

From Swaddling Clothes to City

Much of interest is always to be found by searching old records, and searching the records of the city of Cottage Grove for the preparation of historical data for use with special stories to be published coincident with the dedication of the city's new administration building has proved no exception to the rule. It is regrettable that the very earliest records have been lost or destroyed, but these were for only a few years.

Those of us who know the Cottage Grove of today can hardly visualize the city of a few hundred persons which was organized back

in 1887, when the entire business of the community was transacted in a fringe of buildings along the west bank of the Coast fork, with the entire city on that side of the river and only wheat fields on the east side, where the business section is now located. Many of the old buildings still stand and on one of these, in paint that must have been of good quality to have so long stood the onslaught of the elements, the world is informed that this is the office of "J. S. Medley, Lawyer." Mr. Medley, who is now district attorney, was a lawyer here for many years

after he abandoned the building where he probably first put out his shingle after graduating from law school. In some of the shacks near the Coast fork bridge, now old and decrepit and nothing but eyesores, thriving businesses were conducted. There the pioneers met to swap yarns, to buy their tobacco and gingham and pass away a winter evening. There were no automobiles in those days, and the roads in winter were almost impassable even for nimble-footed saddle animals.

Buildings in which the early town councils met have given way to the march of progress and even at least two erected on the east side after that became the business center have gone the way of the earlier buildings. The last of these was razed to make room for the present new structure.

In the list of town and city officers published herewith will be found the names of practically all of those who were prominent in the town's affairs in the early days. Good timber was as scarce then as now and those capable of service were certain to be called to serve. The roster of city officials is to all practical purposes a roster of the pioneers of note.

The number still living of those who served the city during its early years is remarkable. Those who served up to 1900 and are known to The Sentinel to be living are: Darwin Bristow, W. S. Bennett, J. S. Medley, O. O. Veatch, Andy Nelson, G. W. Moore, George Lea, L. F. Woolley, C. H. Burkholder, Nat Martin, J. I. Jones, Ben Lureh, C. H. Vandenberg, W. W. McFarland and U. G. Walker.

But let the old records speak for themselves.

Herewith are given in chronological order high points in activities of government in Cottage Grove from its inception back in the 80's, when meetings of the town council were held in a board shanty or at the home of some councilman, down to the occupancy of the present splendid new city hall building:

1890. Ordinance adopted defining offenses against the city. Children under 14 years of age ordered off streets at 7 o'clock during November, December and January, at 8 o'clock during February, March, April, September and October and 9 o'clock during May, June, July and August.

No glass or other substance that might injure feet of beasts of burden permitted on streets.

Jumping blind baggage and freight trains prohibited.

Opium smoking prohibited.

Posting of placards on trees and buildings prohibited.

Minors, women, Indians and girls not permitted to loiter in saloons.

Scattering litter and paper on streets prohibited.

Dogs had to be licensed. Marshal paid a fee of \$1 for every unlicensed dog killed.

1893. Ordinance adopted prohibiting bawdy houses.

Engaging in snowballing prohibited.

Council assumes privilege of being sole judge of election of its own members.

Wages of Marshal Sweet reduced to \$12 and he resigned.

Committee appointed to purchase lot for town hall and calaboose.

Marshal instructed to purchase suitable lot.

September 26, 1893, recorder instructed to write K. Koehler, manager of S. P. R. R. lines, requesting him to change name of station to Koehler, or some name of equal distinctiveness, the town to apply for postoffice of same name. The name of Cottage Grove was characterized as "distasteful to our people and will not be retained longer than necessary to change it by law."

Evidently the recorder did not write the letter he had been instructed to write and on December 15 he was ordered to do so.

Nothing further appears in the records as to the results obtained through writing the letter. If it was written, but it is significant that the name of Lemati was afterwards adopted and became the name of the postoffice.

1894. L. F. Woolley, special assessor, reported property of the value of \$132,790, a population of 541 and voters to the number of 71.

By motion the council declared against furnishing provisions for tramps "unless they earn it by work for the town at \$1 the day."

Saloons prohibited from selling liquors to minors and from keeping open on Sundays.

Laundry operated by Chinaman licensed at \$25 the quarter.

First piece of typewriting in connection with city business. Letter received by recorder written entirely in caps. Letters from governor, secretary of state, etc., all in long hand.

Knox hall rented for council chamber at \$1 the month.

Agreement made with H. Orchard for construction of water system for \$4500 in water and light bonds.

1895. Wearing of bells by cows declared a nuisance.

Andrew Nelson given 20-year electric lighting franchise.

Fire company authorized to purchase triangle for sounding alarm.

"Water hogs" discussed at council meetings.

Governor Lord signed bill changing name to Lemati.

1896. City hall erected of dimensions of 20x30 and 20 feet high.

Grand Army granted use of city hall at \$3 the year, payable in wood if desired.

Hall rented to Lemati council No. 123, W. A. P. A., at \$12 the year. What "W. A. P. A." stood for no one seems to remember.

1897. George Hawley loaned city \$150 at 10 per cent interest.

Marshal instructed to prevent jumping on trains.

Riding of bicycles on sidewalks prohibited.

1898. Petition for consolidation of two towns rejected on grounds of not being legally proposed.

John Williams and George Dorris employed to defend council in suit brought against it for failure to call consolidation election. Evidently council won case and paid attorneys \$75.

Ordinance adopted making qualification of voter ownership of \$50 of property.

Mr. Warner (possibly G. G. Warner) invited to make known his cause of complaint against the council "so plainly and offensively insinuated in an article in the Leader." Mr. Warner disclaimed any intention of making a personal inquiry

and was informed "that the council would conduct the affairs of the city as was in their judgment best for its interests and that his advice was not sought or desired."

1899. Towns of Cottage Grove and Lemati consolidate under name of Cottage Grove. Reporters for newspapers provided with seats at recorder's table.

Night watch appointed, to be on duty from midnight to daylight.

All night electric light service contracted at \$65 the month.

1900. Petition for legislation against saloons and houses of ill fame laid on table indefinitely.

J. W. Hart appointed night watch at \$10 the month.

Salary of marshal reduced from \$10 to \$20 the month and salary of night watch increased from \$10 to \$20.

1901. Cottage Grove Water company's plant bought at \$3300.

Fire bell purchased for \$100.

H. C. Dutton given contract at \$22 to build jail.

Marshal instructed to enforce ordinances against houses of ill fame.

Water bonds for \$5000 paid and burned.

1903. Ordinance adopted to prevent chickens from running at large.

Marshal instructed to stop playing of phonographs during hour of 9 p. m. to 9 a. m.

Ball and chain purchased and tramps ordered to work on rock pile.

Night policeman employed at \$50 the month.

Eagle Fire company and Rescue hose company hold spirited elections.

Council shares a few dollars from practically every bill presented.

Water receipts for month of October were \$154.

1904. General tax of 5 mills levied.

Water bonds in sum of \$20,000 issued.

Ordinance adopted prohibiting tying of stock in streets.

1906. Charge of 25 cents made against Christian church for each tank of water used.

Petition granted for removal of wire fence from S. P. right of way within city.

Petition granted for ringing of curfew at 7 p. m.

Special election on prohibition during October, one polling booth in N. H. Martin saloon, prohibition voted 113 to 110.

Special election on prohibition held during December, prohibition again voted 135 to 104.

1908. Petition granted for ringing of curfew at 6:30.

Library committee appointed consisting of W. A. Ekins, A. B. Wood, R. M. Veatch, Mrs. Chambers, Mrs. Eakin and Mrs. C. P. Jones.

Committee appointed to investigate licensing of near beer.

1909. Near beer sale stopped.

City park purchased.

Electors voted \$100,000 in bonds for water system.

1910. New fire bell purchased.

Councilman Wallace, being ill, excused "after lengthy discussion of the subject," as the clerk recorded it.

Main street paved, this being city's first paving.

1911. Wheelbarrows and delivery carts ordered off Main street sidewalks.

Petition asking that (name deleted as person is yet living here) "be confined in a place that is sanitary" presented to council. Whether petition was granted not stated.

Liquor election held during March. Prohibition sustained 182 to 128.

City limits extended at special election, resulting in law suit that extended over two years and finally was lost by city.

Sports on Memorial day prohibited.

1912. Dog tax turned into nucleus for library fund.

Streets renamed and houses ordered numbered.

Firemen given pay of 25 cents for each meeting.

First library board appointed, consisting of Mrs. F. W. Robbins, Mrs. A. B. Wood, Miss Jennie Woods, R. M. Veatch, Elbert Bode and G. O. Knowles.

Steel cells purchased for city jail.

Sells-Floto granted license for exhibition on Memorial Sunday, May 26. Several lively meetings of city council followed storm of protest which followed.

1913. Two socialists on city council.

Ordinance presented for relief of county division committee, but evidently never enacted.

1914. Ladies' club provides drinking fountain in front of First National bank.

Ordinance adopted prohibiting dogs from running at large, referred to the people and adopted by them.

Ordinance adopted prohibiting spitting on sidewalks.

1915. Ordinance for movie censor read first time but not adopted.

Ordinance presented for relief of county division committee, but evidently never enacted.

Bicycles ordered to carry bells and lights and trick riding on Main street prohibited.

1916. City auto camp established.

Standard Oil company granted permit to establish plant.

Paving of streets causes trouble about location of hitching racks.

1918. Terms of office of city officers changed to two years, councilmen to serve four.

1920. Ordinance adopted prohibiting barns and chicken coops within 30 feet of street.

Start of trouble making arrangements for cutting off timber on city's watershed.

Traffic ordinance ordered strictly enforced.

Time for parking cars on Main street changed from 30 minutes to one hour.

Concrete walk districts created.

1921. Railway trains limited to speed of 15 miles and obstruction of crossings limited to 10 minutes.

City adopts prohibition laws in order to keep liquor fines at home.

Fire escapes, exits, lights and signs regulated.

Moss ordered removed from all buildings.

\$50,000 electric light system bonds voted. (Never issued.)

1922. Mountain States Power company invited to city.

Petition for closing theaters and cigar stores on Sundays laid on table.

City builds new dam on Layng creek.

William Patton employed as city's first traffic officer.

\$45,000 armory bonds voted.

1923. First fire truck purchased.

Sale of timber on Layng creek permitted.

New city hall and lighting districts defeated.

Traffic officer dispensed with.

City's intake ordered removed to Diner creek at no expense to city.

1924. Power company poles removed from Main street.

Street improvements of magnitude started.

Two traffic officers hired and fired.

\$25,000 trunk line sewer bonds voted.

1925. City auto camp discontinued.

Playgrounds established by Keepers of the Den and Lions club.

Largest amount of street paving in city's history.

Million gallon water reservoir constructed.

Telephone company agrees to remove poles from Main street.

Move started for athletic field.

City boundaries at north extended.

1926. Diner creek line completed.

City hall bonds voted.

1927. New city hall completed and occupied.

Beaten Path Monotonous

Our associations are greatly responsible for our lives. Happiness or otherwise follows upon the heels of our companions. The mighty help us to prevail. The great create an atmosphere for us. Train the heart and mind to be at home in the great places and to live on the broad plains. The superlative alone can give us cheer. Get away from the humdrum and regular. Sometimes have courage to depart into the country unknown. Remember, if a rolling stone gathers no moss, a fixed one gathers little else. It is earthbound.—Exchange.

City's Glory Departed

It is no longer "Antioch the Beautiful," splendidly situated though it is. In the Thirteenth century it was still a considerable city of 120,000 inhabitants. Today it is known as Antakia and its population is about 12,000. It never quite recovered from its spoliation by the sultan of Egypt, nor has it made much effort to repair the damage done in 1872 by a severe earthquake. But it will always be a place of interest to Christians for its many associations with the earliest periods of their history.

Deep Winter Sleep

The jumping mouse, or kangaroo mouse, lays up no store for winter, but constructs a warm nest, in which it spends the winter in a state of dormancy more profound than that of any other American animal.

Filing Supplies. Sentinel.

See for yourself what kind of Furniture can be made in your home town

The tables in the council chamber and in the city clerk's office were built at home, much as you may be surprised when you see them.

Cottage Grove Manufacturing Co.

Your Home Town Cabinet Makers.

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WE FURNISHED THE DESKS FOR THE CITY RECORDER, CITY ENGINEER, CHIEF OF POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENT.

The Sentinel

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