

# Perennial Parrot

Volume 30, #2...Polytechnic High School...1894~1972...San Francisco, California... August, 2017

## 1929 First Academy Award

Former Poly grad Janet Gaynor



Won the Academy Award for Best Actress.

Movies: Sunrise, 7th Heaven, and Street Angels.

Other Nominees: Gloria Swanson and Louise Dresser.

Another Poly Graduate, George O'brian, who starred in this Movie. His co-star was Janet Gaynor.



***DON'T FORGET TO SEND  
IN YOUR RESERVATION  
FOR THE  
3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL  
POLYTECHNIC ALUMNI  
LUNCHEON  
ON  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2017  
AT THE  
PATIO ESPANOL  
2850 ALEMANEY  
SAN FRANCISCO  
INFO AND REGISTRATION  
FORM ARE ON PAGE #10 & 11***

## The Perennial Parrot Newsletter

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# Something From The Past

No one can afford to be sick anymore. At \$15.00 a day in the hospital, it's too rich for my blood.

who would have thought Gas would someday cost 25 cents a gallon?



Did you see where some baseball player just signed a contract for \$50,000 a year just to play ball? It wouldn't surprise me if someday they'll be making more than the President.

## PORTALS OF THE PAST

# How 'Octopus' railway got the OK to bring crowds to beach

By Gary Kamiya

On Sunday, Dec. 9, 1883, more San Franciscans were at the beach than ever before in the city's history. A reported 18,000 people filled the northern end of Ocean Beach, packed the Cliff House and spilled south toward Golden Gate Park.

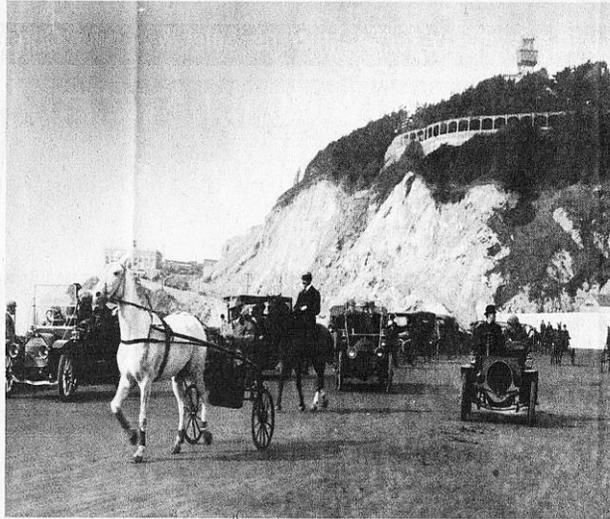
"Along the Ocean Beach a sight was presented such as has not been seen before by those who for years had made almost daily trips to the beach in hack or buggy," the Daily Alta California reported. "In spite of the cold wind the Cliff House end of the beach was literally thronged with people. Children, playing in the sand, looked at the ocean for the first

time in their lives."

One event was responsible for this unprecedented mass excursion to the seashore: the opening of the Park and Ocean Railroad. Although the creation of the rail line was surrounded by controversy, it represented a major transportation breakthrough. For the first time, the average San Franciscan could easily and affordably go to the beach.

During the city's first three decades, its western edge was difficult and expensive to get to. An 1863 toll road, Point Lobos Avenue, ran from Bush and Presidio to the Cliff House, but using it required owning or renting a horse and carriage, and its round-trip

*Portals continues on C2*



In the early decades, getting out to the ocean was a rare treat for most San Franciscans because of the time and cost. This image shows the early days at Ocean Beach, with the Cliff House in the background left and the Sutro Heights tower on the right.

## BAY AREA

### 'Octopus' railroad got its way in park

*Portals from page C1*

fare of \$1 was beyond the means of most people. A decade later, paved roads to the beach were opened in the new Golden Gate Park, but the Park Commission did not allow commercial lines to use them.

The new owners of one of the city's principal cable car companies, the Market Street Cable Railroad Co., already had a cable car line that stopped at Haight and Stanyan streets. They realized that if they could run a train line from there to the beach, they could make a killing. So they asked the Park Commission for a 50-year franchise for their new Park and Ocean Railroad.

The route would run from the cable car stop on Stanyan, across the southeast corner of the park — near where Kezar Drive is today — to H Street, which is now Lincoln Way. From there, it would head west out H Street almost all the way to the beach.

As Western Neighborhoods Project founders Woody LaBounty and David Gallagher note in one of their informative "Outside Lands" podcasts (No. 90), the line would turn north between what are now 47th and 48th avenues, then go over an overpass, cut across the far western end of the park, through a tunnel and end up at what is now Balboa and La Playa. That's just across from the road leading up to the Cliff House and where the plaque

### Trivia time

**The most recent trivia question:** What was the first name given to the Farallon Islands?

**Answer:** The Isles of St. James, so named by Sir Francis Drake, who briefly stopped there in 1579 after putting in at Point Reyes.

**This week's trivia question:** Who was the "Blind Boss"?

commemorating Playland-at-the-Beach now stands.

This was, to put it mildly, an audacious request. A private company was asking for an easement for a steam train to cross San Francisco's new crown jewel, city-owned Golden Gate Park — and cross it not once but twice. The three-member Park Commission declined to approve the project. As Raymond Clary writes in "The Making of Golden Gate Park: The Early Years 1865-1906," the commission said it would be willing to lease the land at the southeastern corner of the park, but would not allow a railroad to be built through the western end of the park.

That did not deter the owners of the Market Street Cable Railroad Co. — plutocrats who also owned the Southern Pacific Railroad, the all-powerful monopoly that basically ran the state. "The Octopus," as the Southern Pacific would be called by novelist Frank Norris, almost always got what it wanted — and the slick way it greased the skids for its new project demonstrates why.

Leland Stanford, one of the "Big Four" magnates who created the Southern Pacific, was a director of the Park and Ocean Railroad. Two of the three park commissioners were in the SP's pocket and gave in. But the third, William Alvord, steadfastly held out. The other commissioners manipulated him into resigning, then appointed none other than Stanford to replace him.

Stanford never attended any Park Commission meetings and resigned as soon as the deal was ensured, to avoid the appearance of conflict of interest that would arise if he voted on it.

The casual arrogance of the Southern Pacific was illustrated by the fact that the company began work on the line before the commission even approved it. When a Chronicle reporter asked the foreman of a construction crew if the railroad had received approval, the man replied, "Mr. Stanford wanted the road. That's all."

The city and state sued to stop the railroad, claiming it was a "nuisance" on public property, but pending a ruling, the Park and Ocean Railroad opened Saturday, Dec. 1, 1883. The public response was overwhelming. Ten thousand people rode the train to the beach on the first day; the next week-end 18,000 supposedly did, although that figure would have required a 360-passenger train to depart every 10 minutes for more than eight hours.

"Fully one half of the people who started for the beach



California State Library

**Rail magnate Leland Stanford was key in getting a new railroad across Golden Gate Park.**

never got beyond the point where the cable cars meet the steam dummies at the park entrance," the Alta wrote.

At 20 cents a round trip, the Park and Ocean line wasn't cheap — a clerk's average salary in 1883 was \$12 a week, making the fare the equivalent of \$16 for someone making \$50,000 a year today. But for thousands of San Franciscans who had rarely if ever been out to the ocean, it was an irresistible splurge to take the half-hour steam train ride along the sand dunes out to the end of the continent.

The state Supreme Court eventually gave the Park and Ocean Railroad its legal seal of approval. In 1898 the trains gave way to electric streetcars, which ran for the next 50 years. Gallagher and LaBounty point out that you can still see the berms where the overpass once stood, and the foot trail that runs near the soccer fields

### Editor's note

Every corner in San Francisco has an astonishing story to tell. Gary Kamiya's Portals of the Past tells those lost stories, using a specific location to illuminate San Francisco's extraordinary history — from the days when giant mammoths wandered through what is now North Beach to the Gold Rush delirium, the dot-com madness and beyond. His column appears every other Saturday, alternating with Peter Hartlaub's OurSF.

and the Park Chalet follows the old train line.

The strangest legacy of the opening up of Ocean Beach, however, was a peculiar squatter colony.

In its report on the vast crowds that rode the train on its second weekend, the Alta noted, "The newly erected refreshment stands at the beach did a heavy business." The press did not realize it yet, but those refreshment stands were the first structures of a weird and wonderful settlement that was about to gain national notoriety as "Moo-neysville." The short, hilarious life of that whiskey-soaked shantytown-by-the-sea will be the subject of the next two Portals.

Gary Kamiya is the author of the best-selling book "Cool Gray City of Love: 49 Views of San Francisco," awarded the Northern California Book Award in creative nonfiction. All the material in Portals of the Past is original for The San Francisco Chronicle. Email: metro@sfbchronicle.com

# A Little Bit Of Polytechnic History



Girls' Gymnasium in 1937



Boys' Gymnasium Built in 1929

**Polytechnic High School Gymnasiums 639 and 755 Frederick Street Built 1929 and 1937** On Frederick Street, across from Kezar Stadium, two mysterious [Art Deco](#) sisters, separated by three hundred feet, stand grandly aloof from their modest neighbors. They are all that remain of Polytechnic High School which once stood between them but was demolished in 1984. The original

Polytechnic High School, located at the intersection of Bush and Stockton Streets, was destroyed by the 1906 Earthquake and Fire. The new Polytechnic High School on Frederick Street opened in 1914. The boy's gym was added in 1929 and the girl's gym in 1937 as wings of the original building.

The new school was announced in the *City and County of San Francisco Municipal Record, Vol. IV, No. 3, 19 January 1911*: The Polytechnic High School to be erected on Frederick Street between Willard Street and First Avenue will comprise two buildings - an academic building fronting on Frederick and a manual training and shop building facing on Carl Street

The exterior design will be purely classic modified to meet modern requirements. The ornamental cornices, belt courses and cast iron work will be simple but ornate and in detail will lean toward French Renaissance. The construction will be of reinforced concrete, steel, brick, and terra cotta with fireproof staircases. The academic building

of three stories, basement, and attic will have a frontage on Frederick Street of 330 feet and a depth of 81 feet, exclusive of an auditorium, which will break back in the center, with an additional depth of 70 feet and a width of 98 feet.



**1911 Drawing Of Polytechnic High School Built in 1914**

**Another site to Polytechnic History**

<http://hoodline.com/2015/02/remembering-frederick-street-s-polytechnic-high-school>



# Recipe Time

## Strawberry Oatmeal Bars

### Ingredients

- 1 3/4 sticks salted butter, cut into pieces,  
plus more for greasing pan
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/2 cup oats
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- One 10 to 12-ounce jar strawberry preserves

### Directions

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Butter a 9-by-13-inch rectangular pan. Mix together the butter, flour, oats, brown sugar, baking powder and salt. Press half the oat mixture into the prepared pan. Spread with the strawberry preserves. Sprinkle the other half of the oat mixture over the top and pat lightly. Bake until light brown, 30 to 40 minutes. Let cool completely, and then cut into squares.

## Chicken Salad Rolls

### Ingredients

- 1 cup shredded, cooked chicken
- 1/3 cup "something crunchy" (celery, apple, radish, sweet pickle slices or a combo)
- "Something oniony," like 1 scallion or 1/4 small red onion, chopped
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise or plain yogurt
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 whole-wheat hot dog buns

### Directions

Stir chicken, the "something crunchy," "something oniony," and mayonnaise or yogurt together until evenly coated. Season with salt and pepper to taste (This can be made the night before, and refrigerated.)

Evenly fill the hot dog buns with the salad mix. Wrap in parchment or butcher paper. Pack in a lunch sack with an ice pack and send off to school.



***A LETTER  
FROM  
PAST PRESIDENT SAL PRIOLO***

To: All who helped to form our Polytechnic Assn.in 2015

This letter expresses my sincere appreciation to all of you that helped in the endeavor to form our association several years ago. Regardless of whether you were founding board members, committee members or alumni, former teachers that supported us with your donations or membership or just plain moral support. I can't begin to tell you how proud I am of the work we all did together to make us successful.

I also wish to express my thanks to the Irish Cultural Center, SF for providing us with a place to meet over the past several years.

As we go forward with a new board, committees & ideas for improvement, I look forward to the future with a positive outlook on making our new endeavors even more successful. I urge that we all continue to work together as we strive to enhance the spirit of our dear Polytechnic High School as a shining light, forever bright, in the annals of the SF Unified School District

Be True To Your School  
Sal Priolo  
Past President  
Polytechnic Alumni Association

*A Few Photos from  
The  
2016 Alumni Luncheon*



**DON'T FORGET**  
**TO SEND IN YOUR RESERVATION (INVITE IS**  
**ON THE FOLLOWING 2 PAGES) FOR THE**  
**3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL POLYTECHNIC LUNCHEON ON**  
**SEPTEMBER 16, 2017**  
**AT THE PATIO ESPANOL IN SAN FRANCISCO**

## Polytechnic Alumni Association 3rd Annual Luncheon

**Date:** Saturday, September 16, 2017

**Place:** Patio Espanol Restaurant  
2850 Alemany Blvd  
San Francisco CA 94112

**Time:** 11am Doors open;  
12:30pm Social  
1:00pm Lunch

**Menu:** Salad, Entree, Dessert with wine, coffee  
and tea

**Cost:** \$50 per person  
Reservation deadline - August 25, 2017  
No refunds after September 1, 2017

No tickets sold at the door. Seating is limited and sold on a first come, first sold basis.

Please include the name of your guest, and if they are Poly grads include year of graduation.

**Note:** The restaurant is ADA Accessible.  
If you need extra space for a wheelchair please indicate on the reservation form.

**CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE**

## Luncheon Reservation and Membership App

Alumni/Faculty Lastname: \_\_\_\_\_ Maiden Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Firstname: \_\_\_\_\_ Grad/Taught Yr: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grad Yr: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ New Address: Y/N \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell: \_\_\_\_\_

Attending: Y/N \_\_\_\_\_ #Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ X \$50 \_\_\_\_\_ (Tax/Tip Included)

Lunch Selection: Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

Yearly Membership \$25: \_\_\_\_\_ First Year Member \$35: \_\_\_\_\_

*(Your yearly Alumni Membership is due at this time. First time membership includes a Poly Pin.)*

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PLEASE RETURN THIS PORTION WITH YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO:

Polytechnic Alumni Association; 640 Bailey Rd #447, Bay Point CA 94565

If you have questions or concerns please email: [polyalumniassoc@gmail.com](mailto:polyalumniassoc@gmail.com)

Kibbles

And Bits

And Meats



### From the Editor

*In thinking of Poly, we were not just a High School. We were an institution and stood for nothing less than being the best, in education, as well as in sports, but we also had and still have its tradition and loyalty to Polytechnic, which still continues on today.*



**Our history proves it.**

*So lets let San Francisco know that we are alive and still a part of San Francisco's history and its High Schools.*



**LET US NOT BE FORGOTTIN**  
**HAIL POLYTECHNIC**  
**LONG LIVE THY NAME**

#### Information regarding the Polytechnic Alumni Association

The Polytechnic Alumni Association is now a registered 501-©3 Non-Profit Corporation. This means that all donations to Polytechnics Alumni Assoc. are tax deductible. I understand that the goals of the Association is not only for social events, but will be raising funds to support education and Awarding scholarships (in he San Francisco Unified School District) to those deserving

Students who are planning to attend College. The Alumni is awarding a \$1,000 scholarship at the luncheon this year. Wouldn't it be great if the Alumni could give more than 1 scholarship and be able to support, an educational or athletic programs? To all the Alumni this is our chance to leave and maintain a legacy showing that Polytechnic is and still is the greatest High School in the Annuls of San Francisco History!

### **Lets Be True To Our School**

The Alumni Association needs our help with ideas, energy, and volunteers! You can contact the Polytechnics Association at [polyalumniassoc@gmail.com](mailto:polyalumniassoc@gmail.com)

As, to whom we should contact, to volunteer and help, raise funds for Scholarships or to raise funds for other Educational programs, or where, to send a donation to, (which will be well appreciated).

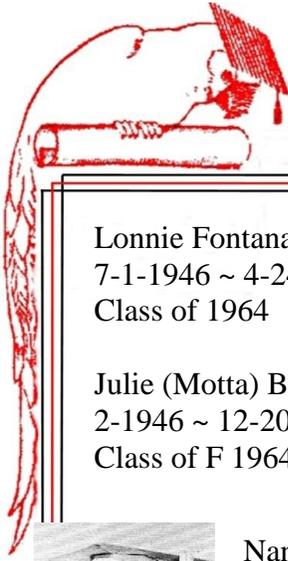
To all the Alumni, this is our chance to show San Francisco that the name

**Polytechnic** should have never disappeared from the Annuls of San Francisco's High School History!



**Last Years  
Scholarship Award  
Winner:**

**Michael Dearborn**



# In Remembrance Of Our Classmates Who Have Passed Before Us .....

Lonnie Fontana 70  
7-1-1946 ~ 4-24-2017  
Class of 1964

Barbara Helen Jones 76  
9-4-1940 ~ 5-1- 2017  
Class of 1958

Julie (Motta) Baumann 70  
2-1946 ~ 12-2016  
Class of F 1964

Marlene (Coppin) Noto 76  
?-?-???? ~ Approx 5-1-2017  
Class of 1958



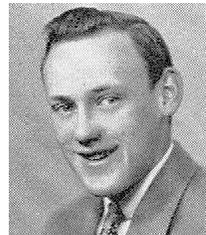
Nancy (Styris) Baumann  
?-?-???? ~ 1-2017  
Class of S 1956



Herb Voegler 81  
5-6-1935 ~ 4-10-2017  
Class of 1953



Werner B. Plagge 90  
5-16-1926 ~ 4-23-2017  
Class of F 1943



Rudi Werner Aron  
?-?-???? ~ 1-27-2017  
Class of 1942



Henry Schaeffer 82  
2-16-1935 ~ 5-4-2017  
Class of 1953



Jewel "Jules" Burton  
?-?-???? ~ 6-2017  
Class of 1963



Dennis Michael Callaghan 79  
3-2-1938 ~ 5-2017

## MAY THE PARROT BE WITH THEM IN THEIR JOURNEY

Please ... When at all possible, give us a full birth & death date. We will always try to publish a graduation photo from the yearbooks, however, not everyone had their photo taken at the time. We have almost all yearbooks from the late teens thru 1961. Past that, if possible, please send a photo of the individual along with their information.

Thanks for your support of this newsletter.

# More Luncheon Pictures



*Remember This Thought!  
Every Day Is A New Day, Be Thankful*

# Unanswered Questions ???

Good heavens! Here I am, 80 years old and I have so many unanswered questions!!!!

I still haven't found out who let the Dogs Out ... where's the beef ... how to get to Sesame Street and why Dora doesn't just use Google Maps .

Why do all flavors of Fruit Loops taste exactly the same, or how many licks does it take to get to the center of a tootsie pop ... why eggs are packaged in a flimsy paper carton, but batteries are secured in plastic that's tough as nails, yet light bulbs too are in a flimsy carton.

Ever buy scissors? You need scissors to cut into the packaging of scissors. I still don't understand why there is Braille on drive up ATM's or why "abbreviated" is such a long word ... or why is there a D in 'fridge' but not in refrigerator.

Why lemon juice is made with artificial flavor yet dish-washing liquid is made with real lemons. Why they sterilize the needle for lethal injections ... and, why do you have to "put your two cents in" but it's only a "penny for your thoughts", where's that extra penny going?

Why do The Alphabet Song and Twinkle Twinkle Little Star have the same tune. Why did you just try to sing those two previous songs ... and just what is Victoria's secret?

And what would you do for a Klondike bar and you know as soon as you bite into it, it falls apart! And why do we drive on Parkways and park on Driveways?

Do you really think I am this witty?? I actually got this from a friend, who stole it from her brother's girlfriend's, uncle's cousin's, baby momma's doctor who lived next door to an old class mate's mail man

Now it is your turn to take it from me...Peace!!

Copy and Paste, change the age, and enjoy your day!!