

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Cunningham Paul Harvey Senator \_\_\_\_\_  
Represented Polk County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 15 June 1890 Indian County Pennsylvania at  
Cent, Pennsylvania

2. Marriage (s) date place  
(1) Harriet Plummer Chicago, Illinois  
(2) Irish Spay Walter 1926 Des Moines Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business \_\_\_\_\_

B. Civic responsibilities Mason, I.O.O.F., Old Eastern Star,  
Knights of Pythias

C. Profession Lawyer

4. Church membership Presbyterian

5. Sessions served 45<sup>th</sup>, 46<sup>th</sup> General Assemblies 1933, 1935

6. Public Offices

A. Local \_\_\_\_\_

B. State \_\_\_\_\_

C. National \_\_\_\_\_

7. Death 16 July 1961 near Brainard, Minnesota; buried Masonic Cemetery, Des Moines, Iowa

8. Children Edward Plummer (died in World War II); Paul Harvey, Jr.;  
Harriet Sarah

9. Names of parents Robert Harvey and Sarah Jones (McQuaide) Cunningham

Cunningham, Paul Harvey

10. Education He was educated in schools of Kent, Pennsylvania

11. Degrees Graduate of State Teachers College, Indiana, Pennsylvania in 1914; received law degree from University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan in 1915.

12. Other applicable information Republican

- His first wife, Harriet, died in 1922.
- In 1915-1917 he practiced law in Grand Rapids and Grand Haven, Michigan
- From 1917 he practiced law in New Missouri, Iowa
- Military service - World War I - enlisted into 85<sup>th</sup> Division of Central Postal, Army Officers Training Corps Fort Sheridan, Illinois, Captain of Company B, 168<sup>th</sup> Infantry



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# Cunningham Dies; 18 Yrs. In Congress

Paul Cunningham, 71, former Fifth District Republican congressman, died of an apparent heart attack Sunday at a cottage at Gull Lake near Brainerd, Minn., where he vacationed regularly.

He served in congress 18 years — from 1940 until 1958 when he was defeated by Democrat Neal Smith of Altoona.

He had been in good health and died while talking with his wife, Gail.

Mr. Cunningham's 18 years in congress and two years in the army during World War I, made him eligible for a congressional pension of more than \$10,000 a year.

### From Pennsylvania

Mr. Cunningham was born June 15, 1890, on a farm in Indiana county, Pennsylvania. He was graduated from State Teachers College at Indiana, Penn., in 1914 and received a law degree from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1915.

He began practicing law in Des Moines in 1919. He first came to Des Moines in 1917 as an infantry lieutenant assigned to Camp Dodge.

He was first elected to congress in 1940, after two terms as a Polk county representative in the Iowa legislature.

Mr. Cunningham served as chairman of the house sub-committee on roads in 1947.

In the next congressional session he was ranking Republican member of the public works committee. He backed federal highway allotments to the states and urged that more federal funds be spent for improving county roads.

### G. I. Bill Co-Author

He spent many years on the veterans committee, was co-



Paul Cunningham  
Co-Author of G. I. Bill

author of the G. I. bill and sponsor of the automatic guarantee provision in its loan section.

The closest election in which Mr. Cunningham was a victor was in 1949 when Vincent Browner, now Des Moines city assessor, came in only 2,733 votes behind him. The official state canvass showed Cunningham had 60,103 votes, Browner, 57,370.

Browner contested the election, but the house administration sub-committee which reviewed the election returns recommended that action challenging the election of Mr. Cunningham be dismissed. Recounts failed to show any substantial change in the total votes received by the two candidates.

In 1956, Democrat William F. Denman, Des Moines attorney, came within 3,765 votes of defeating Mr. Cunningham.

Mr. Cunningham was married twice. His first wife, the mother of his three children, died in 1922. He married Gail Fry, who survives, in 1926. One son, Edward Plummer Cunningham, was killed in action on Saipan during World War II.

Another son, Paul, jr., practices law in Des Moines and a daughter, Miss Harriett Sarah Cunningham practices law at McCook, Neb.

# BURGLAR TAKES YOUTHS' BANKS

Three piggy banks — filled with pennies, nickels and dimes earned for doing odd jobs, received on birthdays and "just gifts" — were stolen last week from the home of Harold Rostaks, 1244 Sixteenth st., while the family was on vacation.

The banks belong to Rostaks' three children: Wolfgang, 13, Edith, 9, and Harry, 4.

They contained about \$15, Mrs. Rostaks estimated.

She said the burglar apparently had entered Wolfgang's bedroom through a window after prying the screen loose.

"It's a high window," she said, "and whoever did it piled boards up on the outside so they could get in."

# Mate Slain, She Foils Attacker

BAKERSFIELD, CAL. (AP)—

A gunman killed the father of a vacationing family, then stripped, beat and tried to rape the young mother early Sunday as their two sons watched from the window of the couple's parked cabin cruiser.

Joseph Yilek, 27, of Fontana, Cal., was shot in the chest, stomach and right arm. His wife, Irene, 25, suffered severe bruises on her face and shoulder in fighting off the gunman.

The family had pulled off Highway 99 three miles north of Bakersfield about 4 a. m. to sleep. Mrs. Yilek and her husband bedded down on the rear deck of the 16-foot boat. Their sons, aged 4 and 6, were locked in the cabin.

# 6 Die, 125 Injured In Train Smashup

BLACKPOOL, ENGLAND

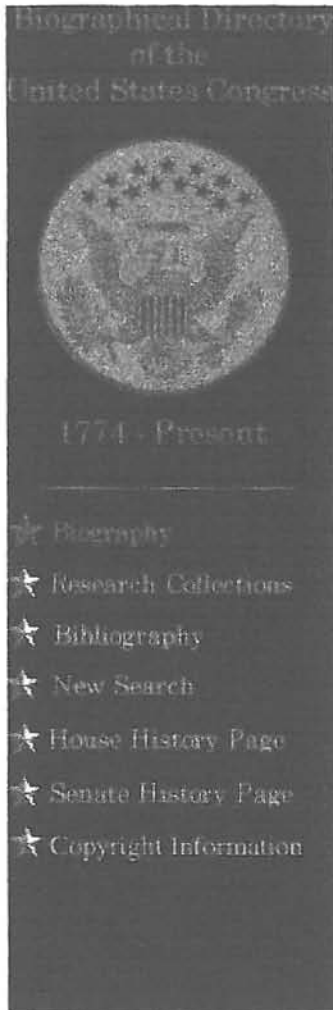
(AP)—Six persons were killed and 125 injured near here Sunday when a passenger train taking some 300 vacationers to the Irish sea coast smashed into a standing freight train.

# INSIDE THE REGISTER

# She Slaps Miss U.S.A.

MISS U. S. A., a runner-up at Miss Universe pageant, confirms she was slapped and called a "liar" by Miss Mississippi . . . . . Page 2

TWO IOWANS are among Peace Corps volunteers selected for rural education work in Chile. . . . . Page 7



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## CUNNINGHAM, Paul Harvey, 1890-1961

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CUNNINGHAM, Paul Harvey, a Representative from Iowa; born on a farm in Indiana County, near Kent, Pa., June 15, 1890; attended the public schools; was graduated from State Teachers College, Indiana, Pa., in 1911, from the literary department of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1914, and from its law department in 1915; was admitted to the bar in 1915 and commenced practice in Grand Rapids, Mich.; during the First World War served as a first lieutenant of Infantry 1917-1919; moved to Des Moines, Iowa, in 1919 and continued the practice of law; member of the Iowa National Guard 1920-1923; member of the State house of representatives 1933-1937; elected as a Republican to the Seventy-seventh and to the eight succeeding Congresses (January 3, 1941-January 3, 1959); unsuccessful candidate for reelection in 1958 to the Eighty-sixth Congress; resumed the practice of law; died at his summer home on Gull Lake, Brainerd, Minn., July 16, 1961; interment in Masonic Cemetery, Des Moines, Iowa.