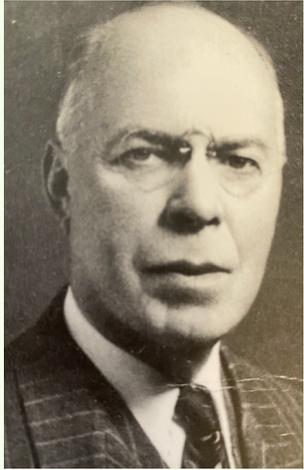
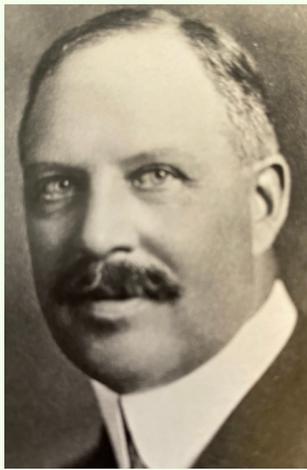


ATHERTON'S ICONS

Celebrating Atherton's 100th Birthday The First City Council



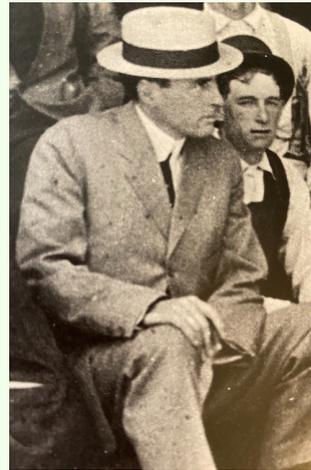
Frances Crosby
1923-1928



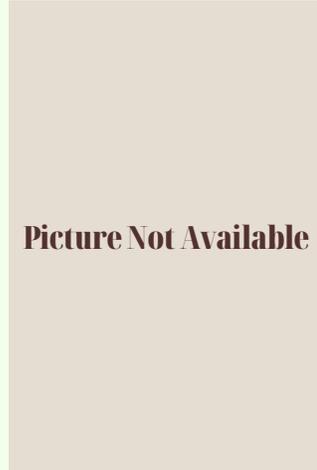
Edward L. Eyre, Mayor
1923-1941



Cutler Bonestell
1923-1924



Matthew A. Harris
1923-1932



Picture Not Available

Eli Wiel
1923-1926

The first City Council in 1923 quickly went to work to bring progress to the tiny Town of Atherton. Top priorities were solving the flooding and muddy conditions of El Camino Real (pictured below) and fire protection. While they were not able to fully solve flooding along El Camino, their close relationship with the Menlo Park Fire District still exists and was strong even before incorporation. Longtime resident, Genevieve Merrill, granddaughter of Charles Merrill, recalls that her grandfather served on the Fire District's Board for many years, and her grandmother, Phyllis Moulton Merrill drove the "tanker truck" full of water to the fires alongside many Atherton volunteers.



All of this progress was noticed and reported by the SF Chronicle in December 1923:

"With an up-to-date building and sanitation code, adequate police protection, and adopting a systematic program of improvements for the purpose of making it one of the most attractive rural communities on the peninsula, Atherton, baby among the cities of San Mateo County, is well satisfied with the progress made since the incorporation last September...Atherton folk have no ambition to develop a business district within its borders. They prefer the existing stretch of trees and shrubbery along the main highway to a row of wayside business establishments and are now fighting to maintain the natural beauty of the main thoroughfare passing through the city."



While the first civic leaders recall an open-hearted effort to preserve its rural and bucolic environment, neighboring communities bristled and accused Atherton of "elitism."

Source: *Under the Oaks* by Pamela Gullard & Nancy Lund and the Atherton Heritage Association

**Save the date! Atherton's Centennial Celebration will be on
September 24, 2023 at Town Center.**

