

HONORING OUR HISTORY

The Story of the City of Grover Beach

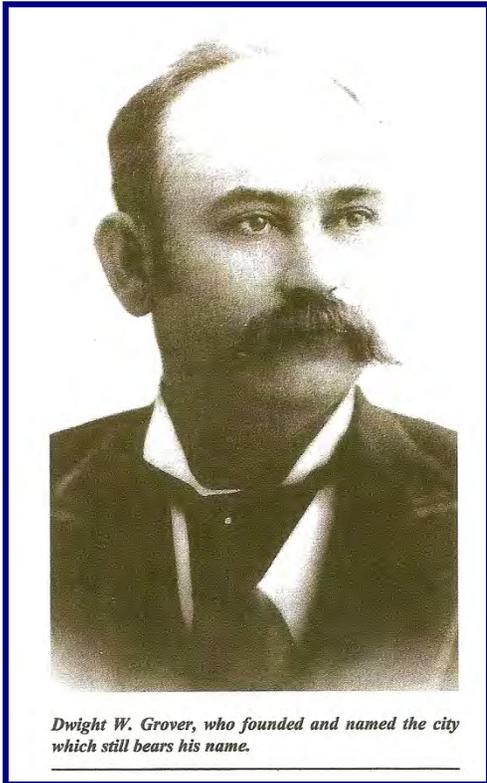




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*“The Place where the Tidelands
and the Rails Meet”*



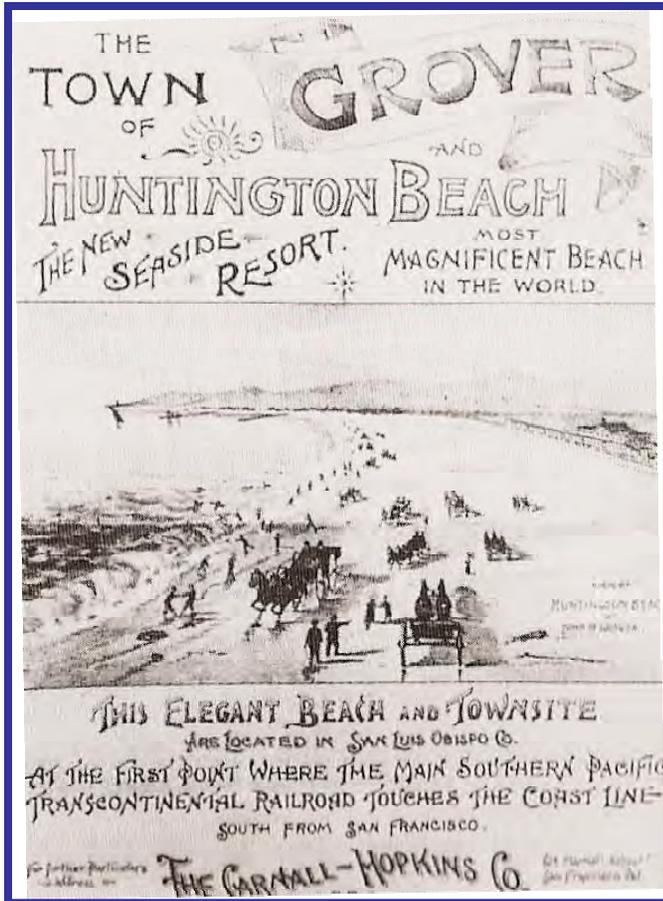
*Dwight W. Grover, who founded and named the city
which still bears his name.*

In 1887, the property that would soon be founded as the “Town Site of Grover and Huntington Beach” was purchased by D.W. Grover, a lumberman, and his associate George Gates for \$22,982.20 in gold.



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On August 1, 1887, Mr. Grover filed plans at the San Luis Obispo County Courthouse and founded what would eventually become the City of Grover City.

Unfortunately, D.W. Grover's dream of developing the city never came to fruition.

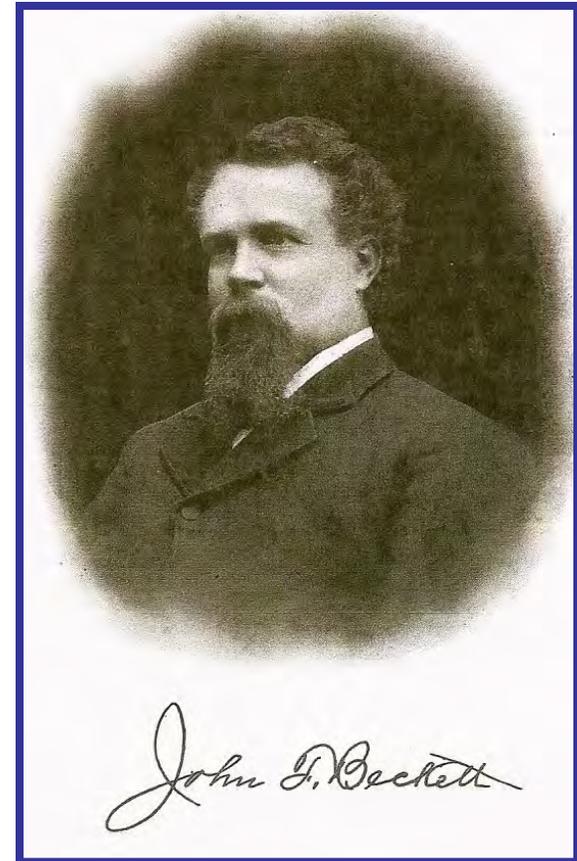
“Grandest Summer and Winter Seaside Resort on the Pacific Coast”



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In the early 1890s, land developer John F. Beckett purchased 1,200 acres of the Town of Grover. Mr. Beckett, together with his two sons, Bertram C. Beckett and J.A. "Arch" Beckett, subdivided the property and renamed the town Beckett Park and Beckett Place.





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“The home of the average man”

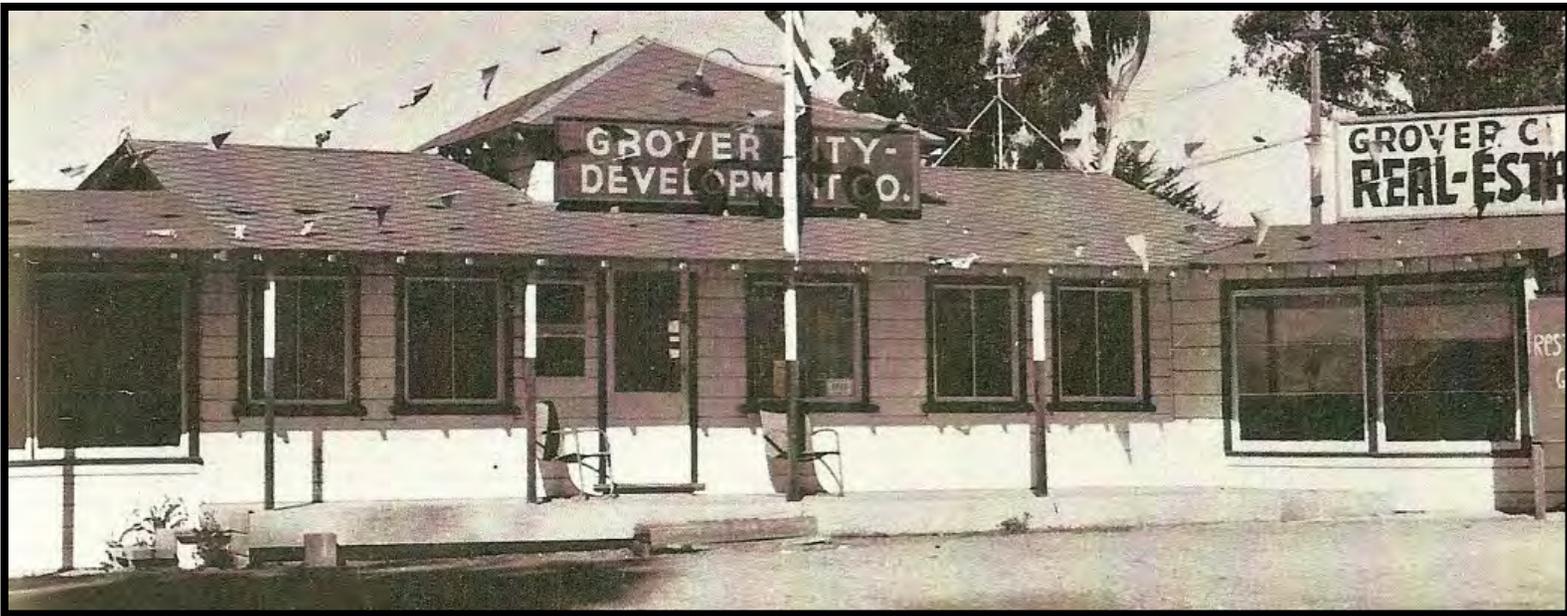


In the early 1930s, Horace V. Bagwell purchased property from Beckett’s sons, O.M. Withrow and Harold E. Guiton, who had acquired the property a few years earlier.



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Horace Bagwell and his partner Harry Culver founded the Grover City Development Company and continued to subdivide the Town of Grover.



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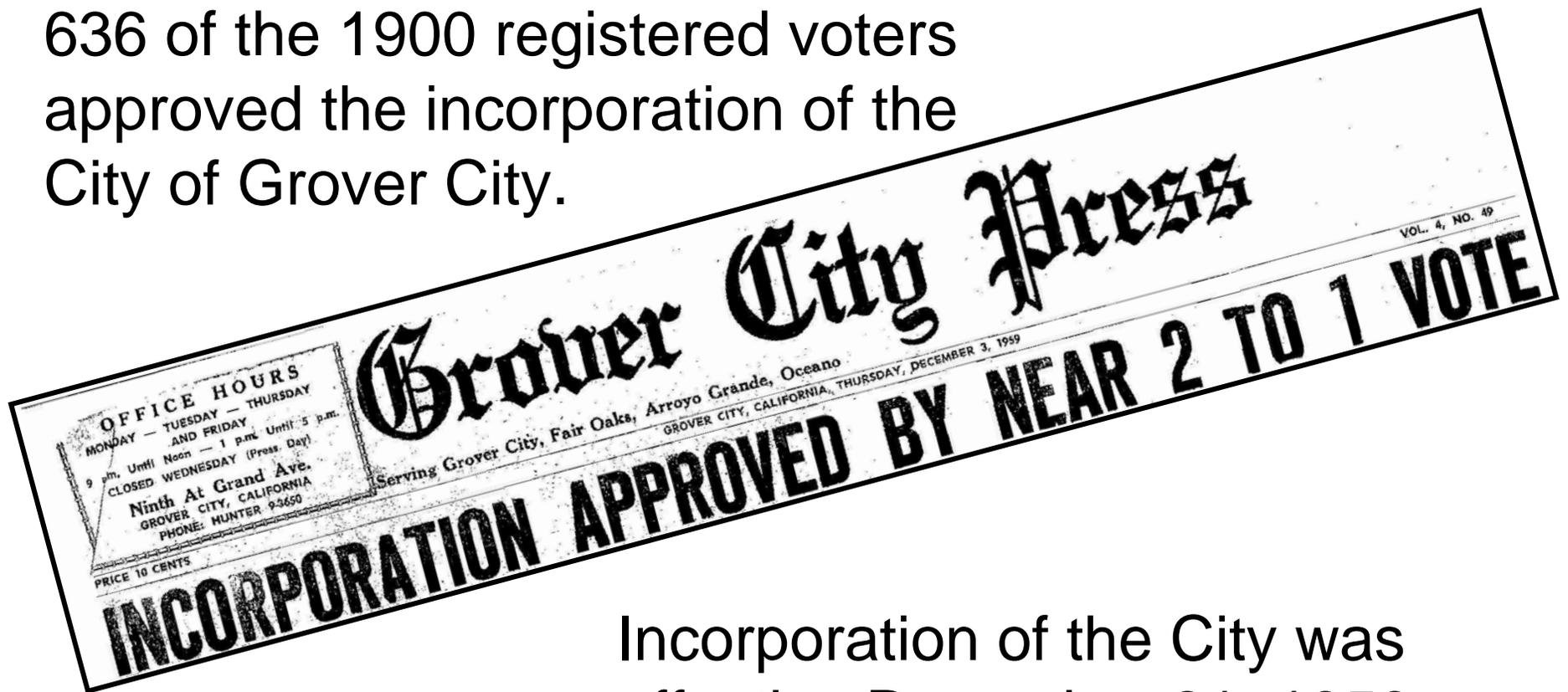
Horace Bagwell was instrumental in the establishment of the Grover City Grange as well as assisting with constructing a Youth Center – now known as the Grover Beach Community Center, located at 1230 Trouville Avenue.



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On Tuesday, **December 1, 1959**,
636 of the 1900 registered voters
approved the incorporation of the
City of Grover City.



Incorporation of the City was
effective December 21, 1959



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*The first City Council was seated on
December 28, 1959*



Mayor Port McGowne

Port McGowne was selected to serve as the first Mayor. His gasoline station and automobile repair shop were located on Grand Avenue, in the vicinity of 6th Street.

Mr. McGowne served on the City Council until May of 1966.



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Walter Jenkins

Walter Jenkins was a lumberman who owned and operated Jenkins Lumber yard, located in the 300 block of Grand Avenue. As a Councilmember, he served on the planning committee responsible for the construction of the new City Hall.

Mr. Jenkins served a decade on the City Council, until May of 1970.



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Charles Bagwell

Charles Bagwell was the youngest of the five men first selected to lead the City. Charles, the son of Horace V. “Pappy” Bagwell, operated the Grover City Development Company started by his father. His real estate office was located at the northeast corner of Grand Avenue and 2nd Street.

Mr. Bagwell served on the City Council until April of 1968.



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Sim Steinberger

Sim Steinberger was a local newspaper man who wrote a regular byline for the Grover City Press entitled, "This I Believe". Apparently, the spotlight of the City Council was not to his liking.

After serving four months on the City Council, he declined to run in the April 1960 general election and was replaced by Ford Davidson.



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Fay Keen

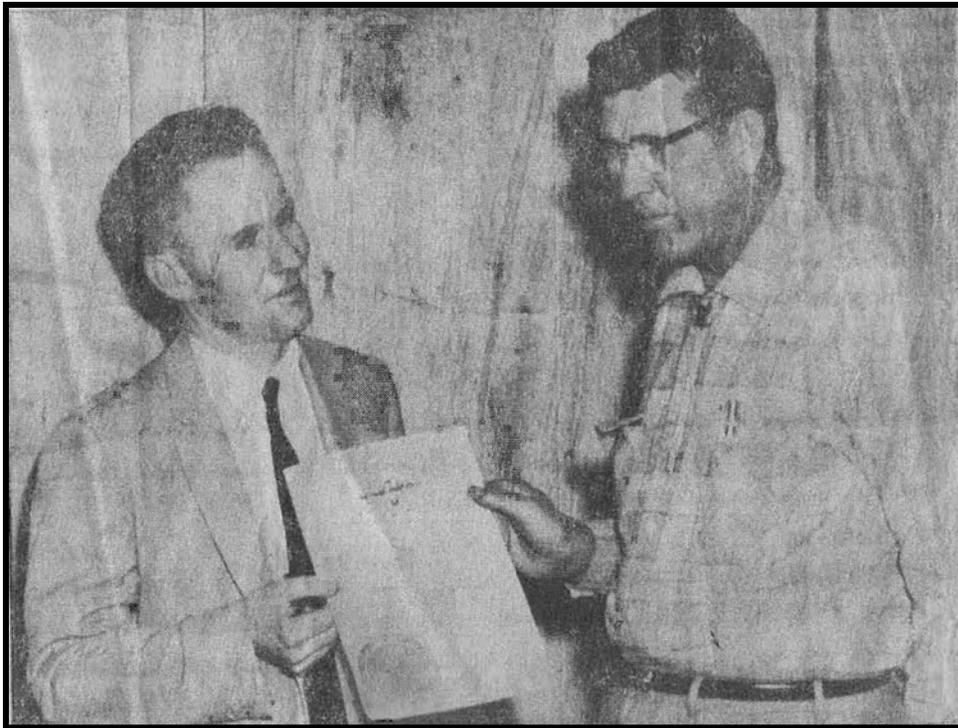
Fay Keen owned an insurance and real estate business at the northwest corner of Grand Avenue and 8th Street.

Mr. Keen served as the City's first Mayor Pro Tem and then second Mayor. He resigned from the City Council in August of 1961.



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Acting City Clerk Clifford Clark presents official certificate of incorporation to Mayor McGowne.

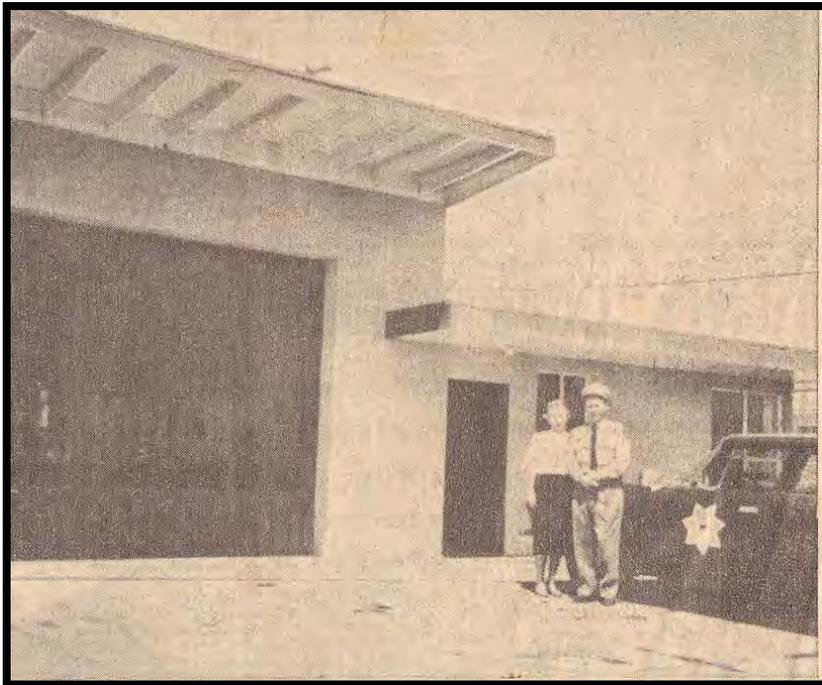
On December 31, 1959, Clifford and Mary Lee Clark traveled to Sacramento to officially file the City's incorporation papers with the State Board of Equalization.



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All City services were operated from the Fair Grove County Fire Protection District's Fire Station at the corner of North 9th Street and Ramona Avenue.



Pictured in front of the Fire Station are the City's first Police/Fire Chief James Harner and the City's first City Clerk Nell Sheehan.



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On June 1, 1960 the City of Grover City established its own Fire Department.



Volunteer Firefighters pictured with the City's brand new American LaFrance Fire Engine. This engine is still in use today at parades, weddings, and funerals.



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On June 21, 1960, diagonal parking on Grand Avenue was eliminated.



The Grover City Pharmacy was located at Grand Avenue and 9th Street



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The owner's of Grover City Pharmacy, Gene & Gracia Bello, filled their first prescription on August 1, 1952.

Gene was chairman of the committee establishing the Business Tax Certificate program for the City. Coincidentally, the City issued its first Business Tax Certificate to Mr. & Mrs. Bello's Pharmacy.



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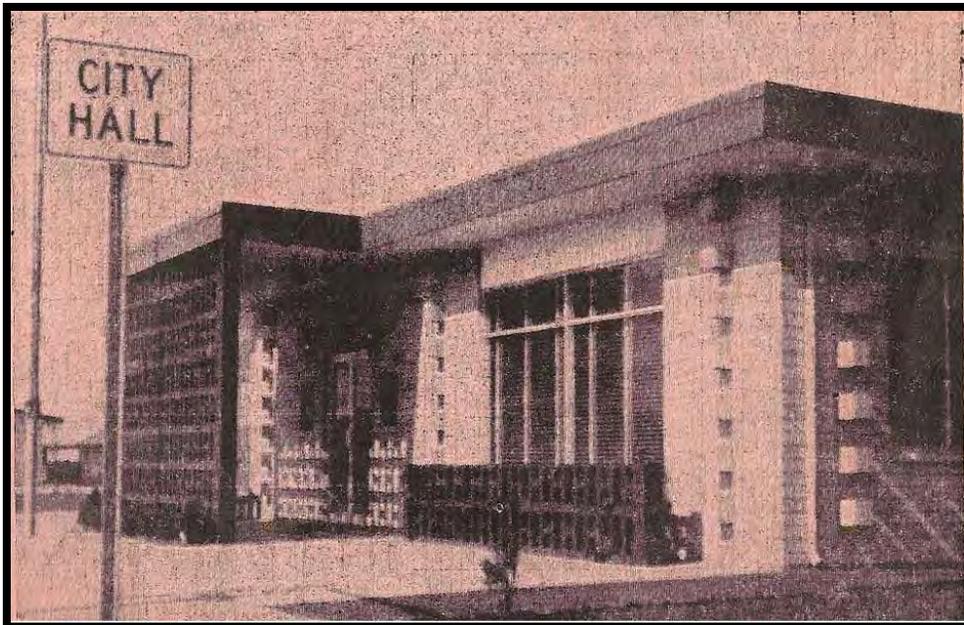
Brothers, Lee and Glen Miner, opened Miner's Hardware in 1960.



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The new Grover City Hall and Grover City Water District offices were completed on December 23, 1961. The cost for the new building, \$45,000, was split between the City government and the Water District, which operated separately from the City until January of 1961.



In 1961, the population of Grover City was 5,675.



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The Spear's residence was originally sold for \$585.00 in 1934, L.V. Spears purchased the home in the early 1970's for \$20,000. The home was converted to a hair salon in 1969 and now home to Salon Dee.

Spear's Residence
122 North 16th Street



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In 1970, Mr. and Mrs. Corman Glenn purchased the home of former Grover City Police/Fire Chief, Jim Harner, and converted it to a dress shop for Cynthia Glenn and her own line of clothing, Cynthia of California.



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In November of 1996, D.W. Grover's dream of a train depot located in the city was finally realized when the Grover Beach Train Station welcomed its first travelers.



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