



**MUNICIPAL REFERENCE LIBRARY  
300 CITY HALL**

**CITY OFFICIALS**

**NAME** Dorsey, Howard Edward (deceased Aug. 6, 1937)

**PUBLIC OFFICES HELD** (DATE)

**CITY:**

City Council, July 1, 1937-Aug. 6, 1937

**COUNTY:**

**STATE:**

**FEDERAL:**

**CIVIC ACTIVITIES:**

East Los Angeles YMCA  
Roosevelt-Carner Club  
9th District Chamber of Commerce  
Railroad Men's Progressive Association  
All City Employees Association  
Breakfast Club  
9th Councilmanic District Better  
Government League  
Juvenile delinquency and social welfare  
work

**BUSINESS OR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

Accountant  
Civil and junior hydraulic engineer  
Welfare work  
Public service  
City official

**PORTRAIT:**

ATTACHED OR ENCLOSED IN ENVELOPE:

PORTRAITS APPEARING ELSEWHERE (DATES)

## ANECDOTES AND PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS:

Howard E. Dorsey's forebears arrived in Los Angeles with the big real estate boom about 1887. He estimated there are now between forty and fifty Dorseys living around the city and engaged in occupations with local institutions.

He, himself, was the third generation in city service, his father and grandfather having served in the Los Angeles Police Department. His grandfather, through friendship with Mayor Snyder, secured the first raise in pay for the policemen of his day.

Mr. Dorsey literally grew up with the 9th District which he represented, for at the time of his birth his parents' home was situated in one of the Wolfskill orange groves at what is now Ninth and Santa Fe Streets.

There were no streets at the time; the neighborhood was one of orchards and small truck or produce farms. Dorsey went to school over cow paths and unnamed country roads. He saw the arrival and spread of the population, and the development of the district from rural to metropolitan, representing the working man of practically every nationality.

Mr. Dorsey was so familiar with the heterogeneous nature and inadequate public facilities of his district that he hoped to begin a prompt social welfare and public improvement program upon entering his councilmanic service.

**SOURCES OF INFORMATION:**

**BOOKS:**

**NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS:**

**PERSONAL INTERVIEW:**

**INTERVIEWED BY:** Clare Wallace

**DATE OF INTERVIEW:** June 23, 1937

Revised Sept. 10. 1937

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The Los Angeles Public Library  
Local History Collection  
Biography

NAME Dorsey, Howard Edward (deceased Aug. 6, 1937)

Occupation Construction and Junior Hydraulic Eng.

Address

Birth (Date and Place) July 10, 1904, Los Angeles, Calif.

FATHER William Edward Dorsey

Birth (Date and Place) Pennellville, Oswego Co., N.Y.

If Deceased, When

MOTHER Berdena Cecelia Dales

Birth (Date and Place) Ohio

If Deceased, When

IF MARRIED, TO WHOM Edith Irene Wallin

Birth of Same (Date and Place) September, 1904, Minnesota

If Deceased, When

When Married 1930

CHILDREN (Married Names of Daughters)

Howard Edward, Jr.

Leroy

TITLES OF BOOKS, ARTICLES, MUSIC, OR OTHER  
CREATIVE WORK

(In the case of printed matter, please give date and publisher; of periodical publica-  
tions also name of magazine and date.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Originator of a pre-delinquent detail program,  
now in use by the Los Angeles Police Department  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
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REVIEWS, CRITICISMS, AND OTHER BIOGRAPHICAL  
NOTICES

(Please note printed matter concerning yourself or your work. We would appreciate  
any such material you may send, clippings, reviews, portrait.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Local Press obituaries  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# 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.)

Subject's father and grandfather served  
in the Los Angeles Police Department.

He was a nephew of Susan M. Dorsey, world-  
famed educator, who has been with the  
L.A. Board of Education for fifty years.

## EDUCATION (Schools, Colleges, Degrees, Etc.)

Public schools, Lincoln High, American Institute,  
Los Angeles.

## CLUBS, LEARNED SOCIETIES, ETC.

Native Sons of the Golden West; International  
Footprinters Association

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION Protestant

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS Democrat

RESIDENCE IN CALIFORNIA SINCE Birth

## SKETCH

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

Howard E. Dorsey was born of a pioneer family July 10, 1904, in East Los Angeles. He attended public schools, Lincoln High, and financing himself by working at odd jobs, studied commercial law, banking and accounting, and civil and hydraulic engineering at the American Institute.

His career was passed in his native city. During eighteen months he was in charge of investigation on the coast for the Treasury Department; with the Bureau of Water and Power he spent five years in which he was city superintendent of construction, street, storm drain, and improvement work; and previous to election to the Council he was with the Board of Public Works.

Mr. Dorsey's interest in social welfare dated from his early youth. Through membership in various municipal organizations he worked toward the material improvement and social progress of his own district where he was born and reared.

Making an intensive study of juvenile delinquency he originated a new plan or program to serve the social needs of the juvenile offender. The plan embraces elimination from police records of first offences of a minor nature, voluntary probation, and a cooperative remedial and adjustment program with a social agency.

It has been adopted by the Los Angeles Police Department under the Pre-Delinquent Detail, and has proven of such interest that members of police departments from various parts of the United States are sent here to study its application.

Mr. Dorsey was elected to the City Council, his first public office, in May and took his seat in the Council July 1, 1937. He was appointed as chairman of the Ways and Means committee, and a member of the Planning and Public Health and Welfare committees. His career ended after five weeks of service when he died, August 6, 1937, as the result of an automobile accident in the San Bernardino mountains.

HOBBIES: Fishing  
Golf and Tennis