

# Jim Boyle's Story

Jim Boyle attended Riordan High School and then the University of San Francisco on a soccer scholarship. His USF team won three national championships in soccer (1974, 75, 76). The championship teams were inducted into USF hall of fame in February 2009.

Jim's maternal grandmother, Nora Brady, immigrated to San Francisco from Ireland. She went to work for the City of San Francisco and eventually bought up a good portion of Bernal Heights area. "A shrewd businesswoman."

Jim's mother, Anne Brady, was born in San Francisco, and attended St. Paul's High School.

Jim's father, Daniel Boyle, immigrated to the United States from Donegal, Ireland in the late 1940s. He and his family lived first in Chicago. Dan moved out to San Francisco around 1950, at about age twenty-five. He received his contractor's license (one of the first) in the City in 1951. Members of his family later followed Dan to San Francisco from Chicago.

Dan Boyle met Anne Brady at The Knights of the Red Branch (KRB) Dance Hall in the Mission District, probably at a Saturday night dance. They were married in 1953. They had six children.

[The KRB – referred to as "the Irish Dance Hall" – was located at 1133 Mission St., and was built in the mid-nineteenth century.]

Dan Boyle was a general contractor, who worked on a variety of projects, including houses on Bernal Heights, remodels, custom work, and some apartment buildings.

Dan was an active member of the San Franciscan Irish-American Community. He and several other general contractors donated their services to build the United Irish Cultural Center at 45<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Sloat, which opened March 1975. From the UICC website: "It was the first Irish social center in the United States built entirely by volunteer labor and community contributions. The dream of the Bay Area Irish Community was to have a facility in which all of the clubs and organizations representing all of the Counties of Ireland could meet and enjoy their cultural heritage."

*"My father didn't build any of those important buildings downtown. But he and a group of Irish general contractors got together, donated their time and skills, and built that beautiful building up there at 45<sup>th</sup> and Sloat – the Irish Cultural Center."*

Dan was very active throughout his life in sports and raised his children playing soccer, basketball, and other games. He was a founder of the Gaelic Athletic League, another organization that brought together clubs representing the counties of Ireland.

Dan was the coach of Jim's youth soccer team and kept the group together from ages twelve to twenty-five. He was like a father or older brother to all members of the team. He even funded a trip to Ireland for the team. Jim recalls the long weekend days when his father and mother would drive their own kids and countless others between home, game or practice, and then home again, crisscrossing the city.

Dan brought his love for soccer to California and was a founder of the California Soccer Association. Jim later started the first women's soccer team in San Francisco, which became the foundation for the San Francisco Women's Soccer League.

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Dan served as president of the United Irish Cultural Center as well as the United Irish Societies of San Francisco, the organization under which all the Irish county clubs present the annual St. Patrick's Day parade. Dan and Jim each served in the role of Parade Chairman, in subsequent years. They were the first father and son to serve together on the boards of directors of both the United Irish Societies and the California Soccer Association.

Jim's mother, Anne Boyle worked for twenty-five years as a clerk at Mission High School. Jim appreciates the job she took so that she and Dan could afford to send all six children through Catholic grammar, middle, and high school, and Catholic university.