

## Streetwise: Looking Back to 1918

by Frank Dunnigan January 2018

As we approach a new year, it's time to take a look back at people, places, and events that existed in San Francisco 100 years ago. In some ways, the city bears certain similarities to what existed in 1918, though it is also a very different place now.

**AUTOMOBILES**—The sale of automobiles in San Francisco increased significantly after the 1915 Panama-Pacific International Exposition. Drivers' licenses were first required in California only a few years earlier, in 1913.



(/Image/700//images/dunnigan.jpg)
Frank Dunnigan, WNP member and columnist. -

DIVISION OF	MOTOR VEH	HICLES
OPERATOR'S LICENSE	No	Q 1347 Charte
THIS CERTIFIES That the undersig		
day of JUL 22 1926, I	been licensed to a	operate motor wehicles
in accordance with the provision	ons of Chapter.	266, Statutes 1923, or
Chapter 239, Statutes 1925. Age	Sex	Male
Height_ 5 11	Weight	206
Color Eyes Blue	Color Hair	Gray
DIVISION OF MOTOR YEHICLES, C.	hief By.	BH
John 9	19 June	minnes)
This and is good until revo	ked, when	Sandiure of Operator
signed by the operator to wi	nom it is issued	Us of the

(/Image/700//images/JDdriverlicense-1926.jpg) San Francisco drivers license, 1926 - Courtesy of Frank Dunnigan

**BANKING**—Bank of Italy (later, Bank of America), founded in San Francisco in 1904, had expanded to 24 statewide branch locations by 1918—though only a handful were located in San Francisco.

**CIVIC AFFAIRS**—James Rolph was just six years into his 19-year term as Mayor (1912-1931). Many post-1906-Fire civic infrastructure programs, including schools, libraries, parks, reservoirs, public transit, and many new miles of paved streets came about during his administration.

The San Francisco Public Library was expanding as the Sunset Branch at 18th Avenue and Irving Street opened on March 25, 1918—the system's eighth location.

