



Digney Family fonds

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/museumvideo10597>

Repository:	Burnaby Village Museum
Date:	[between 1934 and 1964] (date of originals), copied in 2016 and 2019
Collection/Fonds:	Digney Family fonds
Description Level:	Fonds
Accession Code:	BV019.18
Storage Location:	Digital only
Physical Description:	7 mp4 videos (approx. 3hr., 18 min.) : digital, 23 fps
Material Details:	Films were digitized in 2019 from original 8 mm format
Formats:	mp4
Media Type:	Moving Images
Access Restriction:	No restrictions
Reproduction Restriction:	May be restricted by third party rights
Scope and Content:	Fonds consists of various short films created by Andy Digney and his son Ernest "Dig" Digney. Films include; a compilation of Burnaby content shot by Andy Digney and narrated by Lisa Codd (Curator of Burnaby Village Museum) along with a collection of six films shot on 8 mm film. Film content includes footage of members of the Digney family and friends in Burnaby; the Digney homes on Bonsor Avenue and Kaymar Drive; construction of the Digney Bowling Alley and the Simpsons-Sears building; Lawn bowling at Central Park as well as various family events, gatherings, vacations and trips. Films are arranged and described at item level.

History/Biography:

Andy Digney was born in London, England on July 27, 1886. His given names were Andrew Charles and in 1905, he immigrated with his elder brother to Raymore Saskatchewan and worked on a farm. In 1914, he met and married Alice Swan and in 1920 they had their one and only child, Ernest ('Dig'). The young family lived in Beatty Saskatchewan where they ran a small general store with a pool hall over the top. Andy sold the store and they moved to Carberry Manitoba where Andy worked selling lightening rods and hanging wallpaper. At this time he met and formed a partnership with someone who owned a hand cranked movie projector and in the evenings, he and his wife, traveled to church halls in neighbouring towns showing movies. Eventually, he purchased his own movie projector and opened a small theatre in Carberry. He worked odd jobs during the daytime and projected movies in his small theatre at night. Eventually he made enough money to move to Brandon, Manitoba where he purchased a restaurant which he turned into a theatre with living quarters above. Andy called the theatre 'The Oak' since the mighty oak was strong and stood forever. After starting the first Oak Theatre in Brandon, Manitoba when talking pictures came along, Andy Digney, his wife Alice and son Ernest ('Dig') moved to Burnaby in 1936 and chose the site of their new theatre and home at the corner of Kingsway and Marlborough. The Oak Theatre - which opened on August 4, 1937 - was hailed as an artistic masterpiece for its ultra modern white stucco exterior, floodlights and pink-and-green neon marquee. The interior featured a mirrored ceiling, fireplace, and aquarium and had a colour scheme of orchid, royal blue, silver and black. Andy was a very involved member of the Burnaby community becoming the founding president of the Lion's club and the chairman of the committee raising money for war bonds during World War II. In 1944, Andy suffered a severe heart attack, forcing him to retire, so in 1945 he sold the theatre to Odeon Theatres of Canada who continued to operate at this location until 1968 when competition forced its closure and demolition. Andy and his family relocated to a house at 2698 Bonsor Avenue (after 1959-6521 Bonsor Ave.) on 3/4 acres where he spent much of his time cultivating a lovely garden. In about 1946, Andy was approached by the B.C. Midget Auto Racing Association, who were looking for a good location to race the smaller, racing cars, popular at the time. Andy was interested and purchased 10 acres of property located near the corner of Irmin Street and MacPherson Avenue and built a race track. The Digney Speedway opened on July 8, 1948 with stands that had capacity of holding 4500 people. In 1949, when the popularity of midget racing declined, Digney started racing roadsters. However, he struggled to find local drivers, and it was expensive to bring in drivers from elsewhere. In 1951 Digney found a winner: jalopy racing. Local men would buy 1930s cars and strip them down, remove the glass, and weld the doors shut. By early 1952 over forty cars were showing up for jalopy races. By the early 1950s the Speedway was well established, with coverage in the sports pages and on radio. Andy's son Ernest Digney (also known as Dig) worked at the race track but moved away with his wife in 1951 to work in Seattle. Dig and his wife Joyce, along with their two young sons, Paul and Bruce returned to Burnaby in 1953 moving into a 550 square foot apartment located above the Digney Speedway restrooms. In 1954 Simpson Sears built a large store on Kingsway and their parking lot came up to the back garden of the family home on Bonsor Avenue. Andy thought of building small stores on his property but in the end decided to build a bowling alley, clearing out his beautiful garden. The Digney Bowl opened on August 19, 1955 and Andy Digney, his wife Alice, son 'Dig' and daughter in law Joyce all worked at both the Speedway and the Bowling Alley. In 1956 Andy decided to finally retire and sold the bowling alley and home to his son 'Dig' which he paid for over time. 'Dig' and his family moved into the house on Bonsor Avenue and ran the bowling alley until their son Bruce took over in 1980. Andy Digney died in England in 1964 while on his world tour. His wife Alice died on June 3, 1982 and their son, Ernest ('Dig') died November 27, 2009.

Notes:

Title based on contents of fonds

Subjects:

[Sports - Bowling](#)
[Sports - Badminton](#)
[Sports - Swimming](#)
[Construction](#)

Names: [Digney, Alice](#)
[Digney, Andy](#)
[Digney, Bruce](#)
[Digney, Dorothy](#)
[Digney, Ernest Frank "Dig"](#)
[Digney, Paul](#)
[Digney, Joyce](#)

Geographic Access: [Burnaby](#)
[Burnaby - 6521 Bonsor Avenue](#)
[Burnaby - Kaymar Drive](#)



Digney Film 3 - Inside Digney Bowling Alley

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/museumvideo10650>

Repository: [Burnaby Village Museum](#)

Date: [1955] (date of original), copied 2019

Collection/Fonds: [Digney Family fonds](#)

Description Level: Item

Accession Code: BV019.18.4

Storage Location: Digital only

Physical Description: 1 mp4 video file (48 sec.) : digital, 23 fps, col., si.

Media Type: Moving Images

Access Restriction: No restrictions

Reproduction Restriction: No known restrictions

Scope and Content: Film segment documenting the inside of the Digney Bowling Alley. Views of kitchen and counter staff working and serving customers who are gathered at the bar. The camera pans back outside and shows buses parked outside from "Channel / Chan TV. 8". Sign on roof of building reads: "BOWL" and "DIGNEY" sign hangs vertically out front.

Notes: Title based on contents of film segment
Film segment originates from digitized version of original 8 mm film (See BV019.18.4)
Film segment may have been taken on the same day as BV019.18.4.2

Creator: Andy Digney

Subjects: [Buildings - Recreational - Bowling Alleys](#)
[Sports - Bowling](#)

Names: [Digney Bowling Alley](#)

Geographic Access: [Burnaby - 6521 Bonsor Avenue](#)

Historic Neighbourhood: [Central Park \(Historic Neighbourhood\)](#)

Planning Study Area: [Maywood Area](#)

Video Tracks

 [Digney Film 3 - Inside Digney Bowling Alley, \[1955\] \(date of original\), copied 2019](#)



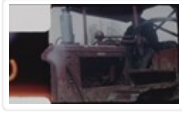
Digney film 2 - Five pin bowling

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/museumvideo10638>

Repository:	Burnaby Village Museum
Date:	[1955] (date of original), copied 2019
Collection/Fonds:	Digney Family fonds
Description Level:	Item
Accession Code:	BV019.18.3
Storage Location:	Digital only
Physical Description:	1 mp4 video file (7 min., 11 sec.) : digital, 23 fps, col., si.
Material Details:	Poor quality - dark
Media Type:	Moving Images
Access Restriction:	No restrictions
Reproduction Restriction:	No known restrictions
Scope and Content:	Film close up of five pin bowling at the Digney Bowling Alley at 6521 Bonsor Avenue in Burnaby. Footage cuts everytime pins are reset. The Digney Bowling Alley opened in 1955.
Notes:	Title based on contents of film segment Film segment originates from digitized version of original 8 mm film (See BV019.18.3)
Creator:	Andy Digney
Subjects:	Sports - Bowling
Names:	Digney Bowling Alley
Geographic Access:	Burnaby - 6521 Bonsor Avenue
Historic Neighbourhood:	Central Park (Historic Neighbourhood)
Planning Study Area:	Maywood Area

Video Tracks

 [Digney film 2 - Five pin bowling, \[1955\] \(date of original\), copied 2019](#)



Digney Film 3 - Construction of Digney Bowling Alley

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/museumvideo10648>

Repository: [Burnaby Village Museum](#)

Date: 1955 (date of original), copied 2019

Collection/Fonds: [Digney Family fonds](#)

Description Level: Item

Accession Code: BV019.18.4

Storage Location: Digital only

Physical Description: 1 mp4 video file (8 min., 40 sec.) : digital, 23 fps, col., si.

Media Type: Moving Images

Access Restriction: No restrictions

Reproduction Restriction: No known restrictions

Scope and Content: Film segment documenting the construction of the Digney Bowling Alley in Burnaby. The bowling alley was built on the west side of the Digney family home located at 2698 Bonsor Avenue (address became 6521 Bonsor Avenue after 1958). The film documents Ozzie Cavello using his bulldozer to clear the land followed by construction workers laying cinder block walls, a large crane helping to lay steel girders and lumber for the roof. The opening footage is taken from the parking lot of the Simpson Sears store on Kingsway. The Film segment closes with large flower arrangements gathered around the entrance of the Digney Bowling Alley in honour of the grand opening with Andy Digney and his brother in law Sydney Swan at the entrance.

Notes: Title based on contents of film segment
Film segment originates from digitized version of original 8 mm film (See BV019.18.4)

Creator: Andy Digney

Subjects: [Buildings - Recreational - Bowling Alleys](#)
[Sports - Bowling](#)

Names: [Digney, Andy](#)
[Swan, Sydney](#)
[Digney Bowling Alley](#)

Geographic Access: [Burnaby - 6521 Bonsor Avenue](#)

Historic Neighbourhood: [Central Park \(Historic Neighbourhood\)](#)

Planning Study Area: [Maywood Area](#)

Video Tracks

 [Digney Film 3 - Construction of Digney Bowling Alley, 1955 \(date of original\), copied 2019](#)



Digney Film 3 - Tournament at Digney Bowling Alley

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/museumvideo10649>

Repository:	Burnaby Village Museum
Date:	[1955] (date of original), copied 2019
Collection/Fonds:	Digney Family fonds
Description Level:	Item
Accession Code:	BV019.18.4
Storage Location:	Digital only
Physical Description:	1 mp4 video file (3 min., 12 sec.) : digital, 23 fps, col., si.
Media Type:	Moving Images
Access Restriction:	No restrictions
Reproduction Restriction:	No known restrictions
Scope and Content:	Film segment documenting a bowling tournament at the Digney Bowling Alley at 2698 Bonsor Avenue (address became 6521 Bonsor Avenue after 1958). Two male and female pairs appear to be competing against each other and a camera man and camera from Channel 8 - Chan TV are filming the event. One of the couples are wearing shirts with "Digney Bowl" printed on the back. Ernest "Dig" Digney assists in handing out awards at the end. Joyce Digney is identified working in the kitchen. The camera pans outside where there are two "Channel 8 - Chan TV" buses parked in the parking lot of the Digney Bowl.
Notes:	Title based on contents of film segment Film segment originates from digitized version of original 8 mm film (See BV019.18.4) Film segment may have been taken on the same day as BV019.18.4.3
Creator:	Andy Digney
Subjects:	Buildings - Recreational - Bowling Alleys Sports - Bowling
Names:	Digney, Andy Digney, Ernest Frank "Dig" Digney Bowling Alley Digney, Joyce
Geographic Access:	Burnaby - 6521 Bonsor Avenue
Historic Neighbourhood:	Central Park (Historic Neighbourhood)
Planning Study Area:	Maywood Area

Video Tracks

 [Digney Film 3 - Tournament at Digney Bowling Alley, \[1955\] \(date of original\), copied 2019](#)



Digney film 1 - Digney family in Burnaby, Okanagan, Vancouver, Victoria, California and Seattle

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/museumvideo10593>

Repository: [Burnaby Village Museum](#)

Date: [between 1954 and 1964] (date of original), copied 2019

Collection/Fonds: [Digney Family fonds](#)

Description Level: Item

Accession Code: BV019.18.2

Storage Location: Digital only

Physical Description: 1 mp4 video file (23 min., 34 sec.) : digital, 16 fps, col., si.

Media Type: Moving Images

Access Restriction: No restrictions

Reproduction Restriction: May be restricted by third party rights

Scope and Content: Item consists of a film compilation created by Andy Digney and his son Ernest "Dig" Digney. The film footage is a combination of twenty eight short segments taken at different times in various locations. The film footage documents family events, gatherings and vacations. The film opens with an outdoor Christmas display and is followed by several other film segments taking place in Burnaby at 7749 Kaymur Drive; 6521 Bonsor Street and Brentwood Mall as well as Okanagan Lake Resort; California; Seattle; Vancouver and Victoria.

Notes: Title based on contents of film
Digitized film is a copy from original 8 mm film
Twelve Film segments from this compilation with Burnaby content are described at item level and available for viewing on Heritage Burnaby: BV019.18.2.1; BV019.18.2.2; BV019.18.2.3; BV019.18.2.4; BV019.18.2.6; BV019.18.2.11; BV019.18.2.12; BV019.18.2.13; BV019.18.2.15; BV019.18.2.16; BV019.18.2.22; BV019.18.2.28
Contact Burnaby Village Museum to view entire content

Creator: Digney, Ernest Frank "Dig"
Digney, Andy

Subjects: [Holidays - Christmas](#)

Names: [Digney, Andy](#)

Geographic Access: [Burnaby - Bonsor Avenue](#)



Digney Film 3 - Construction and opening of Digney bowling Alley, visit to Stanley Park and summer vacations

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/museumvideo10678>

Repository: [Burnaby Village Museum](#)

Date: [between 1955 and 197_] (date of original), copied 2019

Collection/Fonds: [Digney Family fonds](#)

Description Level: Item

Accession Code: BV019.18.4

Storage Location: Digital only

Physical Description: 1 mp4 video (20 min., 30 sec.) : digital, 16 fps, col., si.

Media Type: Moving Images

Access Restriction: No restrictions

Reproduction Restriction: No known restrictions

Scope and Content: Item consists of a film compilation created by Andy Digney and his son Ernest "Dig" Digney. Film compilation documents the construction, opening and a tournament of the Digney Bowling Alley located at 6521 Bonsor Avenue in Burnaby along with family outings at Stanley Park and vacations at Birch Bay and Okanagan Lake.

Notes: Title based on contents of film compilation
Three Film segments from this compilation are described at item level and available for viewing on Heritage Burnaby: BV019.18.4.1; BV019.18.4.2; BV019.4.3
Contact Burnaby Village Museum to view entire content

Creator: Andy Digney

Subjects: [Buildings - Recreational - Bowling Alleys](#)
[Sports - Bowling](#)

Names: [Digney, Andy](#)
[Swan, Sydney](#)
[Digney Bowling Alley](#)
[Digney, Drew](#)
[Digney, Joyce](#)
[Digney, Bruce](#)
[Digney, Paul](#)

Geographic Access: [Burnaby - 6521 Bonsor Avenue](#)
[British Columbia - Okanagan](#)
[United States of America - Washington State](#)

Historic Neighbourhood: [Central Park \(Historic Neighbourhood\)](#)

Planning Study Area: [Maywood Area](#)



Digney film 2 - Family in Burnaby, Construction of Sears building and wedding

<https://search.heritageburnaby.ca/permalink/museumvideo10598>

Repository: [Burnaby Village Museum](#)

Date: [between 1934 and 1964] (date of original), copied 2019

Collection/Fonds: [Digney Family fonds](#)

Description Level: Item

Accession Code: BV019.18.3

Storage Location: Digital only

Physical Description: 1 mp4 video (26 min., 51 sec.) : digital, 16 fps, col., si.

Media Type: Moving Images

Access Restriction: No restrictions

Reproduction Restriction: No known restrictions

Scope and Content: Film created by Andy Digney and his son Ernest "Dig" Digney. The film opens with scenes of different dogs playing outside; exterior of Andy and Alice Digney's house on Kaymar Drive; interior of the Digney bowling alley with pins being reset; interior of Andy Digney's greenhouse at his house on Kaymar Drive; construction of the Sears building in [1954] behind Digney home at 3698 Bonsor Street; unidentified outdoor wedding attended by the Digney's and Swans; Campbell family gathering in Victoria; gathering of friends and family inside Alice and Andy Digney's home on Kaymar Drive before they leave for their World tour in 1964.

Notes: Title based on contents of film segment
Digitized film is a copy from original 8 mm film
Nine Film segments from this compilation are described at item level and available for viewing on Heritage Burnaby: BV019.18.3.1; BV019.18.3.5; BV019.18.3.9 to BV019.3.13 and BV019.18.3.16
Contact Burnaby Village Museum to view entire content

Creator: Andy Digney

Subjects: [Sports - Bowling](#)
[Buildings - Commercial - Stores](#)
[Buildings - Recreational - Bowling Alleys](#)

Names: [Digney, Andy](#)
[Digney, Ernest Frank "Dig"](#)

Geographic Access: [Burnaby - Bonsor Avenue](#)
[Burnaby - Kaymar Drive](#)