

The Albany Historical Society

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SPOTLIGHT

Larry Eaton

Who was Larry Eaton and why is there a plaque in his honor at the entrance to Cougar Field, a Paw Print on the high school's Wall of Fame, and why was he inducted into the school's Athletic Hall of Fame after a one-year stint on the school's junior varsity football team?

Larry was the epitome of the word volunteer. Here are a few of his major contributions to our community:

- Repaired, upgraded and rewired the old gym to house new and upgraded equipment
- Assisted Coach Bankson in building the wrestling room and installed the lighting
- Served as official timer and scorekeeper for all home basketball and football games
- Drove athletes to away events and chaperoned them on overnight trips
- One of the founders and president of the original Athletic Boosters which generated over \$3 million in donations to Albany sports (including the AHS weight room) and other district programs from their BINGO program
- Donated his own money to help needy student athletes go to out of area and out of state events
- Served as a sports official at Bay Area amateur, semi-pro, and professional football and baseball games

A native of Albany and a product of its schools (Marin and AHS), Larry joined the school district staff following his graduation from the high school in 1963. He served stints as a custodian at Marin, Cornell, and AHS where he served as head custodian until his death in 1991.

Larry also volunteered as an umpire and manager with Albany Little League before he married and started a family. He loved to participate in the annual Little League Parade in full umpire gear complete with dark glasses and a white cane for the walk to the fields.

A nearly fatal bout with cancer and the ensuing massive doses of radiation and chemotherapy did little to impede his work either at Albany High School or his many volunteer endeavors.

Larry was proud of his 23 years of service to the city as a reserve police officer, averaging about 1,000 hours a year. Upon his death, his Sergeant badge was retired and presented to his son, Michael, who currently serves as the Chief of Police of the Denver Unified School District's police department.

When asked about his brother, Doug Eaton, said, "Larry was the most successful person I ever knew. He loved his job, his family, and his city. I have always felt a person should be measured by the footprints they leave behind. Larry didn't leave a footprint, he blazed a trail."

See page 3 for a photo of Larry

75 Years Ago

October 22, 1937

Mrs Ruth Galan of 1056 Peralta Av was honored for swimming across the Golden Gate from Lime Point in Marin County to San Francisco.

The Federal Government denied Albany's application for a WPA grant of \$25,477 to build the 4th section of Albany High School, declaring that the City was in a position to finance the construction without Federal money. An appeal was planned.

November 12, 1937

Police and fire: Someone vandalized the newly plastered home at 1130 Marin Avenue. Non-union plasterers had been employed, and this home was one of several which suffered similar damage.

The fire department thanked donors for the new residents of their aviary , located on San Pablo just south of the fire house. The Pet Shop, at 622 San Pablo donated 2 gray finches, while 2 pheasants, a canary, and 3 golden pheasants were provided by local residents.

November 19, 1937

A driver who admitted he had been drinking was arrested for going 5 miles per hour on San Pablo Avenue. Another driver, a WPA worker, was also arrested while driving erratically at 15 mph.

December 10, 1937

Police Chief John Glavinovich announced his plans to retire. He began his service to Albany as City Marshall on May 1, 1912, when that job included the duties of tax collector, superintendent of streets, license collection, and poundmaster.

Miss Augusta Vernon and Mrs. Mary Ann Lamatch announced plans to double the nursery space at Humboldt Hospital. There were 9 births there in the past week.

December 17, 1937

Sidney McGaw, age 2 1/2 , was located after wandering from his home at 930 Polk Street to Brighton and the Santa Fe Railroad tracks.

50 Years Ago

September 19, 1962

Five years of negotiations culminated in the final property exchanges and sales required to assemble 13 different

parcels for the construction of a new Safeway store. The owners of the Wilshire Service Station at Neilson and Solano exchanged that parcel for an apartment house owned by local realtor Jerome Blank . The City Council approved the necessary re-zoning.

September 26, 1962

Lawrence ("Larry") Hughes was among the 8 new teachers hired at Albany High School

Pat Nixon, wife of the Republican candidate for governor, was to be entertained at the Jerome Blank home at a mid-morning coffee.

October 10, 1962

The first meeting of the new Albany Homeowners and Taxpayers Association was held at Serb's Restaurant (1045 San Pablo) Formed to oppose the proposed bond measure A, President William Culley announced that the Albany Board of Education had passed a resolution opposing the measure, as had the Albany Chamber of Commerce.

727 Jackson was listed for sale for \$18,500

October 24, 1962

The Albany City Council unanimously passed a resolution opposing Proposition A, the Bay Area Rapid Transit Bond Measure.

Contractors Carter & Rago completed a four-story apartment house at 1117 Brighton , which featured the first elevator installed in Albany.

November 20, 1962

The engagement of Albany High grad Judith Hickman to San Francisco State student Larry Tannahill was announced.

The title " Most Muscular Man in Western America" went to Alan Albert, who trained at the Albany Gym.

November 28, 1962

The University of California announced that the triangular portion of land created by the new Marin/Buchanan connection would be available for purchase.. City officials moved quickly to express their interest in purchasing the property.

Pacific Telephone announced that LANDscape and GLencourt would soon be a thing of the past, with letters being replaced by numerals. The switch was to be gradual, with new subscribers being given all numeral numbers.

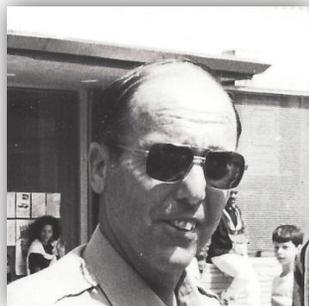
President's Message: from Joan Larson

Recently, we had the pleasure of meeting Eleanor Koplan, daughter of Kunibert Schroer, an original owner of Humbolt Hospital. She met with us to share a framed newspaper article of the hospital in 1928 about the hospital's 25th anniversary and she also gave us her father's business card.



Mark De La Torre has provided an Albany Pre School photo from 1958. We are thankful for these new acquisitions to our growing Albany history collection. Please share your ephemera, photographs, memorabilia etc. with the Albany Historical Society.

AHS is looking for a few new Board members. Please contact us if you are interested in preserving Albany history.



Larry Eaton 1991

Sunday, January 13 Annual Meeting

2:00 – 2:30 Annual meeting & Board elections

2:30 Premier of the video, "Tales of Albany Little League".

Holiday Special on *Images of America – Albany*

Looking for that perfect holiday gift for family and friends? The Albany Historical Society is offering *Images of America Albany* for only \$10.00. Featuring over 200 vintage images, the book draws on the extensive historical collection of the Albany Library and also includes many never-before-published historical photographs supplied by the Albany community and friends at large. Please contact Peggy McQuaid at poolpeggy1@aol.com or 510 526-7855 to purchase this great gift.

Albany Hospital Plaque Installed

The plaque commemorating Albany Hospital was installed in August in front of the Community Center. Be sure to check it out the next time you are at the library or community center.



The Albany Historical Society is proud to donate our 7th historical plaque to the City of Albany. Our latest plaque commemorates the "Garbage Wars". This plaque will be located on the southwest corner of Buchanan Street and San Pablo Avenue.

The Garbage Wars

Portions of this article first appeared in *The Journal and The Berkeley Voice* newspapers written by Karen Sorensen.

In 1908, Berkeley had a serious problem—suddenly denied the use of its longtime garbage dump near the northwest edge of Alameda County; garbage began piling up within the city limits. At the same time, an increasing incidence of bubonic plague in the Bay Area had caused many cities, including Berkeley, to adopt strict sanitation ordinances to eliminate excess trash and exterminate rats. A plague epidemic was not only a threat to human health; it was also an economic threat. The plague could lead to a statewide quarantine, it was argued, and a significant loss of trade, with no market for California fruits, vegetables and other products.

After exploring several alternatives, Berkeley secured the use of some land along the waterfront in the unincorporated area of Ocean View. It arranged to lease the property from the San Francisco Chemical Co. for a costly \$250 a month, and began dumping the many loads of trash that had been piling up in Berkeley. The unhappy residents of Ocean View (a rural area of just 200-300 people) immediately organized to stop the trash deliveries from Berkeley. They went to the District Attorney, who issued a formal warning to Berkeley that its garbage collectors (at this time called "scavengers") could be arrested if the city's dumping created a nuisance. Berkeley and its scavengers were undeterred, believing Ocean View could not prove the dumping was a nuisance.

Frustrated with this response, a group of Ocean View residents (mostly women) decided to take matters into their own hands.

Albany Historical Society Board: President, Joan Larson, VP Ruth Ganong, Secretary, Marsha Skinner, Financial Officer, Peggy McQuaid, Members, Brian Parsley, Kim Denton, Jack Rosano, Doug Eaton. Like us on Facebook and visit our web site, www.albanycahistory.org

Armed with shotguns and other firearms, they gathered on the morning of April 1, 1908, on Buchanan Street near the San Pablo Avenue intersection, and boldly stepped in front of Berkeley's approaching garbage wagons, turning them away. The plan worked well for a few hours, until a carload of Berkeley Chamber of Commerce officials met the group during a trip to inspect the new dump. The Chamber officials contacted the police, and the county sheriff soon arrived, threatening to throw the Ocean View residents in jail if they continued to bear arms.

Ocean View residents then searched, once again, for a legal way to stop the dumping. They attempted to secure an injunction against Berkeley, for example, with mixed results. Finally, in September of 1908, they decided to incorporate as the City of Ocean View and solved the garbage problem once and for all by adopting an ordinance against outside trash dumping.

