

The Los Angeles Public Library

## Local History Collection

## Biography

NAME Louis R. Howell  
 Occupation Councilman  
 Address 10205 Scoville Ave., Sunland.  
 Birth (Date and Place) Feb. 8, 1915 Salt Lake City, Utah.

FATHER Oliver Howell  
 Birth (Date and Place) 1871 Salt Lake City, Utah  
 If Deceased, When 1925

MOTHER Minnie Gordon Howell  
 Birth (Date and Place) April 16, 1884. Salt Lake County  
 If Deceased, When \_\_\_\_\_

IF MARRIED, TO WHOM Margie Barlow  
 Birth of Same (Date and Place) April 19 1919. Mason City, Iowa  
 If Deceased, When \_\_\_\_\_

When Married April 20 1941.

## CHILDREN (Married Names of Daughters)

Julianne Howell

James Robert Howell

John Louis Howell



## 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.)

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

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## CLUBS, LEARNED SOCIETIES, ETC.

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## RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION

## POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS

## RESIDENCE IN CALIFORNIA SINCE

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LOS ANGELES CITY COUNCILMAN

Councilman for the 1st District

Term: 4 years

Salary: \$17,000

Name: Louis R. Nowell

Birthplace & date: Salt Lake City, Utah, February 8, 1915.

Date of first election: 1963 (Appointed in 1962 to fill a vacancy).

Personal data: Married Maxine in 1941, three children, Julie, Jim and John.

Education: Franklin High School in Los Angeles; Los Angeles City College, Majored in mechanical engineering.

Professional data: January, 1940 became member of the Los Angeles Fire Dept., serving a total of 23 years; Was Captain of Engine 74 at the time of his appointment to the City Council in 1962; Member, Board of Directors, Los Angeles Firemen's Credit Union; Member, Public Works Committee, Planning Committee, and Police, Fire & Civil Defense Committee of the City Council; First appointed to the City Council in 1962; After winning first election in 1963, he won his first full term in the primary election of 1965; re-elected 1969.

Organizations: Honorary Life Member of the P.T.A.; Century Club, Y.M.C.A.; Board of Directors member-Verdugo Hills Council of Boy Scouts, Assistant Scout Master; and Member, high school Advisory Committee.

Source: Councilman Nowell's Office

MUNICIPAL REFERENCE  
LIBRARY  
MAY 11 1968  
1003 CITY HALL  
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90012

LOUIS R. NOWELL

MUNICIPAL REFERENCE  
LIBRARY

FEB 4 1971

Councilman, First District

1003 CITY HALL  
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90012

BIOGRAPHY:

Born on February 8, 1915 in Salt Lake City, Utah....one of twelve children  
....son of a blacksmith....father died when the Councilman was 10 years old.

Mother, Minnie Nowell, brought remaining family of three children to  
Los Angeles in 1931.

Councilman Nowell was graduated from Franklin High School in Los  
Angeles and continued his education at Los Angeles City College where he  
majored in mechanical engineering.

January, 1940 he became a member of the Los Angeles Fire Dept. He  
moved through the ranks to a position of Captain. His total years of ser-  
vice numbered twenty-three.

During his fire-fighting career, he was elected President of the 8,500  
member Fire and Police Protective League, a post he resigned to become a  
candidate for the City Council in 1962. Councilman Nowell was first appoint-  
ed by the City Council and has been elected twice to his office. At the  
time of his appointment he was Captain of Engine 74 which serves the Sunland  
Tujunga area of the San Fernando Valley.

Vital to the Councilman's success has been his wife, Maxine, whom he  
married in 1941. As testimony to this, in November, 1968, about 400 friends  
honored the Nowells at a "We Love Louie & Maxine" dinner.

The Nowells have three children. Their daughter, Julie, a graduate of  
Brigham Young University is presently a Sr. Public Health Nurse with the  
County of Los Angeles. Their elder son, Jim, was graduated from Long Beach  
State College with a degree in Business Administration and is currently  
managing the sales dept. of a construction company. Jim is married to the  
former Nancy Shomler of Sunland, a talented musician who attended Marymount  
College on a musical scholarship. Jim and Nancy are the parents of the  
Nowell's first grandson, Bradley, born in February, 1968. The younger son,  
John, attends Mt. Gleason Jr. High School and is active in Scouts and the  
Knights. A niece, Diane, lives with the Nowells and attends Verdugo Hills  
High School.

The Councilman has long been active in youth activities, ranging from  
Honorary Life Member-P.T.A., Century Club-Y.M.C.A., Board of Directors mem-  
ber-Verdugo Hills Council of Boy Scouts, assistant Scout Master and high  
school Advisory Committee Member.

During his career he has learned many building trades. He was super-  
intendent for construction of several hundred homes in Hawaii and is a mem-  
ber of the Board of Directors of the multi-million dollar Los Angeles Fire-  
men's Credit Union.

The Nowells have lived in Sunland since 1945 and for relaxation at  
home they enjoy informal gatherings with family and friends.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

Patience, persistence and his adeptness of parliamentary procedure...  
honed to a keen edge during his six years of City Council service has earned  
Louis Nowell a broad-based respect among those in and out of City government  
and the reputation of being a highly productive individual.

NOWELL ADDITIONAL INFORMATION - continued

Councilman Nowell represents the largest geographic area, about 76 sq. miles, almost one-sixth the total area of the City. It includes the communities of Arleta, Lake View Terrace, Mission Hills, Pacoima, Shadow Hills, Sunland, Sun Valley, Sylmar and Tujunga, plus portions of Granada Hills and North Hollywood with a combined population of about 226,000.

The Councilman describes his district as the "Fantastic First" because it is the most diversified of the fifteen in the City.

Going into his seventh year of service to the citizens, Nowell has won high respect in his own quiet way. He knows the complexity of city government and uses it adroitly which enables him to accomplish tasks that some times border on the impossible.

This former Fire Captain was honored in 1963 as the "California Legislator of the Year" an award presented for the first time to a Los Angeles Councilman by the California Conference of Historical Societies.

During his six years in City Hall, he has served on three of the most vital Council committees while holding the chairmanship of the highly important Public Works Committee.

Los Angeles City Council is the only elected municipal body in the world that meets every working day of the year. The committee meetings also require hours of unheralded time and effort each day to make investigations and reports to the full Council on every problem brought to the City.

Besides his work on the Public Works Committee which includes the first water reclamation project that will eventually recover 200 million gallons of water daily now wasted into the ocean, Nowell serves on the Planning Committee and the Police, Fire and Civil Defense Committee.

In November of 1963, he was chosen by his colleagues as chairman of the city-wide parking authority after successfully leading the fight to build a much-needed \$17,000,000 civic center mall entirely with revenue bonds. Other proposals would have cost the taxpayers millions to erect this facility, but Nowell's insistence that a plan be devised whereby resulting revenues from the leased shops and service areas would totally finance the project, eliminating the need for any taxation to support the project.

"I suppose we all want to resolve governmental problems with simple solutions," Nowell recently commented, "But when we delve deeply into them and even with the help of interested citizens, the answers are not easily obtained. Our democracy demands a long hard look at all of our problems. It is perhaps not the most efficient way to proceed but the checks and balances produce a basic honesty in government that eliminates the possibility of any power structure enduring and we eventually find reasonable solutions to our problems."

Favoring long-range goals of real merit instead of trying to capitalize on political expedients, Nowell proved his foresightedness when he spearheaded the "Olympics 76" campaign. This resulted in Los Angeles winning the U.S. designation to enter worldwide competition for the 1976 summer games. Because of Nowell's efforts, Los Angeles, for the first time since 1932, will be considered to host this prestigious international athletic competition, which if awarded, will have an economic impact upon the community estimated at \$500,000,000.

Although Nowell has developed the skill and experience to be involved in major city-wide projects, this is not his only concern; he spends five nights a month, one evening each, in five basic communities for his "Town Hall" meetings, resolving the immediate problems of his district.

Thus, for six years, Nowell has been a most effective legislator.

After winning his first election in 1963, he won his first full term by an overwhelming margin in the primary election of 1965.

# 'LIGHTING LOUIE'S' LAMENT

*In January 1963, a fireman retired from the Los Angeles Fire Department.*

*He subsequently became an elected official from my district.*

*He entered a political kitchen that gets hot.*

*Yesterday he determined that he can stand the heat, but it is concern for his wife, his*

*children, his marriage and his friends. Therefore he is getting out of the political kitchen, it is his political demise.*

*He left this message:*

*"I am no longer a candidate for the L.A. County Board of Supervisors. I will continue to represent my district but I will not seek re-election in 1977."*

*I ask the City Council to adjourn and memorialize these demands and ask the clerk to send a suitable tribute of this adjournment to his wife.*

*I will give the city clerk the name and other pertinent information.*

*-- Louis R. Nowell  
March 5, 1976*

*Bunker Hill News Weekly 3-11-76*