



# Perennial Parrot



Volume 25 #3

Polytechnic High School ... 1894-1972 ... San Francisco, California

December 2012

## Polytechnic High School Remembered



### SAN FRANCISCO PREP HALL OF FAME

Welcome back Polytechnic alumni to the 2012 Academic Athletic Association Championship Football Game at Kezar Stadium.

Over the years Polytechnic High School played a vital role in the rich tradition of prep athletics in San Francisco.

One hundred years ago Polytechnic began playing Lowell annually in rugby. By 1921 the Lowell-Poly game, part of the San Francisco Athletic League, began playing football. In 1925, Kezar Stadium opened and the Lowell-Poly annual game was played in the shadow of Polytechnic High School for the first time. The 1926 tilt started a tradition in the newly formed Academic Athletic Association with Lowell and Polytechnic playing on Thanksgiving Day. A year later, over 30,000 spectators watched the Turkey Day Lowell-Poly clash. In 1928, a crowd of over 50,000 attend-

ed the Kezar Thanksgiving Day football game between Lowell and Polytechnic.

Over the years countless players from Polytechnic and the other Academic Athletic Association schools have met on the Kezar turf to play for the AAA Football City Championship. This remains one of the finest traditions in all of prep sports.

Since 1983 the San Francisco Prep Hall of Fame has inducted and honored numerous San Francisco prep athletes who have played in the AAA City Championship Football Game, many of who were from Polytechnic.

To those Polytechnic athletes, as well as athletes from other schools, who have played in the Thanksgiving Day "Turkey Bowl" Game, and to all in attendance, I extend my sincerest best wishes to you and your family as we begin to celebrate the holiday season.

Sincerely,

Marc Christensen  
President  
San Francisco Prep Hall of Fame



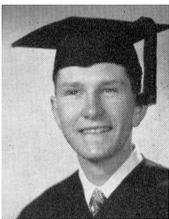
Polytechnic High School Alumni  
Kezar Stadium, Bob St. Clair Field, "TURKEY DAY", November 22, 2012

*Polytechnic High School  
Remembered  
Continues ... Pages 6 thru 13*



# Letters to the Editor

late, great Cheerleader, Jim Cuevas; Lineman Hal Goldstein; and Lu Stekler, just one of many wonderful women in our class. As noted, some of those young kids have gone on to new home-rooms, but their class and their many perfections remain with all of us.



August 15, 2012

Dear Bob:

We enjoyed Vol. 25#2 of the Newsletter very much. It keeps getting better. The catalog of San Francisco Memories was outstanding, and the picture of Bob St. Clair along with your tribute was a perfect remembrance of the big guy.

Bob Lane S '48

Hoping you will continue your fine work I am

Sincerely

Bob Lane, Fall '48

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August 16, 2012

Hi, Bob:

Yes, a senior moment probably as good as any to describe my error. Spring '48 is correct, and there I still find my good, old friends, just as I remember them. One, John Pope, has just emailed, from his home in Boise; and another, Nick Nichols, won't go with me to London later this year. Those high school contacts--what would we do without them to stir the memory pot?

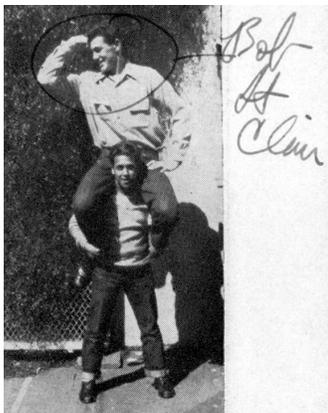
Yes, please do use my letter in your next issue. My belief in what you are doing is so strong that I hope things like it will awaken other members of my class to the fun of your work.

Good luck with the next issue, and with the next, and the next...

Yours in Red and Black,

*Bob Lane*

For the record, and in case anybody's wondering, the guy upon whose shoulders Bob is perched in the picture is Joe Padilla, a great guy with a heart that must have been as large as Bob's. Others in the top photo on the left are names many Poly grads of the era will recognize: Left to right in the first picture are: Sam Panovich, guard, Captain of the 1947 team and first string All City in both 1946 and '47; Elvin Colburn, a junior running back, 2nd string All-City, 1947; Al Rubio, often a starting end in 1947; the late Marjorie Ann Judnick, Mary Ann Zarick, and Leila Kellas. In the second, the one on the right at the top: Lineman Roy Bellesen; the late All-City Fullback Bill Bare; Leila Kellas; the



Photos from the Spring 1948 Yearbook

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OPTICIANS

FOUNTAIN PENS  
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814-816 MARKET ST.  
San Francisco, Cal.

17 and 19 ELLIS ST.

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SHERRY FREITAS COMPANY - PURE SWEET CREAM

**The Perennial Parrot Newsletter**

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HAIL POLY Web Site  
[www.maxie24.com/hailpoly/HailPoly/index.html](http://www.maxie24.com/hailpoly/HailPoly/index.html)



# The Wandering Polyite

AKA Jerry Burns, '56

*Editors Note: Started to do this as a "Letters to the Editor" but after several emails and photos it worked better by making it into an interview, of sorts. Our correspondence started back in April of this year and went through November..*

**Jerry:** Bob, just wondering if Gary Marte is still married to Roselle Prunty, she was a close friend and had planned on getting married (to Gary). I went off to Viet Nam, Marines, before that happened. I knew Gary, but he was in ROTC. Better friends with Roselle as we lived in the same neighborhood and she was best friends with my girlfriend at the time.

**Bob:** Hi Jerry, sorry to be the bearer of sad news ... you have been out of touch a long time. Gary passed away on May 5th, 2007. Roselle's email is .....

**Jerry:** Don't have a lot of contacts in the Bay Area anymore, have been in Alaska for almost 40 years. You are right, that is sad news, none of us are getting any younger.

**Bob:** Have made two RV trips to Alaska, 2003 and 2010. Left a sign for the newsletter web site in the Sign Post Forest at Watson Lake in 2010 ... guess it's still there. At 75 I doubt there will be another trip up there ... either old age or gas prices will stop us. Would Margaret "Maggie" Burns have been your sister? We were in the same class (S'55) at Poly.

**Jerry:** No, my sister and brother both went to Mission and I decided not to follow in their footsteps. I travel outside to America each winter now, too damned cold up there. I actually live on my boat in Valdez (Alaska), a 40 foot trawler. Moved there after my wife died in '96. Had planned to take boat South, but her death ended that, no fun boating alone. I will look for the sign at Watson Lake as that is one of my stopping points. I'll put one of my Poly decals on it. If you're ever in Valdez again, look me up. My boat is on C Dock, slip #29, The *Snowbird*. Has a stained glass Puffin on ski's in the sliding back door.

**Bob:** My wife (Carolyn Bier, S'57) was slated to go to Mission when they redrew the school district lines but as her brother (Ronnie Bier S'55) was already going to Poly they allowed her to go there also ... some things just work out for the best. When you go to the Sign Post Forest, the Perennial Parrot sign is on the first row to the right of the entrance portal facing inwards. If I remember correctly, you will probably need a small step ladder to reach it ... naturally it's RED & BLACK. Nearby is another sign for us and I think it's also red & black (or is it green & black?). Don't know when you head North but think about an early start and include Reno as a way point for June 1-2-3 and join the group for Gathering 2012.

**Jerry:** I used to go to Mexico at least twice a year after my wife died as it was a nice relief from the cold, but stopped a few years back because of the violence. I remember back when I started HS, if you could get there you could go there and both Poly and Lowell allowed freshmen. You can bet I wasn't going to Lowell, didn't have a slide rule. I have one extra Parrot decal so will make it a point to stop and update the sign. Have never done the RV thing, but I guess my boat would qualify, if you don't like the company anchored in your area just pull up anchor and move. I will keep the dates (Reno) in mind for the get together as I have no pre-planned route or time schedule. Would be fun to catch up with those of us still looking down at the grass. Long live the Parrot.

*Editors Note: A quiet spell then the exchange picks back up in late September.*

**Jerry:** Just thought I'd send pic's of summer. First one is condo in the woods, 2nd is my Moose and 3rd is my summer home on the water. Had a great time, but it's time to head South to America and warmer weather. Going to stop in Watson Lake and look for the Parrot.

**Bob:** Thanks for the photos. Bet it's getting harder to keep that tent warm by now. Safe trip back South.

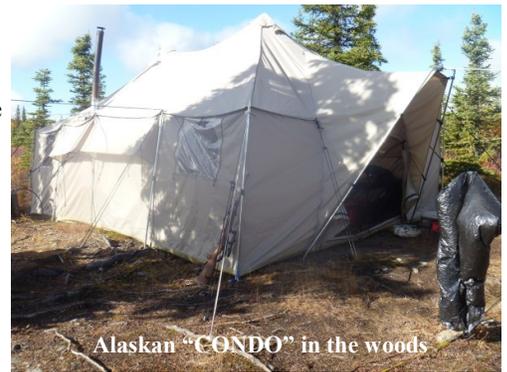
**Jerry:** Oh yeah. We got snowed on the first day, then sleet, hail, wind and beautiful sunny days (low 40s), but barrel stove kept it fairly nice inside. Got frost on everything in early morning. Typical fall hunting season in Alaska and of course we had a grizzly visit us one night, but he bumped into the electric bear fence and he decided not to come back. Had a pack of wolves howl all night before we broke camp. If I find the sign I will send pic's. Time to head South as the "termination dust" is getting further down the hills now.

*Then in November ...* **Bob:** Just wondering if you were able to stop by the Sign Post Forest in Watson Lake and locate the Poly sign?

**Jerry:** Sorry, the sign was MIA so I am making one in the shop to take North with me in May. I'm in Georgia now fishing and playing golf. Didn't beat the snow out of Alaska as it was coming down in very large flakes the morning I left. Looking forward to the next newsletter ...

*Jerry*

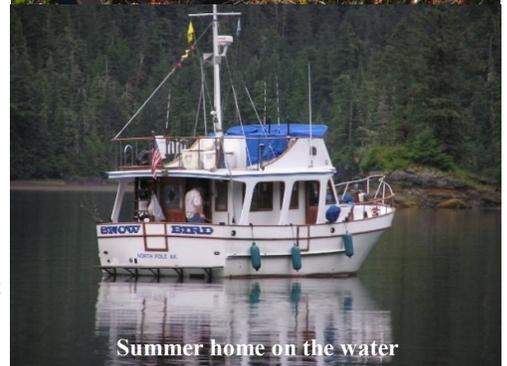
*Editor: For Jerry's email address just drop us an email at [PerennialParrot@gmail.com](mailto:PerennialParrot@gmail.com)*



Alaskan "CONDO" in the woods



Shopping at the local Alaskan meat market



Summer home on the water



# HIGH SCHOOL Then & Now

## PART 4

By Monty Montiel

Hi Gang,

I've been fortunate this year to be assigned a long-term substitute position, starting in late September and ending Dec. 20th, in a Business 103 class where the students are on computers all period. For many of the lessons they wear headphones and listen to instructions from the system while I manage the class and answer any questions about working with Word and Excel. It's not a tough gig but there are moments when I wonder about today's generation

Although not related to academics, last week we had an earthquake drill. When the alarm rang the students were told to "duck and cover" under their work tables. Some of my students were so large and obese they couldn't get themselves down on the floor comfortably or fit under the table. This of course, included boys and girls.

When the "all clear" bell was rung my class marched out to the football field which had to be less than a quarter mile from my classroom. These obese kids complained about how far they had to walk. Pray that our country is never attacked where we need people to immediately enlist in the military because these are kids that if would never pass the physical.

Today's high schools have many "special events" at least many more than I remember having at Poly. There are pajama days where kids arrive to school wearing pajama bottoms and some carrying teddy bears or other stuffed animals. We recently had a sports wear day where students, staff and teachers wore their favorite team jerseys, warm up pants and team caps and Halloween was a hoot.

On Halloween, students came to school dressed as clowns, nurses (yes some of them were guys), monsters of every kind, super heroes, a cow, baseball players and I had a box-

er in my class. A number of teachers also got into the spirit dressing as clowns. It was like the circus was in town. We had among the teachers one who came as the Energizer Bunny in a pink rabbit outfit that looked like the old-time full body pajamas with mitts and foot covering we used on our kids when they were small. He even had a small drum hanging around his neck. The teacher across the hall came with a completely authentic Darth Vader costume. I came as a priest. Ok for those of you who knew me at Poly, you can stop laughing. I went up to the female staff and teachers offering to hear confessions but didn't have any takers but I did bless a few of them. I know, I know . . . more chuckles.

Next week there will be a talent show and there will be other events before Christmas break. The Associate Student Body and a group called the Link Crew put on these events and these many, many students get class credits for participating. Of course this takes away time from academic pursuits but perhaps you begin to see where some of high school has become a time to socialize and have fun. On game day, the football players wear their jerseys so they are easily identified and the cheerleaders wear their uniforms. There are some serious students but they seem to be so few in number.

In view of the taxes that are contently increasing for school, perhaps some of you might want to find out how your money is being spent. I remember there being seven periods and some of them like history seemed to drag on and on but today there are six periods in my school district. The teachers actually teach five periods and have a "prep" period as their sixth period, to prepare exams, correct papers or take care of other "duties" as agreed to in the union contract.

Our schools have three assistant principals, ONE FOR DISCIPLINE, another for educational services, and one for Instruction and Guidance. There is also a school psychologist, a Dean of discipline, one counselor each for the freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior classes, and a registrar. We also have five secretaries and one receptionist. We also have a full time city Police officer at most schools. This is where your taxes are going and I'm sure that it's no different in your community.

Well that should be enough for now but as Arnold the terminator said, "I'll be back".

Cheers, *Monty*

### JUST POLY HIGH

Lace and silk do not make a court lady. Armor makes not a valiant knight, nor a crowned head a king. A palace does not make a home, nor a building a school. But add a soul to each — Ah, then the outward appearance serves as a setting for a jewel; earthly splendor through insignificant in itself, sets off the brilliance of the gem. The setting of our precious stone is our beautiful school building, but what would it be without the soul, the spirit of our school? And what is that soul? The lives, talents, inspirations, and ambitions of our instructors, blended harmoniously into one, with the best that is in each one of us. That is our dear Poly High!

Mildred Nemetz, December 1920



# Soph Team Takes '61 Crown



By Jeff Alcorn S'64

The surprise of the 1961 football season was the Poly sophomore football team. This team went undefeated and took the championship title. I was fortunate enough to be a member of that team and that experience had a lasting impression on me.

As a 15-year-old new student at Poly in September of 1961, I was trying to adjust to the new high school environment. I recall that it was somewhat overwhelming at the time. One thing that I

score a last-second touchdown to tie them, 19 to 19. That game opened our eyes and we worked harder to improve ourselves individually and collectively as a team. The results were four convincing victories over our next opponents.

The final game of the season was against Sacred Heart, who was also undefeated. Sacred Heart fought hard against us, however they were no match against the Poly team. We won the game 27 to 12 and took the City crown. What an experience that season meant to each member of our team. Because of the championship, we all earned our Block P letters as sophomores.



1961 Sophomore Football Team

**Front row:** C.W. Koop (Coach), B. Blanchard (Asst. Coach), G. Fried, J. Martin, D. Winn, L. Fontana, J. Burnside, R. Edwards, P. Jones, C. Jones, E. Ellis (Manager)  
**Middle Row:** J. Donton, W. Hankston, T. Ruiz, F. Leontiff, F. Ryan, S. Watson, S. Chase, E. Stevens  
**Top Row:** J. Alcorn, R. Pogre, P. Brennan, B. Dickson, L. Murillo, S. Pellette, O. Tapscott, W. Lee  
**Missing:** P. Samosky, D. Tomassini, R. Day

wanted to do was play on the Poly football team. To this point, I had never played on any organized team. I was one of 27 sophomore student who comprised the team and was elected team co-captain. Our coach was Poly teacher Clarence Koop and he had two student assistant coaches, Eddie Ellis and Bill Blanchard. Coach Koop and his assistants taught us the fundamentals of football and molded us into a cohesive team that could hold its own while scrimmaging against the older and more experienced junior varsity football team in practice. Just how good we were remained to be seen.

Our first game was against Balboa on their field. The result was a 33 to 0 victory for us. Needless to say, we felt pretty good (maybe too good) about our team. The following week we played Mission and they gave us a real battle. We were fortunate to

with other life long achievements; however this message is not about me, it's about the impact that Poly team made.

Sadly, I learned that on January 4 this year, Coach Koop passed away after an illness. His wife Frances was also a teacher at Poly and they were dating during that 1961 season. I know how proud Coach Koop was of his team and we always enjoyed reminiscing about the team whenever we got together, most often at the Poly High Athletic luncheons. I know that I speak for the rest of the team members when I say how proud we were to play for him.

For me personally, I learned traits that I carry to this day. Among those traits are the concept of teamwork to achieve a goal, leadership and self confidence. This experience set the stage for a fantastic high school experience and opened doors that I would not have approached. I went on to play two additional years on the varsity team, achieving All-City Honorable Mention. The success I had on the playing field also was a motivating factor in improving my scholastic endeavors. I started taking college prep classes and except for Spanish, I pulled good grades. I was chosen to represent Poly as the American Legion Boys State delegate. This was a week long lesson in Government held in Sacramento. I am now the Assistant Director for the California Boys State program. I could go on

## HAIL POLYTECHNIC!

Jeff

Buy something else



## Gathering 2014

# June 6-7-8, 2014 Reno, Nevada





# Polytechnic High School Remembered



**SFUSD** SAN FRANCISCO  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**Richard A. Carranza**  
Superintendent of Schools

555 Franklin Street, Room 301 | San Francisco, CA 94102  
PH: (415) 241-6121 | Email: [richardcarranza@sfusd.edu](mailto:richardcarranza@sfusd.edu)

November 22, 2012

Today the San Francisco Unified School District welcomes the loyal alumni of Polytechnic High School to the Turkey Day Football Championship Game. It is my honor to extend this welcome to such a historic school, and to such a dedicated group of our former students, faculty, and administration.

It has been forty years since Polytechnic was closed. However, time has not erased the memories of the Institution that made us so proud for so many years.

Our Poly alumni have brought us joy over the years. Their academic contributions reflected well on us, and our country. It was Poly that produced the great Nobel Physics Laureate, Louis Alvarez, whose work as a nuclear scientist helped us win World War II.

Polytechnic also contributed to our nation's political and artistic life, giving us Caspar Weinberger, our former Secretary of Defense; three time Academy Award winning actress Janet Gaynor; and the inventors of the Looney Tunes cartoons. Closer to home, we owe Poly our former Associate Superintendent, Dr. Judith Kell.

When we welcome Polytechnic High's alumni to Kezar, we are welcoming you home. Kezar and Poly will be forever linked as Kezar was Poly's home field from the date of

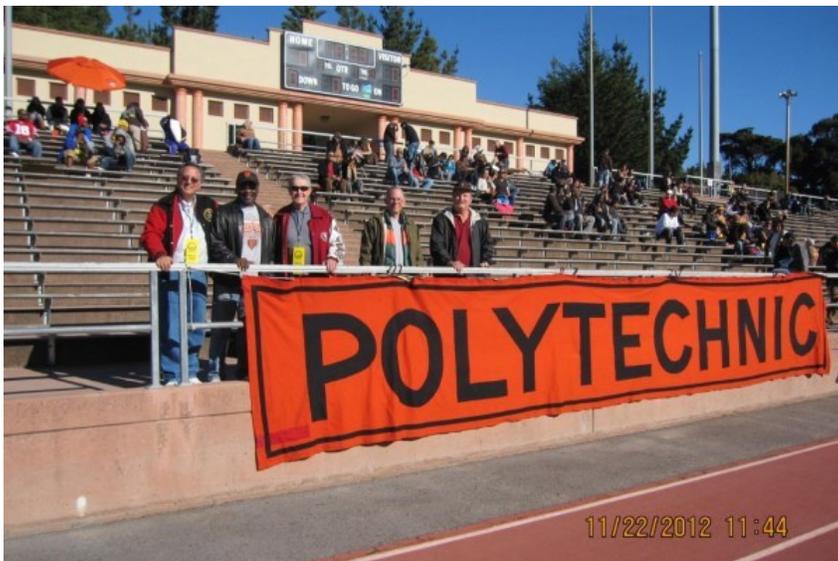
its inception until closure. And while we no longer see the Poly Building, "the great lady in granite", which was torn down in the late 80s, the contributions from its alumni continue to resonate throughout our city and country.

Of course, when we think of Poly we think of Turkey Day. From the countless battles with your archrival Lowell to the 15 football championships, we remember you. We are proud to play today's game on Kezar's St. Clair Football Field, which is named after the great NFL Hall of Famer and Poly grad, Bob St. Clair. Finally, SFUSD holds a special place in its heart for all the great Poly coaches, including Milt Axt, Joe Verducci, Jim Witt, and Paul Hungerford.

This is your day. We will always remember you, Poly. We thank you, and we thank Ray Monteroso and the Polytechnic alumni for keeping the memories alive.

Thanks and Best regards,

Richard Carranza, Superintendent  
San Francisco Unified School District



*Editors Note:  
The letter on the front page and the stories starting on this page thru Page 13 are part of the Thanksgiving Day Football Championship Program played at Kezar Stadium this past November 22nd. For those who were unable to make the game, a PDF copy of the Program is available on the Perennial Parrot web site under the "Links" tab in the "Polytechnic History 101" section.*

*Our thanks to the SFUSD.*



# Polytechnic High School - CIF San Francisco Section's Turkey Day Honoree

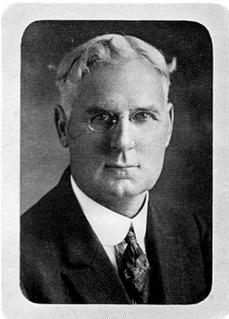
The CIF San Francisco Section is proud to honor Polytechnic High School—our eternal champion and friend—and the founder of Turkey Day.

We know that Turkey Day started with Polytechnic—affectionately known as Poly. It was Poly's rivalry game against Lowell. Yet, time has obscured just how Poly started. Some would say that Lowell was part of Poly. Some would say that Lowell was part of Poly. However it all started, Lowell vs. Poly became the greatest rivalry in AAA Athletic history, spanning a 60 year period that saw the AAA go from a rugby league to an American football league.

Yes, in the beginning Lowell and Poly were together at the old (and we do mean old) Boy's High School back in 1865. In 1883, the commercial department of Boy's High moved from the Boys' High campus on Powell Street near Clay to Bush and Stockton (the former site of Girls' High School). Ultimately, Boys' High School became Lowell and Commercial High School became Polytechnic High School (interestingly, the Polytechnic commercial department was later moved to its own site, becoming Commerce High—the building still stands at 135 Van Ness even though Commerce closed long ago).

The first principal of Poly was Walter Bush. Early famous graduates included Paul Terry, the Looney Toones creator, and a proud member of the class of 1895. Cartoonists Tad Dorgan and Herb Igoe also graduated from Poly that year. These famous cartoonists always paid public homage to Maria Van Vleck, the excellent freehand drawing teacher in those days of yore.

The original Poly campus was ultimately destroyed in the Great 1906 Earthquake. Times were different then. The sum total of the replacement cost of Poly's equipment was \$15,000. Armed with this princely sum, Poly eventually completed a move to its Frederick and Carl location in 1915.



Principal  
James Addicott

By 1913, James Edwin Addicott began his 26 year reign as principal. By 1919, Poly won its first rugby championship, a precursor to its future football glory.

These early Poly teams had some talented players, including Bert Shoemaker (1911), and Walter Lister (1917), who later played baseball for the Oakland Oaks of the Pacific Coast League. Major League Baseball Hall of Famer George 'High Pockets' Kelly also attended Poly until he joined a semi-pro



baseball team. By 1915, he was playing for the New York Giants. Poly won San Francisco's baseball championship in 1900, and won six titles between 1916 and 1922.



Poly had some talented women, too. Kathryn Hulme (1918) went on to become a famous author.

Girls sports in 1919 included tennis, baseball, swimming and four teams of basketball. "Poly's sixteen-year-old teenager Olga Chapital (1922) braved a choppy bay and won the annual race swimming across the Golden Gate"

from Seal Rocks to Marin. Laura Gainor (1923) became famous as Janet Gaynor. In 1928, she was the first winner of an Academy Award for Best Actress; she eventually won three Oscars.

Poly people helped to build Kezar. James Rolph III (1922), son of San Francisco Mayor Sunny Jim Rolph, led a campaign for the construction of a high school sports stadium while he was still a Poly student. With his father's support, and the help of a bequest to the city by the Kezar family, Kezar Stadium was built in 1924-25 on the site of Golden Gate Park's nursery and stable yard, across the street from Poly. Kezar was used by other schools, but was always considered Poly's home field. Kezar also became the traditional site of the annual Big Game against Lowell. By 1928, that Lowell vs. Poly Big Game would draw over 50,000 fans to Kezar. Indeed, until 1943, Turkey Day was always reserved for the Lowell vs. Poly Big Game.

Continued on Page 8



Verse  
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The list of Poly greats runs decades, and includes; Caspar Weinberger (1933), President Ronald Reagan's Secretary of Defense; Alice Marble (1931), the great tennis player; Ernie Filiberti, the outstanding prep football player who became a legendary basketball official; Bob St. Clair (1948), the NFL Hall of Famer whom Kezar's St. Clair Football Field is named after; George Seifert (1958), Super Bowl winning former 49ers coach; Henry King (1963), who went on to play for the New York Jets; and Louis Alvarez, a Nobel Physics Laureate who helped develop the first nuclear weapon and flew on the research plane accompanying the Enola Gay (yes, our nation turned to Poly, not Lowell, when it needed a rocket scientist).

Poly greats also gave back to our youth, as evidenced by Gordon Young (1952), a record setting Poly running back who went on to play for Stanford and serve as a high school principal and Commissioner of the Peninsula Athletic League; Ernie Feibusch (1942), who became a legendary teacher and soccer coach at Lowell High School; Fred Quinn (1951), a Poly track and cross country man who later went on to become an outstanding high school coach and the Commissioner of the AAA Athletic League in 2001; Dr. Judith Kell (1958), former SFUSD Assistant Superintendent who also spent years developing new teachers and administrators at Notre Dame Belmont and SF State; Nathaniel Brooks, the first African-American SFUSD high school principal; Tom Martinez (1962), who coached JC football, softball and basketball at CSM, mentored NFL QB Tom Brady, and became the winningest coach in California JC history; and Dennis Westry (1971), one of the last Poly quarterbacks, who has become an excellent SFUSD student advisor.

Of course, we cannot ignore the glue that holds Polytechnic together four decades after she closed her doors for the final time. Nor can we forget Poly's greatest legend.

The glue that still binds Poly is Ray Monteroso (1956). Ray was an outstanding quarterback, but his greatest service has been as an alumnus. Ray is the guiding force behind the Polytechnic Athletic Association. He does not stand alone. Bob (1955) and Carolyn Bier Ross (1957) run the [www.perennialparrot.com/index.html](http://www.perennialparrot.com/index.html) website and Jeanette Butler (1969) runs the <http://www.maxie24.com/hailpoly/HailPoly/index.html> web site (which you can access at [hailpoly.com](http://hailpoly.com) or [www.hailpoly.com](http://www.hailpoly.com)). Kathy Bertsch Compagno (1964) serves as resident historian. They are the living links to generations of Poly alumni, and repositories of vast amounts of Poly information, updates, and lore.



Coach Axt

Poly's greatest legend, of course, is the great Milt Axt. Milt (1925) who attended Poly and played on the football team from 1923~1925. However, Milt Axt's destiny was to become "Coach Axt", arguably the greatest coach in San Francisco history. Coach Axt won two titles at Petaluma High to begin his coaching career. He then came to

Poly in 1942.

Coach Axt led Poly to the 1944 championship. This 1944 squad featured four Division 1 football players: QB Duke Marlowe, Halfbacks Merrill Peacock and Jack Feycock, and fullback Harry Fromm. How good was this backfield? Good enough to keep Bob Hagler (1946), who went on to play football and basketball at St. Mary's College, on the bench. Not to worry, though, Hagler started and played well the rest of his high school and college career.

The war interrupted the Coach Axt, Poly relationship. The great Coach served at Lowell, Washington, and Lincoln, stepping in to fill District gaps during the war. Poly replaced him with another legend, Joe Verducci, who coached Poly to the 1946 and '47 championships before leaving to coach college football. Verducci coached the great 1947 team, featuring Bob St. Clair on the line, and Dave Marcelli in the backfield.



Coach Verducci

Coach Axt returned in 1948, leading Poly to the 1948 and 1949 championships. Poly had four-peated, a feat never accomplished before and not to be duplicated until the mighty Lincoln teams of 2005—2008, coached by Phil Ferrigno. Of course, Coach Axt wasn't finished. His Poly teams dominated the AAA. They didn't five-peat, but they didn't lose a league game from the middle of the 1949 season until 1954, and Coach Axt coached champion teams in 1948, 1949, 1951, 1952, 1953, 1955, and 1959. Willie Jones, Gordy Young, Art Jepsen, Jim Sampson, Ron Henderson, Warren Fannin, Jerald, James, Nick Poppin, and outstanding QB Frank Hall were amongst the driving forces on the great teams of the late '40s through the mid '50s.

The 1959 team was Poly's last football champion, and, unlike its predecessors, this team was a decided underdog with three regular season losses. Somehow, the gutsy running back Gary Lewis led the upset over the Lowell Cardinals—a fitting conclusion to the great rivalry. Lewis later went on to play in the NFL. One of Lewis's teammates, tackle Al Marinai (1958) later survived the tragic 1960 plane crash that killed 22 people, including 16 Cal-Poly San Luis Obispo football players.

The great Poly vs. Lowell rivalry lingered on until Poly closed in 1972, but the forces that led to Poly's closure and Lowell's move from its Masonic Street campus were well underway. For Lowell, a new life on the West side of town was in store on Lowell's current Eucalyptus Street campus. For Poly, it was a long walk to closure, a 13 year stroll through the turmoil of the 1960s and early '70s, the problems of an old, deteriorating physical plant, and while the Poly alumni are too nice to say it, it must be said ... the problems of the San Francisco Unified School District, which valued Lowell and moved her West, but did not see similar value to Poly.

Continued on Page 9

And so, our most dedicated alumni group was divorced from the District, but not from each other. Their school is no more, but they are strong. Poly concluded the Lowell vs. Poly football rivalry with a 33—26—3 record. Since Poly no longer exists, Lowell will never catch up. Even today, Poly's 15 football titles leaves them second to Galileo's 16, and Galileo only passed them in 2009 after Poly spotted them a 37 year advantage. But, who knows, Poly may regain its throne. SFUSD athletic records only go back to 1924. Poly has information that predates that. Poly may get a retroactive boost, but that is a story for another day.

Poly, of course, was more than the victor in the Lowell vs. Poly football rivalry. Poly produced sterling alumni, who served our City, private businesses, and the government with distinction. Poly men from the greatest generation fought with distinction in the Great War. A number of Poly women went on to have most distinguished careers.

We think of football when we think of Poly. But, Poly had success in other sports also. Coach Axt, for instance, coached the 1957 baseball champions. Poly ultimately won nine baseball titles. Indeed, Poly baseball four-peated before the football team had won a single title, winning from 1919—1922. Poly baseball continued winning well after the football team's last title, bringing home the 1968 title.

Poly's success extended to basketball. The powerful basketball teams of the late 1950s three-peated from 1979-59. This team was coached by Jim Witt, and its floor leader was Bill Simmons, who also played baseball. The 1957 team won the California Tournament of Champions (TOC) defeating Encinal 54 - 55 behind Simmon's 18 points. The 1958 team lost 43 - 42 to Berkeley in the TOC semifinals despite a 16 point performance by Maurice James. Poly's John Lewis made the All Tournament team. Interestingly, Poly's coach Jim Witt was so respected that he officiated some of the Tournament games despite being Poly's coach. Other TOC officials included two of San Francisco's finest: Pete Pontacq and Erv Delman. They weren't Poly men, but all schools were touched by Pete and Erv, and most Poly athletes will immediately recognize these names.

Poly's women were not to be forgotten. In this pre-Title IX era, women still performed with distinction. The Poly girls won Metro Girls' Fencing titles in 1966 and 1967. Poly girls beat Clayton Valley High of Concord in the finals, decades before girls fenced for AAA titles.

Poly also was our dominant cross country school. They had the most titles at the time of their closure. They also had Ben Tucker, the superlative runner who won the 1960 CIF state Cross Country championship, and won the mile at the 1960 CIF state track meet.

Tucker later overcame substantial racial discrimination, persevering as a member of San Jose State's historic NCAA cross country champions of 1962 and 1963. In a racially charged era, Tucker played a key role on the first integrated NCAA championship cross country championship team. San Jose State's historic tale can be found at this

link: <http://www.ncaa.org/wps/wcm/connect/public/ncaa/champion+features/San+Jose+States+historic+feet>

Additionally, Poly produced four individual golf champions, won three of the first four AAA boys' soccer championships, and produced a number of our early swim champions.

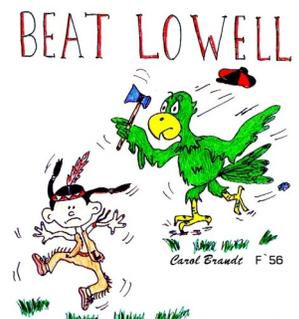
The Poly track team was also a force. Their ten track championships led the AAA at the time the school was closed. Among their great runners were, of course, Ben Tucker (1960). Ben is joined by the outstanding AAA hurdling champ Tom Piggee (1960); the 1960 CIF State discus champ Alex Darnes (1960); and the last great Poly champion, Kerry Hampton (1969), the CIF State 120 High Hurdles champ in 1968.

Polytechnic High School closed its doors in June, 1972 after almost a century of producing leaders, scholars, public servants, and scores of great athletes. As befits a school that was founded for manual training, Poly has also produced many of the plumbers, engineers, electricians, and mechanics who built and maintained our City. Poly has left us (or more accurately, SFUSD left them), but they are literally still here. Forty years after its closure, Poly has one of the largest and most active alumni associations. The ties that bind them together are strong. The ties that bind them to SFUSD Athletics are even stronger.

It is now our obligation to ensure that 40 years from now, we will still remember that there was a Poly. They are a prominent presence in our record books. Their building, the "Great Lady in Granite", has been replaced by condos. Their fabled Kezar Stadium is now a shadow of her former self, reduced from a 60,000 seat monolith to an intimate 10,000 seat park. But still, Poly will live on in memory, in faded news clippings, and perhaps someday in some yet to be constructed edifice which will provide a physical memory of that which once was.

Poly High School is our Turkey Day Honoree, and we honor them because they honored us for almost a century, and then they continued to honor us by standing together, bonded, forty years after their school was closed ... while their neighboring schools (Lowell and SI) continued to live on in new locations with brand new buildings. The Poly alumni have never been bitter. They have never uttered a negative word. Instead, they have honored all of us by showing that the high school experience binds us years after it ends. Polytechnic High School is, and forever shall be, our Perennial Parrots, our greatest of friends, and our greatest of champions.

**GONE,  
BUT NOT FORGOTTEN  
HAIL POLYTECHNIC,  
LONG LIVE THY NAME**



# POLYTECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL'S GREATEST FOOTBALL PLAYERS

## 1920's

Coleman "Smoke" Francis 1922  
Milt Axt 1925  
Gary Vivaldi 1927  
Rudy Rintala 1928  
Hector Giuntini 1929

## 1930's

Henry Decia 1931  
Frank Walker 1932  
Herm Mister 1932  
Henry Sparks 1934  
Sam Johnston 1936  
Al Derian 1938

## 1940's

Johnny Dodds 1940  
Ernie Filiberti 1942  
Gordon Gray 1943  
Bob Hagler 1946  
Merrill Pecock 1946  
Ford Long 1947  
Dave Marcelli 1948  
Bob St. Clair 1949



## 1950's

Art Jepsen 1950  
Jim Fampson 1950  
Warren Fannin 1952  
Bob Moore 1952  
Frank Hall 1953  
Jerald James 1953  
Nick Poppin 1953  
Les Barros 1954  
Art Forbes 1954  
Ted Cano 1956  
Ray Monteroso 1956  
Roosevelt Taylor 1956  
Al Marinai 1958  
George Seifert 1958  
Dennis Shay 1958  
Leonard Vaughn 1959

## 1960's

Henry Nawahine 1963  
Henry King 1963  
Mike Flemons 1965  
Kerry Hampton 1969

# Kezar Stadium, Bob St. Clair Field "Turkey Day" ... November 22, 2012 Remembering Polytechnic High School

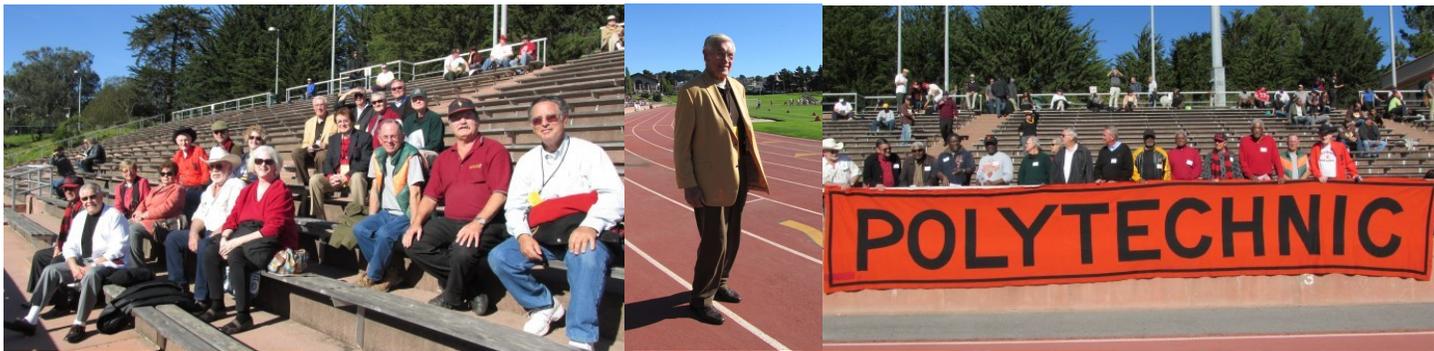


from the Dec 1924 Yearbook:

EDITORIAL: One of the most commendable things about Polytechnic is that one finds very little snobbishness among the students. The general spirit of friendship and good feeling that prevails lends an air of satisfaction to our whole school life, and the comparative absence of cliques makes possible a spirit of unity in the student body. Perhaps these are the reasons for Polytechnic's many successes.

Then too, there is a certain feeling of friendship between the faculty and the student body. The wall that usually exists between the two seems to have entirely broken down, with the result that students and teachers discuss, as friends, studies or student activities. Polytechnic students have a certain loyalty for each other and for their faculty that brings a harmony to the entire school. And after all one gets the most out of school life when one enjoys it.

Editor Louis Elliott.



**"Polytechnic, Here's To You"**

Polytechnic! Polytechnic!  
 We salute thy red and black;  
 In thy many enterprises  
 Our support you'll never lack;  
 Loyalty and firm endeavor  
 Ever are our watch-words, too,  
 As we're singing, gladly singing  
 Polytechnic, here's to you!

Polytechnic, high your standards,  
 Let us aim to keep them so,  
 Bear thy banner high, unsullied,  
 Never shame and drag it low.  
 Thy fair name entrusted to us,  
 We'll preserve in all we do.  
 Gladly and sincerely singing,  
 Polytechnic, here's to you!

Thou, the school we'll all remember,  
 When we long have left your halls,  
 Profiting from joys and sorrow,  
 Felt within thy lofty walls,  
 Friendship joins us all together,  
 To each other we'll be true,  
 Singing, altogether singing,  
 Polytechnic, here's to you.

Abe Semelensky  
 Spring, 1930



## From Joan (Brower, S'58) Thorsen, S'58 ...



1955 Junior Prom ...  
Vince May, F'56 & Joan Brower, S'58  
Joan's first prom, she is 14



Katie Keller ...



Tom Stone  
Class of 1958  
Brother of Bob Stone



Pauline La Grande  
1957 School Play

## Photos from my shoebox ...

## From Josie Masciaga, S'57 ... Memories & Friendships ... 58 Years & Counting

From 8th grade graduation at Daniel Webster Grammar School on Potrero Hill ... June 11, 1953 to  
Dinner at Joan Keegan's home on Potrero Hill ... December, 2011

L to R, BOTH Pictures ... Darlene (Rudometkin, S'57) Frass ... Joan (Keegan, S'57) King ... Josie Masciaga (S'57)



# Yukio Kawahara ... A Loyal American ... A Poly Hero

## Class of Fall 1933, Translator WWII, 1916-2006

June 02, 2006... By JACQUES KELLY, SUN REPORTER



Yukio Kawahara  
Graduation photo from the  
1933 Fall Yearbook

Yukio Kawahara, who because of his Japanese ancestry was interned briefly during World War II, then headed the Southeast Asia branch of Voice of America, died of a heart attack May 26, 2006 at his Timonium home. He was 90.

Born in San Francisco to Japanese immigrants, he attended public schools

there and learned to speak English in addition to the Japanese spoken at home. His parents sent him to Waseda University in Tokyo, where he graduated in 1937.

Mr. Kawahara was studying accounting at the University of California, Berkeley when Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, drawing the United States into the war. He and other family members were required by Executive Order 9066 to report to a racetrack at Tanforan, Calif., that was pressed into service as a temporary center where Japanese-Americans were interned. Months earlier, he had wagered at that track.

Because he had language skills valuable to the United States, he volunteered to be part of a group that waged psychological warfare against Japan.

"His mother and a brother spent the war at a concentration camp," said his daughter Pamela Kawahara-Fischer, a Dulaney High School faculty member who uses her father's experience as she teaches history. "His mother was afraid for him to leave the camp and their community, but he felt it was important to serve his country."

Mr. Kawahara was assigned to Denver, but in making his way there, he was stopped and questioned by FBI agents, his daughter said.

A civilian employee of the Office of War Information, he became a part of what became known as the Nisei World War II Broadcasters. In addition to delivering messages to Japan on short-wave station KFEL, he was a translator for the U.S. war effort.

While he was broadcasting, his younger brother, Fran-

cis Kawahara, left the internment camp to enlist in the Army's Japanese-American 442nd Regimental Combat Team and fought in Italy.

Immediately after the Japanese surrender in 1945, Mr. Kawahara was sent to inspect atomic bomb damage at Hiroshima and Nagasaki as an analyst and translator for the Army.

"He spoke about the human devastation he saw," his daughter said, adding that her father often tried to bring food to the Japanese people he met there. He remained in Japan through the end of the next decade, much of the time as a press officer translating newspapers for the U.S. military.

"You have wisely used your valuable knowledge of Japanese psychology and of the Japanese language to the advancement of international relations," Air Force Lt. Gen. Elmer J. Rogers Jr. wrote in a 1959 letter of commendation for Mr. Kawahara.

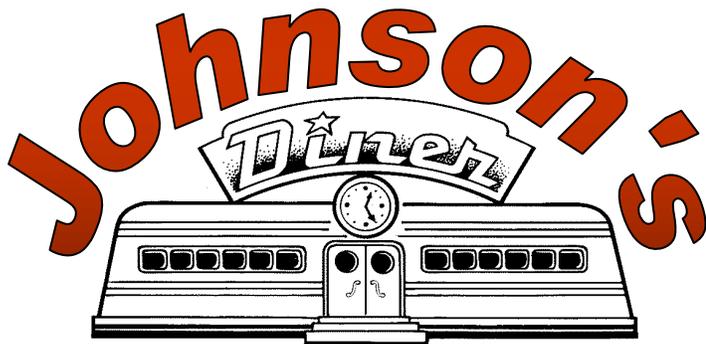
That year, he accepted a post with Voice of America, part of the U.S. Information Agency. He became head of its Southeast Asia branch and recruited broadcasters from Burma and Thailand. In 1970, he headed the U.S. pavilion at Expo '70 in Osaka, Japan.

He retired in 1980 and later moved to Timonium. In more recent years, he was frequently interviewed by Baltimore County middle school students doing oral history reports.

Mr. Kawahara was a gardener and kept a koi pond. He also enjoyed cooking and golf. Services are private.

In addition to his daughter, survivors include a son, Michael Y. Kawahara of Wheaton; two other daughters, Karen L. Goins and Gennie M. True, both of Columbia; two brothers, Hideo Kawahara and Francis Kawahara, both of San Francisco; and 10 grandchildren. His wife of 49 years, the former Helen Kadowaki, died in 1996.

*Editors Note: A Polyite and an American worth remembering.*



Where the elite meet to eat

## A Spicy Start for Xmas Morning



### Eggy Cheesy Confusion Casserole

Greek seasoning with Italian cheese blend and pico de galio give this breakfast casserole a variety of flavors ... Prepare it the night before, refrigerate and bake the next morning.

- Cooking spray
- 1 (20 ounce) package frozen diced potatoes (such as "Simply Potatoes"), thawed and drained
- 1/2 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 6 eggs
- 1 cup shredded Italian cheese blend
- 1/2 onion, diced
- 1/2 cup pico de galio salsa
- 1/2 teaspoon Greek seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Spray a 2 quart baking dish with cooking spray.
2. Spread potatoes into the prepared baking dish; sprinkle with 1/2 teaspoon black pepper.
3. Mix eggs, Italian cheese blend, onion, pico de galio, 1/2 teaspoon black pepper, Greek seasoning, and cayenne pepper together in a bowl; pour over potatoes.
4. Bake casserole in preheated oven until lightly browned and eggs are set, about 40 minutes.
5. Add Bacon, sausage, or ham for a hearty breakfast dish.

*I know I'm in my own little world ...  
but they know me here!*

## Xmas BONUS Recipe

Now that breakfast is out of the way it's time to bake that SPECIAL Christmas cake .....

### Vodka Christmas Cake

- 1 cup sugar
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 cup water
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 cup brown sugar
- Lemon juice,
- 4 large eggs,
- Nuts
- 1 bottle Vodka
- 2 cups dried fruit

Sample a cup of Vodka to check quality. Take a large bowl, check the Vodka again to be sure it is of the highest quality then Repeat. Turn on the electric mixer. Beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl.

Add 1 teaspoon of sugar. Beat again.

At this point, it is best to make sure the Vodka is still OK. Try another cup just in case.

Turn off the mixerer thingy.

Break 2 eggs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit. Pick the fruit up off the floor, wash it and put it in the bowl a piece at a time trying to count it.

Mix on the turner. If the fried fruit getas stuck in the beaterers, just pry it loose with a drowscriver.

SAMPLE THE VODKA TO TEST FOR TONSISTICITY.

NEXT, SIFT 2 CUPS OF SALT, OR SOMETHING.

CHECK THE VODKA.

NOW SHIT SHIT THE LEMON JUICE AND STRAIN YOUR NUTS.

Add one table.

Add a spoon of sugar, or somefink. Whatever you can find.

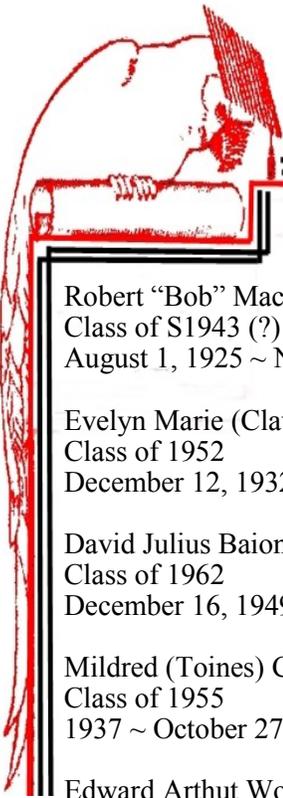
Grease the oven.

Turn the cake tin 360 degrees and try not to fall over.

Don't forget to beat off the turner.

Finally, throw the bowl through the window.

Finish the Vodka and wipe the counter with the cat!!!!



# In Memorium

Robert "Bob" Machold  
Class of S1943 (?)  
August 1, 1925 ~ November 13, 2012

Evelyn Marie (Clavere) Petray  
Class of 1952  
December 12, 1932 ~ November 1, 2012

David Julius Baioni  
Class of 1962  
December 16, 1949 ~ November 14, 2012

Mildred (Toines) Cruise  
Class of 1955  
1937 ~ October 27, 2012

Edward Arthut Worthington  
Class of 1930 (?)  
November 28, 1912 ~ July 15, 2012  
Poly Hall of Fame 1992

Philip Gervasi  
Class of 1962  
1944 ~ September 8, 2012  
Member 1962 Championship Baseball Team



Alfred Habeeb  
Class of F1937  
May 14, 1919 ~ August 7, 2012

Played Trumpet with All City Marching Band



Jim "Saint" St. John  
Class of F1956  
1938 ~ June 2012



Olivette "Susie" Fountaine  
Class of F1953  
April 10, 1937 ~ September 23, 2012



Thomas McCormick  
Class of S1947  
May 16, 1930 ~ September 20, 2012

Played for the 1952 LA Rams  
Coached for the Minnesota Vikings and Green Bay Packers

***May the Parrot be with them on their journey***

## THE COMING OF WINTER

All was serene on that cool Autumn night,  
The cloudless sky a tranquil, perfect, blue.  
The harvest moon then smiled to earth anew  
And seemed to wink in slyness from its height.  
Myriad stars to flowers bowed with dancing light  
While they in turn looked up; be-jeweled with dew.  
A night-bird broke the stillness as he flew  
By shrilling loudly in his sudden flight.  
Then flashing lightning darts across the sky,  
In drumming staccato down pours the rain  
And thunder rumbles behind the far hill.  
The keen wind unrestrained rushes by  
A night of tempest; fury uncontrolled; the hurricane.  
For winter has come and December's chill.

H.W. Demoro, Dec., '20



H.W. Demoro, December, 1920

# Kibbles And Bits And Pieces

from Bob (S'55) & Carolyn (Bier, S'57) Ross  
The Perennial Parrot Staff



Well, if you're still with us, we finally made it to the next to last page. This is a longer than usual newsletter but there was just a pile of stuff we wanted to put in and at that, I had left over material for the next issue.

For those that were unable to attend the Thanksgiving "Turkey Day" festivities at Kezar Stadium you will find a copy of the program on the Perennial Parrot web site on the "Links" page under the "Polytechnic History 101" section. It is a B&W copy except for the covers but we do have a full color copy and are working on converting it into a PDF file to replace the B&W file. Photos from "Turkey Day" are also posted on the "Photo Gallery" page of the web site.

Many thanks to both Josie Masciaga and Joan (Brower) Thorsen for sending in their photo memories. SEE, someone finally found that old shoebox full of old school days photos. Now it's your turn to investigate the closets, attics and basements where you placed those old photos for safe keeping. Happy hunting gang.

Hope you don't read the newsletter at the rate of one page a day ... you won't get to read it all before the approaching end of the Mayan calendar on 12-21-2012. We heard that there is an alien spaceship hidden in some European mountain waiting to take people off into space the day before the "end of the world" ... don't forget to take your iPad with you so you can download the April 2013 issue of the newsletter.

Kathy (Bertsch S'64) Compagno forwarded this email to the research group and we are forwarding it on to our readers ...

From: sam@greenmuseum.org  
Subject: Kezar Triangle

Dear Kathy,  
I just found your wonderful website (Hail Poly) and was thrilled to find so much information about Polytechnic High School!  
Thank you for your labor of love and for assembling so much of San Francisco's history.

I'm currently working with community members and the SF Rec and Park Department to help bring some improvements to the Kezar Triangle (<http://kezartriangle.org>) next to the stadium. We've held a series of public meetings and are hoping to make some landscaping improvements and bring temporary art using naturals to the site. I understand that the field used to be used for track events and sports practice by Polytechnic students until the 80's. One of the thoughts we've had was to find ways to connect the history of the field artfully with the public. Not sure what might be possible. One idea was to begin simply by finding poems or texts and printing them on ribbons and placing them temporarily around the trees. Perhaps something like the sports ribbons for achievement but connected somehow to nature and with poems or quotes from folks who have connections to the place itself. If you are at all interested, I'd love to meet with you and introduce you to what we have in mind and invite your feedback and ideas for how we could help make this little part of Golden Gate Park into something more like a place than a pass-through.

Sam Bower

If anyone out there has any fond memories of the triangle and want's to help with Sam's project please contact Kathy at [kcompagno@hotmail.com](mailto:kcompagno@hotmail.com) or Sam Bower at [sam@greenmuseum.org](mailto:sam@greenmuseum.org)



Carol Branda F'56

OK ... my fingers are very tired of all the typing that went into this issue so it's time to give them a rest. We hope this issue finds "ALL Y'ALL" in the best of health (so who's got any money left?).

From our mobile home to your condo, with the warmest wishes,

## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND THE VERY BEST OF HAPPY NEW YEARS

### A Think To Thought On ...

A wise old owl sat in an oak  
The more he heard the less he spoke  
The less he spoke the more he heard  
Why aren't we all like that wise old bird??

Ogden Nash



Bob & Carolyn



May The Parrot Be With You

# GRANDPARENTS' ANSWERING MACHINE

Good morning . . . At present we are not at home, but please leave your message after you hear the beep ..... *beeeeeppp* ...

If you are one of our children, dial 1 and then select the option from 1 to 5 in order of "birth arrival" so we know who it is .....

**If you need us to stay with the children, press 2**

**If you want to borrow the car, press 3**

**If you want us to wash your clothes and do ironing, press 4**

**If you want the grandchildren to sleep here tonight, press 5**

**If you want us to pick up the kids at school, press 6**

**If you want us to prepare a meal for Sunday or have it delivered to your home, press 7**

**If you want to come to eat here, press 8**

**If you need money, press 9**

**If you are going to invite us to dinner, or, taking us to the theater, start talking ... we are listening !!!!!!!!!!!"**

## WHAT IS A GRANDPARENT?

*(Taken from papers written by a class of 8-year-olds)*

**Grandparents are a lady and a man who have no little children of their own. They like other people's.**

**A grandfather is a man, & a grandmother is a lady!**

**Grandparents don't have to do anything except be there when we come to see them...**

**They are so old they shouldn't play hard or run. It is good if they drive us to the shops and give us money.**

**When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars.**

**They show us and talk to us about the colors of the flowers and also why we shouldn't step on 'cracks.'**

**They don't say, 'Hurry up.'**

**Usually grandmothers are fat but not too fat to tie your shoes.**

**They wear glasses and funny underwear.**

**They can take their teeth and gums out.**

**Grandparents don't have to be smart.**

**They have to answer questions like 'Why isn't God married?' and 'How come dogs chase cats?'**

**When they read to us, they don't skip. They don't mind if we ask for the same story over again.**

**Everybody should try to have a grandmother, especially if you don't have television because they are the only grownups who like to spend time with us.**

**They know we should have a snack time before bed time, and they say prayers with us and kiss us even when we've acted bad.**

**GRANDPA IS THE SMARTEST MAN ON EARTH! HE TEACHES ME GOOD THINGS, BUT I DON'T GET TO SEE HIM ENOUGH TO GET AS SMART AS HIM!**

**It's funny when they bend over; you hear gas leaks, and they blame their dog.**

***Send this to other grandparents, almost grandparents, or heck, send it to everyone.  
It will make their day***