

FROM THE DESK OF

William J.

WILD BILL SHEEHY



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FORWARD



William J Sheehy
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San Jose, CA 95127

This story, you are about to read, is based on a article that appears on page 285 of CLYDE ARBUCLES HISTORY OF SAN JOSE, pertaining to Religion.

The story begins of a couple of small youngsters rummaging through a garbage can in back of Jack's Grocery Store at 21st. (3) and E. Santa Clara Streets.

The Reverend E. E. Miers, upon noticing their emaciated bodies, he asked me and my childhood friend why we were doing this and I explained we were looking for food. The Good Rev. then told us to come to the First Nazarine Church, 21st. (3) and E. San Fernando Sts., the following day, and he would feed us. At the time I was going to Hawthorne School, at 23rd. & E. San Fernando Sts., and the Principal was Selma Olinder and I was in the Third grade and the teacher was Thelma Barnwell and this all happened in 1930.

The school was torn down because of the Fielding Act of 1934. The new school, Selma Olinder, is now located at 18th (9) and E. William Sts. The original school, located at 24th (6) and E. San Fernando Sts, still stands, and is used as a home on the South West corner.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

I was born in Salinas, Ca, at my parent's home, on, E. Alisal & California Sts., July 9th, 1922. My older brother, Harold, was born in 1918.

My parents were Harold and Emma Avilla Sheehy. He was a laborer at Tynan Lumber Co. and my mother was a domestic housekeeper for the Hughes and Hartnell families of Salinas. My parents married at St. Patrick's Church, 9th & E. Santa Clara Sts., San Jose, CA, 1917.

I was baptized at the Sacred Heart Church, in Salinas, at West Market & Church Sts. The church was dedicated in 1878. (9) (6) on the back side of the church, at Church & Central Ave. Sts, stands the John Steinbeck's home.

My grand parents, ^{Home} Edward & Agnes Kearny Sheehy, still stands on the corner of West Market and Capitol Streets.

In the early 1890s, a guest speaker would come to the church and his name was Father William Culligan, he was a teacher at the University of Santa of Clara. He was most seen around St. Patrick's Week.

Father Culligan, in 1909, said a mass for my great grandfather's bother, John Sheehy (1827 - 1909) in the Mission Church, on the campus of The University of Santa Clara. John being the Third sibling of John & Katherine Donvan Sheehy, who were both born in 1790 and married in ¹⁸¹⁹~~1809~~, in Skibberen, County Cork, Ireland. They had ten children Six boys & four girls. The oldest, being my great grandfather Timothy (1820-1904).

John, prior to his death, was a Sea Captain, miner, farmer, and a Supervisor of Monterey County, Three times, once as a democrat and twice as a independent.

The same year of his death, Father Culligan, said a mass to Myles O'Connor at St. Joseph's Church, in downtown San Jose. Three years later he became the pastor of St. Joseph's

If per chance you visit St. Joseph's, you will see two large stained windows in memory of Myles O'Connor and John & Katherine O'Connor Sheehy.

In 1985, I acquired Clyde Arbuckle's book and it was then I read about the two little boys. It must be pointed out that Clyde's half brother, was Fatty Arbuckle, the famous silent screen star.

The publisher of his book was Leonard McKay, the second most noted historian of the Santa Clara Valley, Clyde being number one.

Leonard today owns: San Jose Memorabilia

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Tuesday through Fridays

I next went to the Nazerine Church, on Alum Rock Ave., and inquired if the two ladies, who feed me, were still alive and they informed me they were,

I then proceeded to Captains Cove Mobil Home Park, on Senter Rd., and had a interesting talk with her. I asked her if she had anybody else come back and thank her for the service she did to the children on the east side and she said I was the first. I am sorry I can't remember her name.

Next I visited Mrs. Esta McFerrin in Campbell, CA. and I received a great deal of information. She too said I was the first one to come back and say thanks. She mentioned that her first husband had died and his surname was Kilpatrick. It then dawned on me, her son, Bill Kilpatrick, was a class mate of mine at Hawthorne.

She then told me about coming to East San Jose, in 1927, when they established the church at ~~3rd~~ ^{2nd} & E. San Fernando Sts.

She also said they pitched a tent, for services, on the grounds where the church stands today.

One night some one set fire to the tent and it was destroyed. I believe I know why because a series of Holy Rollers would pitch their tents on Alumn Rock & Capitol Aves., next to the Hillview Airport.

Until they built their church, they conducted services at the studio of the famous artist, Ashly D. Cooper. The studio was located on the North-East corner of 23rd. & E. San Antonio Sts. It was built in 1909. The building is gone but you can see today the palm trees that were in front of his studio.

In 1919, he married Charlotte George, late in his life, George lived on E. San Fernando, a block away of my mother's parents, John & Maria Machado Avilla. Cooper died in 1924.

If you or any of your friends has a painting done by Cooper, they are very valuable.

As I was writing this segment, another comment came to mind what Etta McFerrin had said.

She mentioned, that when she was in the office of the church, one day, the phone rang and the Rev. Miers answered the phone. After concluding the conversation, he hung up the phone and proceeded to tell her about it. The pastor of the Five Wounds Church had called and said he had to stop feeding the children of the East Side. The Rev. Miers answered to the effect that he would do so if he would feed the children. It was at this point, the pastor of the Five Wounds hung up.

I knew the pastor of the Five Wounds and I believe he thought they were trying to convert the children to the Nazarine Church. It was further from the truth.

William J. Sheehy Local Historian-Living History Story Teller

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THE MOVIE STAR THE COWBOY THE HUMORIST

Part one: The Movie Star

In 1915, a group of investors formed a company called the Appleton Theatre group in Watsonville California. The investors were Phil Sheehy, a relative of mine, Otto D. Stoesser, president Charles Langley, husband of Annie Sheehy Langley. She was the youngest daughter of Timothy Sheehy. She also was the sister of my grandfather, Edward. It must be noted that Timothy introduced the strawberry to the Pajaro Valley on the southern banks of the Pajaro River or San Juan Rd., Monterey County. The other six were: S. Waldo Coleman , John Trafton, F. P. Krough, Frank Rogers, C.H. Baker and T. M. Wright.

T.M. Wright was a resident of East Jose, CA and was on a committee to create The First Township of East San Jose. A street was named after him and when the city annexed the township, they changed the name to E. San Fernando. My mother's parents lived on this street under both names.

The township was located, at the time, The Coyote Creek on the west, William St. on the south, Julian on the north, and King Rd. or 35th st. on the east side.

The Mayor was Fred Moon who built the moon car. The Vice Mayor was Amos O. Williams who later became coroner of Santa Clara County. His father, Frank, ran a Black Smith Shop across the street from the firehouse at 23rd. & E. Santa Clara Sts.

Frank's first born, a Jr., was the first person to be buried at The Catholic Calvary Cemetery on the east side about (1882.

A person who is appointed to run the school, Hawthorne, was Selma Olinder. She not only taught me but my mother and her three sisters. She retired in 1939 and they had a going away party for her. The following year they had there first reunion with her. At that time she was the first lady or teacher to have a alumni of a elementary school in the United States. But the war changed everything.

The new movie house was called the T & D. It was designed by William Weeks of Watsonville. Weeks also designed the Medical Dental Bld., The Hotel DeAnza in San Jose about 1931. Earlier, 1925, he also designed the first two junior high schools, Woodrow Wilson and Rosevelt. I went to Rosevelt and graduated in 1937. Woodrow Wilson was located in place called "Goose Town". A teacher there was named Katherine Cassin. Her mother was a Josephine "Alias Murphy Sheehy. She was the daughter of Jerry Sheehy and he was the brother of my great-grand father Timothy.

A student of Weeks was Ralph Wychoff. He not only designed the second Post Office in San Jose, also the Pala Alto office. It was a time of a kidnaping, murder, and lynching in San Jose.

After the war, I spent 31 years in the San Jose Post Office, as a carrier, and retired in 1977. In 1934, at the dedication of this office, Postmaster General James Farley, a close friend of F.D.R, attended and it was Phil Sheehy who invited him.

The T. & D was formally opened to the public on the night of July 2, 1915, with a packed house that saw Billie Burke, touted as "the girl an hour ahead of time, perform Jerry. She also played in San Jose at the Victory Theater on North First St. Another person who played there was Lillian Russell.

After leaving California, Miss Burke went to New York and appeared in The Ziegfield Follies. She married Flo Ziegfield but that marriage didn't work out. In fact, he had a series of marriages.

After leaving New York she came to California and made a series of films, one being "Topper" Her classic film was, "The Wizard of Oz".

After returning from the Pacific (1945) on leave, I went to The Hollywood Canteen and met Miss. Burke. I asked if a picture of us two would be possible and she replied "YES" I still have that picture and I prize it dearly.

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BATTLE OF NATIVIDAD

Combined American Forces under Captains Charles D. Burrass (or Burrougs) and Bluford N. Thompson, clashed with Commandante Manuel De Jesus Castros Californians in the Vicinity, on November 16, 1846.

Casualties on each side consisted of several Men killed and wounded.

The Americans saved a large Herd of Horses for Lt. Col. John C. Fremont, who then later proceeded South to participate in the Armistice at CAHUENGA, (Los Angeles) in January 1847.

CALIFORNIA REGISTERED HISTORICAL LANDMARK NO 651
PLAQUE PLACED BY THE STATE PARK COMMISSION IN
COOPERATION WITH THE MONTEREY COUNTY HISTORICAL
SOCIETY AND THE COUNTY OF MONTEREY, NOVEMBER 16,
1956. REDEDICATED BY MONTEREY VIEGO 1846 E CLAMPUS
VITUE, OCTOBER 29, 1965.

Comment: This Plaque or marker can be seen on the corner of Old San Juan & Crazy Horse Rds.
According to legend when traveling South to Salinas, CA, Monterey County, before the Prundale Cut Off, you will proceed less than five miles after turning left on Crazy Horse Rd.
It's told you will see a Red School House, the Marker, and a cemetery, which can not be seen.
In the distance you will see a bridge and after crossing it, you should stop and honk your horn three times and a ghost may appear?

The Red School House is where John Steinbeck went to school. So did my father's two brothers at the turn of the century.

When my grandfather, Edward (1861-1917) married Agnes Kearney (1867-1925) of San Francisco, she being of the family they named the street after.

They married in San Francisco in 1887. As a wedding present, Timothy (1820-1904) Edward's father, gave the couple 178 acres of land which is called the Natividad Area, about 10 miles North of Salinas. Timothy, at that time, was living with his second wife, Mary Cunninham (1869-1903) on San Juan Rd., adjacent to the Pajaro River in Monterey County.

Timothy first wife, Mary Ann Petty (1830-1867) were farmers and it would be Timothy who introduced the strawberry to The Pajaro Valley in 1860.

On July 12, 1846, Captain Tom Fallon was the first to raise The American Flag in what is called Plaza de Cesar Chavez or earlier called Plaza Park. This was a symbolic gesture by the Captain.

11th JULY 1846

Entered the Pueblo early after dawn with nineteen men. No sign of General Castro. Drew my men up in front of the juzgado on Market Street. I am frankly amazed. Word has been sent to the naval commander, Captain Jno. B. Montgomery (Commander) at Yerba Buena that we are at his command.

My old friend Luis Peralta told me of the reason why the town was left undefended. Two days ago the word of the American occupation of Monterey reached here and Castro gathered his men on the plaza near the Church. He announced that he was going to Mexico! All who wished to follow him were welcome, the others could go home.

Senor Peralta ~~could~~ could scarcely hide a laugh in his voice. He remarked that Castro would surerly return one day. Still no flag. It is difficult to be a conqueror without one.

Respectively submitted,
Captain Tom Fallon

FALLON TO MONTGOMERY, OFFERING TO RAISE U.S. FLAG AT SAN JOSE

Capt. Montgomery, Sir,

I have arrived here with nineteen men, with the expectation of joining Capt. Fremont but he has not yet arrived here. I therefore send an express to you for orders what to do. We are at your command. If you wish we will hoist the American Flag and protect it here. I want an immediate answer if you can get horses to send the express back on & if you would send six guns and pistols, ammunition & c. I can get men to use them. Castro has gone down to the lower country last Wednesday and is traveling down as fast as he can. Governor Pico has been trying to raise troops down at the lower Pueblo (Los Angeles) but can not get more than one hundred men.

Capt. T. Fallon

P.S. I will remain here till I receive your answer. The Flag that was put up here was cut down before we came here, but hope it never shall happen again.

T. F.

A date of interest: On the Texas frontier the U.S. Army, under Zachary Taylor, was preparing to march into Mexico. A real war was set to begin. Zachary Taylor would later become President of the United States.

In his haste to flee San Jose, Commanandante Manuel De Jesus Castro, must have got lost because it took him 4 months before he and his henchmen arrived at the Battle of the Natividad.

Could the ghost of Castro is waiting for some one, at the bridge, "To show him the way to San Jose?"

Javier Salazar, the Director of the Aztlan Academy of Ethnic Heritage, stated in the August 18th, 1999-La Oferta Paper that he described the image of a conquering Fallon as, "racist memorial because it depicts and commemorates the initiation of the hostilities and abuse that occurred to the CALIFORNIOS and MEXICANOS following the MEXICAN AMERICAN WAR."

Comment: In line 5 of this paragraph he says CALIFORNIOS first and MEXICANOS second. In line 6 he states MEXICAN first and AMERICAN WAR second.

This proves my point, once again. This is Politically Correct San Jose or we buy votes.

The first European to set foot on California soil, in San Diego, (1542) was the Portuguese Navigator Cabrillo. He sailed under the Spanish Flag. And much later we won the American Spanish War. Is there any other Latin Country who would like to take us on.?

I wish to acknowledge to Tom McEnery, your book, "The Journal of Captain Thomas Fallon, was most helpful. Although I have reservations about Mr. McEnery, I would highly recommend you read this book.

William John Sherry
HISTORIAN

KAY CONRAD



^{She He}
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TALES of the CENTURY

San Jose Mercury News
750 Ridder Park Dr.
San Jose, CA 95190
August 1, 1999

ANOTHER PERSON: He--She or She-he

An early-day stagecoach driver and well known "whip" was Charley Parkhurst, who was born on 1812 in New Hamshire, and later moved to Providence, Rhode Island, working in a livery stable there.

The lure of the West caught Charley's notion and, arriving in California, Charley became a driver of the stage in the Sierras, quickly gaining a reputation of being "fearless" on the trail, especially after besting "Sugarfoot," a notorious road agent. Charley moved on to the San Jose-San Juan-Watsonville area, having lost the sight of one eye after being kicked by a horse near Redwood City. He then was called "One Half Man"

The coming of the railroad forced the fearless stagecoach driver out of a job, and, getting no younger, Charley purchased some land in the Calabasas district near Watsonville, raising cattle for awhile, then wheat, hay and apples. During the winter months, there was work at nearby lumber camps as a logger, for which Charley was paid \$5 a day more than some of the other loggers, the result of being known as a hard worker who could be counted on.

In 1867, the voting register for Santa Cruz County lists "Parkhurst, Charles Durkee, 55, Born New Hamshire, Farmer, Soquel."

In 1876 the ranch was sold and Charley moved into a small house on the Harmon place on the old road to Santa Cruz, and a few years later developed cancer of the tongue which took the aging stage driver's life in 1879. When doctors came to examine the body, they discovered that the tough, cud-chewing, stagecoach driver was a woman and therefore the first known woman to have voted in California.

In Soquel, California, a Historical marker says:

ON THIS SITE ON NOVEMBER 3, 1868 WAS CAST THE FIRST
VOTE BY A WOMAN IN California

A Ballot By: CHARLOTTE "CHARLEY" PARKHURST Who disguised
herself as a man.

Could he-she or she-he voted in The National Election of
1872?

The way of travel by he-she or she-he, by stagecoach, would
have been by San Juan and Crazy Horse Rds.

There is a legend that if you go to San Juan & Crazy Horse
Rds, you will see a ghost. The legend states you will see a
red school house, a burial ground, not seen, but a marker about
The Battle of Natividad. After crossing a bridge, blow your
horn 3 times, and the ghost will appear. Could this be Charlotte
or Charley, half woman-half man?

I wish to thank Betty Lewis, The Historian of Watsonville,
for her input in this story.

William John Sheehy
"Alias She-He"



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KAY CONRAD

TURN of the CENTURY

San Jose Mercury News
750 Ridder Park Dr.
San Jose, CA 95190
July 25, 1999

The Charles Copeland Morse's home at the corner of Fremont and Washington Sts. in Santa Clara, to my knowledge, was built by The Pasetta Construction Company of Santa Clara. In turn this same company built five other Queen Anne homes on the corners of Chapman & Morse Sts. I believe Morse St. was named after him. The boundary of San Jose & Santa Clara is located at this point.

One of the homes, 1155 Chapman, was occupied by a Edward Sheehy, who at the time was going to The University of Santa Clara and was studying to become a lawyer. In 1894 his father, Sea Captain John Sheehy and his wife Ellen Bowen, moved into the home. Her sister Honorah (nickname, Norah married) James R. Kelly. He eventually became president of Hibernia Savings and Loan of San Francisco.

The Captain's other son, Philip was practicing law in nearby San Jose (Hasting Law School). John was active politically for a number of years but he turned down numerous Democratic nominations for County Treasure. (Monterey County). He was elected a Monterey County Supervisor by just one vote in 1875. He served two more terms as Supervisor, the last one by Governor Stone's appointment. Had he ran for County Treasure, his likely opponent would have been John Steinbeck's father.

Like the trip to California, by Morse, he too made his trip by the way of the Isthmus of Panama. He would have walked 50 miles or more through the jungle and dangerous swamps. His future wife, Ellen Bowen, made the same trip but by a mule. This happened about 1852.

The Captain first worked as a laborer in Santa Cruz County, but that was too monotonous. He then used his seaman's skills in a salvage partnership on a steamer that was aground off Santa Cruz, in Monterey Bay. He and his partners worked three months before launching the steamer in September of 1853. This almost proved disastrous because a hole was torn in the hull of the ship, and it sank almost immediately. Only with the help of friends in Santa Cruz were the three men saved from drowning.

In 1909, John passes away and the services are held at The Mission Church on the campus of The University of Santa Clara. The priest who served the mass was a Father William Culligan. A very good friend of the Sheehys, not only in San Jose but Salinas, California. In the same year, Myles O'Conner of San Jose passes, and Father Culligan says mass for him at St. Joseph's Church in downtown San Jose. In 1924, Ellen Bowen Sheehy, Amanda O'Conner also dies. ~~This was the same year Sarah Winchester dies. Strange, don't you think?~~ 1922

After the earthquake of 1989, I became aware of Captain John's and Ellen's home on Chapman Street.

On my first visit, to the home, I talked to a Mrs. Dallis. After she heard my surname, she invited me in. She said she was aware that a Sea Captain John Sheehy had lived there many years before. Inside the home to my left, the room looked like the 1800s and to my right, it was in modern decor. (Strange)

Sometime later I went Santa Clara to express my condolences to a Mr. Don Von Raesfield on the death of his wife. In our conversation I had told him I had delivered mail in San Jose (540 South 3rd. St.) to his aunt. He asked me if I knew about the ghost at the Sheehy house on Chapman St. This was a surprise to me, you could imagine.

From there I proceeded to the Sheehy home and luckily Mrs. Dallis was at home. My first question to her was there a ghost in the house and she said "YES". She also stated that she was the only person aware of the ghost.

Another question I poised to her was how long had she lived in the house and she stated 25 years. But she said she only saw the ghost for 20 years. The next question, why?

She said her husband and she went to Santa Cruz and stayed there for a week and upon returning to San Jose the ghost disappeared.

Could the Captain have stayed in Santa Cruz and is now sailing in Monterey Bay on the ship that sunk in 1853?

About two years ago the Dallis moved out of their home on Chapman St. Could the Captain returned then and Mrs. Dallis was fed up?

Comment: Kay, if you believe what I have written, shouldn't this home be put on the National Historic Registry?

William John Sheehy
"Alis Wild Bill Donovan"



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KAY CONRAD

TURN of the CENTURY

San Jose Mercury News
750 Ridder Park Dr.
San Jose, CA 95190
Aug. 8, 1999

State Senator Herbert C. Jones

The Senator, was a champion of California's Central Valley Water Project and served the Santa Clara County Water Conservation District as attorney for more than 30 years.

He was active in matters of education, conservation, respect for law, and honesty in business.

In an article in the media in 1963, stated he holds to day the record of having served longer in the California State Senate -22 years- than any man in the state's 113-year history.

Mr. Jones was born in Oskaloose, Iowa, and attended Hester Grammer School in San Jose before coming to San Jose High. He graduated in 1898. This was the same year, Charles Harold, the radio pioneer, also graduated. Harold when going to San Jose High School lived at 415 North 5th. St and the house is still standing there. At the time, the school was located where Horace Mann School is located today.

Jones studied law at Stanford and Stanford Law School and started his practice in San Jose in 1905 as a partner of Mr. Samuel Tompkins. (Their office was in the Porter Bld. at 50 E. Santa Clara St)

He was elected to the State Senate in 1912, at the age of 29, when Hiram Johnson was governor. His term continued under the governorship of William D. Stephens, Fred W. Richardson, fellow San Jose High School graduate, C.C. Young, James "Sunny Jim" Rolph Jr., and Frank F. Merriam.

Rolph was the Mayor of San Francisco for 20 years before becoming The Governor of California in 193~~2~~¹⁹³⁰. On November 26th he was entertaining friends in Alviso when a lynching took place in San Jose and he could have stopped it. He died on June 2, 1934.

Those who had strung up Jack Holmes and Harold Thurmond, Louis A Rossi and Leo Simoni, now had double reason for gratitude to the authorities who had decided not to prosecute them. Until Rolph's death, they had his promise of pardon them if convicted. So you see the people of California had three Governors from San Jose, C.C. Young, "Sunny" Jim Rolph, Frank F. Merriam.

After World War Two, Senator Jones, a strong advocate of water conservation, introduced legislation for a bond issue to build two new dams, The Lexington, The Anderson. On the first two times on the ballot, the electorate turned down the proposition but the third time it was successful because there was a drought in The Santa Clara Valley the previous year.

The general contractor who built these dams was Earl W. Heple. His business address was Delmas & W. William Sts. in San Jose. One of his mechanics was Robert Reid who with his brother Cecil, owned The Garden City Airport on Bonita St., on the east side of San Jose. (1934-1939) Heple descendants own the land on Commercial St, in San Jose, and a business located on this property is called Klaur's Wrecking Yard. On the same location, a building once stood, the Reid Hanger was used as a storage for parts.

After The Lexington Dam was completed a problem arose when a great amount off debris in a culvert would not release the water. The foreman of the job was about to send a man down in to the culvert to release the debris when Heple stepped forward and said he would do this dangerous job. He released the material all right but in doing so he drowned. He was that kind of a MAN

I was aware of him in the late 30,s when I worked for The Western Union Telegraph Company as a messenger. Each Monday morning I would go to his office and pick up a large envelope to deliver to The Bank of America

Little did I know that the contents of the envelope was cash to cover his payroll checks the previous Friday. Bob Reid, who was a neighbor of mine, told me later that Earl would write the payroll checks Friday, without money in the bank, and all weekend he would try to collect money for jobs his company performed. Bob told me Earl never missed a payroll.

When I told this story to my co-workers at The Western Union they were amazed I hadn't been held up or had been injured. I guess it's the luck of the Irish.

And speaking of luck I sang at the Hawaii Gardens just before I joined The Marines and it was a happy birthday song. They took my picture and in the paper it said I was the last of the singing messengers. And did I make those Japs sing Uncle.

William J. Sheehy

Local Historian

"Alias Wild Bill Donovan"

Remember The fighting 69th. Brigade
of New York. My great-great
grandmother, Margaret Donovan
Sheehy would be proud.