



# SANTA BARBARA

YACHT CLUB

## **Frank M. Whitney, 1887**

(1854-1938)

Born in New York in 1854, Frank moved to Santa Barbara where he entered the insurance/real estate business (the two industries were intertwined in the nineteenth century). As a successful young businessman, he mingled with the town's power players, judges, and other civic leaders, and was a key organizer for the Arlington Ball. In 1896, he ran for mayor and was vehemently opposed by the American Protective Association (anti-Catholic secret society). They waged a large and nasty battle against anyone who tried to support Whitney. Nonetheless, the popular business leader was elected.

As mayor in 1897, he banned firearms in the city limits as he thought that the community had outgrown its "wild and wooly period". Later, he considered adopting an ordinance to regulate the size of ladies' theater hats, after having observed firsthand in the Lobero Theater that object of frequent complaints from other patrons of the opera house!

He served as vice president of the Chamber of Commerce and on the reception committee for President McKinley when he came through town in 1901. Because of his background as a real estate broker and city surveyor, he later was appointed by Judge Crow as one of the three trustees to partition Santa Cruz Island in a prolonged legal battle during the 1920s.