

**Memorial**  
**for**  
**Thomas Blair Mouer**  
**August 31, 1887 – November 24, 1938**



**HENNEPIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION**  
**Hennepin County District Court**  
**Fourth Judicial District**  
**Minneapolis, Minnesota**

**February 11, 1939**

**Thomas B. Mouer**  
(1887 – 1938)

**Thomas Blair Mouer was born at Lingelstown County, Pennsylvania, August 31, 1887, where he was received his early education. He later attended Otterbein University in Ohio and graduated therefrom with the Degree of Bachelor of Arts, Cum Laude, later taking post graduate work at Harvard University, and in the year 1911 came west taking a position as Superintendent of Schools in Lake Benton, Minnesota, and two years later taking a similar position at Granite Falls, where he remained until year 1920.**

**Tom Mouer was united in marriage to Ambrie Irene Wright of Dayton, Ohio, in the year 1911 into this union two children were born, Elinor Wright Mouer, who survives him, the other child having died at birth in 1914, at which time his wife also passed away. In 1918 Tom married Nette Mae Johnson of Granite Falls, Minnesota, who survives him.**

**After nine years as superintendent of schools, Tom received a yearning for a legal education and in the year 1920 entered the University of Chicago Law School. After one semester he transferred the University of Minnesota Law School and graduated therefrom in 1923 with degree of Bachelor of Laws. He also received the Order of the Coif in recognition of his scholastic achievements. He immediately began the practice of law at Minneapolis, Minnesota, with offices in the Metropolitan Bank Building and for the past twelve years had been associated with Roy E. J. Puelston.**

**Tom was a member of Bryn Mawr Lodge, No. 325, A. F. and A. M. and was its first Worshipful Master. He also served as Exalted Ruler of the Elks Lodge and for number of years was an active member of the Zuhrah Temple of the Shrine and served on the Big Brother Committee. He was also a member of the Jesters Organization. For several years Tom had been a member of the**

**local Valley of the Scottish Rite, having attained the 32nd Degree. In the Rite Tom served in many important capacities and was Senior Warden in the Lodge of Perfection at the time of his death. He was a member of the Quarterback Luncheon Club, the Torch Club, the Twin City Variety Club and the Minneapolis Atlantic Club.**

**Tom was very active in civic affairs and took a very keen interest in the promotion and betterment of our city government. He was appointed to the Civil Service Commission of Minneapolis by the late Mayor Bainbridge, which position Tom still held at the time of his death. During the period of time that he served on the Civil Service Commission, by his sense of fairness and square dealing he added to the respect in which honest civil service is held and his ability and integrity gave the system new and undiscovered advantages. His patience and brilliance of mind gave to the Commission new and greater prestige. Indicative of the high esteem in which Mr. Mouer was held by the public and the press, I quote a statement from one of the columnists, "No finer man ever held public office in Minneapolis."**

**Tom was endowed with by nature with an unusual quickness and keenness a perception and by hard work and study he added to nature's gifts. He possessed a devotion to those things which make for mental advancement and, although possessed of an unusual quickness and keenness of perception he still did not jump at conclusions, but subjected all problems to his reasoning and to the close scrutiny of his fine mind. He was firm and adamant in his convictions but he had a heart of sympathy and love for humanity. His sheer honesty and fairness, his square shooting where the fortunes of an enemy were concerned, brought even his adversaries to respect him.**

**Tom was active in political, lodge and civic affairs, and had a profound interest in the betterment of human conditions and a higher social order. He possessed a splendid command of the**

English language and had the attributes of a great orator. He was deliberate, self-possessed and positive and, having these attributes he was in great demand for speaking engagements and he gave liberally of his time and talent in any and every way of social endeavor, such as Community Fund, Y.M.C.A., Parent and Teachers' Associations, and the like. He was very active as a member of the Big Brother Committee of the Shrine, which fact is borne out by a quotation from the Zuhrah Arabian in the December, 1938, issue:

**“Among the ardent of the ardent was Thomas B Mouer, past Chairman of the Big Brothers and Sisters Committee; a sincere sociologist who had the rare gift of pulling a bright rabbit of cheer out of the old hat of the despair. Eager, generous, persevering and pleasant, with a grin, a cigar and jovial air, he epitomized the Shrine to many a child in and out of the Shriners Hospital for Crippled Children, having brought smiles to the weary and faithful, and tears to the others on numberless occasions. Himself a Big Brother to two crippled boys, he yet found time to help others in their problems, vicissitudes and difficulties. Typical Mour-ism: ‘This Big Brother and Sister Committee work is the hope of the Shrine’. TOM MOUER, BIG BROTHER, INDEED!”**

Tom was a good citizen, a dutiful husband and father, an able lawyer, a fine gentleman and good friend. If I were to speak one word which, in my humble opinion, would describe Tom Mouer, I would say he was genuine, for Tom was genuine indeed. He was just plain Tom Mouer whenever and wherever you saw him or met him. He had a profound sense of fairness and valued friendship above all, and believed with the poet who wrote:

**“Don’t chisel on stone --  
He was honest, and good,  
But write in smoke**

**On a fleeting cloud --  
He lived, he laughed  
And he understood.**

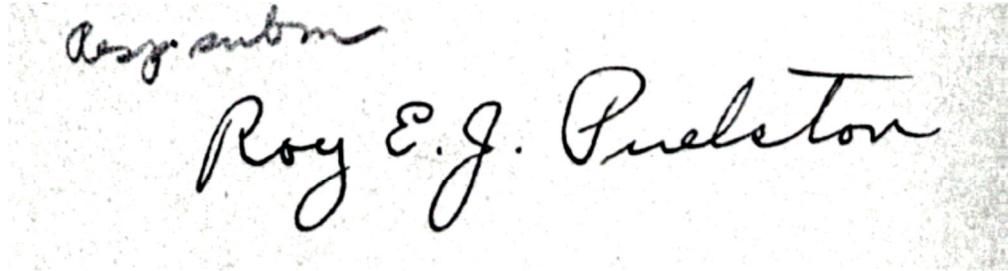
**“For when the One Great Scorer  
Comes to write against your name,  
He marks, not that you won or lost,  
But how you played the game.”**

**In the many years that it is was my privilege to be associated with Tom I observed that although he had many interests and was an extremely busy man, he was never too busy with his own problems and the problems of making a livelihood to lend a willing ear and a helping hand to others in their troubles, even though no remuneration was expected. It mattered not how often people in trouble came to his office or his home for advice and guidance, he gave them freely of his time in counsel and even though many were those whose problems could not be solved, nevertheless when they went away they did so with a feeling of reassurance and a brighter viewpoint. What Tom was not permitted to live a long life in terms of years, nevertheless he lived a full life, and it is safe to assume that had he spared himself he might have added years, but not fullness, as he saw it.**

**An old proverb comes to mind, “Take it easy and live long,” but Tom’s theory was “Be active while you live,” and what life’s great sunset came to Tom Mouer on November 24, 1938, at the age of fifty-one years, and he turned his face toward the west, in the shadows were the thousand friends with tear dimmed eyes and sorrowful hearts whom his loyalty, tolerance and friendship had won. In the shadow of his grave is great talent shone with added luster.**

**“I am that date whose pulse once thrilled  
With life and joy, but now is stilled;  
Whose errors ye cannot efface;**

**Whose steps ye never can retrace;  
And yet, those hopes may be fulfilled.”**

A photograph of a handwritten signature in cursive script. The signature reads "Roy E. J. Puelston". Above the main signature, there is a smaller, fainter signature that appears to be "Roy E. J. Puelston" as well. The background is a light, textured surface.

**Prepared and read by  
Roy E. J. Puelston**

## **Appendix**

**The photograph on the first page and those that follow are from the  
Minneapolis Newspaper Photograph Collection of the  
Hennepin County Library.**



**Thomas B. Mouer running for civil service position in District 15.  
Date of photograph: November 11, 1926.  
Source: Minneapolis Newspaper Photograph Collection,  
Hennepin County Library.**



**Friends of new Minneapolis Mayor Alexander G. ("Buzz") Bainbridge  
toast his future success at the Hotel Radisson.  
L to R: Louis Ratner, Thomas B. Mouer, Mayor Bainbridge and H. G. Feiler.  
Date of photograph: July 27, 1933.  
Source: Minneapolis Tribune.  
Minneapolis Newspaper Photograph Collection,  
Hennepin County Library.**



**Mayor Bainbridge nominates Thomas B. Mouer to  
Minneapolis Civil Service Commission.  
Date of photograph: August 7, 1934.  
Source: Minneapolis Newspaper Photograph Collection,  
Hennepin County Library**



**Thomas B. Mouer, age 47, appointed to  
Minneapolis Civil Service Commission.  
Date of photograph: October 24, 1934.  
Source: Minneapolis Newspaper Photograph Collection,  
Hennepin County Library**



**Members of the Minneapolis Civil Service Commission.  
L to R: Thomas B. Mouer & Rinehold Mangni.  
Date of photograph: March 13, 1936.  
Source: Minneapolis Newspaper Photograph Collection,  
Hennepin County Library.**



**Thomas B. Mouer, member of the  
Minneapolis Civil Service Commission  
Date of photograph: April 22, 1937.  
Source: Minneapolis Newspaper Photograph Collection,  
Hennepin County Library.**



**Torch Club of Minnesota Dinner.  
University of Minnesota Professor Moses N. Levine (left) spoke at the dinner;  
and with Club President Thomas B. Mouer at the Curtis Hotel.**

**Date of photograph: January 13, 1937.**

**Source: Minneapolis Tribune,  
Minneapolis Newspaper Photograph Collection,  
Hennepin County Library.**

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