

EVERETT MAYORS

A Chronology

Paintings by: Bernie Webber
City of Everett Collection, 1999

PORT GARDNER
BAY

Darlington

Lowell

Thomas Dwyer
Everett's first mayor,
elected in 1893

Hon. Thomas Dwyer
Mayor of the City of Everett 1893

THOMAS DWYER

In office: May 1893 – Jan. 1894



Thomas Dwyer was born in Sullivan County, N.Y. Placed in office by the narrowest of margins in the same election that created Everett as an incorporated municipality. Dwyer was a somewhat

reluctant "Fusion" party candidate who represented both the Democrats and the Republicans. Dwyer faced daunting challenges as mayor. The economy was collapsing around him. Revenues were short and the business of operating a city government, which had been delayed by more than a year while tidelands litigation was resolved, proved to be a thankless task. Dwyer had been involved with railroads and contracting activities in Wisconsin before coming to Everett in May of 1891. As secretary and treasurer of the Land & River Improvement Company, he suffered personal financial losses and he did not remain long in Everett.

1893

1894

NORTON D. WALLING

In office: Jan. 1894 – Jan. 1895

Attorney Norton D. Walling was born in Coldwater, Michigan, in 1858. Everett's second mayor, he inherited demoralizing economic conditions and scant prospects for civic progress. Walling had come to Snohomish County from Huron, South Dakota, and he was admitted to the bar at Snohomish in July of 1891. Shortly thereafter he moved his practice to Everett. A highlight of Walling's term was the launch of the whaleback steamship City of Everett on October 24, 1894, when he played host to the governor of the state and other dignitaries. Like so many early citizens, Walling was forced from Everett by the adversities set off by the Silver Panic. By 1913 he was living in Spokane, where he is said to have died in 1922.



INITIAL 1893 CHARTER (1893 – 1907)
(Mayor & council; yearly elections)

JACOB HUNSAKER

*In office: Jan. 1895 – Jan. 1896,
Jan. 1903 – Jan. 1904*

Jacob Hunsaker was born near Quincy, Illinois, in 1845. By profession a real estate investor and insurance agent, Hunsaker served two terms as Everett's mayor, first during hard times in 1895 and then again during the prosperity of 1903. Between his two terms as mayor he served as city treasurer. Widely respected for his integrity by political friend and foe alike, Hunsaker was given a gold-headed cane at the completion of his 1895 term. In 1903 he presided over the visit of President Teddy Roosevelt, introducing the popular chief executive to a huge crowd on



Colby Avenue on May 23 of that year. Hunsaker was the first Everett mayor to live out the remainder of his life in the community he had been elected to serve. Hunsaker died in Everett in 1920.

1895

1896

WILLIAM C. COX, MD

In office: Jan. 1896 – Jan. 1897

Born in Flinty Branch, North Carolina, in 1858, William Columbus Cox was Everett's first doctor. He is the only physician to have held the office of mayor. He came to Everett in the summer of 1891, opening an office in Lowell on July 6, and made his rounds on horseback. Three months later his ailing wife died. He played an important role in the establishment of the town's first hospital, a facility on Broadway that later became Bethania College. Shortly after leaving the mayor's office Dr. Cox built a distinctive home on the northwest corner of Colby and California which was removed in 1924 for construction of the Medical & Dental Building. A local pioneer in the use of X-ray technology, he was also one of Everett's first motorists and was politically active in the movement to improve western Washington's road system. Cox died in Everett in 1931.



JACOB A. FALCONER

In office: Jan. 1897 – Jan. 1899



Jacob Falconer was born in Ontario, Canada, in 1869. Though he presided over a city still troubled by economic doldrums and traumatized by the withdrawal of Rockefeller's financial support,

Falconer took office just after Everett triumphed over Snohomish in a battle for the county seat and it was during his term that the Snohomish County Courthouse in Everett was completed. He was a staunch prohibitionist who went on to serve in the state legislature, helping to propel Washington toward a "dry law" several years before the enactment of nationwide Prohibition. Involved in the lumber and shingle trades during his years in Everett, Falconer moved on to New Mexico to engage in the oil business and later relocated in New York state, where he dealt in coal. Falconer died in Wingdale, N.Y. in 1928.

1897

1899

JAMES O. WHITMARSH

In office: Jan. 1899 – Jan. 1900

James O. Whitmarsh was born in Pennsylvania circa 1863. He came to Everett to serve as agent and superintendent of the Everett & Monte Cristo Railway, the line connecting the smelter at Everett with the mines at Monte Cristo. At the close of his one-year term as mayor the remaining Everett holdings of the Rockefeller interests were transferred to Jim Hill and reorganized under the banner of the Everett Improvement Company, marking the beginning of an economic rebirth for the city. Whitmarsh soon moved on, spending the last fifteen years of his life as superintendent of the Puget Sound and Baker River Railroad at Mount Vernon. Whitmarsh died in Seattle in 1923.

PLEASE NOTE: No likeness of James O. Whitmarsh has been located. If you have information regarding photos or drawings of this former mayor, please contact the Public Information office at: 425-257-8687.

JAMES E. BELL

In office: Jan. 1900 – Jan. 1901

James Elijah Bell was born in Wataga, Illinois, in 1853. An active industrialist, energetic entrepreneur and important civic leader, he was at first associated with town founder Henry Hewitt. Bell and Hewitt operated an early sawmill on the 14th Street Dock, a facility credited with cutting the planking with which Hewitt Avenue was first paved. Later Bell built the mill that was sold to Weyerhaeuser and became their pilot project in the field of lumber production. He was also a founder of the local Elks Club, builder of Everett's first apartment house (Bell's Court) and a principal in the creation of the Model Garage and Stables. Bell was an individual



of considerable influence and accomplishment for whom a brief single year as Everett's mayor seems to have been little more than a footnote. James E. Bell died in Everett in 1919.

1900

1901

CHARLES K. GREENE

In office: Jan. 1901 – Jan. 1902

Charles Kennedy Greene was born in Columbiana Co., Ohio, in 1859. He arrived in Everett late in 1893 to assume the role of auditor for the Everett & Monte Cristo Railway, the line connecting the mining district in the Cascades with the smelting and refining facility at Everett. In the course of his life he had been a teacher, a merchant, a life insurance agent and a realtor. Early in the century he took on the duties of general manager of the electric railroad line that was being built between Everett & Snohomish. While mayor of Everett it was his pleasure to play host to Washington State Governor John Rogers and U.S. Senator John L. Wilson at the gala opening of the new Everett Theatre on the evening of November 4, 1901.



WILLIAM E. TERRILL

In office: Jan. 1902 – Jan. 1903



William E. Terrill was born in Vermont in 1858. The early years of the 20th Century were eventful growth years for Everett. During the term of William Terrill the Weyerhaeusers

acquired the Bell-Nelson sawmill on the Everett bayfront and began experimenting in lumber production, marking the beginning of a long and important industrial presence in "The City of Smokestacks." Terrill's professional background was in the field of dry goods merchandising. He had come to Everett in the spring of 1892 to manage J.J. Clark's department store at Hewitt & Wetmore. A few years later he took charge of the local Stone, Fisher & Lane outlet. A decade later he was working in the insurance field in Bellingham, where he is believed to have spent the rest of his life. Terrill reportedly died in Bellingham in 1937.

1902

1904

THOMAS E. HEADLEE

In office: Jan. 1904 – Jan. 1906

Thomas E. Headlee was born in What-cheer, Iowa, in 1867. Headlee was an Iowa farmboy who took up the study of law and was admitted to the bar in Snohomish in 1893. By that time he'd already served as deputy county auditor. In 1896 he was elected to the post of Snohomish County Auditor on the Democratic ticket. After working as bookkeeper for the Clark-Nickerson mill in Everett, he twice ran successfully for office mayor of the city. Twenty years later he again entered the political arena and was elected Commissioner of Public Safety. Headlee died in 1929.



JAMES H. MITCHELL

In office: Jan. 1906 – Jan. 1907

James Harvey Mitchell was born in Cambridge, Ohio, in 1856. He served briefly as the mayor of Everett, but he was much more widely known in the city as the assistant postmaster, a position he held for more than twenty years. His wife, Becca, was the first postmaster of Everett, appointed in July of 1891, and James served initially as her assistant. Mitchell had the distinction of being the only elected mayor of Everett who had served on the provisional "Committee of Twenty-One" which acted as an interim governing agency until Everett was legally incorporated in 1893. After his retirement James H. Mitchell took up residence in the Monte Cristo Hotel at Hoyt & Wall, residing there until shortly before his death in 1935.

PLEASE NOTE: No likeness of James H. Mitchell has been located. If you have information regarding photos or drawings of this former mayor, please contact the Public Information office at: 425-257-8687.

1906

1907

NEWTON JONES

In office: Jan. 1907 – Jan. 1910

Newton Jones was born in Cameron, Missouri, in 1866. Jones was the last of the mayors elected under the original 1893 city charter and the first put in office under the short-lived "first-class city" charter of 1907. Newton Jones came to Everett about 1900, first working for the Eclipse lumber mill and then becoming superintendent of the Clough-Hartley mill, a job he was to hold for fourteen years. During his three years as mayor he had to deal with such explosive political issues as the movement toward a local prohibition ordinance. Fortunately for Jones, that fiscally debilitating measure was not adopted until he was safely out of office. Interestingly enough, it was Roland Hartley who succeeded him in the mayor's chair in 1910. Jones died in Everett in 1922.



FIRST-CLASS CHARTER (1907 – 1912)

(Mayor & council; 2-year terms)

ROLAND H. HARTLEY

In office: Jan. 1910 – Jan. 1912



Roland H. Hartley was born in New Brunswick, Canada, in 1864. Arriving in Everett at the turn of the century, Hartley quickly established himself as an influential personage in political and

industrial circles. For Hartley the position of mayor was just the beginning of a political career that would take him to the state legislature and finally the governor's office in Olympia. Everett provided not only a launching pad for Hartley but also a preview of the vexations of elected office. As Hartley took office Everett embraced the "Local Option," outlawing local sale of alcoholic beverages and the budget shortfalls created by the measure were just the first of a series of challenges facing the future governor. Hartley died in Seattle in 1953.

1910

Jan. 1912

RICHARD B. HASSELL

In office: Jan. 1912 – June 1912

Richard B. Hassell was born in Illinois in 1852. He left his position as minister at Everett's First Congregational Church to run for the office of mayor. Hassell's reform policies and socialist leanings, as stated in



what was arguably the longest inaugural address in the city's history, inspired controversy and made a vocal adversary of his mayoral predecessor, Roland H. Hartley. High on Hassell's reform agenda was the reorganization of Everett's city government. He was an important force in the movement for a new, commissioner-based charter, which was passed by referendum in 1912 and shortened his controversial term to less than six months. Hassell died in Everett in 1942.

CHRISTIAN CHRISTENSON (Finance)

In office: July 1912 – June 1914

Christian Christenson was born in Denmark in 1858. His term ended by recall election. Although the three-commissioner city government of 1912 was to endure for more than half a century, the first mayor under the new arrangement had his term cut short by a recall movement. The 1912 charter provided for the commissioner elected by the largest margin to serve as an honorary mayor with largely ceremonial duties. Christenson, elected Commissioner of Finance, enjoyed the largest plurality but in short order clashed with Public Safety Commissioner Albert Brodeck. Brodeck's



resignation triggered a recall movement that removed both Christenson and Public Works Commissioner Alex Thompson from office in 1914. Christenson died in 1946.

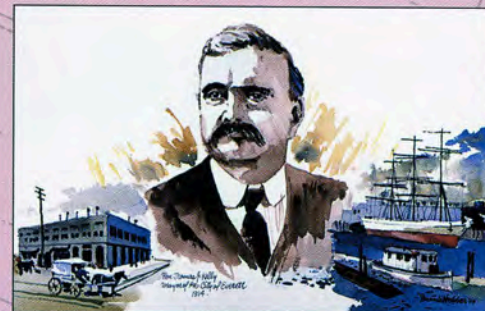
July 1912

June 1914

THOMAS J. KELLY (Safety)

In office: June 1914 – Aug. 1914

Thomas J. Kelly was born in Ontario, Canada, in 1853. Formerly active as a saloonkeeper, police officer and livery stable proprietor, Kelly was thrown into the turmoil of the city's new commissioner system when he was appointed to fill the position vacated by the resignation of Safety Commissioner Albert Brodeck. While serving as Safety Commissioner and Chief of Police, Kelly was briefly mayor of the city during the two months between Christenson's recall in June and the new election in August of 1914. He was re-elected Safety Commissioner in 1916, serving until the end of 1919. Kelly died in Everett in 1934.



1912 CHARTER (6/18/1912 – 6/25/1968)
(Commissioners w/honorary mayor; 4-year terms)

WILLIAM H. CLAY (Finance)

*In office: Aug. 1914 – Jan. 1916,
Jan. 1920 – Jan. 1924*



Attorney William H. Clay was born in Willoe, Illinois, in 1863. He served as Commissioner of Finance for almost a decade, enjoying enough plurality in two elections to be named mayor. An

Everett resident from about 1905, Clay wanted to be remembered as the man who was largely responsible for changing the city's water source from Wood's Creek to the Sultan River. He led the movement for the changeover, and bonds for the pipeline project were approved in 1916. Clay died in Everett in 1931.

Aug. 1914

1916

DENNIS D. MERRILL (Public Works)

In office: Jan. 1916 – Jan. 1920

Dennis D. Merrill was born in Penobscot, Maine, in 1863. Active in the real estate field in Everett from about 1912, Merrill served as mayor of the city during the labor unrest of 1916, when a shingle workers'



strike escalated into the bloodiest labor confrontation in Pacific Northwest history. Unable to cope with escalating demonstrations by representatives of the Industrial Workers of the World, Merrill and his fellow commissioners side-stepped the situation by allowing Snohomish County Sheriff Donald B. McRae to take charge. On November 5 a shootout at the city dock between deputized citizens and free speech demonstrators left at least seven dead and more than forty wounded. Merrill died circa 1937.

JOHN HENRY SMITH (Public Works)

In office: Jan. 1924 – Jan. 1928

John Henry Smith was born in Dousman Corners, Wisconsin, in 1858. Presiding over the community during one of the most prosperous and active periods of its history, J.H. Smith saw tremendous construction activity and growth during his term as Public Works Commissioner and Mayor. Smith had come to Everett in 1901. Around the time of World War I he spent several years in Alaska and is credited as one of the

founders of the City of Anchorage. Everett's Sultan River water project initiated nearly a decade earlier was brought to completion during his term. Smith died in Everett in 1956.



1924

1928

ARTHUR C. EDWARDS (Finance)

In office: Jan. 1932 – Jan. 1940



Arthur C. Edwards came to Everett shortly before World War I, working initially in the field of law and then pursuing a career in real estate and insurance. As Finance Commissioner and mayor during the

Great Depression and World War II, Edwards faced remarkable challenges and opportunities and won a high degree of community respect in the process. During his years in office state and federal monies were used to undertake major improvement projects and Everett's contribution to the American war effort was impressive, encompassing ship building and aviation subassembly. Edwards apparently died in the 1940s, his birthdate is unknown.

1932

1940

NELSON D. MARTIN (Finance)

In office: Jan. 1928 – Jan. 1932

Nelson D. Martin was born in Danville, Illinois, in 1872. Before entering the local political arena, N.D. Martin was storekeeper for the Great Northern Railway at the Delta Yards in northeast Everett, a position he held for more than twenty years. When Martin took office as Finance Commissioner, Everett was enjoying prosperity and full employment, in part due to the lumber demands of Japan, which was rebuilding after a disastrous earthquake. By the time he left office the Great Depression was under way and the city was turning to government programs to assist in meeting the community's needs. N.D. Martin died in Everett in 1958.



STEPHEN FRANK SPENCER (Public Works)

In office: Jan. 1940 – Nov. 1942

Though born in Vacoma, Nebraska, in 1881, S. Frank Spencer came as a boy to a farm on an island in the Snohomish River near the future site of Everett. He graduated from Everett High in

1900. He was elected to two terms in the state legislature as a representative of the 38th District, 1917-19 and 1921-23, and served for more than a dozen years on the Everett School Board before running successfully for the position of Commissioner of Public Works for Everett in 1936. He resigned from city government to accept the directorship of the city's housing authority, a post he held until his death in 1954.



JOHN DAVIS WILLIAMS (Safety)

In office: Nov. 1942 – Dec. 1943

Jack Williams was born in Grand Rapids, Michigan, in 1892. He was an Everett High graduate (Class of 1911) and a decorated veteran of both World Wars. Williams was a charter member of the Earl Faulkner American Legion Post in Everett. Originally involved in the automobile



battery and electrical supply business, he and his wife later moved to Coupeville, where they were proprietors of the Block House Inn. Williams died in Anacortes in 1965.

1942

1944

HENRY ARENDS (Finance)

In office: Jan. 1944 – June 1952

Henry Arends brought strong labor credentials to the office of Finance Commissioner. Born in Holland in 1878, he came to Everett in 1911 and was immediately involved in union activities, as secretary of the painters' local, editor of The Labor Journal and an official of the State Federation of Labor. Before his appointment to fill A.C. Edwards' vacated Finance seat in 1943, Arends served for eleven years as city clerk. While he seems to have lightly regarded the role of mayor under the commission charter, Arends was held in high esteem as the "champion of the tax payer and the balanced budget." He died in Everett in 1953.



LOUIS H. UNZELMAN (Public Works)

In office: June 1952 – May 1954



Louis Unzelman was born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, in 1888. Originally appointed to fill the unexpired term of S. Frank Spencer, Unzelman was in his twelfth year of service as Commissioner of

Public Works when he died in office in May of 1954, having served as the city's mayor the final two years. Unzelman's parents moved from South Dakota to Snohomish County when he was three years old. He began his career in the grocery trade as a clerk at the Snohomish Grocery Company. In October of 1921 he and his brother opened a store on Colby Avenue and Mr. Unzelman, a progressive Republican, quickly rose to prominence in civic and commercial circles.

1952

1954

C. ARVID JOHNSON (Safety)

In office: May 1954 – June 1956

Born in Michigan in 1903, C. Arvid Johnson became a nineteen year veteran of the Everett Fire Department. He was forced to end that career when he was injured fighting the Windsor Apartment fire in January of 1943. Later that year he was elected Safety Commissioner and served a term in that capacity. After a brief hiatus as the mayor of Union Gap, near Yakima, he returned to Everett in 1952, where he was re-elected Commissioner of Safety and became mayor after the death of Louis Unzelman in 1954. Johnson died in Everett in 1975.



GEORGE N. CULMBACK (Finance)

In office: June 1956 – July 1960

George Culmback was born in 1888 in Jedsted, Denmark, and came to the United States as a teenager, helping his uncle Chris Culmback operate a tobacco and confectionery business in Everett. Deeply involved in Republican politics in the state, he was elected to three terms in the Washington State House of Representatives for the 38th District, 1926-32. Over the years he served on the board of trustees of the Everett Public



Library and was a member of the Everett Board of Education, acting as its president in 1942. His years of civic service were honored in the naming of Culmback Dam following his death in office on July 6, 1960.

ARTHUR F. "BUD" ALEXANDER (Safety)

In office: April 1964 – Dec. 1968



Arthur F. "Bud" Alexander was born in 1911. The last Everett mayor elected under the 1912 charter, Alexander was active in the movement to shift from the old commissioner format to a "strong mayor"

city government. During his term the arrival of Interstate 5 freeway and the Boeing plant in southwest Everett seemed to signal a need for more effective local government. Alexander was aggressive in procuring funding for roads and water system improvements and as Safety Commissioner was particularly supportive of the city's fire and police departments. Alexander died in 1992.

1956

1960

GEORGE W. GEBERT (Public Works)

In office: July 1960 – April 1964

George Gebert was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1896. His career in business began when he was a Herald newspaper carrier early in the century. He served in the Navy during World War I and later gained local prominence in the field of shoe sales. Gebert was elected Commissioner of Public Works in 1960 and became mayor upon the death of George Culmback in July of that year. He was justly proud of his accomplishments during his two terms, including the construction of the Norton Avenue Overpass and Culmback Dam, named for his predecessor. Gebert died in Everett in 1980.



1964

1968

ROBERT C. ANDERSON

In office: Dec. 1968 – Oct. 1977

Robert C. Anderson was born in Portland, Oregon, in 1929. The first mayor under the new mayor/council charter passed in the fall of 1968, Anderson was elected to two terms, serving the city for nearly a decade.

His administration turned serious attention to the health of the city's central business district and struggled to cope with the economic impacts of the Boeing recession.



1968 CHARTER (6/25/1968 – PRESENT)
(Mayor & council, 5- then 4-year terms)

JOYCE M. EBERT

In office: Oct. 1977 – Dec. 1977

Born near Arlington in north Snohomish County, Joyce Ebert was a real estate broker and mother of four when she ran successfully for city council in the fall of 1973. Upon the resignation of Robert C.



Anderson in October of 1977, she stood in as mayor for the remaining two months of his second term.

Oct. 1977

Dec. 1977

WILLIAM E. MOORE

In office: Dec. 1977 – Jan. 1990

William E. "Bill" Moore was born in Tacoma in 1921. He was elected in 1968 to the first city council under the new mayor/council charter and served as the first council president. In 1977 he made a successful bid for the mayor's seat and served the community as mayor for the next twelve years. He emphasized sound fiscal management and attention to infrastructure during his three successive terms and spearheaded efforts to secure the Navy homeport for Everett. Moore died in 1997.



PETE KINCH

In office: Jan. 1990 – Jan. 1994



Elected to city council in November of 1971, commercial photographer Pete Kinch brought a diverse and lengthy record of civic involvement with him into city government.

Nominated for Everett Citizen of the Year as early as 1967, Kinch had been vice president of the Everett Junior Chamber of Commerce and was involved with the Snohomish County Chapter of the Washington Association for Retarded Children. Successful in his second attempt to become mayor, he prioritized downtown revitalization and oversaw both the erection of a new community theater in the central business district and the renovation of the historic Monte Cristo Hotel.

1990

1994

EDWARD D. HANSEN

In office: Jan. 1994 – July 2002

Ed Hansen was born in 1939. Stressing fiscal restraint, Hansen unseated an incumbent mayor in 1993 and took over the business of governing Everett. Though he faced daunting budget challenges, he achieved significant gains in the areas of public safety and parks, including a new police precinct in south Everett, new fire stations at Silver Lake and Beverly Park, as well as major park improvements such as the Phil Johnson baseball fields, Legion Golf Course renovation, and the acquisition of additional park property at Silver Lake. When he left the office in 2002 to become General Manager of the Snohomish County P.U.D., he had successfully seen the new Everett Station through to completion and had launched a new regional events center in the city's central business district.

