

# 'Dick' Moss Becomes Dixon Civic Leader

Rowland Moss was a native of Bath, Batheston, England, spent all his adult life in Dixon, and during those years contributed to the economic and civic life in all those things which led to community betterment.

He served as a longtime city councilman, served as a trustee of the old Dixon Grammar School for 33 years, was a deacon of the Community Church and its choir director for many years, belonged to the various welfare and service clubs which were organized through the years, including Rotary, of which he was secretary-treasurer for a long time, and spearheaded a movement for district operation of the Masonic-IOOF cemetery which had fallen into poor condition. He became chairman of the board of trustees of the Silveyville Cemetery District when it was finally approved by the voters in 1927 and was its chairman when he passed away.

"Dick" Moss arrived from England via Arizona as a young man in the company of Albert Kendall, who was later to settle in Canada. In England, he had served as a cub reporter on a London newspaper, but soon realized the limitations of economic advancement. His first jobs in Dixon included farm work and clerking in the big Oscar Schulze general store and tobacco shop.

When the Tribune went up for sale, he took over, later sold out to the Bessac family which was later to sell the Tribune to Fred Duniclif in 1913.

Being a civic-minded man,

the organizers of the Bank of Dixon talked him out of continuing in the newspaper field — and so he went to work in a steel-shuttered office located at the west end of what is now the Barker building on West B Street.

Just prior to the stock market crash in 1929, the Bank of Italy had begun its expansion in California and the Bank of Dixon was purchased. Later, of course, this became the Bank of America of which Mr. Moss became an advisory director following his retirement as cashier.

But full retirement lasted only one year. He then succeeded Earl Duke as manager of the Grangers Business Association, which operated warehouses and later leased its facilities to Kerr-Gifford (now Cargill). Full retirement followed in 1950.

Mr. Moss was active in Masonry, having joined the lodge here in 1904. He was a past master and served as a secretary-treasurer for over 30 years. He was a past high priest of the Royal Arch Masons, a past commander of the Vacaville Commandery, belonged to the Sacramento Council of Royal and Select Masters, the Red Cross of Constantine of Oakland and the Scottish Rite, also Ben Ali Shrine of Sacramento.

In 1902, Rowland Moss was married to Amelia Petersen, a Dixon farm girl, and to them were born a son, Ralph, now a rancher, and daughter, Evelyn, Mrs. Alden D. Mace. There are two grandchildren, Roland Mace and Mary Mace Hearn.

Rowland Moss passed away Sept. 9, 1961.