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CITY OFFICIALS

NAME Sanborn, Winfred J.

PUBLIC OFFICES HELD

(DATE)

CITY: Council ... 1919-1931
President ... 1929-1931
City Council ... Sept.20, 1937--July 1939
COUNTY:

STATE

FEDERAL:

United States Postal Service, 1888-1910

CIVIC ACTIVITIES:

Republican County Central Committee
Official, Letter Carriers' Association
Board of Governors, YMCA

BUSINESS OR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Letter carrier
Mortician
City official

PORTRAIT:

ATTACHED OR ENCLOSED IN ENVELOPE: None

PORTRAITS APPEARING ELSEWHERE (DATES)

Vertical Files Municipal Reference Library
354.6L872

See Portrait Index

ANECDOTES AND PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS:

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

BOOKS:

Detwiler, Who's Who in California, 1928-29, p 471
Spalding, History and Reminiscences of Los Angeles
City and County, vol III, p 286

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS:

Municipal Reference Library, Vertical File
354.6 L 87 Z

PERSONAL INTERVIEW:

INTERVIEWED BY: Luella Sawyer

DATE OF INTERVIEW November 28, 1934

REWRITTEN BY: Clare Wallace

April 20, 1937

The Los Angeles Public Library
Local History Collection
Biography

NAME Sanborn, Winfred J.

Occupation Bookkeeper, and Credit Manager

Address 2004 Pennsylvania Avenue

Birth (Date and Place) December 2, 1869, Johnson County
Missouri

FATHER Alfred Hines Sanborn

Birth (Date and Place) New Hampshire

If Deceased, When 1912, Los Angeles

MOTHER Mary L. Sawyer

Birth (Date and Place) New Hampshire

If Deceased, When August 11, 1924, Los Angeles

IF MARRIED, TO WHOM Mamie M. Willey

Birth of Same (Date and Place) Los Angeles County

If Deceased, When

When Married June 11, 1894, Los Angeles,
California

CHILDREN (Married Names of Daughters)

Lynn D.

Olive M.:Mrs. Burris

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.)

Paternal ancestors were among the first settlers in New Hampshire where the town of Sanbornton was named for the family.

Father, Alfred Hines Sanborn, after living in Minnesota and Missouri, moved to Los Angeles in 1884, and lived on the east side.

EDUCATION (Schools, Colleges, Degrees, Etc.)

Missouri and Los Angeles public schools;
Los Angeles High School, 1888

CLUBS, LEARNED SOCIETIES, ETC.

B.P.O.E.; York Rite Mason; City Club; YMCA;
Order of Eastern Star

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION Presbyterian

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS Republican

RESIDENCE IN CALIFORNIA SINCE 1884

SKETCH

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

Winfred J. Sanborn was born December 2, 1869, on his father's farm in Johnson County, Missouri. He attended public schools of Missouri, and Los Angeles, where his parents moved in 1884.

After graduating from old Los Angeles High School in 1888 he immediately entered the United States Postal Service as a mail carrier and remained in federal employ until 1910.

During these years Mr. Sanborn participated in the affairs of the Letter Carriers' Association, in which he officiated from secretary to president, and served as delegate to their national convention in 1898 and 1905.

In 1910 he resigned from the Postal Service to become associated as bookkeeper and credit manager with Pierce Brothers and Company, undertakers.

Mr. Sanborn was elected to the City Council July 1, 1919, from the Ninth District, which is located on the Eastside where he makes his home and where he has been active in civic affairs over many years. By reelection he served until July 1, 1931, being president of the council during his last two years.

As chairman of the councilmanic committees on Tunnels, Bridges, and Viaducts, and Parks and Playgrounds, he supported the movements for new viaducts to replace the ancient bridges spanning the river, and other Eastside improvements.

Mr. Sanborn is engaged as a bookkeeper at present, and resides on the Eastside in the same house which has been his home over forty-five years.

120
S192

Sanborn Plans Race Again for Council Seat

Win J. Sanborn, for nearly ten years representative of the citizens of the Ninth Councilmanic District, yesterday announced he will be a candidate to succeed himself in the spring elections.

In announcing his candidacy, Councilman Sanborn reviewed his service as a public official and assured the residents of his district a continuation of the "open-minded, fair and industrious activity in behalf of his constituency."

His decision to enter the race for re-election followed his indorsement by various church, civic and taxpayers' groups of the east side. It was announced.

"I appeal to the voters for re-election to the Council on a platform which has stood the acid test of use for ten years," he said.



W. J. Sanborn, City Councilman from the Ninth District, is a graduate of the Los Angeles High School, class of 1888. He has been a member of the City Council since 1919, and is familiarly known to his constituents as the Abraham Lincoln of Boyle Heights.

Councilman Sanborn is chairman of one of the important committees of the City Council, the Committee on Tunnels, Bridges and Viaducts. He has taken an active part in civic matters since graduating from the public schools. He is a member of the Board of Governors of the Whittier Boulevard Branch of the Y. M. C. A., trustee of the Presbyterian Church and a member of several fraternal and benevolent organizations.

Sept 21 / 37

Sanborn Happy as He Resumes Council Job

Back at his seat in the City Council today after an absence of six years was Win J. Sanborn, who, in 1931, retired from office after a record term of service as councilman.

For the first time in more than six weeks, the council today had its full quota of members, 15. Sanborn late yesterday afternoon was chosen to fill the office of councilman of the Ninth district in place of Howard E. Dorsey, who met a tragic death in an automobile accident.

"I am happy to be back in the harness again," Sanborn declared. "I believe that my years of service as councilman provided me with a knowledge of municipal affairs that will prove valuable to the city of Los Angeles now. Let us say that my 12 years as councilman before constituted my education, which now can be put into practical use and application again.

"I am happy that the City Council showed its confidence in me by choosing me to the vacant seat. I have made no commitment except to render the best possible service to the city. Naturally I want to pick up the loose ends and adjust myself to conditions at the city hall before I make any proposals."

All other members of the council before Sanborn's election had length of service ranging from 3½ years to 10 years.

The Council had been deadlocked for more than two weeks over the selection and 48 ballots were taken in secret session before the necessary eight votes were counted for Sanborn.

Those voting for Sanborn on the final ballot were President Robert L. Burns, B. B. Brainard, F. P.

Buyer, Stephen W. Cunningham, Howard E. Davis, Evan Lewis, E. L. Thrasher and Jim Wilson.

Earl C. Gay and Robert S. MacAlister voted for former Deputy City Attorney William P. Carr. James M. Hyde and Darwin W.



W. J. SANBORN

Returns to Council to Fill 9th District Vacancy

Tate voted for Jack Y. Berman, who was runner-up to Dorsey at the election last May. John W. Baumgartner voted for Charles E. Dawson and G. Vernon Bennett voted for Frank Belcher.

Sanborn served in the Council from 1919 to 1925, when members were elected at-large. When district representation was adopted he was elected to represent the Ninth district from 1925 to 1931. From 1929 to 1931 he was president of the Council.

City Clerk Robert Dominguez administered the oath of office to Sanborn immediately after the council vote was announced.

Miss Fern Bailor will be secretary to Councilman Sanborn.

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

A DEPARTMENT OF THE LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

W. J.

SANBORN

Has Given You

RESULTS

NOT

PROMISES



Primary Election

May 5.

WHAT COUNCILMAN SANBORN HAS ACCOMPLISHED AND IS ACCOMPLISHING. **RESULTS—NOT PROMISES.**

W. J. Sanborn has been the Chairman of the Tunnels, Bridges and Viaducts Committee of the City Council ever since its inception and organization. He knows more about the work connected with this committee than any other man and is directly responsible for the great work of this character that has been accomplished by the City of Los Angeles.

Five great bridges spanning the Los Angeles River, including the Macy Street, 1st Street, 7th Street, 9th Street and Washington Street viaducts, costing in excess of \$5,000,000, have been constructed **WITHOUT ONE DOLLAR IN SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS AGAINST YOUR PROPERTY. THIS IS A PERFORMANCE, NOT A PROMISE.**

The 4th Street and 6th Street viaducts are now under construction. They will cost in excess of \$4,500,000, but not **ONE DOLLAR OF THIS SUM WILL BE A SPECIAL ASSESSMENT AGAINST YOUR PROPERTY. THIS IS A PERFORMANCE, NOT A PROMISE.**

Plans for 8th Street, Aliso Street and Main Street viaducts are now being formulated by the above named committee under the guidance of Councilman Sanborn. These viaducts it is estimated will cost approximately \$5,000,000. **THEY WILL BE CONSTRUCTED WITHOUT THE LEVY OF ANY SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS AGAINST YOUR PROPERTY IF W. J. SANBORN IS REELECTED.**

The Ninth Councilmanic District has had fewer special assessments and more public improvements than any Councilmanic district in the city during the 12-year period of Mr. Sanborn's incumbancy. **THIS IS A PERFORMANCE, NOT A PROMISE.**

W. J. Sanborn has been on the Finance Committee of the City Council for the past two years, and while the combined tax rate of all of the public bodies in Los Angeles County has increased, nevertheless that portion over which the city has control, to-wit, the city tax rate, through the vigilance and untiring efforts of the Finance Committee, of which Mr. Sanborn is a member, has been reduced from \$1.79 in 1928-1929 to \$1.60 in 1930-1931. This represents a reduction in the rate of 19c, or a total of over \$6,000,000 saved to the taxpayers of the City of Los Angeles. **THIS IS A PERFORMANCE, NOT A PROMISE.**

During the past two years, Councilman Sanborn has obtained for the Ninth District the sum of \$5,145,054.75 from the general funds of the city, county and state. This has enabled the District to receive certain public improvements from general funds, thus avoiding the necessity of special assessments against your property. This is the largest allocation received by any district in the city during the past two years. **THIS IS A PERFORMANCE, NOT A PROMISE.**

During W. J. Sanborn's entire career in the City Council, he has consistently and whole-heartedly sponsored and supported all bond issues for the development of the city's municipal water power and harbor departments. His record in this connection may be best summarized by the language of W. B. Matthews, special counsel for the Department of Water and Power for many years: "Mr. Sanborn, as a member of the Council, has always by vote and influence backed the city's water and power department. His record in that particular has been remarkably consistent through his long service on the Council. **SOME FRIENDS OF WATER AND POWER AT TIMES MAY HAVE WAIVERED IN THEIR**

SUPPORT, BUT NEVER MR. SANBORN." **THIS IS A PERFORMANCE, NOT A PROMISE.**

When an attempt was made to increase the water rate forty per cent, Mr. Sanborn co-operated to defeat this move and brought about economies in the operation of these departments whereby they are enabled to take care of all interest and sinking funds on all their outstanding bonds, thus bringing about a decrease in city taxation. **THIS IS A PERFORMANCE, NOT A PROMISE.**

As a member of the County Affairs Committee, Councilman Sanborn has been instrumental in procuring the co-operation of the Board of Supervisors of the County, with the result that the County has voluntarily given the city over \$4,000,000 out of the gasoline tax and automobile license tax for the financing of public improvements, over half of which has been spent in the Ninth District. **THIS IS A PERFORMANCE, NOT A PROMISE.**

Councilman Sanborn has resided in the Ninth District for over forty-seven years, living in the same modest home for over forty-three years. All that he has received and retains as a reward for twelve long years of tireless service on behalf of the people of the city as a whole and the 9th district in particular is an unblemished record, the affection and respect of those who know him, and the consciousness that he has rendered faithful and able service.

**Re-Elect Him at the
Primaries
Tuesday, May 5th.**

Ninth District**Winfred J. Sanborn**

Member of the City Council	July 1, 1919 - June 30, 1939
President	1929 - 1931
Member of the City Council	September 20, 1937 - July 1939 (by appointment)

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