

The Men Who Handle the City's Administrative Departments

CLAY M. STEARNS

There is perhaps no city in Eastern Oregon or Western Idaho that possesses a city official more conversant with the machinery of government in the degree with which these complicated affairs are possessed by Clay M. Stearns, Ontario's city recorder.

Tho he has seen most of his public service in the West Mr. Stearns is, as the saying goes, "a down East Yankee," whose ancestry includes General Stearns of Revolutionary fame, while other members of the Stearns family served in all the wars of the nation.

Mr. Stearns, or Judge, as he is better known to Ontarians, started his public career early in life, was a

Michigan, where he was born in 1883. He graduated from the Michigan Agricultural college, which is also in Albion, in the class of '07.



City Engineer O. A. Kratz

After a summer in railroad construction and the drafting room of the Cadillac Motor company, he accepted a position on the Isthmus of Panama with the commission digging the big ditch.

While in the zone he was engaged in municipal and hydraulic work, specializing in mapping the Chagres river and its water shed for data necessary in the construction of the famous Gatun dam. Later he was assigned to duty at Panama City, having in charge the municipal work of sewerage and paving undertaken by the commission. In this work he was under the supervision of that master engineer, General Goethals.

After leaving the zone he was employed by the Canadian Bridge company at Walkerville, then became City Engineer at Corvallis, Oregon, which he resigned to become assistant city engineer of Portland, which position he held until he came to Ontario.

Mr. Kratz is a married man, Mrs. Kratz having been Lara M. Hyde of Kalamazoo, Michigan, prior to her marriage, and like Mr. Kratz is a graduate of Michigan Agricultural college. They have two children.

H. C. FARMER

The peace and safety of Ontario is in the hands of H. C. Farmer, who having served several terms in that capacity knows the game so thoroly that the city is given a wide berth by the crooks that travel this way.

Mr. Farmer has not always been a police officer, however, for when he came to Ontario it was in the barber business, which trade he learned in his old home in Indiana where he was born in 1873. After looking over various Indiana towns he came west in 1904 and settled in Ontario, working in various capacities or owning a barber shop until 1916 when he was appointed City Marshal and Chief of the Fire Department. These positions he resigned in 1918 to enter the sheep business with Elmer Butler, Jr. in 1918, but he went

back to his former position in April, 1919, and has been on the job ever since.



City Marshal H. C. Farmer

Mr. Farmer was married in Ontario in November, 1906, to Miss Elizabeth Butler of this city, and they live on Indiana avenue and Morfitt street.

V. W. CHAMBERS

Ontario's new municipal water system is now managed by V. W. Chambers. Mr. Chambers was born in Prairie City in 1887 and came to



Water Supt. V. W. Chambers

Ontario just 22 years ago. After attending the local schools Mr. Chambers went to O. A. Z. in the fall of

1907 and was there for one year, after which he went to Portland. In 1911 he returned to Ontario and engaged in the plumbing trade. That fall he was married to Miss Lana Sisley of this city and again returned to Portland, where he remained until the fall of 1914 when they returned to Ontario.

Since that time Mr. and Mrs. Chambers have made this city their home. When the war came Mr. Chambers entered the service in the fall of 1918 and reached San Francisco just before the armistice was signed. On his return from the army he again engaged in the plumbing business until he was appointed an assistant at the pumping plant by Mayor R. W. Jones in February, 1919, which position he held until his appointment as Water Superintendent on August 1 of last year.

LOUIS KROESSIN, JR.

To protect the property within the city from fires Ontario has a volun-



Fire Chief Louis Kroessin, Jr.

teer fire department at whose head at the present time is Louis Kroessin, Jr.

Mr. Kroessin was born in St. Charles, Minnesota, in 1885 and lived in that city or Albert Lea in the

same state until he came west in 1909 in search of a new home. While he worked in Boise and Weiser, at his trade of harness making, he watched Ontario grow. He went back to his Minnesota home in 1911 and told his father of Ontario and as the result they came here to establish a business in 1913.

That fall he began his service with the fire department thru election to membership. In 1914 he became vice president of the department and in 1915 its president, which office he held until elected chief in 1918.

Mr. Kroessin has taken so active an interest in the good of the department that he has constantly sought its improvement.

What The Chief wants more than anything else at the present time is a fire truck. If keeping at it will get it, he will have it, too.

HAY FOR SALE—20 Tons third cutting, one mile west of K. S. & D. ranch; 20 tons first and third cutting two miles from Ontario.—Thomas W. Claggett. 227-10-1f

EXPERIENCED MAN wants to rent a good ranch. Write S. T. Fruitland, Idaho. 219-10-12

S. C. WHITE LEGHORN breeding cockerels for sale, \$5.00 each.—A. B. Cain, 2 miles west of Ontario. 221-10-1f

WANTED—Plain sewing at first house north of Methodist parsonage.—Mrs. Roy Manson. 225-10-11

FOR SALE OR TRADE—What will you give or what have you to trade for lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 in block 83, City of Ontario?—O. G. Luehrs. 222-10-1f



City Recorder Clay M. Stearns

member of the legislature of Maine in 1885. In that session he was the youngest member.

Judge Stearns is not a native of Maine, for he was born in Pennsylvania, his family moving to Maine when he was two years old. He attended the common schools of Fryburg, Maine, the Bridgeton academy and entered Bowdoin college where he attended for two years.

In 1886 he settled in Walla Walla, Washington. There he studied law in the office of Senator John B. Allen and was admitted to the bar. Later he moved to Farmington, Washington, to practice and began his career as a city official with his election to the position of city clerk. Later for six years he had a similar position at Pullman, Washington, serving on the council and in other public offices.

Another move took him to Nez Perce, Idaho, where he was city attorney for five years.

In 1910 Judge Stearns came to Ontario and engaged in the real estate business until he was appointed City Recorder in 1916, which position he has held since. To this work he has had added that of municipal judge. He is likewise U. S. Commissioner for this district.

OSCAR A. KRATZ

O. A. Kratz, city engineer, is perhaps the most traveled man in the service of the city for his professional duties have taken him from Canada to the torrid zone, to Corvallis and Portland, Oregon, and lastly to Ontario.

Mr. Kratz is a native of Albion,

Hides, Furs and Pelts

Ranchers, Stockmen, Trappers:

If you have any hides, furs or pelts send them to us. We pay the highest market prices. We pay cash.

Rogers & Company

Ontario, Oregon Telephone 185-W

S. C. WHITE LEGHORN baby chicks for sale after March 1. \$20 per 100. Order now as they are going fast. Hatching eggs \$2 per setting; \$10 per 100.—A. B. Cain, 2 miles west of Ontario. 224-10-14

WANTED—One dozen hens. Phone 77. Miss Lavine Smith. 209 51f

FOR SALE—Two large chairs and library table, almost new; cheap. Phone 69-M. 212 8 1f

L. J. AKER, the income tax expert, has a full supply of 1919 income Tax Forms now on hand to take care of all client's needs. Owing to many engagements in outside towns Mr. Aker will be out of town considerably from now on, and appointments may be made by letter or telephone 170-J. 25 9 1f

WANTED TO BUY—One good work horse. Would consider team if a bargain. Thomas W. Claggett, Ontario. 212 1f

Make Sure of Your Water Supply This Year

Much water is wasted annually in irrigation ditches and flumes. During the hot, dry summer this water must be conserved to insure your crop success. Irrigation experts know the value of wood pipe. With it there is little waste of water.

More Durable than Iron Pipe

American Quality wood pipe is made of best grade of Washington Yellow Fir and comes in two varieties—machine-banded and continuous stave. This fir has high tensile strength and well-known lasting qualities, and because it is hard it prevents compression of the iron bands into the staves. Either machine-banded or continuous stave may be had in all desirable sizes.

And It's Inexpensive to Install

Wood pipe is not expensive to lay down. For the complete installation it costs less than iron pipe and about the same as ordinary flumes. Stocks of wood pipe will be carried at the following Boise-Payette yards: Bliss, Jerome, Twin Falls, Wendell and Weiser. Ask the manager of any Boise-Payette yard about wood pipe for irrigation. He will see that you get prompt service.

**Al Chance, Manager of Yard Ontario, Oregon
Boise-Payette Lumber Co.**