

## Once Upon a Time in North Park

### The Frary House

By Joey Perry

The Frary House is one of the few homes in North Park (circa 1991) that is listed on the Historical Site Board Register. This craftsman house is considered historic because of the local importance of two of its former residents. Frank P. Frary, who built and lived in the house that now bears his name, was the Mayor of San Diego from 1903 to 1905. Another important civic leader, Mr. Donald M. Stewart, lived in the house from 1911 to 1969.

Mr. Frary, who developed the Frary subdivision in which the house is located, was a pioneer in the San Diego transportation industry. He founded his own mail and freight line in 1895, just seven years after he arrived in the area. His firm later merged with the Simpson Brothers Freight Company to form Pioneer Truck Company. Because he was a well-respected businessman, he was asked to run for mayor on the Republican ticket in 1903. He won by a landslide, taking 2,800 of the 3,000 votes cast, and served for two years. He and his wife, the former Miss Maud Thayer, had two daughters who graduated from Stanford. Mr. Frary died in 1911 after retiring from business and politics a year earlier.

Mr. Don Stewart, a native San Diegan born in 1873, served on the city council from 1903 to 1905 and city treasurer and tax collector from 1909 to 1917, when he re-entered the Navy. After World War I, he was again elected to the city council, serving from 1920 to 1927. Mr. Stewart also served as San Diego Postmaster from 1934 to 1948. During his retirement, he researched and compiled a history of San Diego titled "Frontier Port." Prior to his death in 1969, he was the oldest living native born San Diegan.

The Frary House is located at 3227 Grim Avenue.