

THE GHOST CHILDREN

Old-timers tell about a tragic accident at a railroad crossing on Shane Road in southeast San Antonio. It was in the 1940s, some say, or the '30s, or just "one cold afternoon in late fall." A school bus stalled on the tracks and was hit by a train, and all the children were killed.

Now, they say, you can bring a car to a complete stop about fifty yards from those tracks, shift into neutral, and your car will roll to the other side—uphill. Small handprints on dusty trunks and bumpers seem to be the marks of ghost children, pushing others to safety beyond the frightful crossing.

Neighbors say they can hear the children moaning some afternoons, and a few claim to have seen them.

A man once stopped to help a lost child in the area. He drove her to the address she gave and went to the door for her parents. An elderly gentleman answered. "Quit doing this to us!" he shouted. "Let Cindy Sue rest in peace!" When the man returned to his car, it was empty.

These days police sometimes help the children out—not by pushing cars over the tracks, but by sending the curious away from that neighborhood, the neighborhood with streets named "Nancy Carole," "Bobbie Allen," "Cindy Sue"...

Williams, Docia Schultz, and Reneta Byrne. *Spirits of San Antonio and South Texas*. Plano: Wordware Publishing, Inc., 1993, pp. 30-33.
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