



John McDowell Trimble 1927 ~ 2009 John McDowell Trimble, a writer and photographer, passed away peacefully in his home on November 23, 2009 at the age of 82. John's curiosity for the world, and his enthusiasm for nature, art, and music was contagious. As one of his friends said, "John saved many of us from a boring life." As a child, John's surgeon father (U.S.Public Health Service) and artist mother were stationed in numerous USPHS marine locations where John found his lifelong love of fishing and boats. He lived on Angel Island from age five to eight. After attending University of Miami at age 16, staffing a lighthouse for the US Coast Guard on Kauai'i

at the end of World War II, he earned his bachelor's degree in journalism from the University of Missouri in 1949. Then he was drawn back to the beautiful bays and hills of the Bay Area. He met Shirley Rogers at the San Francisco Junior Advertising Club. The couple married in 1952, and raised nine children in Marin. John began a long career in advertising at the San Francisco agency Conley, Baltzer, Pettler & Stewart in 1952. He then worked as a copywriter and photographer at Young & Rubicam Inc., 1957-1970. Subsequently, he worked at Allen and Dorward; at his own audiovisual company, Slide Syncers; and for Dryden Engineering, American Friends Service Committee, and American Youth Hostels. In his retirement, he devoted himself to the community of St Isabella's Church in San Rafael, working as a handyman. John is remembered as an amateur artist and musician and an active volunteer who, for fifty years championed community causes. As a photographer, he documented and promoted the construction of Marin's Frank Lloyd Wright Civic Center. His photographs can be seen as part of a historical exhibit in the Center's lobby and second floor gallery. He volunteered for the Sierra Club, Marin County Open Space, as a catechism teacher, scout camping guide, and, in his later years, an Angel Island docent. He fostered the arts in his children, sang with the Winifred Baker Chorale and the St. Isabella choir for decades, and left behind a houseful of his ceramic "California funk" sculptures. In 2002, he revived his interest in the banjo. He began promoting traditional Irish music seisiúns throughout Marin and Sonoma Counties, resulting in a bonafide exuberant local revival of jigs, planxtys, and reels. John is survived by his loving family: wife Shirley, his brother Bill, his sister Mary Acedo; his children: Anne Trimble (Curt Cooper), Patti Trimble (Douglas Kenning), Carol Widger (Don), Sarah Hovey (Pete), Theresa Trimble, Margaret Trimble, Virginia Nebenzahl (Scott), Aimee Heath (Rob), and Michael Trimble (Yohana); grandchildren Sarah Ricketts, David Franusich, Evan Widger, Lindsay Wise, Leila Wise, Asa Horvitz, Zack, Jordan, and Eva Nebenzahl, and Brendan Heath; great-grandchildren Nathaniel and Carmel Ricketts; numerous nieces and nephews; and an extended community of musicians and friends. Funeral services will be held at St. Isabella's Church in San Rafael on Saturday, December 5, at 11 am, followed by a memorial reception. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to Hospice by the Bay; to the John Trimble Scholarship fund, c/o Marin Irish-American Club, P.O Box 6025, San Rafael, CA 94903; or Audubon Canyon Ranch, 4900 State Rt. #1 Stinson Beach, CA 94970.

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