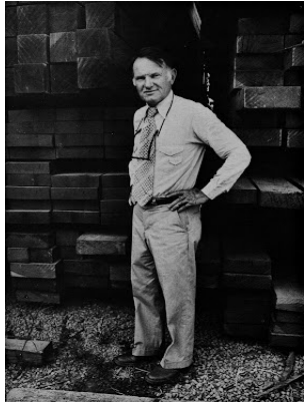


2018 IN MEMORIAM

Burnett Miller



Burnett Miller, owner of Burnett & Sons Lumber and Millwork, Sacramento, California, a key subcontractor on the Capitol Restoration Project, died October 14, 2018 at the age of 95.

Miller's firm crafted the monumental stairs for the West Wing, replicating them in Honduran Mahogany from a surviving section discovered in a church near Sutter's Fort in Sacramento. To craft the bear's heads on the newel posts, Miller had plaster casts made from the discovered remnant sent to wood carving clubs around the nation with a promise of a donation to their club dues. This was a solution to a dilemma of risking a low bid to an artistic creation. He also hand-built some of the furniture that California State Parks needed for the 1st floor museum rooms, but could not find in the antique marketplace. Miller's ancestors, Philitus and Henry Burnett, founded the firm in the 1860s; located in the Alkali Flat neighborhood, it remains in family hands.

Miller also served as the Chairman of the California Capitol Historic Preservation Society, established in 1985, which was the officially designated non-profit support group and advisory committee to the Historic State Capitol Commission. One of the Society's responsibilities was to solicit donations of artwork and antiques for the Historic West Wing. Over the years, the non-profit amassed a worthy collection of paintings and furniture, most of which are still in use in leadership offices and committee rooms. Earlier this year, the Society transferred ownership of their collection to the Crocker Art Museum; fortunately, this change in ownership did not affect the pieces currently in use in the Capitol building.

Miller was a lifelong Sacramentan, community leader and philanthropist with a multitude of interests and causes. Former California state treasurer Phil Angelides said, "He was as close to a Renaissance man as we've had in the Sacramento region."