

# History of the Cook County Bar Association

Written by A. M. BURROUGHS

## INSTALLMENT II

(Continued From Issue of May 24)

UPON the death of Octavius C. Granady, one of the members of the association, a representative was invited to assist a committee from the Chicago Bar association in investigating the cause of his death, and this representative was officially recognized by the daily press, when a special grand jury was impaneled and a special attorney general appointed to prosecute the offenders, a member of the Cook County Bar association was appointed to the special prosecutor's staff and has continued to serve since then. I am informed that his compensation for acting in this capacity has been more than \$100 per day, and that he is the first Negro to have charge of a grand jury.

The association also investigated the killing of the Whitehurst boy by police, who arrogated to themselves the right to execute a Negro boy without trial in the courts of law and without due process of law.

Two members of the association were candidates for judges of the municipal court in November, 1923, one on the Democrat ticket and one on the regular Republican ticket, and one candidate was instructed that he would only be endorsed if he received the endorsement of the Cook County Bar association, which was given him by the association.

I organized a ladies' auxiliary to the association composed of the wives of the members, who assisted in the entertainment of the delegates to the National Bar association during the convention last year. The ladies furnished some interesting musical programs which were enjoyed by the delegates, and also officiated at the reception and furnished ushers at the mass meeting. This auxiliary has continued to function since and sponsored a reception, lawn party and dance in honor of Congressman DePriest and his wife on Aug. 5, 1929, at the headquarters of the association. This reception was one of the most brilliant social affairs given in honor of the congressman since his election and one of the most brilliant social affairs of this year, and was attended by more than 500 well known citizens. Mrs. DePriest was presented with a bouquet of flowers, and the guests danced and rested on the lawn which was illuminated with colored lights. William Pace Alexander, the newly elected president of the National Bar association, and his wife were visiting Chicago and attended. Mr. Alexander was elated over the commodious headquarters of the association and greatly interested in its many activities. The ladies are very enthusiastic over the assistance given to the lawyers and have entertained the lawyers and their friends with several receptions and dances since their organization.

Four members of the association are now members of the house of representatives of Illinois, and they have been active in having legislation proposed by the association passed. They have succeeded in having the following bills presented to the legislature:

Amendments to the Compensation act providing attorneys' fees for services rendered before the industrial commission; also authorizing the industrial commission to order attorney's fee paid out of compensation due to employee.

Changes in the Compensation act allowing compensation for various injuries not then included in the act. Act compelling county to pay attorneys defending murder cases in the criminal court.

Act allowing the waiving of a jury by defendants in the criminal court and allowing petitions for change of venue because of prejudice against the attorney for defendant.

Luncheons given by the association in honor of candidates for judges endorsed by the association before the primary and election in 1928 were attended by all of the candidates endorsed on both the Republican and Democratic tickets. One of the judges remarked that it was the first time during the campaign that the opposing candidates were seated at the same table. Every candidate for office was asked to answer a written questionnaire in regard to his attitude toward race, color and creed before being endorsed and almost all of the questionnaires were answered.

The membership was increased from 108 in January, 1928, to 143 in January, 1930, proving that the importance of the association to the lawyers is recognized by the lawyers. The lawyers are fraternizing together and exhibiting a more friendly spirit toward one another. They attended two annual picnics given on July 4th of last year and this year. They were the guests of a fellow member at his country home in Michigan.

Many judges and well known lawyers and citizens have attended the monthly meetings of the association and lectured on important matters.

A. L. Foster, executive secretary of the Urban league, addressed our April meeting in 1929 on the subject of "Unemployment."

Master in Chancery Edwin A. Munger addressed our May meeting in 1929 on the subject of "Legal Ethics and Rules of Practice." Mr. Munger stated that he was chairman of the committee on grievances at the Chicago Bar association when they decided to send complaints against colored lawyers to our association because they had confidence in our ability to prosecute offenders.

Judge Francis Borrelli of Chicago lectured on the crime situation at our February meeting in 1928.

Mr. Neilson, secretary of the Employers association, lectured on racketeering at our May meeting in 1928. Mr. Dade and Mr. Hill, students of Lincoln university, Pennsylvania, delivered an interesting talk on the trip of Mr. Dade to Russia as a delegate from the Quaker Society of Pennsylvania to the International peace conference in Moscow, at a special meeting on July 21.

Judges Francis Borrelli, William J. Lindsay, Joseph E. David, Alderman Louis E. Anderson and Members Stradford, Waring, Burroughs, Cashin and Green spoke at the dedication of the library on Sept. 22, 1928.

Judge Albert B. George delivered the principal address and Chairman Baker and ex-President Stradford acted as masters of ceremonies.

Capt. Harry Dean gave an excellent address on the importance of law admiralty and its relation to the colored race at our November meeting in 1928.

E. F. Fraxler of the Urban league delivered an interesting lecture on "Socialibility and the Negro Family Life in Chicago" at our December meeting in 1928.

At our regular meeting on June 22, 1929, Judge David H. Matchett, presiding judge of the first division of the appellate court, spoke on "Appellate Court Procedure," which was very interesting.

Edward C. Higgins, assistant corporation counsel, addressed the regular meeting in September, 1929, and lectured on the "Art of a Trial Lawyer." Mr. Higgins is an experienced trial lawyer, having defended thou-

sands of cases for the traction companies.

On Nov. 9, 1929, Judge Denis J. Normoyle, chief justice of the criminal court, addressed the association on "The Effect of the Ordinance of 1887 Upon the Outcome of the Civil War." He also stated that it is his opinion that the vast majority of the cases in the criminal court among our people are caused by poverty and lack of employment more than any other cause. Judge Normoyle stated that he had not spoken to any public gathering for more than a year, having refused all invitations; when he received our invitation he decided to break his rule.

Seven delegates from the association attended the luncheon and meeting of the Federation of Local Bar associations held at the Chicago Bar association in the spring of 1929 and succeeded in having the federation go on record as opposing the discrimination of Loop office buildings in refusing to rent offices to members of the Cook County Bar association. One of our delegates served on the nominating committee and another was appointed as a member of the special committee to investigate this discrimination. The investigation was made by the committee and resolutions were adopted by the executive committee of the federation protesting against the discrimination and requesting all of the other associations to use their influence to end the discrimination. The legislature was also requested to pass suitable legislation making it unlawful to refuse to rent an office because of race, color or creed. The real estate boards were appealed to and subsequently a number of office buildings in the Loop tendered offices, and all of the lawyers wishing to rent offices moved to better buildings and better locations than were available before.

Thirty members of the Cook County Bar association had been given notice to move because of their resentment over the refusal of a restaurant to serve them. They were then officing in the only building in the Loop renting more than one office to our group.

The Cook County Bar association is considered by the public to be one of the most important institutions of our race, and I was swamped with invitations to meetings, banquets and conferences of all kinds and purposes. I was obliged to have members of the public service committee represent me and the association at these meetings.

We have established contact with the doctors and dentists in Chicago and are working in harmony with them an almost every public movement. We have been endeavoring to combine the lawyers, doctors and dentists into one headquarters, but have been unable to do so because of the expense; the doctors and dentists having conducted extensive health campaigns which used all of their funds, but we are hopeful that we may be able to combine with them in the near future. The professional men and women have been too prone to look upon a combination between lawyers, doctors and dentists as undignified on the part of the lawyers, and as a loss of pride on the part of the others, but such combination is a logical development of racial unity and desirable because they serve in the establishment of an efficient and successful professional class.

The lawyers are also taking an increasing interest in their sick brother members and have raised funds for those incapacitated.

The past term of the criminal court was featured by the request of Judge Normoyle, the trial judge hearing the famous Shanks case, that I should appoint attorneys to defend Shanks, and upon my recommendation Members Pollard, Ferguson, Hammond and Deloney were appointed by the court to defend Shanks. As you are perhaps aware, Shanks was a Negro apprehended and charged with the murder of a white school teacher in one of Chicago's most prejudiced suburbs. It was a brutal murder and Shanks confessed and insisted that he committed the offense. The attorneys pleaded insanity, but Shanks was found guilty and sentenced to the electric chair. Two appeals were made to have the supreme court of Illinois to review the case, but they refused to permit a review of the case, and as a last resort a petition was presented to the trial judge asking that a trial be had on the question of whether Shanks had become insane since the first trial. The trial judge refused to grant the petition, but the chief justice of the criminal court was appealed to and granted the petition. Shanks was tried and declared insane and is now confined to the Criminal Insane Asylum.

I consider this the greatest proof of the recognition by the bench of the prominence and prestige of the association and one of the greatest demonstrations of the ability of our members.

The judiciary committee compiled a comprehensive questionnaire and mailed one to each candidate for the circuit and superior courts in September, 1929, and 28 of the 39 candidates answered the questionnaire.

Indorsement of the candidates was made after this investigation by the judiciary committee, and the candidates were indorsed upon their record for judicial temperament, fairness, integrity and legal ability.

I consider the banquet given by the association in honor of the candidates indorsed to be the greatest banquet ever given by the association because of the personal contact with the judges resulting from the attendance by 18 of the sitting judges.

The candidates present expressed their whole-hearted appreciation of the indorsement of the association and amazement at the responses made by members of the association. This banquet gave the members an opportunity to have closer relationship and better judgment of the judges.

The judges present were: Judge Barnes, Judge David, Judge Gemmill, Judge Kavanaugh, Judge Lindsay, Judge McGoorty, Judge McSurely, Judge Miller, Judge O'Connor, Judge Pam, Judge Sullivan, Judge Hayes, Judge McKinley, Judge Jonas, Judge Trude and Candidates Langworthy and Rundall.

On the Sunday following 25 members appeared in 22 churches on the South and West sides of Chicago and urged the people to vote for the candidates indorsed by the association. Ten thousand sample ballots were distributed by a score of boys on the members of the churches after the

services were over. Ballots were also left in drug stores, restaurants and barber shops on the principal business streets of the South side, so that the result of our primary was given the fullest publicity possible by the association. The Chicago Defender also printed a one-half page ad which was paid for by lawyers. This ad was read by thousands of people and resulted in the candidates indorsed by the association receiving a big vote on the South side. I believe this statement to be true, because the two sitting judges who were not indorsed by the association ran behind the judges indorsed by the association in the South side wards.

The association is taking an active interest in all matters affecting the lawyers and has succeeded in being represented in every important meeting by the judges and clerks of the courts affecting or changing the rules, and any complaints made by the association because of mistreatment of members by court attaches have been courteously received and redress made.

The association is also contemplating requesting our congressman to introduce legislation at the next session of congress to end restrictions in regard to property titles and important discriminations and segregations such as transportation, voting, etc.

The American Bar association invited us to send two delegates to the convention in Memphis in October. Through our committee on public service we offer legal aid to worthy, though indigent poor, assistance and close co-operation with charitable organizations, churches and other civic organizations.

The Cook County Bar association has rendered valuable service to the community by eliminating unlicensed practitioners, who posed as lawyers, and because of their ignorance of the law and slyster tactics greatly injured the legal profession and tended to bring it into disrepute. This element of confidence men is a vicious class in any large city, where they rely upon the great size of the community to work unnoticed and escape the punishment which they justly deserve.

During the administration of Mr. Waring the committee on unauthorized practices, headed by C. F. Stradford, successfully prosecuted two individuals posing as lawyers, one white and one colored. Both were found guilty, one being sent to jail for ten days and the other placed on probation. Neither have since attempted to resume the practice of law. Several others have ceased posing as lawyers when threatened with prosecution since then.

My two years of administration ended with a gay New Year's eve party at our headquarters. The party was directed by the public entertainment committee. Beautiful dancing girls furnished the entertainment for the members, their wives and friends. A turkey dinner was served and the guests danced between the acts by the performers. The rooms were decorated and the guests were given vari-colored balloons, noise makers of all kinds and confetti. Everyone present recommended that we perpetuate the celebration of the departure of the old year and the advent of the New Year.

The Cook County Bar association is strong and independent, fulfilling its destiny and capable of settling its internal problems in peace and good will. It is not subservient to any political faction, or leader, but includes in its membership members of all political factions and parties in Chicago and also independent voters. I believe this independence has enhanced its prestige and increased the confidence of the public. The members demonstrate their interest and pride in the association by supporting the candidates indorsed by the association for judges of the various courts regardless of their political affiliation, again proving that the Negro is capable of protecting his race regardless of his own personal interests.

This address was ordered printed by the convention of the National Bar association held Aug. 1, 1929, in Detroit, Mich., and distributed among the members.

Mr. Burroughs was unable to attend the convention because of physical disability, but Mr. McKimney, secretary of the Cook County Bar association, presented the address for him and the convention was enthusiastic over the interesting activities and achievements of the Cook County Bar association, and ordered his address printed in pamphlet form and distributed among the members.

A. M. Burroughs established the present headquarters and home of the association at 4500 Michigan Ave. equipped with the following furniture: Two overstuffed parlor sets, consisting of two settees and three chairs; 60 folding chairs, curtains and drapes; two pair of portiers; three leather chairs, floor lamp and table lamp; two rugs and two hall runners; one parlor table; one desk and swivel chair; miscellaneous tools for cleaning; 25 sections of book-cases, and founded the law library with the following books:

- No. 335, Ill. Sup. Reports, Vols. 1-270, donated by Judge William J. Lindsay.
- No. 247, Ill. App. Reports, Vols. 39-250, donated by Judge William J. Lindsay.
- No. 18, Ill. Digest (Callaghan), donated by Alderman Louis E. Anderson.
- No. 6, Ill. Statute (Jones & Addison), donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 3, Ill. Statute, Annot. (Jones & Addison), donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 8, Ill. Statute, Annot. (Callaghan), donated by Alderman Louis E. Anderson.
- No. 3, Ill. Sta. Annot. Supp. (Callaghan), donated by Alderman Louis E. Anderson.
- No. 3, Ill. Evidences (McNeil), donated by Wendell E. Green.
- No. 2, Ill. Sessions Laws, 1917, Vol. 1, 1921, Vol. 1, donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 1, Judgments Legal (Ram), donated by Judge A. C. Barnes.
- No. 2, Ill. Instructions (Brickwood & Sackett), donated by Judge Francis Borrelli.
- No. 1, Probate Practice (Simmons), donated by James Edgar Brown.
- No. 1, Probate Practice (Horner), donated by James Edgar Brown.
- No. 1, Estates (Horner), donated by James Edgar Brown.
- No. 2, Common Law Pleading (Puterbaugh), donated by J. Albert C. Barnes.
- No. 1, Legal Forms (Nicholas), donated by W. E. Green.
- No. 1, Ill. Laws Annot., donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 1, Ill. Rev. Stat., 1921 (Cahill), donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 2, Corp. Forms, 1913-23 (Fletcher), donated by Wendell E. Green.
- No. 1, Corporations (Angel & Ames), donated by Wendell E. Green.
- No. 2, Ill. Cases in Equity, Parts 1 and 2, donated by J. Albert C. Barnes.
- No. 1, Pleading and Practice Chan. (Puterbaugh), donated by Wendell E. Green.
- No. 1, Trial Brief (Abbott), donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 2, Stock and Stockholders (Cook), donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 1, Corporation, Vol. 3 (Cook), donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 1, Benefit Assns., Insurance (Bason), donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 1, Lis Pendens (Bennett), donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 1, Municipal Corp. (Macy), donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 2, Criminal Law (Bishop), donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 1, American Law (Andrews), donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 3, Federal Stat. Annot., donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 1, Ill. Sup. Court Statistical

- Report, donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 1, Ill. Sup. Court Index, donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 40, Cyc. Ct., donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 2, Practice County Ct. (Jones & Cunningham), donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 16, English Law (Mears), donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 6, English Law Digest (Mears), donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 43, Interstate Commerce Rep., donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 8, Northwestern Rep. Digest, donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 9, Southeastern Rep. Digest, donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 16, American Criminal Repts., donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 14, Current Law, donated by Judge Joseph E. David.
- No. 15, American Digest, donated by Judge Joseph E. David.
- No. 12, New York Reports Digest (Abbott), donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- No. 1, Federal Code, donated by Congressman Oscar DePriest.
- No. 2, Federal Code Supplements, donated by Congressman Oscar DePriest.
- No. 175, Volumes miscellaneous, donated by Chicago Law Institute.
- Total number of volumes, 1,025.
- Contributions to library:
- Louis B. Anderson, in books, \$202.50
- A. M. Burroughs, in cash, 25.00
- James E. Cashin, in cash, 50.00
- Walter M. Farmer, in cash, 15.00
- Albert B. George, in cash, 100.00
- N. K. McGill, in cash, 25.00
- Herman E. Moore, in cash, 25.00
- C. F. Stradford, in cash, 25.00
- C. J. Waring, in cash, 25.00
- Wendell E. Green, in books, 107.00
- William J. Lindsay, in books, 200.00
- William K. Hooks, in cash, 5.00
- Thomas H. Johnson, in cash, 5.00
- Chicago Law Institute, in books, 100.00
- Edgar Brown, in books, 100.00
- Albert C. Barnes, in books, 100.00
- Francis Borrelli, in books, 100.00

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