

Jerry McCabe

Francis J. (Jerry) McCabe, longtime civic, fraternal and religious leader in the Pajaro Valley, died Wednesday afternoon in Watsonville Community Hospital after a brief illness.

He was 86.

A Southern Pacific engineer, he retired in 1962 after more than 43 years of service.

He was born in Santa Cruz Sept. 13, 1897, and was reared in Ben Lomond, graduating from Boulder Creek Union High School. Mr. McCabe worked for the San Vicente Lumber and Railroad Co. beginning in 1917, and moved with his mother and sisters to Watsonville in 1919, joining Southern Pacific as a fireman and being promoted to engineer in 1936.

He was known statewide as an officer of the Knights of Columbus, progressing from the office of Grand Knight of the local council to chairman of the state youth department, treasurer and state deputy, highest office in the lodge in California.

A member of St. Patrick's parish for more than 60 years, Mr. McCabe was a founder of the Holy Name Society, a leader of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, chairman of the annual Good Friday observance, captain of many retreats at San Juan and chairman of many other church events. He headed the Boys' Work committee which built the first Salesian boys' camp on the Leonard ranch near Aptos.

In civic affairs, Mr. McCabe was a member of the city personnel commission for eight years and a director of the county fair, of the Pajaro Valley Welfare Assn. and the Community Chest. As chairman of committees promoting airport, sewage and other bond issues, he saw all successfully passed. During World War II he served on the Defense Council and as the city's representative to Gov. Earl Warren's Youth Conference.

He was a founder and president of the railroad-related S.P. Club 100 and the Golden Rule Club, and an honorary life member of both.

Active politically, Mr. McCabe served for many years as secretary-treasurer of the county Democratic Central Committee. He was also a life member of the Pajaro Valley Trap and Skeet Club.

He and his wife, the former Ann M. McFadden of Salinas, celebrated 56 years of marriage in 1982.



In addition to his wife, Mr. McCabe leaves a daughter, Marilyn McCabe, of Oakland; two sons, Jerome W. and David E. McCabe, both of Watsonville; two sisters, Estelle Kulich, of Watsonville, and Beatrice Ferrer, of Fremont; daughters-in-law Mildred and Judith McCabe; six grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

A rosary will be recited Friday at 8 p.m. at St. Patrick's Church and the funeral will take place there Saturday at 10 a.m. Burial will follow in the family vault in Watsonville Catholic Cemetery.

Mehl's Colonial Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

The family prefers memorial remembrances be sent to the Pajaro Valley Shelter for Women and Children, 37 Sudden St., or to Moreland Notre Dame School.

REFERENCE

