



Ernest in western regalia

popular men that this county ever knew. He passed away (of cancer) on August 2, 1931.

On the roster of public officials in San Bernardino county appears the name of Ernest T. Shay, who has to his credit a long record as a peace officer.

He makes his home in San Bernardino. His father, John J. Shay was a pioneer cattleman, widely known throughout the valley.

Ernest T. Shay attended the grade and high schools of San Bernardino. He early became identified with ranching interests and in 1918 was made deputy sheriff under his uncle, thus serving for 13 years.

On Aug. 10, 1931, he became sheriff, in which important position he served acceptably, proving a worthy successor of his honored uncle. Ernest T. Shay saw active service in the World War as line sergeant of Company L, Three Hundred and Sixty-first infantry, with which he was sent overseas, participating in battles on the St. Mihiel, Meuse-Argonne,

and various other fronts. He was honorably discharged Dec. 22, 1919, and he is a member of the American Legion.

Emmett L. Shay, son of Walter A. Shay, Jr., acquired his education in the grammar and high schools of San Bernardino. When this country became involved in the World War, he enlisted in the navy and was assigned to the naval base at San Pedro. Subsequently he was associated with the old Mountain Auto Line, one of the first transportation lines in this part of California. It was in 1921 that he entered upon the duties of deputy sheriff of San Bernardino county.

Following in the footsteps of his father and cousin, Emmett Shay was elected sheriff of San Bernardino county when Ernest did not ask reelection. He still remains in that office, having been reelected for a second term at the last election.

He is a member of the American Legion and the Native Sons of the Golden West and the San Bernardino Elks lodge. Hunting, fishing, and other forms of outdoor life constitute his recreation.

W. C. (Brud) Shay, son of William Shay, has also established a notable public career, being administrator for the state board of equalization in San Bernardino. He is also widely-known and is the president of the Twenty-ninth National Orange Show.

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**EPILOGUE BY THE EDITOR:** Since the above article was written in 1939, only one member of the original Shay family children is still living - Nell Shay Patton, wife of Gilbert H. Patton. She is a sister of Emmett L. Shay and grand-daughter of Walter A. Shay, Sr., and kindly gave me the following information about what happened to the family since 1939:

Ernest T. Shay, who did not run for reelection in 1934, died at the age of 73 at Carlsbad, California.

Emmett Shay served as sheriff until 1946, when he was defeated by James W. Stocker. A man with many hobbies and interests, he retired then and moved to the beach. He died Feb. 14, 1979 at the age of 81.

EMMETT I. SHAY  
Sheriff from 1934 - 1946