

Judge Julius S. Cooley, "Most Misunderstood Man in Omaha," Holds No Bitterness for Shabby Tricks Fate Has Played on Him

Police Court Lawyer, Butt of Many Jokes, Finds Pride in Achievements of Relatives and Classmates; Has Satisfied Hope of Being "Lawyer of Working Man."

By A. R. GROH.

This is a biography of Julius S. Cooley, one of the best-known and least-understood men in Omaha.

For years the jest of the thoughtless, butt of many a joke, the "judge" goes his quiet way, wrapped in illuminated memories of the grand days when youth and ambition and ideals were his.

No doubt his memory paints these pictures in extraordinary hues and adds many high lights. For the "judge" holds a quiet pride in such periods as the time when he "was associated for five years with John M. Thurston, general attorney for the Union Pacific and United States senator."

Tears come to his eyes and flow down his swollen cheeks as he tells of the romantic meeting with his sweetheart in New York, their later separation and their final marriage.

Now he is 63. His clothing is old and usually badly soiled. His body carries some unwholesome fat. His step is slow. He picks up a precarious living at the South Omaha police court, and lives alone in a room over a store at 2715 Q street, across the street from the Armour packing plant.

But the soul of the judge is unconquered. He still wears the jaunty velvet hat. Still, in his buttonholes, is the flower, usually faded. Still he gives out cigars to those he meets. (Very bad cigars, we can testify, but that doesn't matter).

The Cynic's Tear. Such a view of Mr. Cooley is not shared by hardened policemen and court attaches and cynical police reporters. They have been, for years accustomed to judge the lonely and unkempt habitue of the courts by appearances only. No sympathetic soul has looked farther. They play innumerable jokes upon him. They even tell of alleged sharp practices.

Infirmities may have caused the "judge" to do some things which, to eyes already prejudiced, may not

those with whom he has come in contact is a marked characteristic, evident throughout his narration. There were eight children. Four of his sisters and a brother are still living.

Distinguished Family.

"My brother, Asher, lives on a farm north of Lincoln," he said. "My oldest sister, Mrs. George E. Sayles, resides at Cedar Creek, Neb., and her son is county clerk of Cass county. The next sister, Mrs. C. H. Plankham, lived at South Bond for years. Her son, John, started the first boy's newspaper in the United States and her only daughter married a man who was once mayor of Berlin.

"My sister, Mrs. Marion Keifer of Oakland, Cal., has a wonderful family. Her daughter was chosen as the best singer on the Pacific coast and sent to a competition in the east. She passed through here with her mother. Her son, Donald, who is a close friend of Hiram Johnson and Herbert Hoover, went to France and entered the French army before we got into the great war. Her other two sons were lieutenants in the navy.

"My brother, Thomas M. Cooley, named after his uncle, who was chief justice of the supreme court of Michigan and dean of the law school at Ann Arbor, lost his life



several times and finally he departed sadly from the shining halls of Central police court, where only the strictly upright and pure in heart are permitted to be.

I talked to Mr. Cooley for more than two hours, one afternoon recently, in the deserted South Omaha police court. In that time not one "swear word" passed his lips. Everything he said could have been said and said profitably in the family circle.

Gentle Voice.

Speaking in a low, gentle, cultured voice, the judge recalled the days of yesteryear. And if sometimes he seemed to "paint the lily," his conversation displayed only admiration for the good and beautiful and noble things of life. The dilapidation and neglect of his physical appearance does not extend to his heart and mind.

No sense of failure, no railing against fate, no dissatisfaction with things as they are.

"I would do it all over again as I have done," he said in reply to a question. "When I came to Omaha, 40 years ago, I determined to be the lawyer of the working man, the downtrodden and the oppressed and I have kept that faith in spite of all."

Tears Course His Cheeks.

His voice broke and two tears broke from his puffy eyes and coursed down the cheeks. He tried to cover his emotion with a little laugh.

"Of course, I was often imposed on. I am too tender-hearted. Time and time again I defended men who had no money. They would ask me to collect at some given time later. When I would call, the wife would tell me her husband was out hunting work and they had no food or fuel. And I would give them my last \$5 bill. I don't like to mention a thing like that. I don't want to boast."

Julius S. Cooley was born on a farm near the village of Pavillon, Kalamazoo county, Michigan, March 31, 1861.

Of Puritan Blood.

"On both sides of the house my people have been in the United States for 300 years," he said. "We are Puritans. My father, Griffith Stephens Cooley, and my mother, Julia Cooley, were remarkable. I was named for my uncle, Col. Julius Lilly. He was chosen by General Sherman to command the forces that went ahead to reconquer and forage on the march to the sea. He was ambushed by Wade Hampton's cavalry, but he fought his way out."

Cooley's delight in the success and distinction of his relatives and all

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trying to save a young woman at Coronado Beach, Cal.

Arriving in Nebraska.

"Anna, one of my twin sisters, died in childhood. The other is Mrs. Agnes Moore Lincoln." The Cooleys emigrated to Nebraska in 1865, coming by rail to Council Bluffs and then taking a boat to Plattsmouth. Twelve miles west of there they settled on a homestead. On the way out they saw three men, hanging from the limb of a tree. A rudely-lettered sign on the tree said:

Beware.

Anyone that steals a poor homesteader's horses steals the living of him and his family.

Julius was a studious boy. He studied while he herded cattle on the plains when he was only 10 or 12 years old. "One day I and my dog were herding the cattle when a man drove up in a buggy and asked me what I was reading. I think it was Macaulay's History of England. The man was St. A. D. Balcombe and I asked him to go with me to the house for dinner.

Offer of an Education.

"When we got there the girls were playing and singing and he was charmed. He proposed to take me with him to Plattsmouth and let me go to school, but I said I couldn't accept such a generosity. Later, of course, I went to school in Plattsmouth before entering the state university.

"I was at the university with such men as John Hartman, later general counsel for the Great Northern rail road; Dr. B. B. Davis, now an eminent surgeon in Omaha; N. P. F. Sowell, later a judge; Lincoln Frost, recently appointed a district judge; Dave Mercer, later a congressman, and Charles Maxson, later governor of Cuba. He and I were great friends."

Teaches School.

After three years at the state university during which he studied law in a law office, he found it necessary to help his folks on the farm. He taught school at Greenwood, Eagle and Cedar Creek, keeping up law studies with the object of practicing in Omaha. During this time, he said he tutored Tom S. Allen, who became United States district attorney at Omaha a few years ago and is brother-in-law of W. J. Bryan.

"I could have gone into corporation law. I had offers when I came to Omaha," he said. "But I was determined to defend the poor man. Of course, I got trimmed sometimes. Once a large amount of money was offered me to drop a claim I was



Fighting for a man against a railroad in St. Louis, I declined it. "Forty-one years I have been in police court work. I have defended more laboring men, union men, poor people than all the other lawyers put together. I've got thousands of them and saved their jobs for them. Good, hard-working, honest men they were."

A Wedding Present. When I was about to get married I sent invitations to many people and I included Judge Cooley because I always had a kindly feeling toward him. "I'll never forget the afternoon of my marriage, shortly before the ceremony, here came Judge Cooley with a package. "Fred," he said, in his courtly way, "I want to wish you the best of everything in the state of matrimony upon which you are entering. I wanted to get you something nice but I found I had only 75 cents, so I just got you these cherries. They aren't worth much but they express the feelings I have for you."

"They were nice red cherries and I was deeply touched by the kindly spirit of the 'judge.' We left the deserted police court. Dusk was gathering. "Thank you very much for coming to see me," said Mr. Cooley. "I am going home now."

Slowly he walked westward on O street to his lonely room amid the eyes. "When the poor fellows came to the police station on cold nights to get a place to sleep. Especially the old ones, I would greet them with a 'good night sir,' using that polite form so they wouldn't think I was baseballing to see me," said Mr. Cooley. "I am going home now."

As he tells it now, the path of life did not run smoothly. It was while he was on a business trip to New York City that he met her in the Peter Cooper Institute. "I saw this beautiful girl of only 17, painting, every stroke so graceful," he said, "starting again from his eyes. I obtained an introduction. I met her and a girl friend and I invited them and her chaperone to dine. They accepted and we went to the opera afterward. Before I left New York we were engaged. Her name was Katherine McLaughlin Sutton.

But the girl's mother intercepted their letters, he said. She didn't approve of him because he had no money. The young couple drifted apart and she married a man named Carlisle. Marriage. "Years later," he said, "I met her little daughter here in Omaha and she said 'Mamma wants to see you.' I went and we were reunited and were married in 1896.

"A few years ago my wife inherited a large estate from a maiden aunt. She and our daughter, Juanita Leonore, are in Hollywood, Cal., settling it up. Our daughter is 15 now and a banner student. I had everything for her here. She had pansy, white mice, birds. My wife is still a fine painter. Her picture, 'Mayor Dahlman and the Home Folks Welcoming W. J. Bryan at New York,' was exhibited in many places."

Even the bouillonier the "judge" wears invariably, has its little romantic touch, as he tells it. "One day a Mrs. Swanson called me into her florist shop," he said. "She told me she wanted to give me a flower to wear in my buttonhole. She pinned one on and when I wanted to pay her she said, 'No, I won't take any pay. When I was a little girl I was gazing into a store window where some sleds were displayed and you came along and stopped and asked me whether I had a sled and I said no, but I wished very much that I had. You went in and bought one and gave it to me and I want to give you a flower every day if you will come in for it.'"

"You see," said Mr. Cooley feelingly, "bread cast upon the waters returns after many days."

Anheuser's Judgment. "I believe Mr. Cooley was never properly appreciated," said Fred Anheuser, former-city prosecutor. "He has always been the soul of generosity and unselfishness, pouring out his money among the police officers and court attaches and others. He was always too generous for his own good."

"I remember once he had a case for some out-of-town people. They had engaged him on his reputation, having seen his name in the papers. When they got to police court someone told them he wasn't a good enough lawyer. They came to me. I learned the nature of the case and knew that Cooley could handle it as well as anyone. I told them so."

"When he got his fee, which was a very good one, he went out and bought quantities of cigars, candy, apples, oranges and came in and distributed them. Policemen, reporters, everybody had pockets full of cigars. Once a large amount of money was offered me to drop a claim I was

took most of his cigars were the least appreciative in what they said about him.

He was once the best hitter and the most clever shortstop on the Mt. Union college baseball team. He had ambitions to play professional baseball, and on one occasion became a hero by knocking a home run in the Tri-State league of Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania.

And he is still so greatly interested in baseball that he keeps a "batting average" which has nothing whatever to do with baseball, but which tells how he's "hitting" as a judge.

In other words, Judge Goss keeps a record of how cases he decides which are carried to the supreme court are finally decided. He calls it his "batting average" and it is much higher than any baseball slugger could possibly hope to boast.

14 Straight "Hits." Judge Goss' record shows that he has made 14 straight "hits," or, to be more lucid, it shows that the supreme court has held that in deciding the last 14 cases Judge Goss was entirely right.

"I played four years with the Mount Union college team back in Alliance, O.," related Judge Goss. "I was a fairly successful infielder and I led the team in batting, if I do say it myself. That was 40 years ago. I wanted to play professional baseball then and study law in the winter, but my father decided it wasn't necessary."

But, despite this parental objection to a great ambition, Judge Goss managed to get into a few games after he was graduated from college. On one occasion he was drafted to sit the Alliance Tri-state team at the last minute. The team was playing the

Dignified, Deliberative Omaha District Judge Once Aspired to Enter Big League Baseball; Now Law Umpire

Charles A. Goss Recalls With Joy Home Run He Knocked on College Team 40 Years Ago.

By J. T. ARMSTRONG.

There is dignity in every line of the broad, straight figure of Charles A. Goss, presiding judge of the district court.

This dignity is accentuated by heavy iron-gray hair, a frock coat and gray ascot trousers; and a deliberateness of speech and action.

Few if any of the scores of attorneys who appear before Judge Goss would guess that this man hears their cases and rules on them in such a grave, scholarly manner once had ambitions to set the world on fire after the manner of "Babe" Ruth.

Here's the Truth.

But here is the truth about Judge Goss:

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Now Judge Goss has to contend himself with umpiring cases of law, and deciding them. He spends

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332 Students Enrolled in Gymnasium Classes at Superior Schools

Superior, Neb., Feb. 25.—Superior school has been putting on an extensive program this year along the line of athletics and physical education.

During the first semester, 120 boys and girls took part in the different branches of athletics, football, basketball, volleyball, etc. Fourteen gymnasium classes are conducted each week with 332 students enrolled. There is also a girls hiking club of 55 members.

In the ward schools a program is being conducted to interest the pupils in various games and play ground work. The plan is to reach the large group of students, rather than the development of a few in a special way.

Physical education department of the Junior High school gave an exhibition and program before a packed house at the Junior High school auditorium. One hundred and fifty pupils took part, all of the seventh, eighth and ninth grades. The program consisted of tumbling, pyramid building, calisthenics, games, gymnastics, folk and schottische dancing, an athletic medley, boy scout work and singing. The exhibition was given under the direction of A. L. Keester, physical director of the city schools.

Doane College Notes.

A reception was tendered President and Mrs. Dean by the college Monday evening in Gaylord hall. The rooms were beautifully decorated with roses sent by the Omaha trustees. A program was given, three numbers by pupils in the junior piano department, a reading by Miss Olds and two numbers by the Men's Glee club.

The Y. M. C. A. elected the following officers Tuesday: President, A. E. Nussler; vice president, Kenneth McKinnis; secretary, Raymond Alf; treasurer, Paul Taylor.

Modern Language club will have an open meeting March 4. All other departmental clubs are invited to attend. A French play will be given and songs of different nations sung.

Sunday evening service at the First Congregational church will be held under the auspices of the college Y. M. C. A. Dr. Edwin H. Dean, president, will deliver the sermon and the Doane Men's Glee club will sing two numbers.

Men's Glee club membership is as follows: First tenors, George Haskoley, Ives Cairns, Carl Kinney, Kenneth McKenzie, Walter Spencer; second tenors, Joe Bennett, Hildan Brown, A. Radford, Paul Taylor, Claude Welch, Bartone, Albert Baldwin, Herbert Ambler, Lloyd Clark, Frank Sanderson, Phil Taylor, James Dwight Ailer, Wallace Banta, Owen Jelinek, Andrew Nquist, Accompanists, Lumir Havlicek, Lloyd Clark.

Ray Nedrow has gone to Washington, D. C., where he will act as private secretary to Congressman Robert Simmons of the Sixth Nebraska district. Mr. Nedrow was employed in the Simmons law office at Scottsbluff prior to the congressman's election and since that time has been practicing law at Fremont.

Ever notice that those who hunt trouble usually find it.

1864 Know Omaha--and Those Who Have Buildd with Her 1925

Advertisement for Butter-Nut coffee: "Butter-Nut 'The Coffee Delicious'"

FOR FIFTY-SIX YEARS

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Paxton & Gallagher has grown with Omaha since 1870, when it first established itself at 12th and Farnam Streets. The firm soon outgrew its quarters and moved to the corner of 15th and Farnam Streets and in 1881 the business was built on the present location at 10th and Jones Streets.

The firm today occupies four modern buildings with a total floor space of approximately one-half million square feet. It has established branches in five cities in Omaha's trading territory and has grown into one of the leading wholesale grocery houses of the country.

Butter-Nut, "The Coffee Delicious," is roasted and packed by Paxton & Gallagher. This famous coffee has gained high favor with the dealers over the firm's entire trading territory and has created a good will for Omaha and the business institutions of which it boasts.

By serving three generations and beginning the fourth on a basis of superior food products, Paxton & Gallagher has caused thousands of people in thousands of towns to know Omaha as a city of prosperity and good business.

Advertisement for Underwood Typewriter: "An Underwood Rental Typewriter" Includes an illustration of a typewriter and contact information for Underwood Typewriter Co., Inc. at 1721 Douglas Street, Jackson 4061.

Advertisement for Phillips Milk of Magnesia: "DEMAND 'PHILLIPS' MILK OF MAGNESIA" Includes an illustration of a cityscape and text describing the benefits of the product.