



**CAL POLY**  
Robert E. Kennedy Library

**California Polytechnic State University  
Special Collections & Archives**

**Walter J. Lumley Papers  
UA0100**

**Collection ID:** UA0100

**Title:** Walter J. Lumley Papers

**Dates:** 1926 - 1983

**Creator:** Walter J. Lumley and Edith Hoover

**Extent:** .25 LF, 1 document box

**Abstract:** Photographs, documents, and newspaper clippings related to 1926 alumni and football player Walter J. Lumley.

**Language:** English

**Repository:** California Polytechnic State University  
Robert E. Kennedy Library  
Special Collections and Archives  
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URL: <http://www.lib.calpoly.edu/specialcollections/>

**Provenance:** Gift

**Accessions:** 1983.0017, 2005.0018, 2017.0003, 2013.0006

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**Preferred Citation** Walter J. Lumley Papers, Special Collections and Archives, California Polytechnic State University



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**Historical Note:**

Walter J. Lumley was born 26 September 1905 in King City, California to Walter Johnston Lumley and Mary Ellen Clique Lumley. He attended King City Elementary until the age of 14, then moved to San Luis Obispo to enroll at Cal Poly which was, at the time, California Polytechnical School, a four-year secondary vocational program. His younger brother James Phillip Lumley also attended Cal Poly.

Lumley enrolled at Cal Poly in 1920 and attended on and off until his graduation in 1926. He was listed on the Honor Roll in 1924 and a 1925 campus newsletter article mentions that he returned to campus after a long illness, which may have contributed to his extended enrollment at the school. Lumley was a member of the basketball team, quarterback of the football team, and on the track team during his time as a student at Cal Poly. He was also involved in multiple student activities including the Polytechnic Journal student-staff as a photographer, the Dormitory Club, and the Block P club which was responsible for maintaining the "P" located on northwestern campus hillside.

Lumley is perhaps best known for installing the Block P on Bishop Peak. In 1925 he enlisted the help of fellow classmates and borrowed supplies from the Ag Department to install the painted "P". The installation required repelling down the rock by rope to paint the "P" and took several days. The letter is reported to be 40 feet tall by 24 feet wide. After the project was completed, he was invited to dinner at the home of Cal Poly President Dr. Crandall who complimented him on the project. It was 28 years before a second coat of paint was applied.

The 1940 census lists his status as employed as a truck salesman for an oil company (possibly wholesale fuel), living with his wife and daughter in King City. Walter J. Lumley died 9 November 1983 and is buried in King City, California. The year of his death he wrote a brief essay regarding his Block P project which is included in his papers.



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**Scope and Content:**

Photographs, documents, newspaper clipping, and obituary related to 1926 alumni and football player Walter J. Lumley.

**Arrangement:**

The collection is arranged alphabetically as a single series. Original organization of the records has been preserved where possible. Materials may have been reorganized or rehoused for preservation and access purposes.

**Related Collections:**

Cal Poly Subject Files, Block P on Bishop Peak

Cal Poly Subject Files, Poly P

**Sources:**

Lumley, Walter J. "The Block P on Bishop Peak". Unpublished essay, 1983. Lumley Papers UA0100, Cal Poly Special Collections and Archives.

*Polytechnic Journal*, 1926. Cal Poly Special Collections and Archives

Dorm Doings. The Polygram. 26 February 1925: 4.

Obituary. Walter J. Lumley. 1983.

**Access:**

Collection is open to researchers by appointment only. For more information on visiting, access policies, and reproduction requests, please visit our [Reference Services](http://lib.calpoly.edu/search-and-find/collections-and-archives/reference-services/) page online at <http://lib.calpoly.edu/search-and-find/collections-and-archives/reference-services/>.

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**Contents:**

**Series 1**

Box 1 Folder 1	Affidavit of Birth, Monterey County Records Office, 12 November 1942
Box 1 Folder 2	Block P on Bishop Peak by Walter J. Lumley, 1983
Box 1 Folder 3	Lumley family, photographs, cabinet card, negatives, unidentified, undated, circa late 19 <sup>th</sup> century
Box 1 Folder 4	Newspaper clipping circa 1920s and obituary circa 1983, undated
Box 1 Folder 5	Photocopy of 1920 census record, Walter J. Lumley, 19 August 1970
Box 1 Folder 6	Walter J. Lumley in football uniform, photo print copy of 1926 photograph, 1983