

# Sergeant's Wife:

## Understanding And Kind Man

By Baron Muller

Sgt. John Victor Young — everyone called him Jack — was a gentle, friendly man who treated cranks and superior officers alike with the same kindness and understanding.

But most of all, he loved kids although he had none of his own.

"He was very active in the Hanna Boys Center at Sonoma," his wife of 24 years, Geraldine, recalled today.

"We went there at least once a month. Jack tried to help the kids, to talk to them. Occasionally, he would bring them home for dinner on a weekend, and then drive them back.

"He was in charge of a group named for Our Lady of Fatima. Every year, on the first Saturday of May, he and the other members would bring 40 boys down to The City, and give them a day here — always including Playland."

His activities with youngsters included many kindnesses on a less formal level, too, but he had time for other things as well. He was active in the Holy Name parish, and a member of the board of directors of El Retiro, the Catholic retreat at Los Gatos.

It was Jack Young's understanding and patience that led former Chief Thomas J. Cahill to place him in charge of screening charitable solicitations, and also of investigating rehabilitation and pardon cases for the chief's office.

### Driver

Young served from 1958 to 1970 as one of Cahill's principal aides, and also frequently chauffeured the former chief.

"When Chief Cahill left and

8-30-71

ST  
EXAM

the district's supervising sergeant, in charge of investigating major complaints.

"He was a San Francisco boy," Mrs. Young said. "He attended Sunnyside grammar school, Aptos Junior High, and Balboa High.

"When the war came, he entered naval intelligence and served four years, spending considerable time in Panama."

After his discharge, he took a job as buyer for the American - Arabian Oil Co., but when that firm moved its headquarters overseas in 1949 he refused to leave San Francisco and resigned.

It was then that he decided to enter the police department, where his concern for others was almost legendary.

No one — least of all his wife — can remember that he ever displayed anger or uttered a profanity. He was always freshly scrubbed and neatly turned out.

### Easter Cross

His concern showed itself in many ways, big and small. Last Easter, 24 hours before the sunrise services on Mt. Davidson, it was discovered that vandals had scrawled obscenities on the towering cross there.

Young mobilized forces from the parks and public works departments, and by the time the sun rose on Easter morning the crowd that assembled for the rites saw a freshly painted cross.

Mrs. Young heard of his death last night indirectly — at first. A sister-in-law who was out of town called to say she had heard on the radio that a sergeant had been shot at Ingleside.

"I asked her please to hang up," Mrs. Young explained, "so that I could check to see whether Jack was all right.

"I called Ingleside, and I got a clerk there. I felt so sorry for the clerk. He didn't know how to tell me that it was Jack.

"The clerk said Jack was out on an assignment, and then I knew."

Confirmation came within minutes when her front doorbell rang. It was Lt. Gerald D'Arcy, president of the Police Officers Association, with a priest from Holy Name.

Chief (Alfred) Nelder came in," Mrs. Young remembered, "Chief Nelder said Jack was one of the greatest public relations officers in the department — just what was needed on the street."

It was then that Young was transferred to Ingleside Station, where he took his examinations for sergeant.

"He was," said Mrs. Young, "so proud of his standing — number 20 in a group of 115."

Last St. Patrick's Day, he was promoted and became