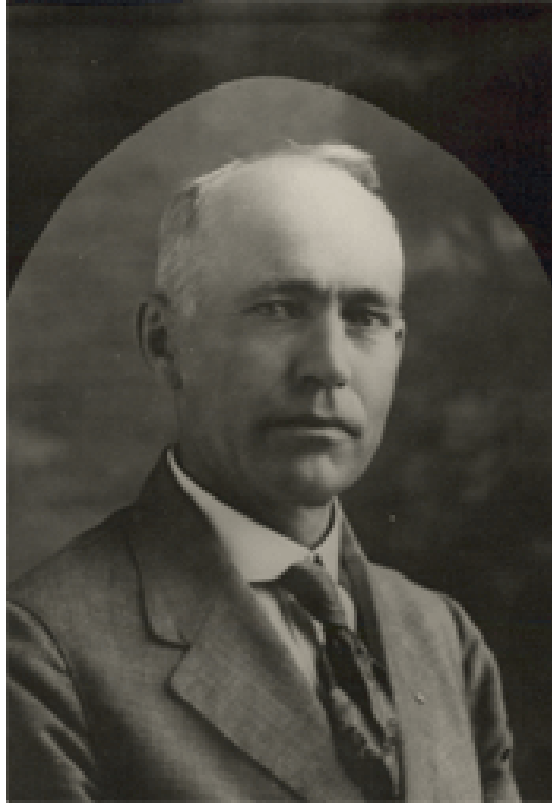


# **Justin B. Gowen**

## **Mayor 1909 - 1910**



Justin B. "Jess" Gowen was born August 6, 1866 in Warsaw, Rice, Minnesota to John Brackett Gowen and Maria Louise Taylor. He married Antoinette Marie Wasmer January 8, 1891 in Nebraska. Together they had 7 children; William Wasmer, Lloyd Byron, Daphne Eileen, Justin Byron, Octavia Louise, Ralph Byron, and Paul R.

Justin moved to Caldwell in 1896 and started the family business called The Caldwell Forwarding Company and in 1901 moved his family to Caldwell. He was active in the early days of planning the affairs in Caldwell and assisted in planning the rose gardens where he later became the head and official caretaker of the beautiful Caldwell municipal rose gardens.

In politics Gowen was the Republican County Chairman and was a member of the State Legislature. He was elected as the state game warden in 1914 and served as Caldwell Mayor in

1909. He served as the postmaster from 1922-1934, was a Lieutenant Colonel in the Nation Guard finance department from 1927-1934 and held many state and county offices.

In civic duties, Gowen was a one-time Idaho-Utah district governor of the Kiwanis organization for 2 years and had a perfect attendance record for 26 years at the local club meetings. He was also a degree mason.

Mr. Gowen died on July 3, 1939 of a heart attack after complaining earlier that morning of not feeling well. He had been ill for quite a while, but felt well enough to tend to the Caldwell City rose garden and his own yard, attend City Council meetings as head of the north and as building inspector, and wrote the daily Kiwanis letters to local members.