

Mayor Daryl Fowler-Lehi's 30th Mayor 1948

By Richard Van Wagoner

When the party primaries were over in the fall of 1947, Daryl Fowler, president of the Lehi Civic Improvement Association and deputy Utah County Recorder was the Republican candidate for mayor. The Democrats nominated Carlos Coates, a city councilman who had served two years of his four-year term.

The Republican platform stood on “a rigid economical business-like administration of your city affairs.” Foremost was a pledge to continue the efforts of Mayor Prior’s administration to establish a city-wide sewer system. Also noted was the promise to improve the culinary water system, enhance perpetual care at the cemetery, and improve the efficiency of all public utilities. The candidates assured the voters that they could work for better cooperation with neighboring cities to make Lehi known as “The Friendly City.”

The Democrats might just as well have said “ditto.” Their platform was nearly identical, their promises the same. When the votes were counted on October 28th, Daryl Fowler was elected by wide margin. His supporting cast included councilors Lynn Webb, George W. Leany, R. Garn Holbrook, John W. Zimmerman, and Fowler’s defeated opponent Carlos Coates, who still had two years left on his four-year term. Other officials in the Fowler administration included Leland Powell (recorder), Blanche Turner (treasurer), Clemm Turner (marshal), and Sylvester Evans (justice).

Mayor Fowler was born in Lehi on April 24, 1888, a son of Edmund Henry and Mary Elizabeth Chilton Fowler. He was the grandson of Thomas Fowler, legendary Lehi marshal who was a contemporary of lawman Porter Rockwell.

Young Fowler was educated in Lehi, graduating as valedictorian of his class. The future mayor furthered his education at BYU and also served to missions for the LDS Church. After marrying Miron Catherine (Kate) Christensen in 1911, he

spent several years employed by the Utah Idaho Sugar Company at their Lehi and West Jordan plants and Shelley, Idaho. For two years he also operated the American Fork Bottling works for two years before becoming an accountant at the State Bank of Lehi. In 1947, he was appointed deputy Utah County Treasurer, a position he had also held in 1925.

The civic-minded future mayor was a long-time member of the Lehi Lions Club and a founding member of the Lehi Civic Improvement Association. In 1947, he became president of the CIA.

Ten weeks into his 1948 term, having presided over just four city council meetings, Mayor Fowler became ill with a heart ailment. In mid-March he was hospitalized. After being treated medically for one week complications developed necessitating amputation of a leg. At 6:00 A.M., on Sunday, March 28, 1948, the fifty-nine year old mayor, father of ten children including present Lehi residents Kent Fowler, Jetta Allred, and DeVere Fowler, died in the Salt Lake City Hospital where he was being treated.

Townpeople were shocked at the death of their energetic mayor who had so many plans to improve the community. During his March 31st funeral in the Lehi Tabernacle all Lehi businesses were closed in respect. The flag at the Memorial Building and city hall flew at half mast.

In an quaint custom of the day, one seldom seen now, the Lehi City Council issued a "Preamble and Resolution of Respect" in honor of the deceased mayor. The antiquity of the measure, plus an interest in historical preservation, warrants us printing it here:

"WHEREAS, God our Father, the giver of life, hath in his Providence and great wisdom taken unto Himself our beloved Mayor Daryl Fowler, and,

WHEREAS, in his removal we shall miss his wise counsel and splendid example as our leader, and

WHEREAS, in his presiding over us it has been done with dignity and yet

with Great kindness and consideration of the rights of each one of his subordinates, and,

WHEREAS, in his passing from this sphere of action his beloved wife and family will miss him most yet we feel it will be a great desolation to our entire community for our heads and hearts are all bowed in sorrow and grieved in his demise, and,

WHEREAS, in our unbounded confidence in the justice and equity of our God all who are faithful shall be permitted to meet him again and enjoy his presence when we have been perfected and are fulfilled with boundless Love

We the City Council of Lehi City

Now therefore resolve that we unitedly extend to the beloved wife and family of our honored Mayor Daryl Fowler our deepest love and sympathy in this hour of their bereavement and bespeak of them the Greatest kindness and consideration of them by the entire community in this the great hour of their grief, and we pledge our personal support to this end.

And be it further resolved that a copy of these resolutions be spread upon the records of Lehi City at large and that a copy be properly embossed and suitably framed and delivered to his family as a token of our esteem for his valuable services in our community.

On April 11th, at a regular session of the Lehi City Council, Mayor pro-tem, L. Carlos Coates, who had lost the 1948 election to Daryl Fowler, succeeded him, becoming the town's 31st Mayor

