

When Capitol Hill Was A City...page 5

—from the files of the Capitol Hill Beacon

Knight, ward seven. In one of its first sessions the new board of trustees repealed the existing salary ordinance and named a committee to work out a new law. Bickering over rent due on a meeting hall led to a resolution asking that the meeting place be changed from Roger's hall to Perkins' hall which was approved.

A weed cutting ordinance, a subject later to become of high political importance, was introduced on **June 7** and at the same time the board heard a bill relative to granting a railway franchise to Oklahoma Interurban Traction Company.

June 29, 1905. Power was granted the city clerk to make a tax levy and the following day a levy of five mills was placed on all taxable property for the year 1905. On the same day the first legal suit was filed against the city of Capitol Hill and the town board voted to employ an attorney at cost of \$5 to uphold the city's rights.

In a meeting **August 1**, the board voted an ordinance granting the Oklahoma City, Lexington and Sulphur Spring Electric Railway company a franchise. Three members of the board left the meeting refusing to vote when the argument reached its height.

A warrant for \$6 was voted on **September 20** to E.R. Rogers who had won a judgment in that amount against the city bringing an end to the Hills first legal tiff which had developed over the amount of rent to be paid Rogers for one of his halls as a meeting place.

During the month of **September** Frank Paasch and J.K. Steele were appointed members of the board replacing two who resigned and F.A. Maxwell was appointed as marshal and street commissioner.

In November the first Capitol Hill policeman was appointed with F.S. Snodgrass selected. The new marshal was instructed in a following meeting to give 10 days notice and begin collection of poll and dog tax. Meetings were changed to Kaufman hall located at SW 27 street and Robinson ave. (and torn down in 1936).

Perkins resigned as chairman of the board of trustees in **January 1906**, and Tom Smalley was elected to fill out his term. J.C. Ogiltree named as town attorney to serve at \$5 per night whenever his services were needed. The board moved to transfer its meetings to a hall owned by C. Shears.

Looking at the problem of bridges across Lightning creek the board voted to put high railings on the bridge and to put an obstruction across the creek where a bridge had been washed away. J.J. Hickey was granted the right to put a railway and road bridge over the creek on **February 7**.

The local fire company presented a petition on **March 7** asking a subscription to help purchase ladders, hose and buckets.

May 15, 1909 - As one of the wagons belonging to the steam bakery was being driven around the corner of C avenue and the street east of the railroad switch, the horses became frightened and swerved to one side throwing the wagon wheel against a projecting bank and overturned. The driver was thrown clear but not injured.

The frightened horses became unmanageable, trying to break loose. Some of the women living near tried to assist, but the wind blowing their dresses frightened the horses even more. To the relief of all a farm wagon drove up which contained a man. Other men came later, and the wagon was rightened and taken to the blacksmith shop for repairs.

On **May 2** the board presented the following resolution as its last official act before election of new officers;

"Resolved that it is the sense of the outgoing board of trustees that the peace and quietude of Capitol Hill during the last two years was especially due to the fact that no intoxicating liquors were allowed sold therein and that it is the sense of this board that no intoxicating liquors shall hereafter be sold in Capitol Hill and that this resolution be spread upon the minutes of the last meeting."

In the third city election held **May 7, 1906**, John Dillon was named treasurer, M.M. Morris, marshal; W.R. Clement, clerk; C.F. Perkins, assessor; and J.F. Gray, justice of the peace. Trustees were James M. Mitchell, P.W. Markwell, V.H. Selkin, M.F. Rowlett, J.L. Moore, A.D. Moore and A.F. Randall.

These gentlemen in a first meeting heard a petition stamping public halls as a nuisance, motions on building of a bridge over a ravine, opening of new streets and location of a brick plant.

A tax levy of five mills for general municipal taxes, five mills for street alley and bridge purposes and three mills for a sinking fund levy were passed as one of the first acts by the new board.

August 6, 1906. It was discovered that the members of the board of trustees for the year 1905 were not registered with the County Clerk of Oklahoma and a motion was passed declaring all acts of these trustees null and void.

October 10, 1906. A committee was named to direct removal of the North Canadian river bridge and use it to span Lightning creek with a new bridge to be built over the North Canadian river. At the same time the board approved an appropriation of \$1 to buy the Town Marshal a star.

In **February, 1907.** Territory in Chapin and Levy addition, Eckroat, Eggleston, Caldwell, Volz, Patrick and Pottenger and Patterson addition was voted into the city.

May 1, 1907. The annual tax levy was made, the total to be 13 mills. A treasury report for 1906-07 revealed a total balance of \$221.33. At same time the board moved to pay costs of the 1907 flood and appointed a committee to find means of raising \$100 for aid of sufferers.

Members of the new board assumed office **May 10, 1907** and were reported as follows:

G.F. Walker, justice of the peace; J.W. Pickens, town marshal; E.L. Roberts, assessor; John