



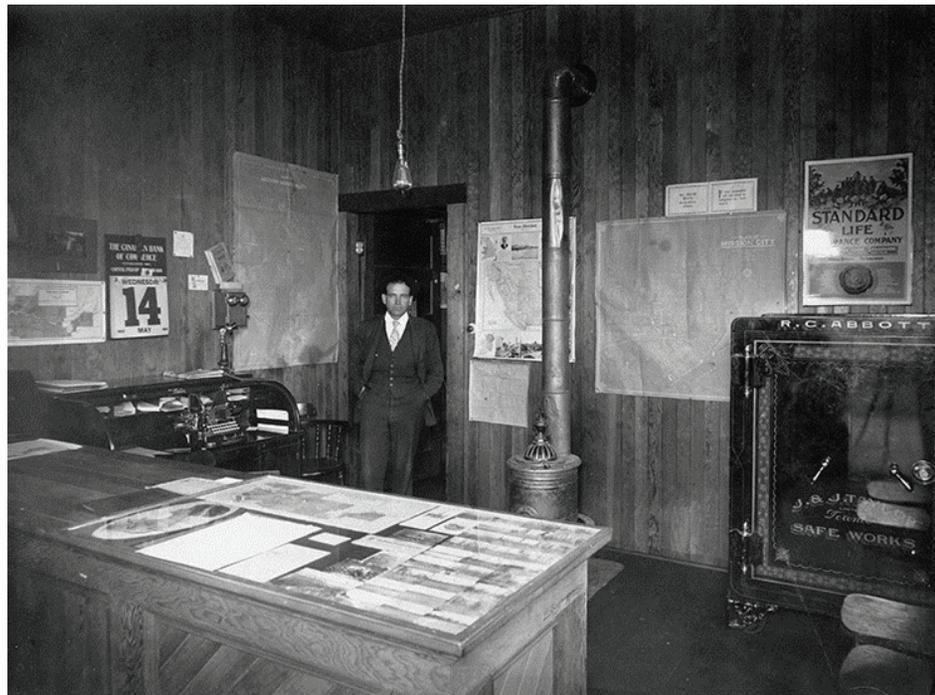
# Street Stories

## Knight Avenue

GPS: [49.150528,-122.293821](#)

Robert Earnest Knight once said, “One man does well by reason of his good soil, location, personal ability and care, another fails from the lack of one or more of these requisites of success.”

As it turned out, Knight did not lack any of these requisites. He was born in Ontario in 1879 and moved to Mission from Saskatchewan in 1902 with his brother William. The brothers homesteaded a 61-hectare (150 acres) property located on what is now Knight Avenue on the hill above Heritage Park Secondary school which they purchased in 1903. Clearing the



*Robert Knight standing in the modern office that he and his brother had just opened in 1913. Located on First Avenue between Welton and Horne streets, the Knight Bros. owned the property until they sold it to Percy Routledge in 1929.*

*Mission Community Archives Image 0277-1978128-004*

land themselves, they eventually established a successful small fruit and rhubarb farm. At a Council meeting on August 6th, 1910 “the dedication of Knight road was accepted and Robert Knight was appointed to supervise the work of the new road.” (Fraser Valley Record: August 11th, 1910:1)

In 1905 Robert Knight married a local girl, Mina Lane, with whom he had two daughters, Irene and Rita. Knight cared for quiet evenings with his family. He felt after a long day he deserved it.

Robert Knight also had a long career as a local politician, serving as a councillor from 1915 to 1920 and as reeve from 1921 to 1923 for the Corporation of the District of Mission. Elections were held every year and for the nine years he held office, he championed the construction of new roads and the maintenance of existing ones using tax dollars wisely. He also served as a Mission City delegate at the Convention of Good Roads League.

Another one of his concerns as a politician was beautifying the city cemeteries. He helped establish a committee with the purpose of keeping the grounds of city cemetery. He believed “a cemetery should look neat and as though it belonged to someone.”

Between 1921 and 1923, Knight became reeve by acclamation. During this time, he successfully dealt with a number of difficult issues, including: extensive damage caused by the Stave River, municipal debt, and fighting against a plan to make the Stave Falls area a separate municipality.

Robert Knight was 78 when he died on March 7, 1958. He had worked hard and was successful in family, career, and politics.

Street Stories is provided by the Mission Community Archives, which is operated by the Mission Historical Society. If you have any questions or further information on the Knight family please call us at 604-820-2621.

*By Ciela Quayle; edited with additions by Val Billesberger*

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