

John Cook Chapman
named after VA lawyer
John Cook, Hardy killer





This is Catherine walking thru the desert looking for snakes.

Jim and Catherine Reidy

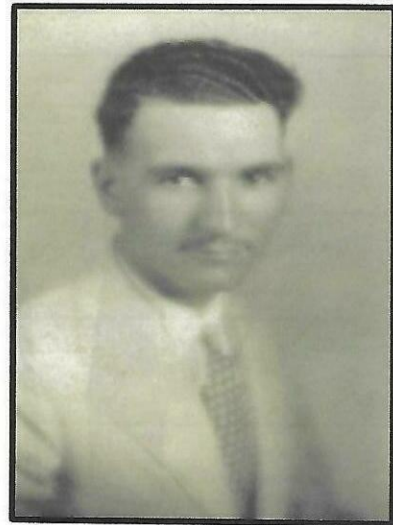
1929



Catherine C. Chapman

Gina knew I grew up in Tucson and asked me to write something about my parents / family.

My dad, James B. Reidy, was the son of Irish immigrants. My grand-father, Daniel J. Reidy, came from County Limerick to New York City. My grandmother, Mary J. McEneaney came from Modeese, Co, Monahan.



James B. Reidy, Sr.

They met in NYC and were married. My father was the oldest of four children. My grandmother was diagnosed with consumption (Tuberculosis). Grandfather worked for Alfred Vanderbilt (Dan was a jockey as well as many other things). Mr. Vanderbilt made arrangements for the family to move to Solomonsville, AZ. He owned a hotel on the railroad and wanted the couple to run the hotel. While Daniel was on a shopping trip (for the hotel) to Tucson, he was walking by the fire department. They were treating a lame horse. (All the firefighting equipment was pulled by horses in the late 1800's – early 1900's). He told them how to treat it. They offered him a job. In the meantime, my Dad's first job was sweeping out the bank daily. It was the original office of the bank later known as the Valley Nat'l Bank of Arizona. Please understand that these stories are family folklore. I never had the opportunity of meeting these grandparents.



Grandmother died in 1919 and Grandfather died in 1929.



Daniel and Mary moved the family to Tucson for Daniel's new job. This was in 1912. My Dad (Jim) was 9 years old at the time.

Mary Josephine was in a TB Sanitarium when she died in 1919. The patients lived in canvas covered tents for fresh air and there was no such thing as air conditioning. Grandfather worked for the fire department for about a year. On an adventure that he had, he went hunting in Madera Canyon and shot and killed a bear. He tried to pack it on his horse, but the horse wouldn't have anything to do with it. He had to go back to the fire

station and get a wagon. That worked very well. He didn't last too long at the fires station because he drank too much.

After Mary died he moved to Sacramento, CA and worked for the county hospital. My folks lost track of him there . . . until they received a telegram in 1929 that he had died.



My mom, Catherine C. Chapman grew up in southern Illinois. Her hometown was Carmi, in White Co., IL. While she was going to the University of Illinois, she developed serious sinus problems. She had surgery on her sinuses, but that didn't help. The doctor suggested she move to a warm, dry climate – Arizona. She took the train to Tucson. She roomed with Ina Gittings at her home on Olive Dr. very near the U of Arizona. Does that

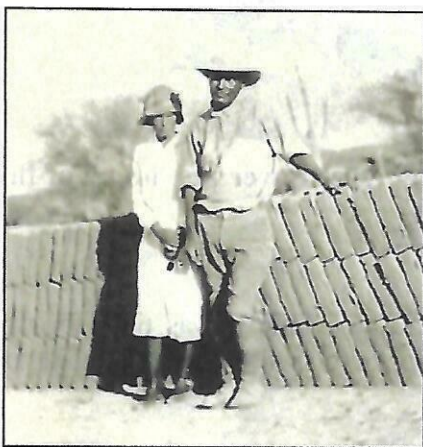
name sound familiar?

She met my dad at Church at a “young people’s group”. They went to All Saints Catholic Church (this beautiful building isn’t used as a church anymore – is used as some kind of art place) just south of the original library downtown. They dated for some time and married in 1927.



I guess Mom talked for quite a while about homesteading and from what I’ve read, women couldn’t file the paperwork on their own, so Dad filed the paperwork and within two years, they were living in their little adobe house.

This is the Yaqui Indian who made the adobe ‘bricks’ and built the house for my folks.



I was never told how long it took to build it, but the folks and two oldest boys lived there for at least five years.

They had no utilities. To run a light or heater, they had what they referred to as a “light plant”. They had a fireplace for heat. The neighbor just up hill and north of them had a well and ran a water line downhill, fed by gravity.

Dad was an accountant. All the time they lived on the homestead, Dad had a job in Tucson, so he drove to town every day. Because the roads / trails were dirt and very rough, they went through four cars while they lived **there**. I

remember hearing Dad talk about poking holes in the floorboard of the back seat. Dad would buy ice in town, put it on the floor of the back seat. Some of it would melt on the way home and drip out of the car. They had an 'icebox' in their kitchen – no electricity.

They had my oldest brother Jim Jr. before they moved to the homestead. Dan was born while living there.



This is one of four cars that Dad drove to work every day. He wore them out.

That's Dan sitting and Jim standing

This is a photo of my brothers climbing rocks. Jim is the top one – with dark hair. Dan is the blond.

This gives a good view of the side of the very small house.

Both of these brothers are gone now. Jim died in June of this year. (2021). Dan died in 2018.



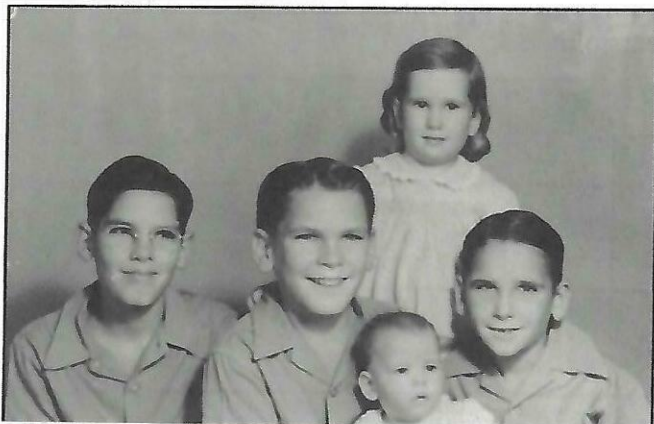
This is a very good view of the house – front door and windows. You can see the water tower just north of the house.

The family moved in to Tucson when it was time for my brothers Jim and Dan to go to school. The folks paid for

the school bus to Cortaro but the driver bought booze with the money instead.

Did Mom make much money at hunting / skinning rattlesnakes? I don't know. I think if she'd been able to continue the business she would have, but she got very ill with arthritis. I know she had a horrible time with the arthritic pain.

Mom kept the business going when they moved. They moved to a bungalow on "Luna Street" which later became West Grant Rd. They moved from there to a three bedroom home on East Pima Street. It was built immediately south from where Catalina High school was eventually built.



Tootsie is standing; Middle row: Jim, Jr., Dan and Pat; Roxy in Dan's lap. 1942 or '43.

Our third brother Patrick J. Reidy was born while living there as well as Cathy (Tootsie) and me (Roxana / Roxy).

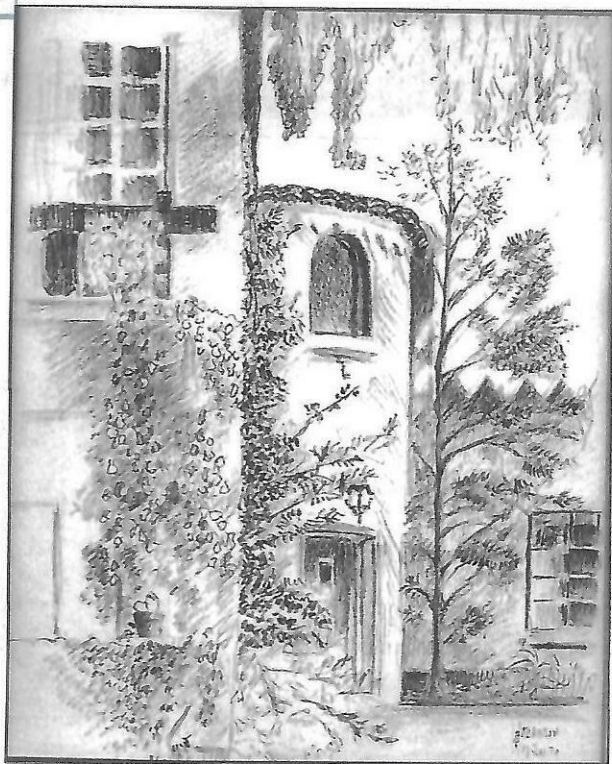
My brothers Jim and Dan have talked about the family debate on whether or not the family should have a fifth child. Pat was five years younger than Dan, so the boys didn't play with him. I guess that the same thing happened when Cathy (we call her Toots) was born, so my folks didn't want three 'only' children. But the big boys

stepped up and promised to help with us. They have done a great job. Most of the time, when we needed something, Jim or Dan would take us.

The family moved again in 1945. This time, they bought a BIG house.

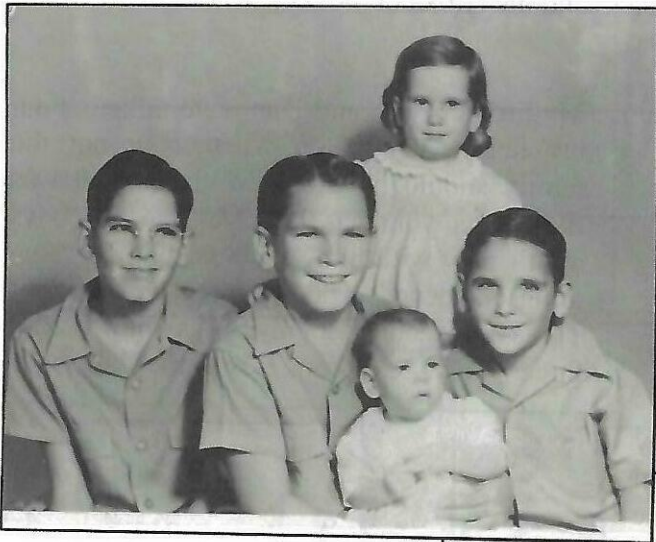
We moved into a very large house when I was three years old. There were five of us kids and our two parents.

There was a storage area at the back of the lot. When we moved in during 1945, a large table top area was covered in dead snakes. I think it was Mom's intent to continue working on the snakes, but nobody ever touched those bones. It stunk in that storage building, but with rotting bones in there, that's not surprising.



One way she did make money was to send parts of the snakes to zoological houses. They wanted everything – the bones, the organs, and the fat from the snakes. The engineers on the railroad bought snake oil from Mom. I know it sounds like a myth, but back in those days, there was no front window in the engine of the train, so the engineers had to look out a side window to see the track ahead of them. They got very strained necks. The snake oil took the strain out of their necks!

Most of us got married from this house. Dad died while living here. Mom wanted to sell the place, but Dad spent most of his last year in the hospital (prostate cancer). But he wanted to look forward to coming home to his house. They lived there 30 + years. Mom sold the house a year after Dad died. (1979). She bought a much smaller place near the University Hospital. After living there for five years, she moved into a retirement apartment building. She loved the socialization of this place. She lived to be 97 years old.



1949





1956



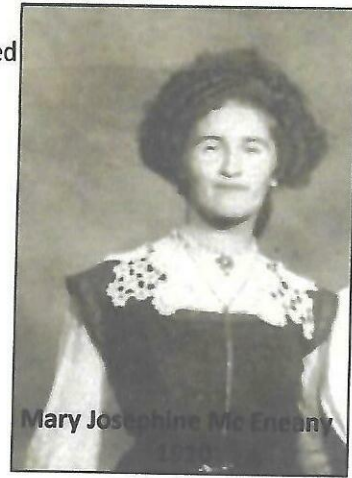
1966

This was the last family photo that both Dad and Mom were in.

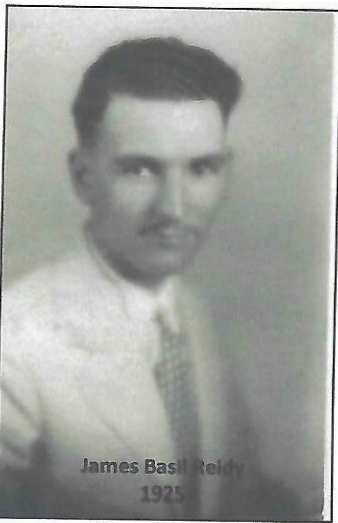


Daniel Reidy next to one of the first
motorized fire engines in Tucson 1914

Dan and Mary met and married
In New York City. She was
Diagnosed with TB so they
Moved to Arizona where she
Died in 1918.



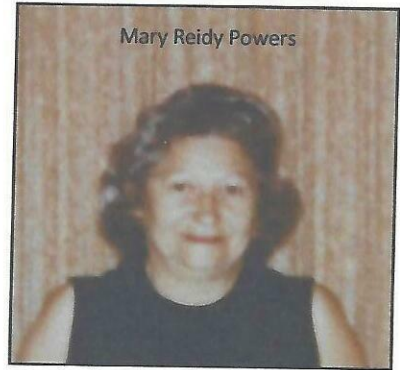
Mary Josephine Mc Eneaney
1890



James Basil Reidy
1925



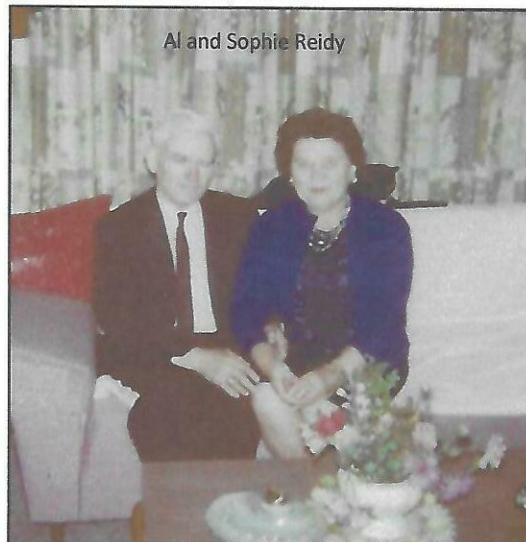
Jim & Catherine Reidy on their
wedding day Sept 27, 1927 Tucson



Mary Reidy Powers



Jim & Catherine Reidy
Christmas 1962



Al and Sophie Reidy