

Bowen Curley

Two terms Mayor: 1902-1903 & 1912-1913

Bowen Curley was the second Mayor of Idaho Falls. He had come from Wisconsin with his wife Kate and their 3-year-old daughter in 1892, and once settled, had established a bank, which was chartered 10 years later as the American National Bank. By lending money to farmers and small business start-ups he contributed greatly to the growth of the young city.

His wife, already on the local school board, had founded the Village Improvement Society(VIS) along with several other forward looking ladies of the community. The VIS planted trees, and improved the downtown with sidewalks and trash-bins among other improvements. After her death in 1903, Mayor Curley developed Kate Curley Park in her honor.

During this decade it had become apparent that demand for electricity in homes was growing and a site for a second powerhouse was sought. Mayor Coltman fought hard for the success of this project; however he died, in office, September 1, 1910, before the site could be developed. In Mayor Curley's second term the city's first run-of-river hydroelectric plant was completed in 1911 and began service September 6, 1911.

Bowen Curley died in 1932.