

DID YOU KNOW.....

A look back at early area history as found in the archives of the Enderlin Historical Society and Museum by Susan Schlecht

The following information is again taken from the *1891 - 1941 Official Souvenir Program* for the 50th anniversary of Enderlin.

City Government

“During the years from 1891 to 1897, the city was under the government of Liberty Township. On March 30, 1897, the town was incorporated as a village. This form of government was continued until August 27, 1898, when a city corporation was established. Police Magistrate Fred Underwood circulated the petitions and is said to be the father of the incorporation.”

“The first city council was organized on August 30, 1898 with the following officers: Dr. O. T. Sherping, mayor; Alderman C. C. Chamberlain, president of the council; P. L. Hodge, vice president of the council; and aldermen W. G. Engle, W. J. Fowler, P. P. Burtness, and Isaac Luker; Fred Underwood, police magistrate; A. W. Hamilton, justice of the peace; R. H. Callahan, chief of police; Thos. Pierce, treasurer; Edward Pierce, city attorney; Chas. H. Potter, city auditor and A. G. Crockett, street commissioner.”

“After the organization meeting other meetings followed in quick succession during the balance of the year. Here are a few of the problems considered by the council during the months following the first meeting September 1, 1898: Fixed license for bowling alleys at \$5.00 per month, same to remain open from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.; fixing time of regular meetings of the council on first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m.; fixing boundaries of the city wards the same as districted under village incorporation and setting the polling places. A bill of N. H. Johnson for services as village marshal from April 23 to August 23 was allowed. On September 23rd a contract was awarded to John W. Crandall for building of a jail on lot 13, block 2.”

“October 13 Wm. McSherry was appointed poundmaster and Fowler’s livery barn designated as a pound. October 17, 1898, the following bills were allowed: Herman Shirley recording deed to jail lot \$1.45; W. J. Loomis, handcuffs and shackles \$5.00; C. C. Beatty watching Gullickson fire \$2.00; Bond of Fred Underwood as police magistrate fixed at \$500.00 with H. F. Larson and James Walsh as sureties.”

We gain further insight into the early city government from the book *Enderlin Diamond Jubilee 1891-1966* (pages 21-23) which states that building of the new jail cost \$289.00 plus \$50.00 for the lot. The book also states “*Other matters considered by the first city council included raising the salary of the Chief of Police to \$10.00 a month and instructing him to see that all slot machine playing for money was stopped at once, approval of \$56.00 to finish paying for instruments for the Enderlin Cornet Band, a motion to purchase four gasoline vapor lamps and a report that for \$700, 10 acres of land could be obtained for a cemetery and 1 ½ acres across the Maple River for a city dump.*” Other firsts for the new city included: “*1905 Bids were accepted for a*

waterworks system to replace the surface and artesian wells about the town. 1906 A franchise was granted to M. A. Abbott to construct and maintain a light plant in the city. The first plant was near the stockyards and utilized the boiler of the flour mill which had burned down shortly before. 1907 Property owners were required to replace wooden sidewalks with cement construction.”

Sue’s comments: Evidently there was a problem with dogs back in Enderlin’s early years since one of the new city council’s first items of business was to appoint a poundmaster and designate a pound! A jail appeared high on the list, also, to deal with a different type of problem! Much progress was made in the next ten years and Enderlin was truly becoming a city.

Watch for more history next week!