



Perennial Parrot

Volume 28 #2

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

August 2015

Bob St. Clair ... A Poly Legend

February 18, 1931 - April 20, 2015

Bob St. Clair, the Hall of Fame 49ers offensive tackle who was as feared on the field as he was adored off it, died Monday, April 20, 2015 at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital. He was 84.

St. Clair, who plied his trade on the gridiron at a time when NFL players held down second jobs in the offseason, was known for his outsized personality that belied the anonymity usually affixed to linemen.

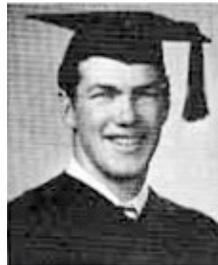
“Linemen weren’t famous,” St. Clair-Gretton said.

But, St. Clair, a towering man with a personality to match, was.

“People would walk up and say, ‘I watched you play,’ interrupt him all the time and instead of ignoring them, he would listen and let them tell whatever story they had. He would thank them,” St. Clair-Gretton said. “He always had a moment just to listen and thank them.”

St. Clair began playing football at San Francisco’s Polytechnic High School, which was across the street from the former Kezar Stadium, where he would play virtually his entire high school, college and NFL career. After high school, he played for the University of San Francisco, then, after a year at the University of Tulsa, he was picked up by the 49ers as a third-round draft pick in 1953. In 1951, he was part of USF’s undefeated team that would produce three NFL Hall of Famers, the others being Gino Marchetti and Ollie Maston.

St. Clair went on to play mostly as an offensive tackle for the 49ers for 11 seasons. Announcers often marveled at how “Big Bob St. Clair” could open up massive holes in an opposing team’s defensive line to be exploited by the team’s “Million Dollar Backfield.” He also had a knack for swatting down field goal attempts with his huge hands.



“At 6-9 and 265 pounds, St. Clair’s mere presence on the football field tended to intimidate many opponents. He was blessed with size, speed, intelligence and a genuine love of hitting and, using these traits to the maximum; his on-the-field trademarks became hostility, power, and strength,” reads a biography posted at the Pro Football Hall of Fame website.

He was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1990 for a career that saw no championships but included four All-NFL player nods and five pro bowls. He was known by his teammates as “Geek” for his unusual lifelong habit of eating raw meat. The moniker is a reference to the 1947 movie “Nightmare Alley” where the fallen lead character takes a job in a side-show eating live chickens.

St. Clair played in an era of simpler safety gear, and it took its toll. He played the early part of his career in a leather helmet, and once he had five teeth knocked out and kept on playing. In 1964, he retired after his second Achilles tendon tear in as many years. He would later advocate for better health care coverage for former players.

In 2001, the city renamed Kezar Stadium, where he played 17 seasons and 189 home games, as Bob St. Clair Field.

St. Clair had a successful political career, first as the mayor of Daly City from 1958 to 1961, then as a San Mateo County supervisor from 1966 to 1974.

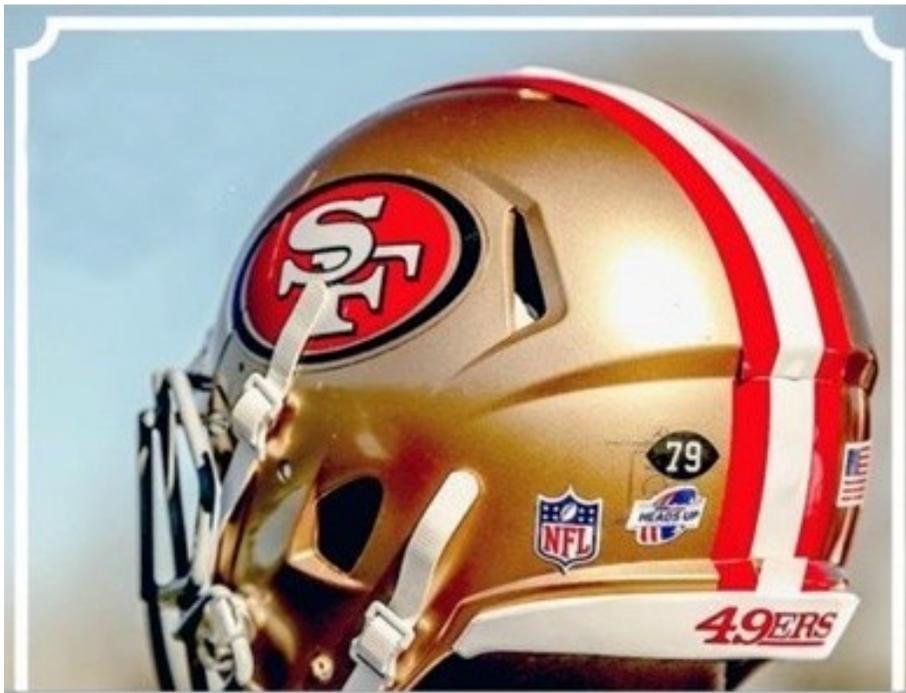
He was a regular and a celebrity at Santa Rosa’s Nutty Bar and Restaurant, formerly the Nutty Irishman, where for years his 49er memorabilia adorned a wall.

The above are excerpts from an article written by Kerby Benefield of *The Press Democrat*

San Francisco 49ers Honoring Bob St. Clair

In finale preparations for the Houston pre-season game, the 49ers equipment staff have placed No. 79 decals on all helmets in memory of Bob St. Clair.

The 49ers will wear the No. 79 for all pre-season and regular season games for the 2015 season.



From the Spring 1948 / Fall 1949 Year Book



This was the starting lineup of the 1948 Polytechnic Varsity football team. This team rolled up the third consecutive crown for the Red and Black. The prime accomplishment of this team was in the obtaining of the AAA trophy to rest forever in the annals of Polytechnic.

Individually the team had six men on the all-city team. These were end Merrill Jacobs, tackles Bob St. Clair and Sven Hasselberg, guard Roy Bellesen, and halfbacks Elvin Colburn and Marv Crews. However, the entire first club played an exceptionally good brand of football.

The Perennial Parrot Newsletter

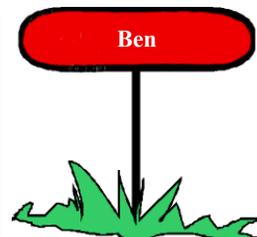
Editorial Staff: Bob (S'55) & Carolyn (Bier S'57) Ross
1400 Zillock Road Lot V26 San Benito, TX 78586
Home: 956-276-0948 Cell: 956-357-3181

E-Mail: PerennialParrot@gmail.com

Perennial Parrot Web Site
www.PerennialParrot.com/index.html

HAIL POLY Web Site
www.maxie24.com/hailpoly/HailPoly/index.html

POLY Alumni Association
polytechnicalumniassocf@gmail.com



Casper Weinberger

Aug 18, 1917 ~ Mar 28, 2006

Polytechnic High School Fall 1933

United States Secretary of Defense, 1981 ~ 1987



From the Fall, 1933 Yearbook, Pages 34-35:

STUDENT BODY

The passing of Fall, 1933 marks a term of varied and worth-while accomplishments. The students voted in favor of raising the Student Body dues from fifty to seventy-five cents, and including with the many other privileges, a subscription to the bi-weekly school paper, The Parrot. At the weekly meetings there has been considerable discussion over the privileges accorded Student Body card holders with a view to making the cards more valuable, although several assemblies have been held this term for Student Body card holders.

■ The Dance committee sponsored several entertaining dances with novel features. The most notable of these were the Autumn Dance of September 28 and the Hallowe'en Dance of October 31. The designs of these two dance programs, drawn by Joe Donlin, are reproduced below.

■ On October 25 the Sir Francis Drake Hotel was again the scene of the semi-annual banquet for student officers and faculty. Thirty-seven were present.

OFFICERS

- President Casper Weinberger*
- First Vice-President Marion Dahlman*
- Second Vice-President Virginia Dryden*
- Secretary Larry Murray*
- Treasurer William Cabral*
- Assistant Treasurer Harold Kahn*
- Custodian Alfred Eilken*
- Athletic Manager George Lackey*
- Cheer Leader Darwin Marron*
- Judge Student Court Frank Lott*

■ After much discussion pro and con, the students voted in favor of retaining the Student Court, and it is now more directly controlled by students themselves than ever before. Each week, about eight or ten summons are issued by students only; for example, officers of the Student Body and Block P members. Teachers can not issue citations. Frank Lott is capably filling the office of court judge this term,

while the jury is composed of the presidents and vice-presidents of the low-one to high-four classes.

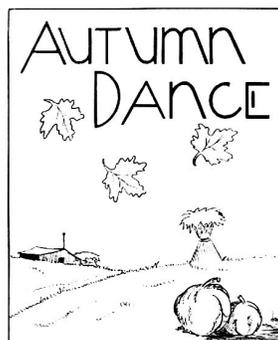
■ As in previous years, the most elaborate project of the term was undoubtedly "Spirit Week." With the idea in mind that a whole week be spent profitably in making better citizens and a better school, a series of events was planned which would be instructive as well as entertaining. There were assemblies, rallies, a dance, and a Student Control Day. On this occasion the students took over the reins of the teachers, while Casper Weinberger filled Mr. Addicott's chair as principal of the school. Marion Dalman acted as Dean of Girls and William Cabral took over as Mr. Mohr's duties. The Rally committee had complete charge of planning the program and working out most of the details of "Spirit Week," and it is due largely to its efforts that the affair was a huge success. The week was climaxed with a mammoth pep rally preceding the Poly-Lowell gridiron classic.

■ In the past year Polytechnic has led all the other high schools in attendance by nearly one percent, and as a reward for students who have striven to attain this record, a huge jollification rally was given during the seventh and eighth periods on October 13. A diversified and amusing program included numbers by the dance orchestra, the Forum Club, the Drama Club, the Girls' Trio, the Boys' Quartet, and different students who revealed special talent.

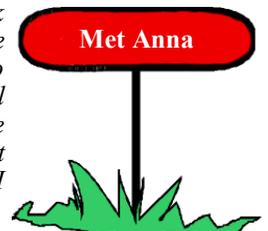
■ As the Journal goes to press, a new school constitution is under consideration, but whether it will be completed and submitted to the students and to the faculty this term is problematical. Modeled after the National Constitution it is the work of Casper Weinberger. The main feature of this constitution will be the increased student representation at Student Body meetings.



Casper Weinberger



Editor comment: One of the things I enjoy about putting this newsletter together is going back thru the yearbooks and seeing what high school life was like back in the 20s, 30s, & 40s. What a different breed of teenager there was back then. Yes, things started to change in the 50s and yes! I would love to go back to the 50s! Back then most of us still "understood" and "reasoned" ... we weren't telling our parents "You don't understand me, that's not reasonable!" I was never told life was reasonable



Jimmy W. Price

Feb 19, 1930 ~ Feb 15, 2006

Another Illustrious Poly Grad

Here's an 2006 email from Vince Aguiar (F'63):

JIMMY PRICE POLYTECHNIC

Dear Friends, If you take the S.F. Chronicle, or if you get on the Chron website (obit section) you will see a long article on Jimmy Price. I had no idea that he went to Poly. Jimmy Price was a wonderful trombone player, who succumbed to prostate cancer on Feb. 15th. I am proud to know that he was a POLY alum.

The Best, Vince
HAIL POLYTECHNIC

"Mr. Price's mother played piano and sang in church, but his love of music didn't begin until junior high school, when a teacher discovered his talent and encouraged him to play in the school band. He later played in the band of what was then POYTECHNIC HIGH SCHOOL, his daughter said. After high school, Mr. Price served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and played in the service's band. When he returned to his adopted city, he went to San Francisco State University and received a degree in music. After that he joined the Glenn Miller Orchestra and his professional career began."

PIANO

"JOIN HANDS FOR POLYTECHNIC"

LEAD SHEET

TRIO OF "OUR DIRECTOR" MARCH

The image shows a handwritten musical score for piano on a grand staff. The title is "JOIN HANDS FOR POLYTECHNIC" and it is identified as a "TRIO OF 'OUR DIRECTOR' MARCH". The score includes a melody line with lyrics and a chord line. The lyrics are: "JOIN ' HANDS FOR POLY- TECH- NIC- FRIENDS OLD AND NEW — STAND ALL TO GETH - ER ALL TO HER WE ROOT (ROOT TOOT TO. TOODLE-EE DOODLE-EE) ROUND THE POLY BAN - NER MAY VIC - TORY SING — THREE CHECKS FOR POLY — Y TO HER WE". The score is divided into a "1ST ENDING" and a "2ND ENDING". Chords are written above the staff, including Eb, Ab, Bb7, Bb9, Eb, Bb7, Eb, F7, Bb7, Ab, Eb, C, Ab, Eb/Bb, Bb7, Eb, and Eb. There are also performance instructions like "SING!" and "SING." with arrows pointing to specific notes.

The above lead sheet was written from the fading but still lucid memory of Jimmy Price while recalling wistful thoughts of Dear Old Poly High.

Made a hit

Neglected beard

Editor: Can't help but wonder how many more of these wonderful Poly people are hidden out there in the shadows. When thinking of Poly, most think sports. But Poly was MUCH more than sports ... who do you remember that contributed to the heritage of Polytechnic High School?

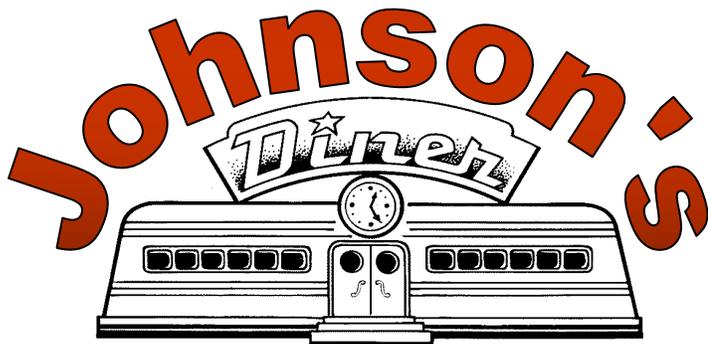


Ben-Anna split.

From the Fall '48 / Spring '49 Yearbook

Burma Shave

1. They look happy!... 2. A great decision in the making... 3. Al, Jack & Frank... 4. Posing?... 5. Well... 6. A cute trio... 7. A very cute pair... 8. Ralph, campaigning... 9. Captain of the football team?!!... 10. Time out for a picture... 11. The girls clam in... 12. Three good heads.



Where the elite meet to eat

Apple-Cherry Cobbler



Ingredients

- 1 14.5 oz. can red tart cherries in water (such as Oregon Fruit), drained
- 3 large apples, peeled and cubed
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1 1/4 tsp. baking powder
- 3 Tbsp. margarine, melted
- 2/3 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 tsp. vanilla

Directions

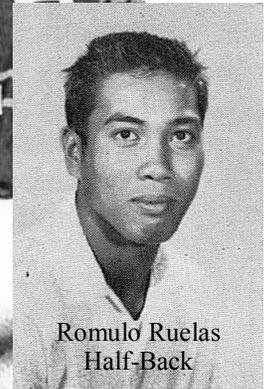
- * Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- * In a large bowl, combine cherries, apples, and 1/4 cup sugar.
- * Spoon mixture into a 9" square baking pan or 9" deep-dish pie pan.
- * In a small bowl, combine flour and baking powder and set aside.
- * In a large bowl, combine combine margarine, sugar, eggs and vanilla and mix well.
- * Stir in the flour mixture until combined.
- * Pour mixture over the apples and cherries and bake 45 minutes, or until topping passes the toothpick test.

Note: Be certain that you purchase cherries in water as opposed to cherry pie filling or cherries in syrup. The latter adds a considerable amount of sugar and calories, and also suffers from a lack of real cherry taste.

ENJOY

POP QUIZ ANSWERS

Well, a couple at least



Romulo Ruelas
Half-Back

POP QUIZ TIME!

OK Boys & Girls ... I normally organize things pretty well but every so often I just put something down and it gets "temporally lost." Such is the case with this photo. Someone sent this to me but I have lost any info that came with it.

YES ... we all know that is Coach Axt standing on the left.

The "POP QUIZ" has just five questions:

First ... When was the photo taken?

Taken during the 1960 Season

Second ... Who is Number 29?

Romulo Ruelas (Now deceased)

Third ... Who were we playing?

Still a Question

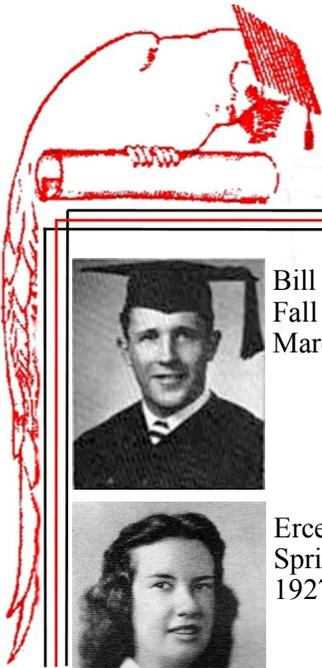
Fourth ... Did we win?

Still a Question

Fifth ... Who sent me this photo?

I still don't remember!

Our thanks to David Gonzales, Spring '61 for providing a few answers to our curiosity. Can anyone answer the last three questions ... and who did send the photo?????????



In Remembrance Of Our Classmates Who Have Passed Before Us



Bill Verdeckberg (82)
Fall 1948
March 23, 1931 ~ Dec 10, 2013



Raymond Gee (85)
Fall 1948
Oct 8, 1929~ April 16, 2015



Ercel (Decker) Kern (88)
Spring 1945
1927 ~ May 27, 2015



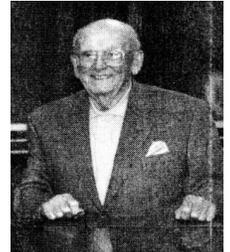
Stanley E. Ritchie (87)
Fall 1945
1928 ~ July 14, 2015



Evangeline Jane (Younger) Cokas (80)
Spring 1951
Jan 30, 1935 ~ May 8, 2015
Graduated from Poly at 16 years old.



Howard Hageman (99)
Fall 1938
1916 ~ May 30, 2015



Majorie Dolores (Weber) Morse (94)
Spring 1938
July 11, 1920 ~ June 17, 2015



Mora Hooper (97)
Spring 1935
Nov 25, 1917 ~ 2015

Ray Johnson (70) ... Class of 1962 ... Sept 16, 1944 ~
April 24, 2015
Member Varsity Football Team of 1961
Married Stephanie Bell in 1965, she was "Miss Poly 1963"

Frank Raymond Patterson, Sr. (88)
Class of 1944
Dec 9, 1926 ~ July 26, 2015

John "Jack" Byrne Code Rose
Class of 1949
Sept 25, 1931 ~ June 26, 2015

David Nobleza
Class of 1948 (?)
? ~ August 2015
On Championship Basketball Team of 1946
Poly Hall of Fame

Katherine Loretto Keeley (90)
Faculty
1927 ~ April 25, 2015

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



HELLO ALL ...

“On the road again ...” Yeppers, been trying to get this newsletter done while traveling the highways en-route from deep South Tejas to California. Lots of sightseeing, visiting friends and relatives, making genealogy stops and trying to write the newsletter in the cramped space of the RV. It’s a 28 foot, Class C, no slides ... by the time we cram all our books, papers, two laptops, printer, clothes, food and God only knows what else inside, only one person at a time can stand up to go anywhere inside and the shower was built with midgets in mind!

Our primary destination this trip is the First Annual Poly Alumni Association Luncheon ... or you can just say “FAPAAL OR BUST!”

Had thought about bringing along a water wagon for Calif. but trying to tow a car and the water wagon just doesn’t compute! Hope there’s enough water left for us to take a shower before the luncheon ... we would have to dine in an adjoining restaurant otherwise.



For you San Francisco natives ... in case you have not found these on Face Book check them out:

San Francisco History FB Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/SFHistory/?ref=bookmarks>

We Grew Up In San Francisco FB Page:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/sanfrancisonative/>



A Think To Thought On ...
The best years of your Life should always be the Ones you are living now.
Richard C. Miller

THE TIME HAS COME ...

August 31 is the deadline for sending in your registration in for the upcoming Poly Alumni Luncheon, REMEMBER, NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR! If you have Already sent in your registration, your ticket will be mailed to you starting September 1st unless you specified that you wanted it held for you at the reception table.

The Info and Registration form is attached at the back of this newsletter ... haven’t sent it in yet ... DO IT NOW!

Also attached is a form to join the Poly Alumni Association. This association is coming together very nicely and is working very hard to preserve the memory of Poly through the establishment of scholarships for the SFUSD.

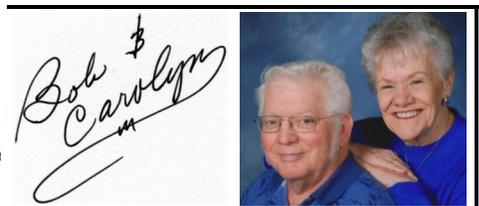
Not on the Poly Alumni Mailing list? Filling out either of these forms will get you onto the Poly Alumni data base for future mailings. (We are not privy to Ray Montoroso’s mailing list and MUST rebuild the mailing list from scratch ... help us keep you in the loop).

Let’s not forget our Poly Heritage, we have a lot to be proud of

Got a story about Poly to share with our readers? Please don’t hesitate to send it in to us ... especially if you have a picture to go along with it. Help us keep the *Spirit of Poly* alive.

Drive safe and see ya at the Luncheon ...

HAIL POLY



May The Parrot Be With You

SO HOW WAS YOUR VACATION?

THESE ARE ACTUAL COMPLAINTS RECEIVED BY A TRAVEL AGENCY FROM DISSATISFIED CUSTOMERS:

1. "On my holiday to Goa in India, I was disgusted to find that almost every restaurant served curry. I don't like spicy food."
2. "They should not allow topless sunbathing on the beach. It was very distracting for my husband who just wanted to relax."
3. "We went on holiday to Spain and had a problem with the taxi drivers as they were all Spanish."
4. "We booked an excursion to a water park but no one told us we had to bring our own swimsuits and towels. We assumed it would be included in the price."
5. "The beach was too sandy. We had to clean everything when we returned to our room."
6. "We found the sand was not like the sand in the brochure. Your brochure shows the sand as white but it was more yellow."
7. "It's lazy of the local shopkeepers in Puerto Vallartato to close in the afternoons. I often needed to buy things during 'siesta' time -- this should be banned."
8. "No one told us there would be fish in the water. The children were scared."
9. "Although the brochure said that there was a fully equipped kitchen, there was no egg-slicer in the drawers."
10. "I think it should be explained in the brochure that the local convenience store does not sell proper biscuits like custard creams or ginger nuts."
11. "The roads were uneven and bumpy, so we could not read the local guide book during the bus ride to the resort. Because of this, we were unaware of many things that would have made our holiday more fun."
12. "It took us nine hours to fly home from Jamaica to England. It took the Americans only three hours to get home. This seems unfair."
13. "I compared the size of our one bedroom suite to our friends' three bedroom and ours was significantly smaller."
14. "The brochure stated: 'No hairdressers at the resort.' We're trainee hairdressers and we think they knew and made us wait longer for service."
15. "When we were in Spain, there were too many Spanish people there. The receptionist spoke Spanish, the food was Spanish. No one told us that there would be so many foreigners."
16. "We had to line up outside to catch the boat and there was no air conditioning."
17. "It is your duty as a tour operator to advise us of noisy or unruly guests before we travel."
18. "I was bitten by a mosquito. The brochure did not mention mosquitoes."
19. "My fiancée and I requested twin beds when we booked, but instead we were placed in a room with a king bed. We now hold you responsible and want to be re-reimbursed for the fact that I became pregnant. This would not have happened if you had put us in the room that we booked."

BE AWARE ... THEY WALK AMONG US and THEY VOTE!



BE TRUE TO YOUR SCHOOL

Come and Celebrate the Decades at Our First Annual Alumni Luncheon

WE INVITE ALL POLY ALUMNI AND FACULTY TO OUR FIRST ANNUAL ALUMNI LUNCHEON. IT IS BEING HELD ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2015, AT THE UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER IN SAN FRANCISCO, CA. WE ENCOURAGE YOUR ATTENDANCE AND SUPPORT SO THAT WE CAN KEEP THIS TRADITION GOING YEAR AFTER YEAR.

Date: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2015
UNITED IRISH CULTURAL CENTER
2700 - 45th AVENUE SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94116
PHONE: (415) 661-2700

Time: 11:30 AM Social Hour ...1:00 PM Lunch

Menu: Salad, Entree (Choice of Roast Cross Ribs of Beef Bordelaise, Breast of Chicken with Lemon Butter, or Vegetarian Pasta. Dessert will be Chocolate Mousse).

With Wine ...Coffee, Milk or Tea

Cost: \$40 per person. Reservation deadline is August 31, 2015. Absolutely no tickets sold at the door. Tickets will be sold on a first come, first serve basis and will be mailed out ten days prior to the luncheon. NO REFUNDS. Please help us by making your reservation as soon as possible. Include name of your guest, and if from Poly, the year graduated; if not from Poly, please include the high school and year they graduated.

Note: The center is ADA ACCESSIBLE. If extra space for wheelchair is needed or you have additional questions regarding the luncheon, contact Art Lidstrom at (415) 296-9036.or by Email at rainshyll@yahoo.com

HAIL POLYTECHNIC, LONG LIVE THY NAME

POLYTECHNIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION 1st Annual Luncheon ... September 19, 2015

If you cannot attend, please complete and return the form so we can keep your information current.

NUMBER ATTENDING: _____ X \$40 (Includes Tax & Tip) = \$ _____

Make check payable to POLYTECHNIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION and mail to:

POLYTECHNIC ALUMNI ASSOCIATION
P. O. Box 263
NOVATO, CA 94948

ENTRÉE SELECTION: _____ BEEF _____ CHICKEN _____ VEGETARIAN

ALUMNI Name: _____

Maiden Name: _____

Class Year (i.e. S`55 or F`64): _____

FACULTY Name: _____

Years taught at POLY (i.e. 1955 to 1965): _____

Subject(s) Taught: _____

SPOUSE Name: _____

If POLY Graduate, Maiden Name: _____

Class Year (i.e. S`55 or F`64): _____

GUEST Name: _____

Guest, High School Name, Location & Class Year:

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: () _____ Cell Phone: () _____

EMAIL: _____

NOTE: Email addresses will only be given to POLY Reunion Committees or to other POLY event committees.

_____ I cannot attend but keep me on the mailing list for future POLY Luncheons/Events.



Alumni Membership Application

Annual Dues: \$10.00 yearly ____ Life time: \$100.00 ____
Note: Annual dues will be due on January 1st Of the new calendar year

Mail check to :

**Polytechnic Alumni Association
P.O. Box 263
Novato, CA 94948**

Name: _____ Yr. Graduated _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone #: _____ E-Mail _____

Your dues will help maintain the Alumni Association and in setting up a Public Educational fund for scholarships and promoting education in the SFUSD. These funds will be issued in the name of:

The Polytechnic High School Alumni Association

Be True To Your School