

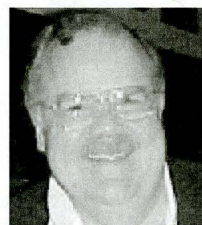
Streetwise: Looking Back to 1918

by Frank Dunnigan

January 2018

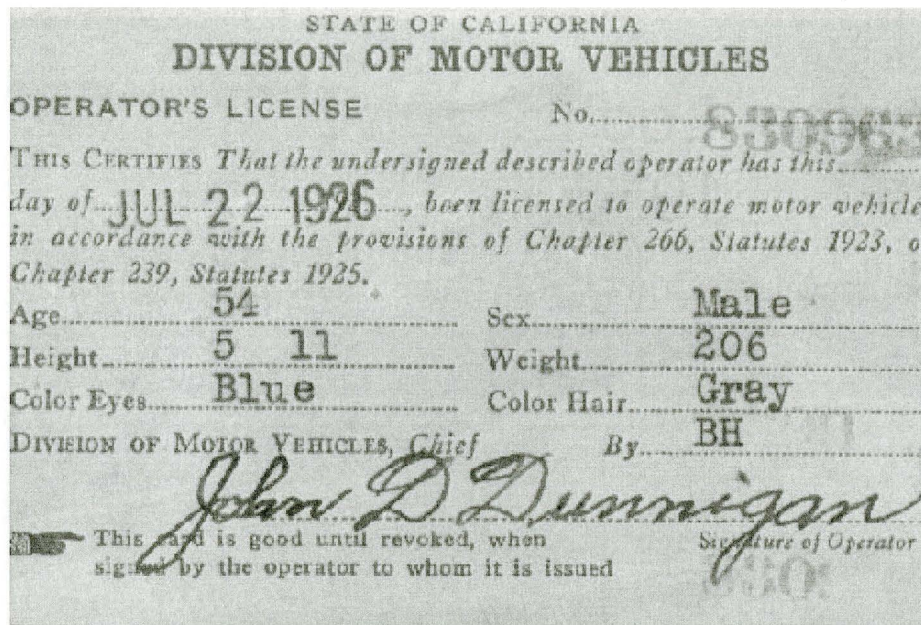
As we approach a new year, it's time to take a look back at people, places, and events that existed in San Francisco 100 years ago. In some ways, the city bears certain similarities to what existed in 1918, though it is also a very different place now.

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. -



(/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.

