jose de Arnaz



Elvira  
(Minita)



Camela



Luis



Manuel



Ventura Wagner

*A. W. Lohm*

*Next to Post Office  
Ventura, Cal.*