



Mattie Lund Class of 2020

Mattie Lund attended Oroville High School (OHS) and presumably graduated in 1906, but no records were found for that class. Following OHS, she attended the Oakland Polytechnic Business College in Oakland, CA, graduating in 1907. We were unable to locate yearbooks from OHS for these early years. Mattie is the oldest alumna to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

In August of 1907, Mattie returned to Oroville and accepted a position as bookkeeper at the City of Paris Department Store, a position she retained for six years. In 1913, she served as clerk for Natomas Consolidated Company of California. On November 5, 1914, Mattie became one of the first women in the State of California to seek and win an elective office, being voted into the office of Butte County Tax Collector at age 24. She swept three male candidates with 1,500 more votes than her closest competitor in the primary and by more than 2,000 votes in the general election. In 1918, the Butte County Offices of Tax Collector and Treasurer were combined and Mattie won that election going on to serve in the office until 1961, a highly distinguished career for a total of 47 years.

In 1916, at age 26, Mattie introduced the method of tax collecting that is still used in Butte County today. Cards were mailed to all taxpayers showing the total amount of the tax due and the cost of the first and second installments, as well as the due dates. In the 1926 election, Mattie was the largest vote getter among all county office candidates. She was elected to public office a record 11 times and while in office served as the Secretary and Treasurer of both the California County Tax Collectors Association and the California Treasurers Association.

The year 1941 saw Mattie and Butte County Auditor, D. W. Cooper host a joint annual convention of all County Auditors and Tax Collectors in the State of California at Richardson Springs, at the time, an elegant center just north of Chico. In 1938, Mattie was voted into the American Soroptimist Hall of Fame as California's first Tax Collector and Treasurer. In 1953, she attended the first inaugural ceremony for President Dwight Eisenhower and was a guest at the luncheon for newly appointed Treasurer of the United States, Ivy Baker Priest. She was named Business Woman of the Year by the Oroville Business and Professional Women's Club in 1954 and officially retired in 1961 as the longest elected official to serve in Butte County.

Wallace Kunkel wrote of Mattie in his column, Court House Corner, *"Her public career she attributes to a dream she had in 1914. In it she saw herself walk into the county tax collector's office, hang up her hat and go to work. She mentioned the dream to her mother and to some friends who encouraged her to seek office. Rather timidly, she began her campaign at a Fourth of July celebration in Chico in 1914. Although she was acquainted with only four families in Chico, her name was well known before the day was over. In a whirlwind start she passed out 1,400 cards."*

While not busy with her career, Mattie found time to serve her community in numerous ways through membership and active participation in fraternal, civic, and patriotic organizations. As a member of the W. T. Sherman Woman's Relief Corps Auxiliary to the Grand Republic, Inc, organized in 1883, she rose through the ranks to become President of the Auxiliary of California and Nevada, serving for nearly 50 years.

Other organizations in which she was active as a member or officer were, the Native Daughters of Golden West, Auxiliary to the American Legion Post 95, Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 1747, The Oroville Business and Professional Women, the Soroptimist Club and the Oroville Chamber of Commerce.

She also found time to serve in the Wyandotte Olive and Oroville Citrus Associations, as well as the Rice Growers Association of California and the Cattlemen's Club. She was a founding member of the Butte County Historical Society, and a long-time member of the First Congregational Church in Oroville

Born in Lake County in 1890, Miss Mattie Lund was the daughter of Norwegian immigrants. Her family relocated to Oregon Gulch in Butte County in 1894 and to Oroville in 1902. They lived in one of the very first homes on Veatch Street and later in a stately brick Victorian home at the corner of Montgomery and Second Avenue. She passed away in Marysville on October 27, 1971 at age 81.