

MUNICIPAL REFERENCE LIBRARY
300 CITY HALL

CITY OFFICIALS

NAME BURNS, ROBERT L.

PUBLIC OFFICES HELD

(DATE)

CITY:

City Council 1929-1937

Board of Education 1923-1929

City Council 1937-1939

~~CITY~~: (President City Council July 1, 1935-
July 1, 1945)

City Council 1939-1941

STATE:

FEDERAL:

CIVIC ACTIVITIES:

BUSINESS OR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Coal mining
Flour, milling and grain business
Newspaper and telephone business
Lawyer
Business executive

PORTRAIT:

ATTACHED OR ENCLOSED IN ENVELOPE: Attached

PORTRAITS APPEARING ELSEWHERE (DATES)

Enclosed newspaper clipping

ANECDOTES AND PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS:

So interested and energetic is Robert L. Burns in the discharge of his councilmanic duties that his colleagues call him, "the Watch Dog of the City Treasury."

A forceful personality, but admittedly not a "joiner," Mr. Burns belongs to no clubs of any sort, professing more interest in his jobs than in handshaking. Until he became a member of the City Council, golf was his hobby. Now, with very little spare time, reading and browsing at home in his large library has superseded the golf.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

BOOKS:

Furnished by biographee

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS:

L.A. Times Files and Index Library

PERSONAL INTERVIEW:

INTERVIEWED BY: Luella Sawyer/ Wallace

DATE OF INTERVIEW: October 16, 1934

1901
1907

The Los Angeles Public Library
Local History Collection
Biography

NAME Burns, Robert L.
Occupation Lawyer and business man
Address 673 Hobart Blvd.
Birth (Date and Place) Jan. 12, 1876, Knoxville, Iowa

FATHER William E. Burns
Birth (Date and Place) Erie, Penn.

If Deceased, When

MOTHER Dulcina Elizabeth French
Birth (Date and Place) Indiana

If Deceased, When

IF MARRIED, TO WHOM Sarah Bertram
Birth of Same (Date and Place) 1876, Kentucky

If Deceased, When

When Married October 11, 1898

CHILDREN (Married Names of Daughters)
William B.
Robert J.
Harry F.
John A.

ANCESTORS OF DISTINCTION OR LOCAL INTEREST

(Please include names of local interest as "forty-niners," or any one connected with the affairs or development of the state or city, as officials, professional men, merchants, etc.)

~~Ancestors on both sides fought in the American Revolution.~~

~~Mr. Burns possesses the patent of an invention by an early forefather, signed by George Washington. Both his parents pioneered westward in covered wagons, his father being a farmer and stockman.~~

EDUCATION (Schools, Colleges, Degrees, Etc.)

~~Educated in Hutchinson, Kansas~~

~~Studied law.~~

CLUBS, LEARNED SOCIETIES, ETC.

~~none~~

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION Presbyterian

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS Republican

RESIDENCE IN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1916

SKETCH

(Please make this as full as possible, giving business affiliations, positions of honor or trust with dates if possible.)

Born January 12, 1876, in Knoxville, Iowa, Robert L. Burns in early childhood moved with his family to Hutchinson, Kansas, where he received his education. After studying law he was admitted to the bar, April 1, 1896, when twenty years old.

His career was varied by coal mining and telephone business, flour milling and grain industries. He acted as business manager of the Hutchinson News, Vice-president of the Consolidated Flour Mills Company, Wichita, he served as manager to the Consolidated Branch established on the Pacific Coast, 1915, with headquarters in San Francisco and Los Angeles.

In 1923, Mr. Burns was elected to the Board of Education, and served in that capacity for six years. He ran for the City Council in 1929, was elected, and has been returned every succeeding two years since.

At the present, 1936, he is president of that body.

Traffic and Lighting, Finance, Public Utilities, and special committees on rules, have been Mr. Burns' particular interest in the council.

HOBBIES: Reading in his large private library.



ROBERT L.

BURNS