

MUNICIPAL REFERENCE LIBRARY

300 CITY HALL

CITY OFFICIALS

Sparks, Robert Stewart

NAME Sparks, Robert Stewart (Deceased Mar.25, 1932)

PUBLIC OFFICES HELD

(DATE)

CITY:

City Council
" "

1921 - 1923
1925 - 1927

COUNTY:

Deputy County Clerk Marriage License
Division 1912-1920
Assistant Chief Real Estate Appraiser
Dec. 3, 1931 - Mar.
24, 1932

STATE

FEDERAL:

CIVIC ACTIVITIES:

President - Society For the Prevention
of Cruelty to Animals

BUSINESS OR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Real estate

City official

PORTRAIT:

ATTACHED OR ENCLOSED IN ENVELOPE:

PORTRAITS APPEARING ELSEWHERE (DATES)

ANECDOTES AND PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS:

"Cupid" Sparks as Mr. Sparks was known to the many who secured marriage licenses, was always helpful to those who sought his assistance in securing ministers and in offering helpful suggestions in solving their individual problems.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

BOOKS:

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS:

L. A. Times
L. A. City Vital Statistics

PERSONAL INTERVIEW: Telephone Interview
Mrs. Sparks (subject's widow)
INTERVIEWED BY: Florence H. Goddard
DATE OF INTERVIEW July 26, 1937

The Los Angeles Public Library
Local History Collection
Biography

NAME Sparks, Robert Stewart (Deceased Mar. 25, 1932)

Occupation Real Estate

Address 2646 South Normandie Avenue

March 31, 1871

Birth (Date and Place) Anoko, Minnesota

FATHER Henry Sparks

Birth (Date and Place) New Brunswick, Conn.

If Deceased, When

MOTHER

Birth (Date and Place)

If Deceased, When

IF MARRIED, TO WHOM Edith McGinty

Birth of Same (Date and Place) Council Bluff, Iowa

If Deceased, When

When Married In Los Angeles 1894

CHILDREN (Married Names of Daughters)

Richard

ANCESTORS OF DISTINCTION OR LOCAL INTEREST

(Please include names of local interest as "forty-niners," or any one connected with the affairs or development of the state or city, as officials, professional men, merchants, etc.)

Multiple horizontal lines for handwritten entries.

EDUCATION (Schools, Colleges, Degrees, Etc.)

Anoko, Minnesota Public Schools
University of Minnesota - School of Engineering
Saint Paul, Minnesota

CLUBS, LEARNED SOCIETIES, ETC.

Elk, Knights of Pythias, Woodmen of the World
Mason - Union League

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION Presbyterian

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS Republican

RESIDENCE IN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1894

SKETCH

(Please make this as full as possible, giving business affiliations, positions of honor or trust with dates if possible.)

Robert Stewart Sparks was born in Anoko, Minnesota on March 31, 1871. He was educated in the local schools, later attending the University of Minnesota at Saint Paul where he majored in Electrical Engineering.

In 1894 Mr. Sparks removed to Los Angeles where he engaged in the real estate business. On December 3, 1912 he entered the office of the County Clerk as Deputy in Charge of Marriage License Division, continuing in this capacity until October 1920 when he resigned to devote himself in his campaign as candidate to the City Council from the 5th Councilmanic District.

Mr. Sparks entered the City Council in 1921 and served until 1923 but was defeated in the 1923 election. However he ran again in 1925, was elected and served until 1927.

In the interim 1923-25 Mr. Sparks re-entered the real estate business and in addition edited the Los Angeles Chronicle, a weekly newspaper published in the interest of City and County employees.

On December 3, 1931 Mr. Sparks reentered the employ of Los Angeles County as Assistant Chief Real Estate Appraiser in the County Assessor's office, where he remained until the date of his death March 25, 1932 in Los Angeles.