

When Capitol Hill was a City **1904-1910**

Capitol Hill residents began preparations leading to a vote on establishment of a municipal government. On April 4, 1904 motion was made with the county commissioners that F.F. Walker, justice of the peace, keep maps surveys and census of the town as filed for incorporation in his office for inspection for 30 days previous to the election.

On April 8 a decree of receiving petition for incorporation of Capitol Hill was filed in the court of county commissioners under provisions of Article one Chapter 13 Wilson's Revised and Annotated Statutes of Oklahoma and amendments thereof.

The decree ordered an election for vote of qualified voters of proposed Capitol Hill to vote April 20, 1904 at the office of the justice of the peace in that vicinity.

The petition requesting incorporation follows:

"Wherefore your petitioner prays that upon proof that the requisite number of qualified voters have subscribed for the incorporation of said town have been compiled with, your honorable body will make an order that such territory shall be with the assent of the majority of the residents qualified voters therein incor-

From the official minutes of the Town of Capitol Hill on file at the Oklahoma County Courthouse

porated as a town under the name of Capitol Hill (which is a different name of any other town or city in Oklahoma territory), and that you also included in said order that a meeting of the qualified voters therein will be held on the 19th day of April, 1904, at the G.F. Walker residence in said town, being within one month from the date of said order to determine the matter of the incorporation thereof."

But even as a part of the residents made ready for the forming of a city another group was filing a cross petition with the commissioners and claiming that two-thirds of the legal voters had not signed the incorporation petition; that the petition was only one affidavit of facts where there should have been more than one; that the petition was insufficient because it did not set the time when the application would be made to the commissioners for election and carrying a list of 54 residents objecting to the petition for incorporation.

To catch the spirit and color of events leading toward the election and to present activities of

Why did they suddenly change their mind about being annexed to Oklahoma City?

The City of Capitol Hill was bustling. They elected officers, planned sewers, voted bonds, bought a new fire truck, put in electric street lights, made a franchise for gas and electricity, had prospects of a depot on the Santa Fe Rail Road... They had considered annexation and turned it down promising a lawsuit for those who pursued the idea. What happened.

Sounds like a deal was made, doesn't it. Master politician Mike Donnelly was right in the middle of this. Super promoter Benoni Harrington was still active.

What kind of deal would make the difference?

If Capitol Hill retained any aspiration to have the State Capitol, this was the time. The election to locate the State Capitol was looming and Oklahoma City was expected to win since it was the fastest growing of the new cities. But Capitol Hill could not have the Capitol because it was a separate city, not Oklahoma City. If Capitol Hill were to join Oklahoma City, the ideal place for the State Capitol would be the high ground of Capitol Hill. It was a chance.

No evidence has been found to support this theory, so far. Other than the sudden turn around on joining Oklahoma City which is found in the minutes.