

ROARSHOCK PAGE

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Movement in action this May, and the continuing upheaval of imagination in 2016. A pause for the moment to note the 101st Birthday of the late Julius Stürmer. He was a painter and graphic artist, also, the grandfather of D. A. Wilson, Publisher and Editor of ROARSHOCK PAGE.

CALIFORNIA STREET SKETCHES THE OLD TOWN & THE NEW CITY

The eastern end of California Street from Market Street to Van Ness Avenue is one of the oldest and archetypal streets in San Francisco. 19th century photographs looking down California from Nob Hill preserve the view of old San Francisco, evolved from the frenzy of the Gold Rush into "The Paris of the West." There are other haunting photographs of the Great Fire in the rubble after the earthquake of April 18, 1906. The dark forms and silhouettes of people standing on Nob Hill watching as the old city burned. In pictures from the following days are seen the stunted burned out ruins. The fires burned four days and nights and much of the city from the Embarcadero to Van Ness was destroyed. The famous view from Nob Hill looking down California Street was documented photographically all through the 20th century and on into the 21st century. Showing the new rebuilt City and how it continued to change and grow over time. The fashions worn by pedestrians in these pictures captured their moment, as did the styles of automobiles and outdoor advertisements, but the one consistent sight was the California Street Cable Car line running up and down and over the hill between Market Street and Van Ness Avenue. For decades when his window was open A.. A... could hear the sound of the cable rolling in its loop under California Street. He could hear the cable cars going by and the ringing bells, functional (*one bell means "stop!", two bells means "go!"*), and when the gripmen played jazz with their cable car bells. A.. A..., if he were feeling uncertain, or downhearted, always felt better and connected by climbing up onto a California Street Cable Car, and reflecting as he rode through the Financial District and up the hill that it was certainly one of the world's great job commutes.

The Southern Pacific Building at 1 Market Street (across from the cable car terminus and the east end of California Street) was a big landmark and time marker in the

photographic record of the rebuilt City. There were some low-rise post-earthquake buildings that had survived through to the 21st century. The seedy block on the west side of Drumm between California and Sacramento being an example and made more jarring by the luxury hotel across the street, and the skyscrapers and roof gardens of the Embarcadero Center marching up the north side of Sacramento Street. Some other buildings remained that had been new in 1907 and the early years of rebuilding, interspersed with the much taller buildings and skyscrapers added over the decades. Schroeder's Restaurant on Front Street (originally in business since 1893) was a traditional German beer hall, aged smoke on the walls adding to its patina of authenticity, and not necessarily improved when the hall was cleaned and brightened by new owners in the early 21st century. Tadich Grill at 240 California was the oldest operating restaurant in California, having come in with the Gold Rush in 1849. Regardless of the year, or century, Tadich Grill always looked the same and exuded an essence of classic San Francisco.

More modern skyscrapers included 101 California Street: a faceted cylindrical tower, 48 stories tall and encased in glass; it was completed in 1982. A.. A... remembered well the horrific event that occurred there on the afternoon of July 1, 1993. It was sunny and warm and he was enjoying the ride on the cable car down the hill. His daughter BR was attending summer camp at Embarcadero YMCA. He was on his way to pick her up. The cable car stopped abruptly at Battery Street and the crew said they were not going further, but they didn't say why. A.. A... got off and walked the rest of the way. There was not any commotion of which he was aware. On the contrary, it was an exceptionally quiet Thursday afternoon in the Financial District. He was walking along the Embarcadero when he heard sirens wailing. After picking up BR, they walked back along the Embarcadero, through Justin Herman Plaza, and caught the 1 California trolleybus on Sacramento for the ride back up the hill. They didn't see the zoo of a crime scene that had unfolded around 101 California, where a crazy man had opened fire with multiple guns in law firm offices on several upper floors. What triggered the rampage was never determined. The gunman had only one previous contact with the firm, twelve years previously. In a typed letter left behind, he claimed to have been poisoned by monosodium glutamate, among other complaints. The spree ended with the gunman's suicide as

the San Francisco Police moved in. Of his victims, eight were killed and six others were injured. It was an early and shocking example of a modern gun massacre, and led to new Federal legislation, *The Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994*. The new law didn't entirely work. Sadly, many more mass shootings occurred around the United States in the years and decades that followed; the carnage becoming nearly routine, and the shock to the public sensibilities apparently dulled, as the incidences multiplied. In later years, A.. A... laughed privately at the irony that the plaza in front of 101 California was one of the "Stations of Stupid" in the annual April 1 parade (as described in a previous California Street Sketch), reputedly "The Tomb of Stupid." What happened high above in July 1993 was an extreme act of stupidity cloaked in evil madness.

A space can be reclaimed, regardless of what heavy energy might previously have engulfed it. On May 18, 2016, A.. A... again was on the cable car, riding the running board, and the car was full with an Italian tour group, and a beautiful, slim, dark haired woman leading the tour, pointing and shouting out landmarks to her group in Italian. The car stopped before Battery, among multitudes of San Francisco Police. The police line made A.. A... cross to the north side of California at Front Street. He walked to the middle of the block and looked across at 101 California Plaza, and saw Bernie Sanders, Candidate for United States President, standing on one of the plaza's Ziggurat structures, delivering a stump speech to a Union demonstration. He soon concluded, and A.. A... watched the Senator make his way back to California Street where, with great deliberation, he walked across the street, directly up to A.. A... and shook his hand, and then greeted some other folks at the sidewalk. On his way back down the line he offered his hand again, which A.. A... shook a second time. "Keep going, man!" A.. A... said in encouragement. "We will." the Candidate replied, and continued down the block. Jane Sanders passed by, and A.. A... was happy to greet and thank her. At the end of the block, surrounded by Secret Service agents, the Candidate turned and looked back at A.. A... who made eye contact and nodded in affirmation of support. With that Bernie Sanders climbed back into his SUV, with his wife and all those agents and cops in cars and on motorcycles, and they sped off to the next stop on the trail. It was as remarkable and unexpected as anything A.. A... had experienced on California Street. What was most amazing was the immediate and sympathetic connection he had felt at his chance meeting with a man who was a serious contender for President of the United States, and a catalyst for much needed progressive change in their country. Bernie Sanders had approached A.. A... not as a potential political ruler, but, respectfully, as a valued fellow citizen.

— D. A. Wilson

https://de.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julius_Stürmer

MAY ALMANAC

05/01	2016	MAY DAY
	2016	Madeleine LeBeau, French actress and last surviving member from the cast of <i>Casablanca</i> died ("Vive La France!").
05/03	2003	The Old Man of the Mountain rock formation in New Hampshire collapsed.
05/04	1953	Ernest Hemingway won the Pulitzer Prize for <i>The Old Man and the Sea</i> .
05/06	2016	NEW MOON
05/08	2016	Character actor William Schallert died.
05/10	1946	Donovan, singer, songwriter, guitarist, Psychedelic Prince and Cosmic King, was born in Maryhill, Glasgow, Scotland.
	2016	Mark Lane, attorney, JFK assassination researcher, died in Charlottesville, VA.
05/11	2016	Michael Ratner, attorney and human rights advocate, died in Manhattan, NYC.
05/15	1936	Wavy Gravy (Hugh Nanton Romney) was born in East Greenbush, New York.
05/17	1974	Six members of Symbionese Liberation Army killed by LA Police SWAT team in a house shoot-out and ensuing fire.
	2016	Guy Clark, songwriter, died in Nashville.
05/19	1986	<i>Firearm Owners Protection Act</i> signed into U.S. law by Pres. Ronald Reagan.
05/21	2016	FULL FLOWER MOON
05/22	1915	Julius Stürmer, painter and designer, was born in Caransebeș, Banat, Romania.
05/24	1976	Judgement of Paris wine competition.
05/27	1986	<i>Dragon Quest</i> game released in Japan.

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