

Percy Burnham, architect in Chula Vista 1943-60, son of George Burnham

1909 - George Burnham (1886-1939), was born in London, England. He came Minnesota 1881, then to San Diego in 1903 and followed the real estate business for some fourteen years. In 1917, when the Southern Trust & Savings Bank and the Bank of Commerce and Trust Company were consolidated into the Southern Trust and Commerce Bank, Mr. Burnham became vice-president and trust officer of the new institution. In 1911, he joined the late A. G. Spalding in organizing the San Diego Securities Company, of which he became vice-president, remaining as such until he joined the Southern Trust and Commerce Bank, which latter is the predecessor of the present San Diego Branch of the Bank of America, with which Mr. Burnham was affiliated until May 1, 1932. Mr. Burnham has had a wide variety of interests in San Diego, and has served as executive head of many important bodies, including the Chamber of Commerce, the San Diego Council, Boy Scouts of America, and Board of Trustees, San Diego Public Library. He was vice-president of the Panama-California Exposition of 1915-1916 and also vice-president of the 1935-36 Exposition. He has taken a prominent part in fraternal organizations, being a thirty-third degree Mason, and a Past Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Knight Templars of California. In 1909 he was a member of the Masonic delegation that took the silver trowel to the City of Mexico. (Trowel was sent out by the NY lodge in 1905 to Pacific coast, Canada, Mexico, "... To Spread The Cement Of Brotherly Love And Affection, That Cement Which Unites Us Into One Sacred Band Or Society Of Brothers, Among Whom No Contention Should Ever Exist, But That Noble Emulation Of Who Can Best Work Or Best Agree ..." ) Mr. Burnham was married on October 1, 1890, to Miss Neva May Ashley, who is now deceased. On December 25, 1932, he married Mrs. Florence Kennett Dupee, who has taken an active part in San Diego county philanthropy. He has six living children by his first marriage: Harold A., Percy E., Helen E., Laurence M., Virginia J., and Ben Burnham. but Donald C. Burnham is father of Malin Burnham George Burnham House, 2916 Chatsworth Blvd., named hisoric landmark 10/24/2002, Prairie style house built in 1913, designed by architect Walter Keller ( Heilbron, History of San Diego County, 1936 )

1917 - World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 Name: Percy Edmond Burnham City: San Diego County: San Diego State: California Birth Date: 17 Dec 1899 Race: White living at 2916 Chatsworth, Loma Portal, working as stock clerk for So. Trust & Comm Bk ( World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918 )

1920 - 1920 United States Federal Census Name: George Burnham Home in 1920: San Diego, San Diego, California Age: 51 Estimated birth year: abt 1869 died 28 June 1939 in SD Birthplace: England Relation to Head of House: Self (Head) Spouse's name: Neva May Ashley (Burnham) b. 1872, d. 1927 Father's Birth Place: England Mother's Birth Place: England Marital Status: Married Race: White Sex: Male Home owned: Own Year of immigration: 1880 Able to read: Yes Able to Write: Yes Household Members: George Burnham 51 Neva M Burnham 47 Harold A Burnham 26 Percy E Burnham 20, b. ca. 1900 Helen E Burnham 19 Lawrence M Burnham 17 Virginia J Burnham 15 Ben A Burnham 13 ( census )

1920 - 1930 United States Federal Census Name: Percy E Burnham Home in 1930: Pasadena, Los Angeles, California Age: 30 Estimated birth year: abt 1900 Birthplace: Minnesota Relation to Head of House: Head Father's Birth Place: England Mother's Birth Place: Pennsylvania Spouse's name: Bertha B Burnham Race: White Neighbors: View others on page Household Members: Percy E Burnham 30 Bertha B Burnham 32 ( census )

1937 - Memorial Park - The third city park and Civic Bowl at 373 Park Way were built in 1937-1939 with federal WPA funds. The Civic Bowl Theatre was designed by architect Percy Burnham in 1949.

1939 - George Burnham (1886-1939), representative of the twentieth congressional district of California in Congress, covering Imperial and San Diego counties, was born in London, England, on December 28, 1868, the son of James and Maria Ann Drusilla (Steele) Burnham. The family came to America in 1881 and located in in Spring Valley in southwestern Minnesota. George Burnham attended school in his native country, also in Minnesota, and began his business experience as a merchant's clerk at eight dollars a month. In 1887, at the age of nineteen, he went into the retail shoe business. He associated with M.B. Hutchinson, under the firm name of Hutchinson and Burnham, at Jackson, Minnesota. On the retirement of Mr. Hutchinson, a brother of Mr. Burnham became a member of the firm and it was conducted under the style of Burnham Brothers. Leaving Minnesota in 1901, Mr. Burnham took up real estate and ranching in the state of Washington. Mr. Burnham was elected as a Republican to the seventy-third Congress and re-elected to the seventy-fourth (March 4, 1933-January 3, 1937). His work in the legislative body has reflected credit to himself and to his district. He has been assiduous in looking after the interests of his constituency and numerous measures which have been passed, particularly along the lines of added naval expenditure for San Diego, have been due to his untiring efforts. In the forty-odd years of his business experience, Mr. Burnham has never neglected the calls of civic duty and responsibility, and when still a young man in Jackson, Minnesota, he served as secretary of the Board of Education and as a member of the City Council. He also served one term as president of the Board of Education at National City. [He was a member of the Honorary Commercial Commission to China in 1910; member of the San Diego Library Commission 1926-1932 and of the San Diego Scientific Library 1926-1932.] ( Heilbron, History of San Diego County, 1936 )

1939/09/29 - highlights of Fiesta de la Luna, 1000 attended play Rose of the Rancho in civic Bowl Friday and Sat, 200 gals of lemonade served free to visitors at packing houses lemon exhibit tent Saturday, 68 merchants participated with window displays, merry-go-round, ponies, airplane ( Chula Vista Star, Friday, Sept. 29, 1939 )

1943 - Percy E. Burnham came to CV 1943, grew up in Point Loma, father George Burnham, designed Leader Dept Store 1948, Civic Bowl Theatre 1949, city hall 1951, Masonic Temple, CV Clinic, and just before his death 1960 completed plans for St. Pius X Catholic Church convent and parochial school, with his partner Lowell Milligan. (George Burnham Chapter No. 152 Royal Arch Masons) -- In 1909 George Burnham was a member of the Masonic delegation that took the silver trowel to the City of Mexico. (Trowel was sent out by the NY lodge in 1905 to Pacific coast). -- 1915 Expo vp -- York Rite George Burnham Chapter 152. ( )

1944 - Burnham, Percy E (Bertha B) fisherman h271 Shasta ( City Directory 1944-45 )

1948 - Leader Department Store opened at 250 Third Ave., a symbol of the post-war building boom, and attracted other buildings around it. In 1958, the store moved to 223 Third Ave., and remained open until the 1980s. ( Chula Vista Heritage Museum. "Walk of History Tour of Historic Sites in Downtown Chula Vista," Chula Vista CA 2007. )

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1949 - Leader Dept Store was CV's first modern department store, independently owned, opened 1949 on corner of 3rd and Davidson, manager Ben Cohen. -- ( Chula Vista Star Feb. 23, 1969. )

1949/03/11 - Leader dept store to open at 254 3rd ave, Ben Cohen manager will be assisted by John Dowell, well-known here, will have staff of 11. ( Chula Vista Star, Mar. 11, 1949. )

1949/03/18 - Leader Dept Store grand opening March 18 at 254 Third, corner Davidson ( Chula Vista Star, Jan. 21, 1949. )

1949/03/18 - this issue has 8-page section on the new Leader store that opens today - 5000 sq ft on one floor, with a mezanine for sheets and towels, full-page ad lists nationally know brands of merchandise - in same block with Sprouse-Reitz and Karl's and Mode O'Day and Higgs Jewelry and Louis Dry Goods. Across the street will be the new Bank of America ( Chula Vista Star, Mar. 18, 1949. )

1949/04/12 - CIVIC BOWL THEATRE Mr. Percy Burnham presented the final plans for the Civic Bowl Theater. Upon motion by Councilman Riesland, seconded by Councilman Nashold, which carried, the plans were accepted and the City Attorney and City Engineer instructed to prepare an advertisement for bids for the construction of the theatre. Mr. Coyle and Mr. Schwab, ~ representing the Fiesta De La Luna ASSOCIATION, stated that it would contribute \$4,500 for additional lighting, furnishings, end sound equipment for the theatre with the understanding that a suitable plaque in commemoration of War Veterans be put up. ( City Council Minutes, Apr. 12, 1949 )

1949/05/10 - RESOLUTION NO. 1023A- Accepting bid for completion of Park Bowl Theatre. [civic bowl outdoor theater ] ( City Council Minutes, )

1949/05/13 - Civic Bowl construction to be completed, with 2nd story, built-in stairs, in time for "Rose of the Rancho" play during Fiesta July 7-10 ( Chula Vista Star, May 13, 1949. )

1949/08/16 - COURT ROOM FOR CITY HALL - There was much discussion regarding a Court Room in the proposed City Hall. Mr. Percy Burnham requested that the Council express its recommendation on this matter. It was moved by Councilman Riesland, seconded by Cl. Nashold, and carried, that there be no Court Room in the plans for the building at present, but the building be designed so as to allow a convenient addition should it be needed at a later date. ( City Council Minutes, August 16, 1949 )

1950 - By 1950, the population of Chula Vista had risen to 16,505, more than three times the 1940 figure, and Chula Vista was growing twice as fast as San Diego. The need for new public facilities became urgent, and the city began to develop a new Civic Center. Five years previously, in October 1945, the City Council had purchased a nine-acre site at "F" Street and Fourth Avenue for \$12,500. The fire station was built first at a cost of \$38,500 and was occupied on Feb. 1, 1948. The City Hall, dedicated on Feb. 12, 1951, was constructed at a cost of \$99,450. The building was designed by Percy Burnham, a Chula Vista citizen, in what Burnham called his "California Style." This structure also reflected the Spanish heritage of the area with its red tile roof, plastered exterior and arched entrance. The new City Hall housed the council chambers, engineering offices, police offices and other facilities. When the need for a courthouse became apparent, the city donated part of the Civic Center land, and the new \$60,000 South Bay Courthouse, erected by the County, was formally dedicated on Jan. 21, 1953. Judge Lowell Howe and the South Bay Municipal Court moved into the new building. A new library, designed by San Diego architect Louis Bodmer, opened on June 20, 1955. The building contained 12,800 sq. ft. and cost \$50,000. A new post office was constructed nearby during 1955. Police and engineering wings were added to City Hall in 1956, and subsequently, an administration annex and a county health building became part of the Civic Center complex. In 1971, a \$1.2 million police facility with 50,000 square feet of floor space was constructed, and in 1979, the Public Services building, which contained the new council chambers, was dedicated. All of these structures incorporated white stucco walls and red tile roofs in their design. The newer buildings featured rectangular openings instead of arches. Covered walkways with square-pillar supports connected the various structures in the complex. (The large fountain and plaza in front of City Hall were also built in 1979.) ( Webster, Chula Vista Heritage, 1986, p. 81. )

1950/02/28 - Civic Center final plans presented by Mr. Percy Burnham ( City Council Minutes, February 28, 1950. )

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1955 - History of St. Pius X Church In the spring of 1955 Bishop Charles Buddy commissioned Father James McGinley to form a new parish in the Southbay area. Six people attended the first Mass held in a rented home on Ash Wednesday of that year. On the following Sunday, February 27, 1955, 50 people celebrated Mass in the garage of that same home at 42 Palomar Drive in Chula Vista. Father McGinley chose the name of the new parish, that of the newly canonized Pope, St. Pius X. The words on the Saint's coat of arms, "Restaurare omnia in Christum" (to restore all in Christ) were chosen for the motto of the Parish. These words were especially appropriate for the jubilee year, 2000 AD. The beautiful Spanish Renaissance church as it stands today was completed in the fall of 1955. On Thanksgiving Day of that year, the first Mass was celebrated in the newly-constructed Church by Father McGinley. The parish hall, convent, school and the Christian Education Center (CEC) buildings were constructed later. Father McGinley arranged to have the "Sisters of St. Clare" open St. Pius X School in September of 1960. The sisters served the parish and school for 23 years. Since 1986 the school has had an all lay staff. In 1973, Father McGinley was invested as Monsignor McGinley by the Bishop of San Diego. In the summer of 1975, Monsignor McGinley retired as Pastor of St. Pius X and remained in residence as Pastor Emeritus until his death on March 24, 1985. The second Pastor of St. Pius X Reverend Donald R. Kulleck was appointed in the Summer of 1975. Father Kulleck and later Monsignor Kulleck served as Pastor from that time until his retirement in 1998 at which time he was named Pastor Emeritus and is also in residence during his retirement. Following the announcement of Father Don's retirement in November 1998, an elementary school alumni and former parishioner of St. Pius X Catholic Church, Reverend Joseph Masar was appointed as the third Pastor of this Parish. In 2005 the 81. Pius X family celebrated 50 years as a parish. Fr. Masar served as Pastor until July 2006. Following Fr. Masar, Fr. James Rafferty served from 2006 -2008. Fr. Luke Jauregui was assigned as Pastor at St. Pius X in July 2008 and is currently serving our parish community. Our current ordained religious include Father Edwin Tutor serving as Associate Pastor; and three Deacons; Deacon Daniel Prado, Deacon Glenn Vecchitto and Deacon Peter Johnson. Through the years the Parish has grown in size and Spirituality. Currently St. Pius X has over 3000 registered families and 7 separate opportunities to attend Mass are offered on the Campus. The site consists of approximately 7 acres of developed property including a Church, School K-8, 6000 sq .ft. hall, priest residence and parish administration center. St. Pius X Parish will begin the first phase of its building project within the current year; a new parish hall along with office and school additions. The second phase will be a remodeled and larger worship space. (courtesy of Jim Hunt) ( "History of St. Pius X Church," courtesy of Jim Hunt, April 21, 2010. )

1955 - Masonic Lodge #626, at 732 Third Avenue Dwight Gove, Art Spencer, Vern McLean, Davis, Frank Barnhouse, Lloyd Reuter (building foreman), Percy Burnham (architect), Mike Della Rocca, Emerson Logan Cornerstone laid Dec. 1, 1955. The Temple was completed on Aug. 22, 1956, See the booklet by Robert Barnhart, "History of Chula Vista Lodge No. 626 F. & A.M.," published in 2000.

1955 - St. Pius X Catholic Church - This church was built in 1955 at 36 E. Naples. The convent and parochial school were designed in 1960 by local architect Percy Burnham. ( )

1955/06/04 - Construction of the new Temple commenced on June 4, 1955 with Brother Percy Burnham having been appointed Chief Architect and Brother Lloyd Reuter as Supervisor of Construction. These extremely capable Brothers directed the efforts of many other volunteers who donated their evenings and weekends for over a year to the joyful task of construction. On-site lunches and refreshments were often supplied by wives and ladies of the various orders. The Cornerstone was set in place by Most Worshipful Edgar V. Stewart Jr. on December 1, 1955. The Temple was completed on August 22, 1956, free and clear of debt, except there were no funds remaining to pay some of the suppliers of the materials. Three of the Brethren made sizeable interest-free loans to the Temple Board for the purpose of clearing these obligations. The first Stated Meeting in the beautiful new Temple was held on August 7, 1956, with Worshipful Brother Samuel L. Brinkley in the East. The cost of building the Temple, which was around \$61,000, was met about halfway with Lodge funds and the rest by donations commencing as early as 1952. ( Barnhart, "History of Chula Vista Lodge No. 626 F. & A.M.," 2000. )

1955/06/04 - groundbreaking photo 1955/06/04 identified: Dwight Gove, Art Spencer, Vern McLean, Davis, Frank Barnhouse, Lloyd Reuter (building foreman), Percy Burnham (architect), Mike DellaRocca, E. M. Logan ( photo, Chula Vista Lodge No. 626. )

1955/07/21 - new St Pius X catholic church being built in Castle park at Naples and Cuyamaca will have a 75-foot tower ( Chula Vista Star-News, July 21, 1955. )

1955/08/27 - Temple Builders photo 1955/08/27 identified: Percy Burnham, Sam Brinkley, Harry McCrea, Robert McNeil, Alvin Nelson, Vern McLean, Lloyd Reuter, Ralph Paxon, Jr., Mike DellaRocca, Art Spencer, Frank Barnhouse ( photo, Chula Vista Lodge No. 626. )

1956/02/23 - Bishop Buddy will dedicate new St. Pius X catholic church at Cuyamaca and Naples ( Chula Vista Star-News, Feb. 23, 1956. )

1957/04/08 - Leader Department store will build new building at 221-223 3rd ave ( Chula Vista Star-News, Apr. 8, 1957. )

1957/11/28 - Leader department store moved to 223 3rd ave, has city's first elevator, departments on two floors with storage in the basement. Leader was the first store in San Diego in 1953 to start a revolving charge account (RCA) credit plan, and in June of this year started used of IBM equipment to post its accounts. -- (photo) front page ( Chula Vista Star-News, Nov. 28, 1957. )

1960/03/27 - Bishop Buddy will dedicate the parochial school at St. Pius X today ( Chula Vista Star-News, Mar. 27, 1960. )

1960/08 - Percy Burnham, designer of the Masonic Temple and the City Hall, died of cancer. ( Chula Vista Star News, Jan. 5, 1961, clipping in McAllister box 3. )

1960/08/11 - Percy Burnham, 60, died Aug. 1960, moved to CV 1943 from Pasadena but had spent 45 yrs in SD county, was building designer, his father George Burnham was congressman and subdivider of Point Loma. -- ( Chula Vista Star Aug. 11, 1960 )

1960/08/11 - Percy E. Burnham, 60, died, grew up in Point Loma, father George Burnham, went to Pasadena, then came to CV 1943, designed city hall, Masonic Temple, CV Clinic, Leader Dept Store, and just before his death completed plans for St. Pius X Catholic Church convent and parochial school, with his partner Lowell Milligan. ( Chula Vista Star-News, Aug. 11, 1960. )

1971/11/18 - St. Pius X Catholic Church to celebrate 16th anniv. Sunday, at 36 E. Naples ( Chula Vista Star-News, Nov. 18, 1971 )

1975/06/05 - Mary Lynn Deddeh named Woman of the Year by South Bay Charter Chapter, American Business Women's Association, is drama teacher at Hilltop JHS since 1959, wife of Wadie Deddeh, taught catechism at St. Pius X Catholic Church ( Chula Vista Star-News, 1975. )

1976/09/30 - Bingo still in Chula Vista future; churches may be 1st legal. Sept. 30, 1976 A: 1:3  
Legal bingo in Chula Vista has become a weekly ritual for hundreds of South Bay residents. Three organizations, South Bay Pioneers, St. Pius X Catholic Church, and St. Rose of Lima Church, offer weekly games. December 2, 1976 A:14:4 ( Star News Index Cards )

1976/11/04 - old tile-domed tower of St. Pius X church, built 21 years ago and with termites, being replaced by copper domed tower - photo of scaffolding p587 ( Chula Vista Star-News, 1976. )