Pomp and Ritual of Catholic Church Mark Services for Last San Juan Mission Indian

女儿 of Coffin Maker Near 100; Tribal Love Told

The last of the San Juan Mission Indians was buried yesterday morning from the historic church of the padres by the Maryknoll fathers. The pomp and ritual of the Roman Catholic church marked the final tribute to her tribe, converted from savagery by the Franciscan monks 150 years ago.

She was Mrs. Ascencion Solorsano de Cervantes, daughter of Miguel Solorsano, the coffin maker of the early mission. Nearly a century ago she was baptized in the mission and twenty-five years later she was married there to Don Rosendo Garcia. Five children survived her, Mrs. Claudia Coronas of San Juan and Mrs. Jose Mondragon of Gilroy. Her surname was taken from Pia Junipero Serra, who was her family's confessor.

TOLD TRIBAL FOLKlore

With the aged Indian woman's death the glory has come to light of Professor J.P. Harrington of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington who lived in her home and spent months at her bedside, piecing together the folklore and customs of her tribe for use in a book to be incorporated in the institution's records.

Professor Harrington, member of the Bureau of American Ethnology, mastered the tongue of the San Juan Indians in a seven months' period. With this knowledge, he heard many interesting things from the old woman, who never learned to speak English and who was 30 years old before she ever saw the ocean.

LEGEND OF GREAT FLOOD

Among them, he learned of the legend they had of the great flood, but many arts figured in it, nor was the story of the dove, too, who talked like an Indian and turned into a black crow because he was false to the Indian's trust. No instruments of war were used by the tribe; family feuds, racing for generations, took the place of wars.

At the funeral mass Father Francis Callery, M.M. of the Maryknoll order, wore the black vestments which the Franciscan padres wore in the services for Mrs. Cervantes' father and mother. Before the ceremonies in the cata

falque, used as a funeral bier in the church for countless members of the San Juan Indian tribe, her body rested in state.