

MUNICIPAL REFERENCE LIBRARY

300 CITY HALL

CITY OFFICIALS

R 92
C 955
V F

NAME Cryer, George Edward

PUBLIC OFFICES HELD

(DATE)

CITY:

First Assistant City Attorney, 1912-1913
Mayor, July 1921 - July 1929

COUNTY:

Chief Deputy District Attorney, 1915-1919

STATE

FEDERAL:

Spanish American War, 1898-1899
First Assistant U.S. Attorney, Southern
District of California, 1910-11

CIVIC ACTIVITIES:

BUSINESS OR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Spanish American War Soldier
City, county, and federal attorney
Lawyer
Mayor

PORTRAIT:

ATTACHED OR ENCLOSED IN ENVELOPE:

PORTRAITS APPEARING ELSEWHERE (DATES)

Portrait Index

Newspaper prints attached

SKETCH:

In 1928 Mayor Cryer won national prominence and commendation for his decisive stand in assuming for Los Angeles the immediate responsibility for the St. Francis Dam disaster, damages of which were paid by the city, after due investigation and approval, without the necessity of involved legal procedure.

Resuming the practice of law in 1929 Mr. Cryer continues one of the most prominent attorneys in Los Angeles. He is a strong advocate for City and County Consolidation.

HOBBIES:

Legal study; hydro-electric power; park and playground development.

ANECDOTES AND PERSONAL IMPRESSIONS:

SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

BOOKS:

See other page

NEWSPAPERS AND PERIODICALS:

Los Angeles Times

PERSONAL INTERVIEW:

INTERVIEWED BY: Karel Lynn

DATE OF INTERVIEW March 25, 1935

The Los Angeles Public Library
Local History Collection
Biography

R 92
C 955
V F

NAME Cryer, George Edward

Occupation Attorney

Address 530 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, Calif.

Birth (Date and Place) May 13, 1875 in Waterloo,

Douglas Co., Nebraska

FATHER John B. Cryer

Birth (Date and Place) July 31, 1849, Leeds, England

If Deceased, When 1930, Los Angeles

MOTHER Elizabeth Grange

Birth (Date and Place) March 23, 1853
Yorkshire, England

If Deceased, When 1931, Los Angeles

IF MARRIED, TO WHOM Isabel Gay

Birth of Same (Date and Place) Sept. 28, 1880, Franklin, Penn.

If Deceased, When _____

When Married Sept. 5, 1906, Los Angeles, Calif.

CHILDREN (Married Names of Daughters) _____

Edward Gay

Catherine Christine

TITLES OF BOOKS, ARTICLES, MUSIC, OR OTHER CREATIVE WORK

(In the case of printed matter, please give date and publisher; of periodical publications also name of magazine and date.)

REVIEWS, CRITICISMS, AND OTHER BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES

(Please note printed matter concerning yourself or your work. We would appreciate any such material you may send, clippings, reviews, portrait.)

Who's Who in Los Angeles, 1926-27

Who's Who in Los Angeles County, 1927-28, 1928-29
1932-33

Who's Who in America, 1936-37

Detwiler, Who's Who in California, 1928-29, p 73

Rodman, History of Bench and Bar of Southern
California, 1909, p 147

Workman, The City That Grew, p 375

Spalding, History and Reminiscences of Los Angeles
City and County, vol 1

Enclosed Clippings

ANCESTORS OF DISTINCTION OR LOCAL INTEREST

(Please include names of local interest as "forty-niners," or any one connected with the affairs or development of the state or city, as officials, professional men, merchants, etc.)

Father of subject was a merchant in the early
frontier days of Sioux City, Iowa. He helped
to furnish the supplies for the famous Custer
expedition. (Personal Interview)

EDUCATION (Schools, Colleges, Degrees, Etc.)

L. A. High School, University of Michigan, LL.B.

CLUBS, LEARNED SOCIETIES, ETC.

Mason, Knights of Pythias, Elk, Moose, Commercial
and El Caballero Clubs

RELIGIOUS DENOMINATION

Presbyterian

POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS

Republican

RESIDENCE IN CALIFORNIA SINCE

1885

SKETCH

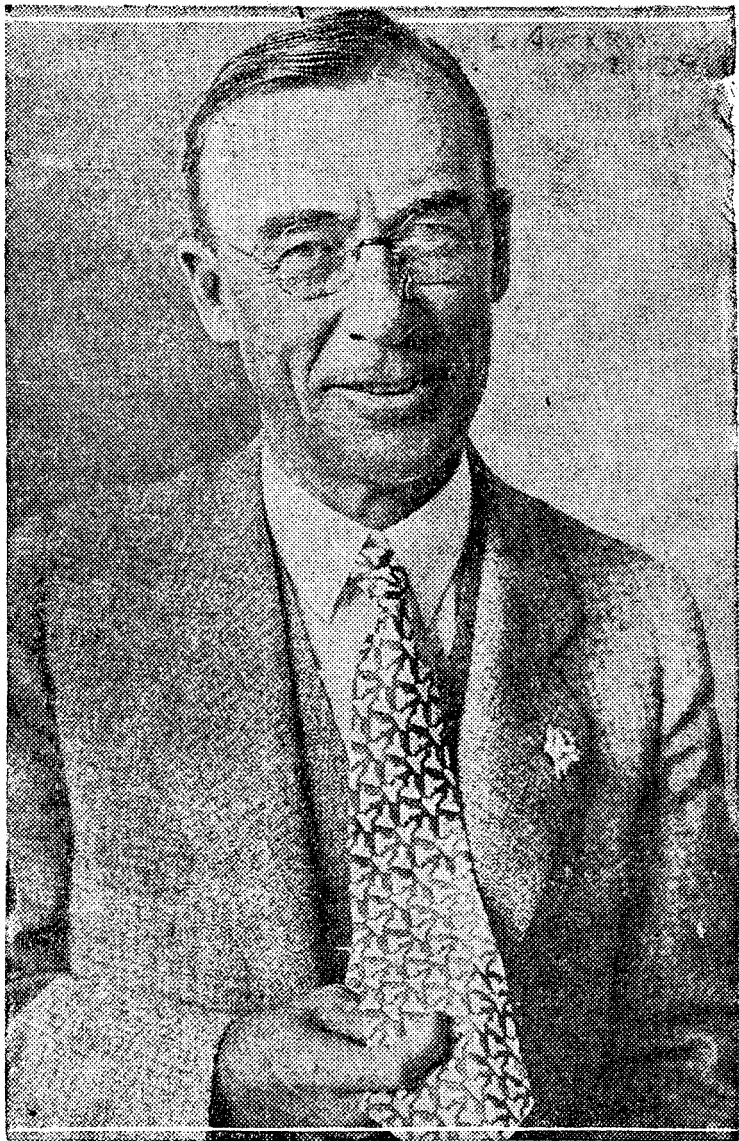
(Please make this as full as possible, giving business affiliations, positions of honor or trust with dates if possible.)

George Edward Cryer was born on May 13, 1875 in Waterloo, Nebraska and came to Los Angeles with his parents when he was ten years of age. Here he attended public schools, graduating from the Los Angeles High School. He enlisted in the Spanish American War, serving as private and sergeant in Company G. of the Seventh Calif. Inf., U. S. Volunteers. Upon being mustered out of service he entered the University of Michigan, receiving his LL.B. in 1903.

The same year he began to practice law in Los Angeles and immediately began to rise in his profession. His first public position was that of First Assistant U. S. Attorney, Southern District of California which he held in 1910. Two years later he was made first assistant City attorney of Los Angeles (1912-1913), and after another two year interval he was chief deputy district attorney of Los Angeles County which position he retained from 1915 until 1919.

On July 4, 1921 he became Mayor of Los Angeles, re-elected in 1923, and again in 1925. During the eight years of his incumbency occurred the greatest growth and development in the city's history. The peak of the building activity was reached 1923 but it maintained a steady pace of progression during the entire period. During his administration a new city charter was adopted, an executive budget established, and development of the harbor and Dept. of Water and Power was furthered. It was said that fully 90 per cent of the buildings occupied by municipal departments were erected during this time. These include the City Hall with branch city halls at Sawtelle and San Pedro, the Public Library and many of its branches, the central fire station, a large percentage of substations, and three fourths of all police substations. In addition to municipal buildings, schools, hospitals, theatres, hotels, the Coliseum, and the Olympic Auditorium were built while Mayor Cryer was in office.

(Continued)



George E. Cryer, Mayor of Los Angeles since July 1, 1921,



Our Mayor, Hon. George E. Cryer, was born on a farm in Douglas County, Nebraska. At an early age, he accompanied his parents to this city, and he was educated in the public schools of Los Angeles. When war was declared with Spain, he enlisted in the Seventh Los Angeles Regiment. On his discharge from the army he entered the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, Michigan, and graduated from the law school of that institution in 1903. He returned to the city of his adoption and hung up his shingle. Mayor Cryer's public life is too well known to the citizens of this city to need recording here. He is serving his third term as mayor of this city.

MAYOR CRYER ANNOUNCES HE WILL NOT MAKE RACE

Decision Brings Speculation as to Candidate Who May Get Backing of Mayor's Supporters

BY THE WATCHMAN

Accompanied by a flood of rumors as to the identity of the Mayoralty candidate to be backed by the so-called Parrot-Cryer political machine, announcement was made yesterday by Mayor Cryer that he will not seek re-election.

This decision on the part of Cryer is said to have been reached several days ago and was being kept secret pending completion of plans to launch the candidacy of a machine candidate. A break between the Mayor and Kent Parrot, however, is understood to have caused Parrot to make premature disclosure of the purported "program."

**RE-ELECTION WILL
NOT BE SOUGHT**



The first maneuver of the somewhat disrupted Parrot-Cryer forces, it is said, will come in the form of a Mayoralty boom for City Prosecutor Nix, whom Mayor Cryer recently selected as a successor to Dr. E. J. Lickley, on Lickley's appointment by Gov. Young to the municipal bench.

Nix, according to report, is expected to serve as a sort of political stalking horse for the machine's real candidate.

TWO CONSIDERED

The candidate whom the City Hall politicians hope to name as Cryer's successor, it is asserted, will either be W. B. Mathews, special counsel for the Bureau of Power and Light, or a well-known business man who has heretofore been mentioned as a possible Cryer opponent.

Although prearranged by those who believe the Parrot-Cryer regime could not survive by an open appeal for support in the forthcoming municipal elections, Mayor Cryer's decision to retire was not scheduled for public knowledge until Cryer's backers could reach definite agreement on a substitute.

Those close to the Mayor yesterday emphasized the serious character of the strained relations between Cryer, Parrot and the Mayor's secretary, H. H. Kinney, by openly charging Parrot with betraying the plan to a local afternoon newspaper generally regarded as Parrot's mouthpiece.

This newspaper—the Los Angeles Record—will follow up its significantly exclusive foreknowledge and report of Cryer's plans, it is understood, by divulging the identity of the individual selected as the substitute candidate.

AUTO MAN FAVORED

Parrot, it is said, personally favors the candidacy of P. H. Greer, local automobile man, but his predilection in this regard, it is understood, has been somewhat embarrassed by Greer's plainly stated aversion to a political connection of such doubtful value.

Mayor Cryer, speaking for himself, yesterday indicated that he has not reached a conclusion as to whether he will refrain from political activity during the campaign. He informed those seeking enlightenment on this point that he thought he would take no personal part in the contest.

Meanwhile, many other candidates, virtually all of them hostile to the city administration, are busily engaged in seeking support.

These include John R. Quinn, Carlin Smith, Councilman Bonelli and J. C. Porter.

Whether Cryer's retirement will result in a combination of the opposition for the purpose of defeating the new line-up of the administration forces or will encourage an even greater number of candidates to enter the field only the developments of the next few days can determine.

Regardless, however, of the number or qualifications of those entered in the race, it appears certain that one of the warmest and most exciting Mayoralty contests in the city's history is about to take place.

'Pledges Kept, Retire With Credit'--Cryer

DECLARING he feels he has accomplished all the things he pledged to do and that he can now retire from office with credit to himself and friends, Mayor George E. Cryer yesterday issued a formal statement stating why he will not be a candidate for reelection.

In it he points with pride to the establishment of the executive budget system, the erection of the new City Hall, the adoption of a new city charter, development of the harbor and the progress made in all departments of the city government.

His Statement

The statement follows:

"The people of the city of Los Angeles have signally honored me by three times electing me to the office of mayor.

"Eight years ago, when I first became a candidate, I pledged myself to work for the adoption of a new charter, the erection of a new City Hall, the establishment of the executive budget system and the further development of our harbor and to staunchly support our Department of Water and Power.

Pledges Kept

"All of these pledges I have kept to the best of my ability. The new charter has been adopted, and for four years has been in successful operation. The executive budget has been thoroughly established, and has justified every claim made for it as an effective means of controlling the expenditures of the city government. The new City Hall is an accomplished fact, and is one of the outstanding municipal buildings of the world. The departments of water, power and harbor are functioning splendidly and are carrying a large part of the interest and sinking fund charges on the city's bonded indebtedness.

"During the years of my incumbency the city has been passing through its greatest period of growth and development. Perhaps no large city in the world ever grew

as rapidly as Los Angeles has grown during the period in question.

Have Met Problems

"The city government has kept pace with that amazing growth and has met the problems thereby created.

"Fully 90 per cent of the buildings occupied by municipal departments have been erected during the last eight years. These include, in addition to the City Hall, the central library building and numerous branches; the central fire station, and a large percentage of the substations, three-fourths of all of the police sub-stations, together with branch city halls at Sawtelle and San Pedro—the latter a fine seven-story Class A structure.

"Obsolete wooden bridges have been torn out, and replaced by modern viaducts of steel and concrete; pedestrian tunnels have been built, and in every direction the city government has striven to meet the rapidly changing conditions incident to an age of transition and to our unprecedented growth.

"Moreover, the interests of the taxpayers have been guarded with a firm hand. The records show that during the eight-year period covered by the combined administrations of Mayors Rose, Sebastian, Woodman and Snyder, the city tax

rate averaged \$1.54 per hundred dollars of assessed valuation; that during the eight years of the present administration, notwithstanding higher salaries, the decreased purchasing power of the dollar and the heavy demands upon the city government, incident to our rapid growth, the average tax rate was only \$1.55 per hundred dollars.

"Had it not been for the 12 cents unnecessarily added to this year's tax rate, the average rate for the eight years of the present administration would have been only a little over \$1.53, or actually less than the average rate during the preceding eight years. This is true, notwithstanding the fact that charter amendments adopted in 1926 required the addition to the tax levy of 9 cents per hundred dollars of assessed valuation of major highways, and 11 cents for police and firemen's pension fund.

"Park, library and playground development, under new charter conditions, has been rapid, substantial and satisfactory; and in every respect I feel that the city government, in all of its departments, is better housed, better equipped, better organized and is functioning more satisfactorily than it was in 1921.

Retire With Credit

"I feel profoundly grateful to the people of Los Angeles for having given me the opportunity to have a part in achieving the results mentioned above.

"Under the circumstances I feel that the time has come when I can retire with credit to myself and to my friends, hence I shall not be a candidate for reelection.

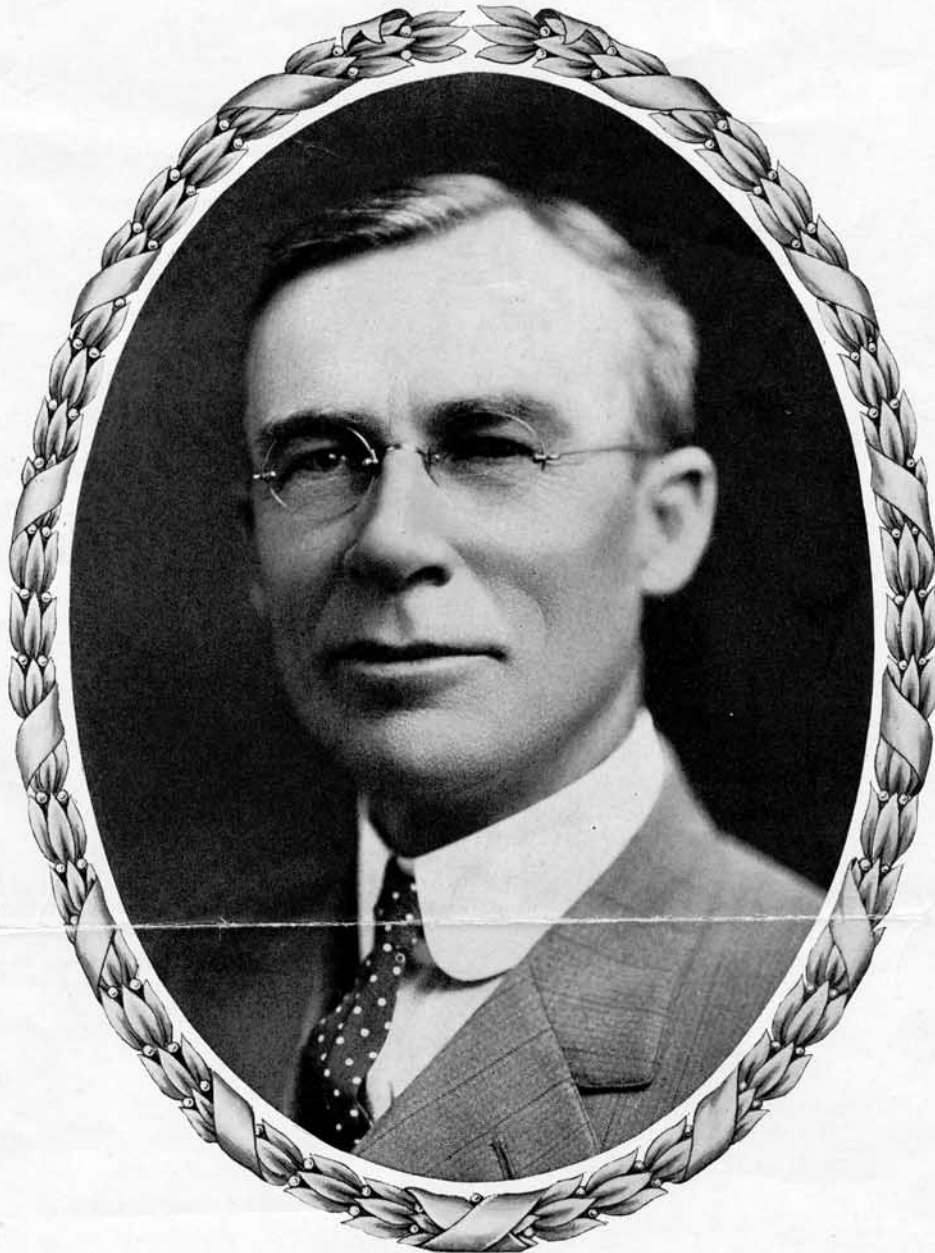
"To my loyal coworkers and to those who have stood by me and retained their confidence in me during all the years I have served in a difficult and exacting position, I feel a gratitude that cannot be expressed in words. The memory of their loyalty and support and of that of my thousands of friends throughout the city will abide with me as one of the treasured recollections of my life."

His Honor on Canvas

PORTRAIT of Mayor George E. Cryer, done in life-size by S. Seymour Thomas.

—(Photo by George F. Clifton.)





GEORGE EDWARD CRYER
MAYOR OF THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES

GEORGE E. CRYER was elected Mayor of the City of Los Angeles in July, 1921; re-elected in 1923, and again elected in 1925.

His incumbency spans the years of the greatest growth and development in the city's history.

Upon taking office in 1921, the Mayor pledged the City a new municipal building that would be adequate for the housing of all the executive and administrative branches and that would be in keeping, architecturally, with the dignity and community idealism of America's most rapidly growing city.

The new municipal home is the result of his efforts.

Mayor George E. Cryer, a lawyer by profession, received his early education in the public schools of Los Angeles, graduating from the Los Angeles High School. Soon after leaving high school, war with Spain was declared and he volunteered, serving throughout

as private and sergeant in Company G of the Seventh California Infantry, United States Volunteers. Following the war he took up the study of law at the University of Michigan, graduating in the class of 1903.

Mr. Cryer was appointed first assistant United States attorney for the Southern District of California in 1910. In 1912 and 1913 he served as first assistant city attorney of Los Angeles, and from 1915 to 1919 as first deputy district attorney.

Mr. Cryer's hobbies include legal study, development of the Los Angeles Harbor, hydro-electric power and park and playground development.

In 1906, Mr. Cryer married Miss Isobel Gay of Franklin, Pennsylvania, also a graduate of the University of Michigan. They have two children—Edward and Catherine Cryer. Both Mr. and Mrs. Cryer are staunch Republicans and are active members of the Presbyterian Church.



1792
September 12, 1945.

Mr. George E. Cryer, and
Family,
451 S. St. Andrews Pl.,
Los Angeles, 5, Cal.

Dear Mr. Cryer and Family:

The Municipal Art Commission was grieved today
to learn of the sudden passing of your beloved wife.

We can find no words adequate to express our
deep sorrow over your loss.

The Commission extends sincere sympathy, and
trusts that you may find solace in the many happy memories
you must have of the past.

With warm personal regards, we remain

Sincerely,

MUNICIPAL ART COMMISSION

By _____
President.

MUNICIPAL REFERENCE
DEPARTMENT

OCT 9 1945

LOS ANGELES PUBLIC LIBRARY

MAY 24, 1961

EC# 124

TO: ALL PERSONNEL
SUBJECT: DEATH AND FUNERAL NOTICE

WE REGRET TO ANNOUNCE THE DEATH OF MR. GEORGE E. CRYER, FORMER
MAYOR OF LOS ANGELES FROM 1921 TO 1929. MR. CRYER WAS BORN
MAY 13, 1875 AND PASSED AWAY MAY ~~23~~²⁴, 1961 IN THIS CITY.

MR. CRYER'S BODY WILL LIE IN STATE IN THE ROTUNDA OF THE CITY
HALL MAY 26, 1961, 9AM UNTIL 5PM.

PURSUANT TO CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION, ALL DEPARTMENT FLAGS ARE
TO BE FLOWN AT HALF MAST UNTIL MAY 27, 1961, 4PM.

SERVICES: FUNERAL SERVICES WILL BE CONDUCTED MAY 27, 1961,
12:30PM AT THE PIERCE BROS. FUNERAL HOME,
5959 SANTA MONICA BLVD.

INTERMENT: FOREST LAWN CEMETERY, GLENDALE, CALIF.


F. T. PFEIFFER, CAPTAIN
BUSINESS OFFICE DIVISION

MUNICIPAL REFERENCE
LIBRARY

MAY 26 1961

803 CITY HALL
LOS ANGELES 12, CALIF.

R920
C95

R 92

(Copy of letter
from Mayor Cryer.)

To Municipal Art Commission.

June 14, 1929. -

Honorable Members:

Permit me to express my sincere appreciation and gratitude for the sentiments expressed in your resolution of recent date, adopted on the occasion of my prospective retirement from the office which I have held for the past eight years.

Throughout my term I have worked earnestly to justify the confidence reposed in me by the people of the city of Los Angeles.

As my period of service draws to a close it is most gratifying to reflect that I have made some contribution to the advancement of the civic welfare of our city. It is equally gratifying to find that that fact is known and appreciated by so many of those who are in position to know what has been going on.

My chief regret in retiring is that I thereby sever official contact with so many worth while friends and co-workers, who, in their several fields, and in their several ways, have been working with me for the advancement of the harmonious development of our community life.

Again thanking you for your kindly expressed sentiments, I beg leave to remain,

Very sincerely yours,

(Signed) Geo. E. Cryer
M a y o r .

GEC/BP