

= José María Caro Martínez =

José María Caro Martínez (Spanish pronunciation : [xo?se ma??ia ?ka?o ma??tine?] ; 1830 ? 11 November 1916) was a Chilean politician and civil servant . In May 1894 , he was unanimously elected as the first mayor of the commune of Pichilemu , along with Pedro Nolasco de Mira , and Francisco Reyes , who were respectively elected as segundo and tercer alcalde (second and third magistrate) . Caro Martínez had previously served for several years as llavero (administrator) of the San Antonio de Petrel hacienda , and between 1891 and 1892 was the Subdelegate of the 13th Subdelegation of San Fernando Department , which comprised the district of Cahuil .

The eleven @-@ year mayorship of Caro Martínez , which lasted from 1894 and 1905 , was qualified by journalist and local historian José Arraño Acevedo as " the most fruitful " in the history of the commune . In his four terms , Caro Martínez constructed roads that connected Pichilemu with San Fernando , capital of the department of the same name , and founded several schools in Pichilemu and parts of current Marchigüe .

He resigned in May 1905 and completed his fourth mayoral term as a segundo alcalde . As a mayor , he was succeeded by Francisco Javier Asalgado , who held the office for two non @-@ consecutive terms . Caro Martínez was the father of José María Caro Rodríguez , the first Chilean Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church , Francisco Adriano Caro Rodríguez , who was regidor of Pichilemu for several terms between 1906 and December 1925 , when he became the 8th Mayor of Pichilemu following the resignation of Luis Barahona Fornés , and Pedro Pablo Caro Rodríguez , a lawyer from the University of Chile , who served as acting judge in several Chilean cities .

= = Early life = =

José María Caro Martínez was born in San Antonio de Petrel , in current Pichilemu , Region of O'Higgins , to Pedro Pascual Caro Gaete and Cayetana Martínez Ríos , in 1830 . The exact birth date is unknown , since all the books of the parish of Ciruelos with baptism records between 1830 and 1834 were burnt in a fire . The Caro Martínez family , of " devout Catholics " , is described as having a " profound Christian faith , " with their members " complying with unblemished devotion their Christian duties . " Since he was a child , Caro shaped his personality on the " fulfillment of his duties " ; according to a 1944 article from the Pichilemu newspaper , " his personality became even more robust in his youth as he faced an accident whose consequences stood by him until his death . "

Like his father , he dedicated his life to agricultural activities , and " managed to raise a small fortune . " Caro served for several years as administrator (llavero) of the hacienda of San Antonio de Petrel , property of José Vicente Ortúzar Formas . During his administration of San Antonio de Petrel , the hacienda was " rich " , as it " possessed 1 @,@ 500 cows , [...] and produced yearly 15 thousand sacks of wheat , each of 100 kilograms . "

Caro Martínez and his family lived in the Petrel area until the 1880s , when they moved to nearby village Quebrada del Nuevo Reino ; he lived there until his death . Caro Martínez became an active member of the parish of Ciruelos . According to journalist José Arraño Acevedo , the archives of the Archiepiscopate of Santiago ? which are published yearly ? show he was elected as a steward of the Confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament for the years of 1888 , 1890 , 1892 , and 1900 .

= = Political career = =

Caro Martínez was a member of the Conservative Party of Chile , and was appointed by the party 's leaders as the perpetual president of the party 's seat in the commune of Pichilemu . In 1891 , he was appointed by President Jorge Montt Álvarez as subdelegate of the 13th Subdelegation of San Fernando Department , which comprised the district of Cahuil , territory of the current commune of Pichilemu . He held the position until 1892 , and was succeeded by José Domingo Fuenzalida .

Also in 1891 , on 21 December , the commune of Pichilemu was created by the Autonomous Commune Law (Spanish : Ley de Comuna Autónoma) , written by Ministry of the Interior Manuel

José Irrarrázabal Larraín . The new commune comprised the districts of Cáhuil , Peñablanca , and Cocaquén . It was one of the most extensive communes of the department of San Fernando . However , the local government was yet to be established .

On 21 March 1894 , a preparatory meeting was held to create a Junta Calificadora de Poderes ? an organisation that would be in charge of the elections . Caro Martínez was elected president of the Junta Calificadora in the meeting . Later that year , on 6 May , the first municipal meeting (sesión municipal) was held . During the meeting , Caro Martínez , aged 64 , was unanimously elected as the first Mayor of Pichilemu since its creation as a commune . Pedro Nolasco de Mira , and Francisco Reyes were elected as segundo , and tercer alcalde , respectively , and Francisco Cerón , José Leonardo Lizana , Ceferino Rosales , Benjamín Calderón , and Francisco León as regidores .

Immediately after his election , Caro Martínez created the local police force (Cuerpo de Policía Local) . He also constructed roads all over the commune of Pichilemu , with special attention to those that would connect Pichilemu with the central area of the department of San Fernando , specifically the commune of San Fernando , and Santiago , the capital of Chile . As part of this project , he constructed a bridge over the Petrel Lake , known as the Puente Negro (Black Bridge) , and another in Cáhuil , connecting that town with its saltworks . He also founded several schools in the Pichilemu area , which only had one , located in Ciruelos . Those include the schools of Yervas Buenas , Las Garzas , Trinidad , Molineros , Peñablanca , all in the current territory of the commune of Marchigüe , and one in central Pichilemu .

Other works during Caro Martínez 's mayorship include the grant of 1 @,@ 300 Chilean pesos for the design of plans for the construction of the railway from Alcones to Pichilemu , and the installation of a water tank , located in the house of municipal secretary Albino Pulgar . Additionally , the government of Caro Martínez determined the urban limits of the commune of Pichilemu , gave help to victims of heavy rainstorms that hit the area in the time , brought Carabineros forces to " scare away " bandits from the local farms , and made repairs to the roads of Marchigüe , Trinidad , Molineros , and Peñablanca .

Caro Martínez was re @-@ elected mayor (primer alcalde) of Pichilemu in 1897 , 1900 , and 1903 . On 7 May 1905 , just one year before his fourth term expired , he decided to resign to the primer alcalde office , and took a position as segundo alcalde of Pichilemu until 1906 . Following his resignation , Francisco Javier Asalgado became the mayor , and held the office between that year and 1909 , and again in 1912 , but only for less than a month .

His mayorship was described by historian José Arraño Acevedo as " the most fruitful [...] in the municipal life of Pichilemu . " Caro Martínez was described by Virgilio Figueroa , biographer of his son José María Caro Rodríguez , as " an individual with public spirit and leadership skills . " According to Washington Saldías in an article published in Pichilemu News , Caro Martínez 's mayorship has been the longest in the history of Pichilemu .

= = Later life , death , and legacy = =

According to José Arraño Acevedo 's 1980 article " José María Caro Martínez , Primer Alcalde de Pichilemu " , following his retirement from politics in 1906 , Caro Martínez " stayed watchful to everything that was being done in favour of the commune he led so aptly . " He appears as a subscriber of El Puerto , the first newspaper published in Pichilemu , which only printed three editions . In the first edition of the newspaper , dated 16 January 1908 , an article states that José María Caro Martínez and Exequiel Fernández were awarded 200 pesos in a raffle held on the previous day in the headquarters of the La Unión newspaper , in Santiago .

In late September ? early October 1916 , he became ill with an unspecified disease , which forty days later , in the night of that 11 November , " won against his strong physique " and provoked his death at age 86 . Caro was subsequently cremated and is buried with his wife Rita , who died at age 97 on 7 August 1931 , in a mausoleum constructed by their son José María , located at the churchyard of Ciruelos .

Almost eighty years after his death , in December 1991 , the government of Mayor René Maturana Maldonado decreed , as part of the celebrations of the centennial of the commune 's creation , the

renaming of several streets of the commune whose original names " caused confusion because they were repeated in other streets " , to new names of " relevant people of the [local] history . " As a result , J. M. Caro street (Calle J. M. Caro) in the Pavez Polanco neighborhood was renamed to Alcalde Caro Martínez street (Calle Alcalde Caro Martínez) in honour of the commune 's first mayor .

= = Family = =

Caro Martínez married Rita Rodríguez Cornejo (1833 ? 1931) on 20 February 1860 at the chapel of San Antonio de Petrel . The couple had nine children , all born in San Antonio de Petrel : Rita , Cristina , Petronila , José María , Pedro Pascual , Francisco Adriano , Pedro Pablo , Cayetana , and Rosa .

José María (1866 ? 1958) became a Catholic priest ; he served as Archbishop of Santiago from 1939 until his death , and in 1946 he became the first Chilean Cardinal of the Church . Francisco Adriano became , like his father , involved in politics , serving for several terms as regidor of the commune of Pichilemu between 1906 and 24 December 1925 , when he became the 8th Mayor of Pichilemu , following the resignation of Luis Antonio Barahona Fornés to run for a deputy seat . Francisco held the office until 22 May 1927 , when President Carlos Ibáñez del Campo appointed Evaristo Merino as mayor of Pichilemu . Pedro Pablo (1875 ? 1959) was a University of Chile lawyer , who served as acting judge in Castro , Cachapoal (Peumo) , amid others ; Pedro Pablo also served as secretary and treasurer of the commune of Buin .