



Perennial Parrot



Volume 27 #2

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

August 2014

Jeff Alcorn "Shanghaied" for 2nd Term as Exalted Parrot Face

reserve the back room for a large group on Saturday morning as we had done two years previous. She looked at us and said ... "I remember you and your rowdy bunch and I would be more than happy to take you on again." It's really

from Bob Ross, Editor ...

nice to be remembered!

Once again, we had a great Gathering this past June. Not that there were a few hick-ups ... what would life be without those little fellers.

So ... how did Jeff Alcorn get a second term as the "Top Beak?" Seems he forgot to bring the Exalted Parrot Face hat with him to hand off to someone else ... and don't think I would be holding that parrot over my head for very long, he's not house broke!

Started off Friday morning with a call from Noreen (Crowden) Neely (Our Saturday party host) who was in the hospital asking if we would help Charlie, her husband, pick up some items for the party. She said the doctor said she would be out of the hospital on Saturday morning. We told her that she was to touch nothing when she got home as we would come over early for the party and get things set up. Should have known better than to tell a woman that ... when we arrived, Noreen was already hard at it. Charlie just looked at us and threw up his hands!

The Friday evening welcome party has been held in the Fire-side Lounge of the Peppermill Hotel for a number of Gatherings. This year, however, Art Lindstrom got a suite for the party eliminating the noise and expense. Art's idea was great ... only problem was squeezing 35 to 40 people into a small suite ... just not enough room. To Art, our thanks for the use of the suite. There's nothing better than rubbing elbows with other Polyites (and three "rogue" Lincolnitites ... sometimes you just gotta take the bad with the good!).

Friday morning we had breakfast at the Black Bear just down the street from the Peppermill. Asked the waitress if we could



2014 ~ 2016
Our Gang
Club Officers

L to R: Parrot Face Pro-Tem Paul Derby (S'55), Class Collector Lou Bamberger (S'55), Court Jester Supreme Dian Barkan (S'64), Past Exalted Parrot Face Kathy (Bertsch) Compagno (S'64), Exalted Parrot Face Jeff Alcorn (S'64)



First timers at Gathering 2014 were Carol (Sale) Randall, S'54; Larry Malliet, F'54; Maydean (Bennett) Grundstrom, S'57 and her husband, Gene. Returning after missing a lot of Gatherings was Dorothy (Glover) Cheek, S'57 ... glad to have you back Dorothy.

No date set yet for the 2016 Gathering. It will be in Reno but may be moved back to a September time frame and possibly to week days instead of the weekend. Till then ... HAIL POLY ...

bob ross



Letters to the Editor

From Carol Sale Randall, S`54

I was hooked as soon as I opened the April issue and read it straight through ... even the sports articles which usually turn me off. You wrote just a beautiful tribute to Ray Monteroso.

from Kathy (Bertsch) Compagno, S`64:

The April issue: MARVELOUS, absolutely marvelous, as usual, Bob, although I do think you have outdone yourself this time. I was especially touched by Ray's memorial, beautifully done. And the football page with Coach Axt and Ray as bookends ... and all those images of our "Granite Lady" and her other incarnations, and and and

From Bob Lane, A`48

Especially good job Bob & Carolyn. Thanks for your perseverance and production.

From Marilyn Berg Cooper, S`67

Thank you for Perennial Parrotting. It's a wonderful site.

From Madeline Lensen Baker, Class of `51

I was so sad to hear of Ray's passing. He was the glue that kept us all together. Is there any word of someone attempting to keep the luncheon going? I know it is a big job but it would be appreciated by so many.

From Al Guillera, `54

Hi. Looked at the photos, Nov 2012. No names listed, couldn't tell who they were. I left Poly in June 1954, joined the Marines. The people I knew were Donna Frost, Joe Mori, Jerry Brittan, Shirleen Dobbs, Elaine Moresco, Willie Hudson, Bill Harrison, Donna Camgros, George Foster, Ed Jonopolus. Tried that site, Classmates, - junk, - didn't know any of the people listed. Thanks for the Perennial Parrot.

Editor: I'm guessing that Al is referring to the December 2012 newsletter that had the photos of the Poly group at the Thanksgiving Day game at Kezar. If so, there were just too many folks there whose names I didn't know either.

It was stirring to read the WWII Journal dedications and Principal's message. Even during a World War where death and disability lay ahead for many, and victory was far from certain, the messages speak of a better world ahead. Principal Carl Anderson retired in `54, he was principal when I graduated. He watched years of kids grow and learn, handing them diplomas, knowing they were destined for the battlefields. `Guess he was ready for retirement.

Kathy, Thanks your extraordinary research and enlightening articles. Even the George "Highpockets" Kelly article engaged me ... and I'm a sports atheist.

I guess it must be the Cornerstone Project that has me so drawn to Poly history right now, but your pictures and text about the pre-1914 history resonated. With much monitor enlargement and my best glasses, it was amazing to see the painted "Polytechnic High School" sign on the shacks behind the horse-cart. What a treasure-trove of images you've assembled.

At least two of the buildings on Arguello are still there. Google Street View shows 1207 Arguello and it's down-the-hill neighbor nearly unchanged. Even the corner building may only be an update from the one pictured ...

<https://www.google.com/maps/@37.765854,-122.457801,3a,75y,280.44h,95.08t/data=!3m4!1e1!3m2!1sEsqTdQowOAFfgkXWQjigsQ!2e0>



Thanks to you both, and to any contributors or behind-the-scenes teammates (Carolyn?) that brought us this issue. I'll be sharing it.

The Perennial Parrot Newsletter

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www.maxie24.com/hailpoly/HailPoly/index.html





Polytechnic High School Cornerstone Project

Save Our Shared Heritage

Dear Polyite,

Not an inscription or sign or plaque marks the Polytechnic High School site. Our school was torn down in 1987 and replaced with affordable housing. Nothing is left of the classrooms, workshops, and gathering places where we played sports, fell in love, mastered skills, met friends, shared pranks, and prepared for careers or college.

Today, in this centennial year of 2014, we have the one-time opportunity to restore the original 1914 granite Polytechnic cornerstone to its rightful place on Frederick Street. It was stolen, then ransomed and preserved over the years by a 1954 alumna. Polytechnic volunteers have the cornerstone, the site, the non-profit status and the monument design. Now we need financial support from the last few generations of alumni.



Please honor your Polytechnic memories with a prompt and worthy donation. Polytechnic gave us opportunities to excel unmatched by other schools: academics, championship sports, music, drama, arts, office skills, trades, and activities of all types. Polytechnic partnered us with classmates and teammates and warm friends from different cultures.

- **Give a grateful thought to faculty and coaches who made a difference in your life.**
- **Revisit your pride in wearing the red and black, your sports regalia, your Block P or senior hat.**
- **Consider the cherished friendships we made and continued.**
- **Give tribute to those who are no longer here to see the Cornerstone restored.**

The Polytechnic site homeowners at Parkview Commons have given generous permission for our monument on Frederick Street. They appreciate their site's heritage. AcroSports, in the former girls' gym, honors the Polytechnic legacy with non-profit sponsorship, making donations tax-deductible.

In scale with our massive cornerstone, we have an inspired architectural design prepared for us on a pro bono basis by Harvey Hacker Architects www.harveyhacker.com. The monument is an L-shaped replica fragment of the Polytechnic building with the imbedded cornerstone facing Frederick Street and an information plaque facing the former boys' gym.

We must raise construction funds quickly to meet the 2014 centennial year goal. Our own ranks are thinning. There is no one but us to carry forward the legend of Polytechnic. Please be part of the project. Please "Join Hands for Polytechnic" with a generous donation today.

Sincerely,

The Polytechnic Cornerstone Committee

(Roster on reverse)

P.O. Box 1, Fairfax, CA 94978; 415.455.0840

P.S. You can help us reach other classmates by sharing this appeal, or passing us contact information.



EARLY CHALLENGE DONORS

These generous alumni challenge their Polytechnic classmates and friends to match their donations

\$1,000 +

Ellen Andersen Reid, 1970
Louis H. Bamberger, Sr., 1955
Marilyn Berg Cooper, 1967, *honoring Carole Berg Wilson and David H. Wilson 1963*
Marilyn Berg Cooper, 1967, *personal donation*
Gary Gillmor, 1954
Larry Malliett, 1954

\$500 to \$999

Jeffrey Alcorn, 1964
Diana Andrus Bachelor, 1955
Kathy Bertsch Compagno, 1964
Shelley R. Bolaños Turley, 1953
William R. Canihan, 1953
Rich and Marianne Eichenbaum, 1964
Gunard Mahl, 1956
Bob and Carolyn (Bier) Ross, 1955 & 1957
Jack Russitano

Laurel Anne (Turnbull) Hill, 1960

\$250 to \$499

Vince Aguiar, 1964
Ruth Blanz Ignoffo, 1962, *in Memory Tom Martinez 1962*
Anita Brandi Bogdanoff, 1963
John Davids, 1954
Kay Heywood Huettmann, 1953, *in Memory Shirley (Heywood) Harbor and Jodie (Bertken) Swan*
Olivia Martinez, *in Memory Tom Martinez 1962*
John Shankel, 1953
David and Alice Tomassini, 1964
Paul Vida, 1954

\$100 to \$249

Roy Alder 1953
Sue (Soriakoff) Brown aka June Brown, 1961, *in Memory Ray Monterosa*
Nick and Cecile Camera, 1953
Eileen Clee Montelongo, 1964
Larry and Ann Ellingsen Griffin, 1964
Ralph Furnari, 1953
Arthur Gibbs, 1964
Arlene Haines Seymour Boyer, 1955
Jack Harden, 1953
Ernest G and Paula Pavloff Kovacs, 1956 & 1958
Lee Carol Lombard, 1953
Leonard Malliett, 1959
Jan and John Mendez, 1956
Robert Miller, 1959
Kathy Quilici, 1964
Ron Rehn, 1957
Sandy Smalian DeLong, 1953
Gail Williams Gabriel, 1964

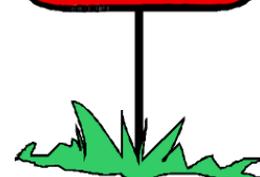
The Polytechnic Cornerstone Committee **(*Early Donors)**

*Aguiar, Vince, 64; Alamin, Ashah, 62; *Alcorn, Jeff, 64; *Bachelor, Diana (Andrus), 55; *Bamberger, Louis, 54; Bangston, Helen "Sammie" (Hayward); *Bank, Peter, 54; Barkan, Dian; Benassini, Priscilla (Popin), 61; Blanchard, William & Sylvia, 62; *Bonanno, Jack, 55; Brizio, Sue, 59; *Brown, June Soriakoff (aka Sue Soriakoff), 61; *Compagno, Katherine (Bertsch), S64; *Cooper, Marilyn (Berg), S67; *Eichenbaum, Rich, 64; *Farenzena, Alisa; Freeman, Eva, 70; *Furnari, Ralph, S53; *Gibbs, Arthur; Gotelli, Jane Palmer & Larry, 54; *Hill, Laurel Anne (Turnbull) F60; Kell, Judith; Killion, Rosemary; Lane, Bob; Lewis, Marilyn (Fetter), 57; Lidstrom, Art, 57; Locks, Salamah, 63; *Mahl, Gunard; *Malliett, Larry, 54; O'Brien, Kerry, 59; *Priolo, Sal, 50; Pruy, Mary (Daley), 53; *Randall, Carol Sale, 54; *Rehn, Ron; *Reid, Ellen (Andersen), 70; Robertson, Milly, F47; *Ross, Bob, 55; Ryan, Gloria (Krebs), 47; *Tomassini, Dave 64; *Turley, Shelley Bolaños, 53; Verbrugge, Dick & June, 52; *Vida, Paul, 54

Our goal \$25,000.

Donations to date: \$16,935: 68%!

For no one



Polytechnic Cornerstone Project Update

From Carol Sale Randall, Chair

Cornerstone team and supporters,

We've received a donation of \$1,000 from Ellen Andersen Reid, class of 1970! Ellen writes that "Poly has supplied me with fond memories." Isn't that good to know? Even during those stormy later years, Polytechnic inspired love and loyalty in its alumni.

Donations now total just under \$17,000! The memorial dedications really touch me. A list of significant donors, with dedications, is included with this update.

I've set a tentative date for a dedication ceremony for Saturday, October 25th. We'll need accessible space near the monument where we can gather for celebration, recognition and socialization, possibly at the Triangle. Volunteer help to plan this part of the project would be very welcome.

Answering a classmate inquiry, yes, we are providing for maintenance of the monument. We specifically agreed to leave a maintenance fund for AcroSports to manage.

The contractor bidding and the permit process is moving along, managed by Peter Bank. Gunnard Mahl has added helpful input and connections. A few more ducks (Parrots?) need to get in a row before we can schedule construction.

In late July, about 470 mailers went to Poly alumni, or to classmate volunteers who will personalize them before mailing. Unending thanks to Larry Malliett, who helps me fold, label, stamp and stuff. This week's mailings cover fewer than half of the Poly mailing addresses.

The project owes appreciation to the volunteers who have been writing, emailing or phoning their classmates in advance of mailers: Vince Aguiar, Jeff Alcorn, Kathy Compagno, Rich Eichenbaum, Sue Brown (aka June Brown), Salama Locks, Ralph Furnari, John Drocco. The mailers give the facts, but it's these personal classmate notes and calls that inspire confidence and good will. Thank you, team!

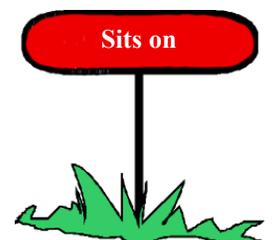
Are there others among you that would write personal notes or emails to Polytechnic friends and classmates? Please let me know.

Thanks to all for your support and encouragement.

PolyCornerstone@aol.com
Carol Sale Randall, Chair
Polytechnic S '54
Hail Polytechnic, long live thy name

Late breaking news ... August 5, 2014:

Funding is well under way. Contractors have been selected. Plans (as developed by architect Harvey Hacker) will be submitted to city for approval today. Tentative date for dedication ceremony is October 25th.



One of "Our Gang" is Missing

Ernie Bachelor ... Sept 1, 1930 ~ July 23, 2014

from Lou Bamberger ...

Alive in my memory.

Upon hearing of Ernie Bachelor's passing I felt the need to go back through the pages of the history of our relationship. I found my self going back further in those letters.

In October 1984 I am one of the lucky ones who was a part of the second coming of "Our Gang". I have paper copies of almost every issue of the *Perennial Parrot* in a large binder. My venture went back (30 years) to the day we were guests at a home across the street from Balboa High School.

A loud "1234 3214" echoed across the street. It came from those whose memories were shaken by a tour of the great halls of Polytechnic High School just before they were to be brought down.

Our gathering every 2 years was joined prominently in September 2004, by Ernie & Diana (Andrus) Bachelor. My last memory of Ernie is one of him scooting along, with his walker, after we said goodbye, at the Fisherman's Wharf luncheon on June 17th this year with the Pier 39 regulars of "Our Gang."

I was grateful to attend Ernie's celebration of life because it was just that, his life to celebrate.

Words, written in April 1989, Volume 2, by "The Supper Glue" of "Our Gang", was labeled:

ITS YOUR NICKLE BUBBA.....

This is where I sit back and let ya'll say words of wisdom. GO FOR IT!!!

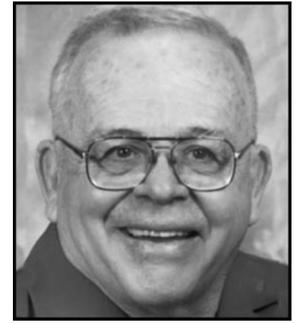
But on second thought, this IDIOT does have something he wants to say, so here's my two cent worth to start things off.

I can't Help but wonder if some of you think I might be going a little overboard with this "Our Gang" bit. Well, maybe I have, but I'll not back down. You're all very special people to Carolyn and myself. You represent special time in our lives that neither of us are willing to give up or forget. We have all made friendships since leaving Poly High, but to us, none have meant so much or have been remembered so well as yours. I know a few of you weren't a part of the original core of "Our Gang, but you were there and You are Poly, therefore you are a part of us and we refuse to let go!!!

Bob Ross

Bob, We are the Poly family. Being overboard is the way "Our Gang" a fellowship, works, because Bob & Carolyn Ross's love make it so. To me our gatherings are close in that the love is there. All non Poly grads, such as my wife Dolores and Ernie are treated like a sister or brother in laws. We morn his passing and send Diana and her family our love and sympathy. Most of all we appreciate the time we spent with Ernie and Diana.

I found as I read through the 30 years of newsletters a sense of love for the fellowship "Our Gang" has. I give thanks for the memories of those who will not be at the next 2016 gathering, dead or alive.



If you are alive join us. make new memories, and feel that love and fellowship.

Being apart from others leaves only memories. The joy from Ernie Bachelor, Gordon Lewis, Dagmar, my Dolores, and all the others are alive in our permanent remembrance. There, this IDIOT went for it with my two cents!

Love,

Lou Bamberger

From the Perennial Parrot Staff:

One thing nobody reminded Ernie of was that he didn't go to Poly. He had become as much a part of "Our Gang" and Poly as the bricks that built our beloved school.

My cousin, Colleen, who knew Ernie from the Reno Gatherings went on line and found this You Tube video of Ernie addressing a church group about his early life with Diana and the work they did ...

Ernie Bachelor Bar O Boys Ranch Story:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ztSV75VuVHg&noredirect=1>

We are honored to have Ernie as part of "Our Gang" and especially a part of our lives ... until we meet again



Top Photo:
September 25, 2011 ...
Waiting for the Vallejo
Ferry to Pier 41 and
Fisherman's Wharf.

Carolyn (Bier) Ross, Diana
(Andrus) Bachelor, Marilyn (Fetter) Lewis,
Gordon Lewis, Ernie Bachelor, Bob Ross



Right Side Photo:
August 3, 2014 ...
Ernie's Celebration of Life
Dian Barkan, Marilyn (Fetter) Lewis, Joyce
(Porter) Lindquist), Lou Bamberger

The engineer's lap





Janet Gaynor
(Laura Gainer, S 1923)

POLY FACES

From Kathy (Bertsch) Compagno, S'64

Thanks to Vince Aguiar, I think we all know that Janet Gaynor is our academy award winning actress ... in fact, the first one ever presented, in 1927, given for her work in four different films including Blue Eagle, which co-starred fellow Poly alum George O'Brien.

Janet was in Class of 1923, George was five years older from the Class of 1918.



George O'Brien, 1918
Janet Gaynor, S 1923

I came across these photo gems while browsing on Ebay.

Also, there is another Poly notable who is less well known. I have found only a few obscure references to Betty Russell in the yearbooks, and a couple mentions online but here is a photo of her, showing she was still actively flying in 1932.

She is included in my list of Poly notables which stated she received her wings as the youngest USA commercial pilot, notice it does not say women, but amongst all the pilots !!! ... although back then, there were very few.....

Kathy



Betty Russell

POLY HISTORY TID-BITS

From Bob Miller

Poly High as a technical high school was always on the cusp of technology. Most of us remember the Miranda Lux Lab, which offered training in electronics, amateur radio, and television to students during the day and evenings, and, in the afternoons, in-service training to teachers from other high schools. Some Lux students became technicians, repairing home radios and television receivers, and a few earned their FCC commercial licenses. The auto shop offered instruction for mechanics...engine rebuilding and some body work. The print shop whetted the appetite of young publishers. Drafting was offered a skill for students who would go on to work for architects and construction firms. The photo lab on the top floor offered training to budding journalists in the pursuit of their own photographic careers or to work for Bay Area newspapers. But earlier, when the 1911 building on Frederick was opened, motion picture projectionists and spotlight operators were to be trained at Poly, needed for the great movie and vaudeville houses that would be built over the next two decades in San Francisco, including;

- The Clay, 1910
- The Granada (The Paramount), 1922
- The Castro, 1922
- The Loews Warfield, 1922
- The Golden Gate, 1922
- The Pantages Orpheum, 1926
- The majestic Fox, 1929,

and the many neighborhood theaters that followed. This July I'm

attending a convention of theatre organists in Indianapolis. I used to go to concerts at the Paramount and Fox in San Francisco and knew a number of organists. A group of us in the late 1950s would accompany young Tom Hazleton to the Orpheum after the last movie that ended at midnight, and he would practice on the organ there for 2 hours.

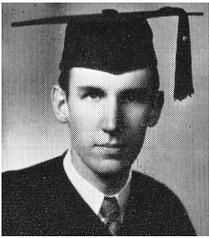
The introduction of television into the San Francisco market in the mid-1940s spelled the decline of the movie houses, though I suspect the training program at Poly ended with the advent of World War II. Remodeling of the school removed the generator room (I was told it was located on the main floor, west of the elevator) and much of the equipment in the projection booth. In the late 1950s I recall a newer arc-lamp movie projector and an arc spotlight in operation there, used to show films for the student body and to serve the productions of the Drama Department. By the way, Philo Farnsworth developed his Image Dissector, an all-electronic television, in San Francisco in the 1930s.

Bob Miller

Life is tough after the kids leave home and you have no one to blame for things but each other.

Farmers Digest





Richard Schlaich
Spring '50

End of the Line for Streetcar Savior Richard Schlaich

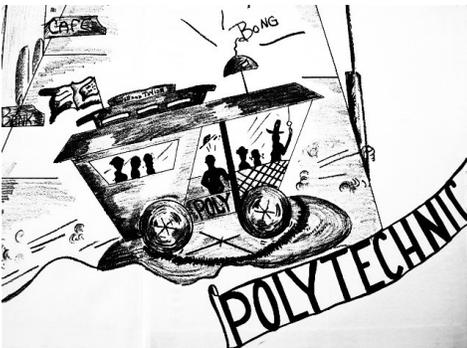
By Laura McHale Holland

If you've ever ridden the Muni's F-line down Market Street or taken a child for a ride on "Little Puffer," the miniature steam train at the San Francisco Zoo, that pleasure is due in large part to the efforts of Richard Ellis Schlaich. Yet it's likely that you've never before seen his name. You may have passed him on 24th Street, a tall, elderly man with a slight slouch and genteel manners reminiscent of bygone times. You might have browsed beside him at Phoenix Books or sat in a booth near him at Herb's Fine Foods while he ordered his usual—a side of ham, a side of sourdough toast, a small pineapple juice, a glass of water, and decaffeinated coffee—from his friend and waitress Irene Feragen. But you probably never knew you were in the presence of one of the most generous people ever to grace Noe Valley.

"Richard was a public-spirited person who was prone to let other people take credit for his work. He loved San Francisco and Noe Valley, and he wanted to enrich the community," says historian and author Emiliano Echeverria, who counted Schlaich among his dearest friends. "He succeeded at that beyond his wildest dreams."

Schlaich was born on Sept. 9, 1931, and lived his entire life in a home on Douglass Street that his parents bought in 1915, when it was new. After graduating from Polytechnic High School in 1950, he worked as a civil servant, first at San Francisco General Hospital and later in administration for the county's retirement system. He retired in 1996.

However, his passion to preserve our historical heritage and his willingness to share the fruits of his many hobbies was what truly distinguished him. Sadly, he succumbed to pancreatic cancer on March 18, 2003, having been diagnosed just a few months earlier. He was 72.



From Spring 1950 Yearbook

When he was a boy attending nearby Alvarado Elementary School, he loved riding all over the city on streetcars, which were prevalent at the time. His favorite route was the Market Street Railway's

11-line, which ran up and down 24th Street. As Schlaich grew up, streetcars and cable cars were being phased out and replaced by buses, but his affection for the cars remained strong. As a teen, he often gathered with other youths who shared his interest in urban transit systems and San Francisco's colorful history. They collected information and swapped memorabilia, thus beginning Schlaich's avocation as a collector.

When he was fresh out of high school, Schlaich joined the Committee to Save the Cable Cars and became instrumental in preserving what are now beloved emblems of our city's unique charm, drawing riders from around the globe.

In 1951, the first streetcars used by Muni, known as A-types, were pulled out of service. One slated for disposal, the #1 car, was the first car Muni ever ran and the first publicly owned streetcar in the United States. (Before Muni was established, private companies owned streetcars and cable cars.)

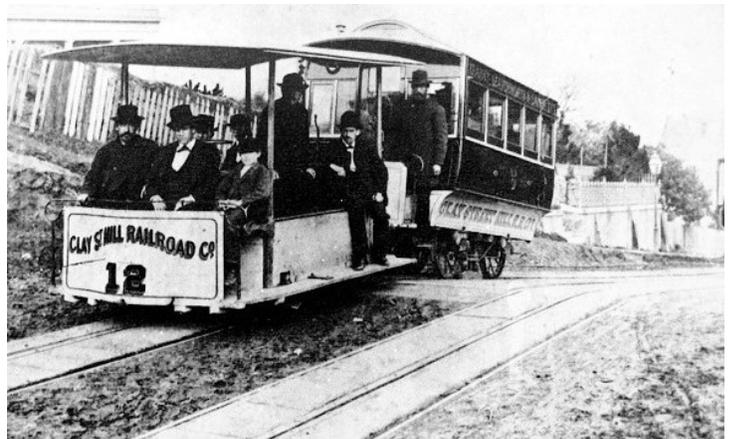


CASTRO CABLE, NO. 103

These cables were the type used before the fire of 1906 on Market lines.

Schlaich, only 20 years old at the time, was able to persuade higher-ups at the Western Pacific Railroad and the Railway and Locomotive Historical Society to preserve the car. Then he convinced the same people to preserve the Market Street Railway car #578, which was going to be junked. It had been part of a private fleet, but became the property of Muni in 1944.

In 1956, both cars were brought out of storage and re-motorized to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the 1906 San Francisco earthquake. Later, these two cars became the basis for what is now the historic F-line.



CLAY STREET HILL R.R., NO 12

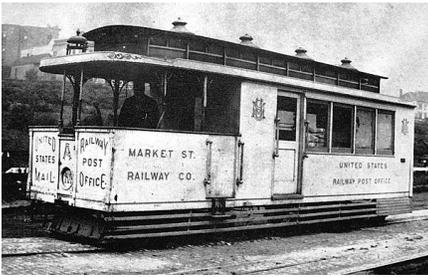
This cable car is one of the original Clay Street Cables that started running on August 1, 1873. Its invention marked the beginning of a new means of transportation that began and still runs only in San Francisco, The City of Hills.

Car #1 is in regular service, and #578 is used on special occasions. Schlaich has been the final word on how to accurately paint and restore the cars in the fleet, noticing even slight deviations in trim color and size, location of signs, and other details others might consider unimportant.

Continued on Page 9

End of the Line

Continued from Page 8



MARKET STREET RAILWAY'S CABLE POST OFFICE, NO. A

These cable cars were used to carry mail from the mail docks to the various post offices.

Schlaich's most recent rabble-rousing was in the 1990s, when the city was on the verge of selling "Little Puffer," which had been out of service since the Zoo was remodeled in the late 1970s. "Richard had ridden the train as a

child and knew it had been part of the Zoo almost since its inception. He felt it was wrong for the city to get rid of it, so he raised a stink and convinced the city to withdraw the train and its components from auction," recalls Echeverria. The Zoo subsequently restored the train and put it back into service.

In the last year of his life, Schlaich's major project was to ensure that the Municipal Railway photo archives, which date back to 1903, were preserved and made accessible to the public. He inspired his friends to found Friends of the Muni Photo Archive to carry on this work. Until the end, he was a valued source of information for researchers and enthusiasts of not just public transit, but also music, local lore, and photography.

"He was so knowledgeable," Echeverria reminisces. "I tried for years and years to learn from him what he had to teach, but I don't think I got half of it. Not because he didn't want to teach me, but because there was so much there." Several years ago, Grant Ute, who often visited his grandparents in Noe Valley when he was a child, was seeking historical information about Muni's operations in the 1940s.

"Everybody I talked to told me I should call Dick, and I finally did," Ute recalls. "He really opened my eyes. He had a wealth of insight and information."



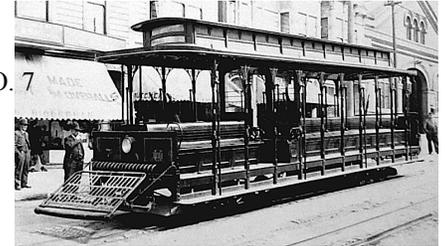
PACIFIC AVENUE, NO. 55

This cable car was the only one-man cable tried in San Francisco. Due to the overwork of the gripman, it was very short lived.

The two became fast friends, visiting often at Schlaich's home. Ute refers to himself as Schlaich's "last apprentice." Ute and Echeverria, along with fellow members of the Market Street Railway, helped organize a memorial for Schlaich on Saturday, May 22, at the Muni yard at Duboce and Market streets. An estimated 200 people gathered to listen to those closest to him share their fondest memories. Then about 40 people hopped onto Car #1, which had been specially commissioned to traverse the city following Schlaich's favorite routes, and rode the rails past some of his favorite places, including the Ferry Building, the former site of Polytechnic High School, and Church and 24th streets.

One of those who attended the memorial was James Koehneke, who works at Phoenix Books. "Richard had a great love of American music of all kinds. He was a record collector, an instrument builder, as well as a fan of music ephemera

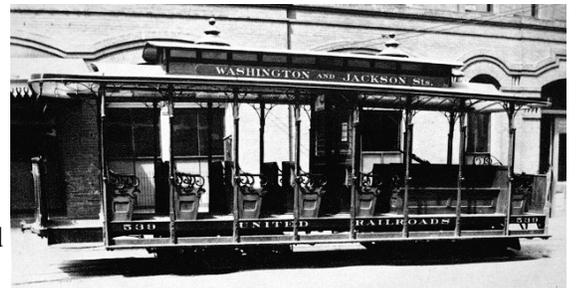
of all kinds, especially everything between 1880 and 1945. He had a brilliant collection of 78 rpm records--country and western, hillbilly music, ragtime--which he shared with me. And he continued to create this type of music through building mechanical instruments. It was fascinating to visit him. His house was like a museum, with amazing bits of history stacked everywhere."



CASTRO CABLE NO. 7

POWELL CABLE 539

This car was the same type as the Castro Cable 7, but it was used on Powell Street's narrow gauge line. This cable is now rebuilt into one of the present Muni Cable Cars.



Schlaich was deft at building and repairing orchestri-

ons, which are mechanical instruments automatically played by means of revolving cylinders. They often include wind instruments, drums, and cymbals. He also built a mechanical guitar, with a modern twist. "He devised a way to have his computer operate one of his guitars, so he was composing stuff and using sheet music to make a computer play a mechanical instrument. He combined turn-of-the-century technology with 21st-century technology," recalls Echeverria.

Schlaich was lucid until the very end of his life, so he was able to provide instructions for the disposition of his photo and other collections. At least three organizations were recipients of his largesse: the Market Street Railway, the San Francisco Main Library, and the Western Railway Museum in Fairfield.

Schlaich never married and had no children. He is survived by his brother Roderick of San Jose, and his cousin Fran Johanson of Roseville. Plans are in the works to install a bench with a plaque bearing his name at the 11-Hoffman bus stop nearest his home.

"Richard found out in the end how much people really loved him. He died at home surrounded by friends, relatives, and neighbors, who all came to help him out," reflects Echeverria. "He was never on the radio, never on television, never interviewed by the press. Other people got the glory, but he's an unsung, altruistic hero who cared. He put his effort where it counted."

Many thanks to Linda Beenau, Russ Doering, Emilio Echeverria, Irene Feragen, Fran Johanson, Paul Kantus, James Koehneke, Carmen Magana, Bob Townley, and Grant Ute, who all contributed to this story.

A Cuba Vacation

From Bob Miller, Fall '59

Margi and I were in Cuba the week of May 11th, largely in Havana. One can fly with a guide direct by charter from Tampa and from Miami. We stayed in a bed/board ... actually an apartment belonging to a couple who rent out one of their bedrooms. Our travel about Havana to visit the museums, former place of Batista, shops, artists, and schools was largely by foot. Much of Havana is in ruins, for money to paint and plaster walls and to repair roofs is in short supply due to the economic embargo by the US, with essentials like milk and eggs rationed. That's 5 eggs/month per person.

But there is little crime and no illegal drugs (in contrast to that one page of contrasts in the Poly newsletter). The revolution chased out the Mafia and gambling. Universal medical care is free and is of good quality. Cuba once had an economy based on sugarcane ... a trade devastated by the shift to sugar beets and to artificial sweeteners, as it depressed sugar as a crop in Hawaii. It's estimated that as many as 1 million slaves were brought from Africa to work the plantations during the 17th, 18th, and 19th Centuries, and they would have labored in Cuba under slave conditions for only 7 years before dying. Any ships that visit Havana are prohibited from visiting US ports for a number of years.

Yes, the rumors are true ... the streets of Havana are filled with early 1950s cars ... some Chrysler products but mostly Chevys, Pontiacs, Olds, and Cadillac's. Long ago those gasoline engines wore out and were replaced by diesels. A Poly grad from Auto Shop would have fit right in! Being an auto enthusiast (I watch the auctions here on TV and visit old car clubs), I much prefer a chromed 1956—57 Chevy to the 2014 plastic models. I saw a number of 1952 Chevys like the one I inherited from my folks. New cars included Kias, Ladas (from Russia), and a Chinese make that I couldn't pronounce. The easiest way to get around is to be driven on a 3-wheel bicycle.

There's a refreshing emphasis on the arts in Cuban culture ... on music, dance, and painting ... and the highlight of my visit was to attend an excellent concert of chamber music at a restored church (now a museum). The Cuban Revolution has relaxed its restrictions on churches over the past few years, though initially it confiscated all church property and nationalized parochial



schools. I found people very friendly to an American, with none of the anti-American anger one often experiences in Central America. I came away with a deep respect for the conditions under which the Cubans endure, for their imagination and skills in keeping the old things running, and for their introspection that expresses itself outwardly in art and music.

Bob Miller



1960 Varsity Basketball

Front Row:
K. Jaramillo, B. Bertaini,
E. Oliver, C. Trainor,
F. Spencer, H. Johnson,
J. Neal

Back Row:
J. Comisky, L. Delaney,
G. Sessions, J. Arterberry,
C. Currington, D. Novitzky,
G. Lewis, G. Haskel,
Coach Jim Witt

From the F'59 / S'60 Yearbook



Gathering 2014 Memories



DID YOU KNOW? Or better yet ... WERE YOU THERE?

From: Bob Ross, Marilyn Berg Cooper & Kathy Compagno

This interesting piece of Kezar Stadium "History" made its way to the newsletter thanks to Marilyn Cooper Berg who found it on the web, sent it on to Kathy who knew a great thing for the newsletter when she saw it. The original article with several more photos, can be found on the *SFGate* web site at this link:

<http://blog.sfgate.com/thebigevent/2014/06/17/kezar-stadium-had-wrigley-style-cheap-seats-for-49ers-fans/#24346101=6>

Yes, that's Kezar Stadium and NO ... those are not the Poly Parrots on the field ... it's the San Francisco 49ers and it's a Sunday in 1957. But the football game is not the subject of interest. If you look at the roof tops of the houses across the street and next to the Girl's Gym you will see many "Die Hard" football fans perched there ... without seat belts! Wonder if they had a porta potty up there. If the people who lived in the upper flats were smart they would have had a concession stand with hot dogs and beer.



Back then neither Carolyn nor I were into football. I had just graduated in the spring of 1955 and gone into the Air Force in January of 1956. Carolyn had just graduated with the spring 1957 class, was working and would soon be married. The one thing we do remember about those 49er football Sundays, was the total lack of parking which the folks in those flats in the area were taking advantage of by charging people to park in their driveways for as much as \$10 (In todays economy that would be more like \$50). Question is, did any of our readers find their way to those roof tops? If you did, drop us an Email with your memories.



P.S. If you haven't visited the *SFGate* web site prior to this, be sure to bookmark it in your Favorites.

Bob Ross

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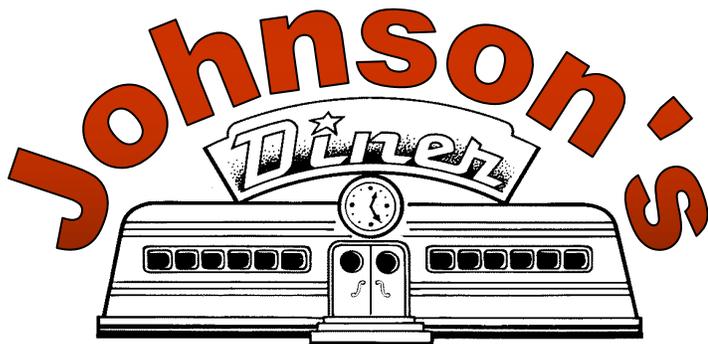
"We Repair All Makes of
Radios and Television"

Ads
from the
F'59 / S'60
Yearbook

Compliments of

**POLY HIGH
SCHOOL LUNCH**
Pearl A. Clark
Evelyn M. Cook

Right next door to school



Where the elite meet to eat



'John Wayne Casserole'

Source: Adapted from
Mississippi Magazine

Ingredients

- 2 pounds ground beef, cooked and drained
- 1 (1.25-ounce) packet taco seasoning
- 4 ounces sour cream
- 4 ounces mayonnaise
- 8 ounces Cheddar cheese, shredded and divided
- 1 yellow onion, sliced
- 2 cups biscuit mix (I would find something else for this too many carbs!!!!)
- 2 tomatoes, sliced
- 1 green bell pepper, sliced
- 1 (4-ounce) can sliced jalapeno peppers

Directions

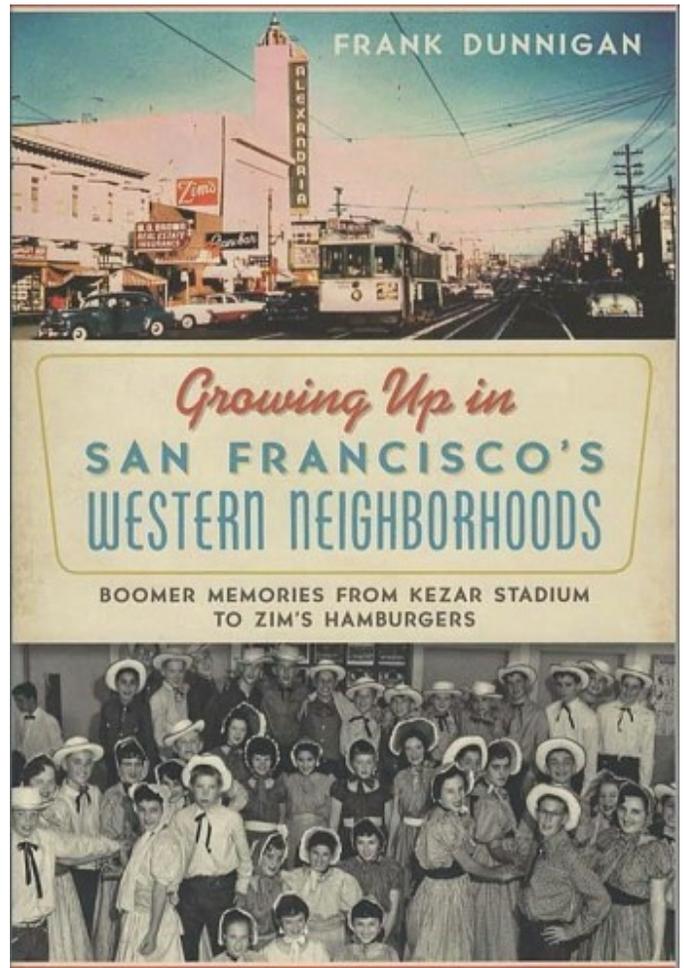
1. Heat oven to 325. Brown ground beef and add taco seasoning and water, according to packet instructions; set aside.
2. In a separate bowl, combine sour cream, mayonnaise, 4 ounces of cheddar cheese, and half of the onions; set aside.
3. Stir biscuit mix and water (directions on box) to form soft dough. Pat dough on the bottom and one-half-inch up the sides of an 9 x 13 in. greased casserole dish.
4. Sauté remaining onions and bell peppers until slightly tender.
5. On top of biscuit mix, evenly distribute ingredients in the following order: ground beef, tomato slices, green peppers, onions, jalapeno peppers, sour cream mixture and end with remaining shredded cheese.
6. Bake for 30-40 minutes or until edges of dough are lightly browned.

Sounds like a Yummy For The Tummy

PILGRIM!

New Book on San Francisco Just Released

From Frank Dunnigan, Author



If you grew up and went to school in San Francisco during the 50s & 60s, you will enjoy the following Facebook link on *Growing Up in Western San Francisco*, complete with a great Poly image (thanks to Alan Brimm & Kathy Bertsch Compagno):

https://www.facebook.com/westernsanfrancisco?ref_type=bookmark

The book is now available through major bookstores, on Amazon.com, and also through the publisher:

<https://historypress.net/catalogue/bookstore/books/Growing-Up-in-San-Francisco's-Western-Neighborhoods/9781626193840>

Regards!

Frank Dunnigan

Editor ... Got mine ... 188 pages of great reading and photos to stir your memories ... especially mine having gone to Argonne Grammar school and Presidio Jr. High in the Richmond District then Poly while living in the Richmond then Sunset Districts .

In Memorium



Gladys (Bushnell) Griffin Barss (92)
Class of Spring 1925
Jun 14, 1909 ~ Mar 29, 2001

Watched San Francisco Mayor Jimmy Rolph turn the first shovel of dirt for the construction of Kezar Stadium.

Jacob "Jack" Bluth (90) Class of Fall 1942
Jul 20, 1924 ~ Jul 25, 2014

John Henry Bower, Sr. (66) Class of 1965
1948 ~ Feb 12, 2014



Helen D. (McEwen) Gelardi (98)
Class of Spring 1933
1915 ~ Jun 7, 2014



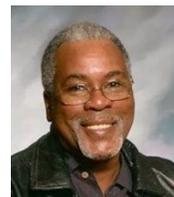
Patricia Bowler (91)
Class of Spring 1941
1923 ~ Jun 22, 2014



Gladys Ellen (Thompson) Moore (94)
Class of Spring 1937
Jan 20, 1920 ~ Jun 15, 2014



Mary Agnes (Mulligan) Coen (85)
Class of Spring 1947
Sept 15, 1929 ~ Jul 8, 2014



Ethra Reed (65)
Class of 1967
Jan 5, 1949 ~ Jul 18, 2014



Mrs. Jannie (Chan) Wu (86)
Polytechnic High School
Mathematics Department
1928 ~ July 3, 2014

From Captain & Mrs. Kerry O'Brien

The news of Mrs. Wu's passing is heart-breaking. She was my first teacher at Poly. I walked into Miss Chan's Algebra I Class first period, room 301 on the first day of school for the Fall Term of 1955 ... I was a 13 year old ninth Grader. We remained friends until now, nearly 59 years. My wife and I took her

to lunch last month, we were very close. We were planning on taking her to dinner on or near her 87th Birthday on July 23rd. She had mentioned that she wished she had a typewriter, so I cleaned up my old Smith-Corona, installed new ribbon and was going to gift it to her Mrs. Wu was a dear friend. I thought of her as family and loved her very much. I shall never forget that loving smile and her words of wisdom. She was a great Christian. We often discussed world problems and Prayed together, we were both Presbyterians. Many may not know that she fell and broke her femur and hip last December 6th and she was out of action for a while. After the hospital and physical therapy, she stayed with her daughter and son-in-law in San Jose. While there, she climbed up and down the stairs and with her fighting attitude made a Miraculous Recovery!!!! When she returned to her home on Laguna St, my wife and I picked her up for lunch and she used a cane (just a little!). The next time we all went out ... NO CANE! Her Faith and attitude made all the difference in the world! She was a dyed in the wool teacher! Up until last year she

was teaching reading in the SF Public Schools some 3 days a week ... GRATIS! Her late husband, Mr. Wu had started out in life to be an Episcopal Priest, but quit to study and become an Engineer. They had one daughter, who was a dentist, and now a Professor of Dentistry...her hubby is also a physician. She has two granddaughters. Mrs. Wu set an excellent example of a Virtuous and Well-Spent Life!!!! She will be greatly missed by my wife and me and the many people whose lives she touched

God Bless you and keep you Jan

Captain & Mrs. Kerry O'Brien



Poly Athletic Luncheon, August 2013. Left to right: Ms. Gonzalez (Murphy), Mrs. Hammerstead, Mrs. Wu, Ms. Devich and Ms. Holland (Gentleman unknown)

May the Parrot be with them on their journey

Kibbles And Bits And Pieces

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



We had a great time on our trip this summer. Visited friends & family along the way, went to Gathering, enjoyed great temperatures ... then came the last day of the trip and all went in the toilet. Caught a rock in the RV windshield on the way home ... shower heads in the master bath at home were plugged up from the hard water getting harder while we were gone ... next day the clothes washer dumped water all over the floor ... next day while the new washer was being installed, the house central air did a self destruct and we had to spend two days and one night without AC ... house got up to 92 degrees before the new AC was installed and working. Having a water softener installed ... any appliance that uses water lasts about five years due to the hard water ... Ya gotta love it!!!

But it was still a great trip!



Here are a couple of internet links for your enjoyment;

Michael Murray sent this link for a Playland at the Beach video ... should stir some memories:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=Dg2ifB8KxPs#t=12

And Carolyn came across this interesting site ... there are 25 then and now composite photos comparing san Francisco street scenes after the 1906 earth quake and modern day. Quite interesting.

<http://pixtale.net/2012/09/composite-then-and-now-photos-of-the-1906-san-francisco-earthquake/>



Speaking of web links ... we only check the links on the "Links" page of the Perennial Parrot web site about once a year at most. If you should be wandering through those links and find one that has stopped working, please drop us an email so we can either repair or remove the link if it's no longer available. Also, if you should come across a web site that you think might be of interest to the readers please send it to us ... we will check it out and, if appropriate, add it to the "Links" page.

Annual Luncheon Up Date;

Sorry, nothing to update at this point in time. There was a lot of talk and discussion at Gathering about different ways of getting the luncheon back up and running. Nor is there an official committee of any kind formed that we are aware of. We have had a number of emails from folks wanting to know if the luncheon will be revived ... All we can tell you right now is to watch the web site ... we will post any updates / information regarding the luncheon when we receive them. If you are interested in helping to revive the luncheon drop us an email and we will put you in touch with others of a like mind. Sorry, don't want to give out any names in the newsletter or on the web site until we know that a committee has actually formed. Hopefully that will happen and we can attend a POLY Luncheon in 2015 or 2016 at the latest.



We really do enjoy getting those "Letters to the Editor". To date, no one has had anything derogatory to say but if anyone does ... we will print it ... NO, that was not a hint.

Have no idea just how many folks are reading the newsletter. We know that many of you have told us that you pass it on to others to read ... we thank you for that.

The Cornerstone Project ... PLEASE ... if you have not made a donation, even a small one, do so now. You will find a donation form as the last page of this newsletter. Let's make sure that long after we are all gone that our great "*Lady In Granite*" will not be forgotten. We thank all who have helped keep the Poly Memory alive.

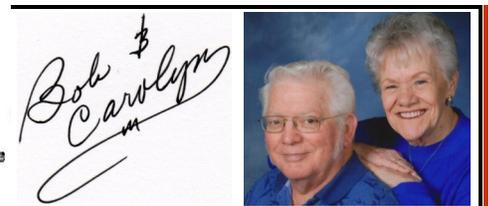


Time to take a nappy ...

See ya in December

HAIL POLY

A Think To Thought On ...
Just because you find fault doesn't mean you have to report it.
Frank Walsh



May The Parrot Be With You

This was only 104 years ago...Amazing!!!

The year is 1910, over one hundred years ago.
What a difference a century makes!

Here are some statistics for the Year 1910:
The average life expectancy for men was 47 years.
Fuel for this car was sold in drug stores only.
Only 14 percent of the homes had a bathtub.
Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.
There were only 8,000 cars and only 144 miles of paved roads.
The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.
The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower!
The average US wage in 1910 was 22 cents per hour.
The average US worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.
A competent accountant could expect to earn \$2000 per year,
A dentist \$2,500 per year, a veterinarian between \$1,500 and \$4,000 per year,
And a mechanical engineer about \$5,000 per year.
More than 95 percent of all births took place at HOME.
Ninety percent of all Doctors had NO COLLEGE EDUCATION!
Instead, they attended so-called medical schools, many of which were condemned in the press AND the government as 'substandard.'
Sugar cost four cents a pound.
Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen.
Coffee was fifteen cents a pound.
Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used Borax or egg yolks for shampoo.
There was no such thing as under arm deodorant or tooth paste.
Canada passed a law that prohibited poor people from entering into their country for any reason.



1910 Ford

The five leading causes of death were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza
2. Tuberculosis
3. Diarrhea
4. Heart disease
5. Stroke

The American flag had 45 stars.

The population of Las Vegas Nevada was only 30!

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented yet.

There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.

Two out of every 10 adults couldn't read or write and only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated from high school.

Eighteen percent of households had at least one full-time servant or domestic help.

There were about 230 reported murders in the ENTIRE U.S.A.! (yes, people have changed)

Try to imagine what it may be like in another 100 years?

Help Bring the Polytechnic Cornerstone Home in 2014

This is our one-time, urgent opportunity to pay tribute to Polytechnic. Many teachers and classmates who shaped our young lives are gone. Only the Cornerstone and our shrinking number of graduates remain. Please honor our legacy with a donation, large or small, toward construction and installation of the Cornerstone monument in 2014.

We have permission from the on-site housing development and from the city, but construction of our permanent monument cannot begin until funds are on deposit.

Yes! I will "join hands for Polytechnic" with my Cornerstone monument donation!

I enclose check or money order:

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1,000 Other\$_____

Name; First , Last

Polytechnic year (e.g.S54) | Maiden or former _____|_____

Street Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Phone 1 | Phone 2 | Email _____

Please use the following name(s) in all acknowledgments:

This donation is in memory of/in honor of

You may use my/our name(s) in matching fund drives Please do not publicize the amount of the pledge.

I (we) wish to have our gift remain anonymous.



Polytechnic Cornerstone is a fiscally-sponsored project of AcroSports www.acrosports.org housed in the Polytechnic Girls Gym; 639 Frederick St., San Francisco, CA 94117; 415.665.2276 A 501c3 non-profit organization; Tax ID: 94-3180899

"Polytechnic Cornerstone" is the fictitious name we have established under AcroSports, which has agreed to sponsor our project to commemorate Polytechnic High School's contribution to the community. Please rely on your own tax advisor concerning tax deductibility for your donation.

Mail check or money order payable to Polytechnic Cornerstone to:

Polytechnic Cornerstone; P.O. Box 1, Fairfax, CA 94978.