

Clifford Coyne Cooley (1912-1979) and Margaret May Sears (1912-1987)

Preface

The Cooley antecedents of the 11th generation author, Daniel Berton Cooley b. 1939 are: Clifford Coyne[10], Robert Berton[9], Robert Reed[8], Andrew[7], Noah[6], Benjamin[5], Benjamin[4], Benjamin[3], Daniel[2], and Ensign Benjamin[1]. This biography is about Clifford Coyne Cooley (10th generation after first generation immigrant, Ensign Benjamin Cooley) and his wife, Margaret May Sears.

Clifford Coyne Cooley and Margaret May Sears

Clifford Coyne Cooley (popularly known as "Coyne") was born 15 Jul 1912 in Otis, Washington County, Colorado¹ to Robert Berton Cooley (b. 20 Oct 1875; d. 12 Dec 1962) and Carrie Louella Miller (b. 27 May 1883; d. 13 Aug 1973). He died 5 Dec 1979 in Akron, Washington County, Colorado² and was buried in Akron Cemetery, Washington County, Colorado.³

Coyne was married 21 Jun 1936 in Akron, Washington County, Colorado⁴ to Margaret May Sears b. 23 May 1912 in Akron, Washington County, Colorado⁵ to Nelson Evans Sears (b. 15 Aug 1876; d. 17 May 1948) and Edna Maud Sears (b. 24 Apr 1879; d.24 Aug 1971). She died 18 Jan 1987 in Akron, Washington County, Colorado⁶ and was buried in Akron Cemetery, Washington County, Colorado.⁷

Children Analysis

- i. **Daniel Berton**, b. 25 Oct 1939, Akron, Washington Co, Colorado,⁸ m. not married.
- ii. **Catherine Lou**, b. 14 Nov 1943, Akron, Washington Co, Colorado,⁹ m. 25 Jul 1967 Richard Martig Rohne, Minneapolis, Hennepin Co, Minnesota;¹⁰ div. 20 Nov 1978 in Washington County, Colorado;¹¹ she d. 19 Aug 2019 in Sacramento, Sacramento Co, California.¹²
- iii. **Jo Ellen**, b. 19 Nov 1953, Akron, Washington Co, Colorado,¹³ m(1) 21 Aug 1971 Charles Lawrence Rebich,¹⁴ in Akron, Washington Co, Colorado;¹⁵ m(2) 16 Jun 1978 Robert Joseph Guerreiro,¹⁶ in New Bedford, Bristol Co, Massachusetts;¹⁷ m(3) 8 Jul 1985 Gregory Arthur Villarosa¹⁸ in Holmdel, Monmouth Co, New Jersey;¹⁹ m(4) 5 May 2005 Charles Gaffney²⁰ in Concord, Cabarrus Co, North Carolina.²¹

Migration to Colorado

In 1910, two years before Coyne was born, Robert Berton Cooley and Carrie Louella Miller migrated from Nebraska to Colorado where they homesteaded northwest of Flagler, Kit Carson County, Colorado. Both initially taught school. One day in 1911, on a summer job, Bert went north with his father-in-law, Samuel Jasper Miller's threshing crew to a place about 30 miles north of Flagler in the vicinity of Otis, Washington County, Colorado. There he learned that Otis had no newspaper but he knew money was to be made from the notices homesteaders had to publish in the local newspaper.²²

He borrowed \$100 from his brother-in-law, Odes Bert Miller, and started a newspaper on 12 Jan 1912 which he named the *Otis Independent*. This marked the beginning of Eastern Colorado's Cooley newspaper dynasty.

Coyne born into a newspaper family

Clifford Coyne Cooley was literally born into his parents' newspaper business...into it and above it. On 15 July 1912 in Otis, Washington County, Colorado, he came into the world in the living quarters above his parents'

newspaper office, the Otis Independent.

The business was housed on the first floor of a small building south of the Akron-Otis Lumber Company on Main Street (now Washington St) in Otis. The children²³ slept in small rooms on the second level of the building. To get up there from the first floor newspaper office they had to go outside (rain or shine) and climb a ladder to their bedrooms above.



Fig 1. The *Otis Independent* building and residence above. In the picture Coyne's dad, Bert, in back, his brother Dale (L), his cousin Beth (R). The dog's name was Jim.



R.B. Cooley Family
(L to R) Merton Beth, Orville Dale, Robert Berton, Robert Miller, Carrie Louella Miller, Clifford Coyne, Ronald Delos
(Approximate year of picture, 1955)

Coyne started young

Coyne (the name he always went by; he did not like the name Clifford), from the time he entered kindergarten, had duties in the newspaper office such as sweeping and cleaning. He later “advanced” to “printer’s devil”²⁴ who performed back shop work such as returning movable type from a “hellbox”²⁵ back to its proper type case, mixing ink, and such. “I always figured I was born to be a newspaperman and I never seriously considered doing anything else,” Coyne said.²⁶

He attended grade school and two and one-half years of high school at Otis High School (later finishing high school in Akron). While a freshman in high school he began to learn the operation of the “great old machine”, the Linotype.²⁷ See Fig 2.

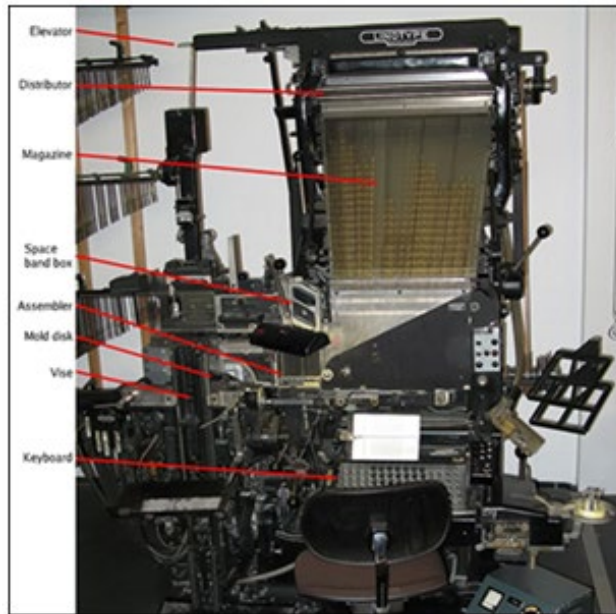


Fig 2. Linotype, image from Wikimedia²⁸

Akron Colorado

In 1929 Bert bought both the *Akron Semi-Weekly News* and the *Akron Reporter* located in the county seat of Washington County, Akron, Colorado, 13 miles west of Otis on Highway 54. Bert merged the two newspapers and the *Akron News-Reporter* was born on 7 Mar 1929, the date of its first edition.

Coyne completed his high school education in Akron at Washington County High School (see Fig 3) graduating in 1930.

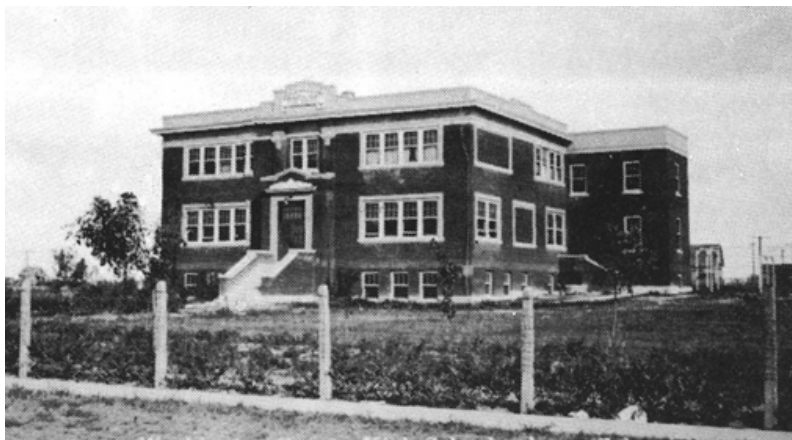


Fig 3. Washington County High School in Akron Colorado built 1916

During the last two years of school he continued to work the back shop of the *News-Reporter* after school and weekends. Before his graduation he had learned to do everything necessary to produce a weekly newspaper: Write editorials, produce news articles, set type, sell the ads, make up the page forms and put them on the press, run the press, and kill out after the last run.²⁹ His continuing involvement in the family business marked the beginning of a long and illustrious career in journalism, spanning five decades.

After graduating from Akron High School in 1930 he entered the University of Colorado in Boulder (see Fig. 4) where he majored in journalism³⁰ receiving his baccalaureate in 1936 (laying out two years to work at the *News-Reporter*). He belonged to the social fraternity Kappa Sigma³¹ and the professional journalism fraternity Sigma Delta Chi.³²

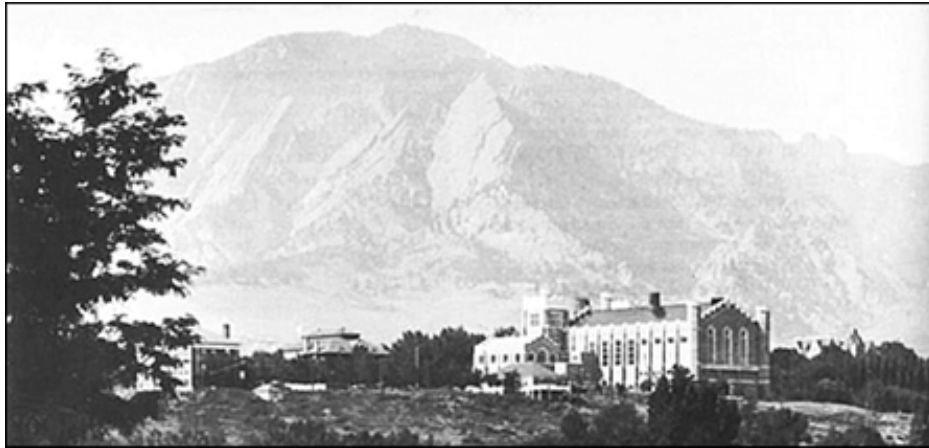


Fig 4. Undated picture of the early University of Colorado campus with the Flatirons in the background. The large building is Macky Auditorium and Concert Hall completed in 1922.

Shortly after graduating from college he was married on 21 June 1936 to Margaret May Sears, daughter of Nelson Evans Sears and Edna Maude Barnhouse, at the Presbyterian Church in Akron.³³ The ceremony was attended by Eleanor Newcomb of Melba, Idaho, and Robert Miller Cooley, brother of the groom. The newlyweds, accompanied by the groom's parents, went on their honeymoon trip to Niagara Falls. They returned July 6, 1936 to begin residence in the Rena Lewis Apartments at Main St. and 5th Ave in Akron.³⁴ Coyne immediately began working at the *News-Reporter* and was at it until 1976.



Fig. 5 Clifford Coyne Cooley and Margaret May Sears

Coyne and Margaret's Family

Coyne and Margaret's first child, a son, Daniel Berton, was born 25 October 1939³⁵ in a private residence known as the 'Anderson home' in west Akron at present 581 Fremont St. (refurbished and still standing in 2007).

They were still residing in the Lewis Apartments when Daniel was born but shortly after his birth they acquired property from J. B. Fisher (with help from R.B. Cooley) known as Lot Three in Block Three of the First Addition of Akron, Colorado. They contracted E.E. Hickman to build a Cape Cod-style house on the lot for just \$2000. The designated address of this dwelling was 233 Geneva St.ⁱ

On 1 April 1940 they acquired the north half of Lot 4 (adjoining Lot 3 to the south) thereby increasing their frontage to 75 feet. An addition to the original dwelling was built in 1958 extending into the middle portion of the half lot at the southwest corner of the house; cost, \$3000.



Fig 5. Coyne Cooley home 233 Geneva/249 Bent in Akron Colorado (2007)

Coyne and Margaret's second child, a daughter, Catherine Lou, was born 14 November 1943,³⁶ also in the Anderson Home and their third child, a daughter, Jo Ellen, was born on 19 Nov 1953 in Akron Hospital.³⁷

Bert and Lou Retire

In 1955, when his father, popularly known as "R-B" but Bert by the boys, and his mother, popularly known as "Lou" but always called "Ma" by the boys, retired and the family business was officially turned over to Coyne and his cousin Merton Beth Cooley (popularly known as "Beth", a name he didn't like).

Coyne was the writer half of the partnership. He wrote all news copy, editorials, and a very popular column called *Hash...and rehash*, Coyne's particular brand of "three-dot journalism". Beth handled typesetting and all that was mechanical. The newspaper was printed on a Mehle ("mee-lee) flat-bed press and typesetting was done on Linotype and Intertype machines all of which required constant maintenance and repair.

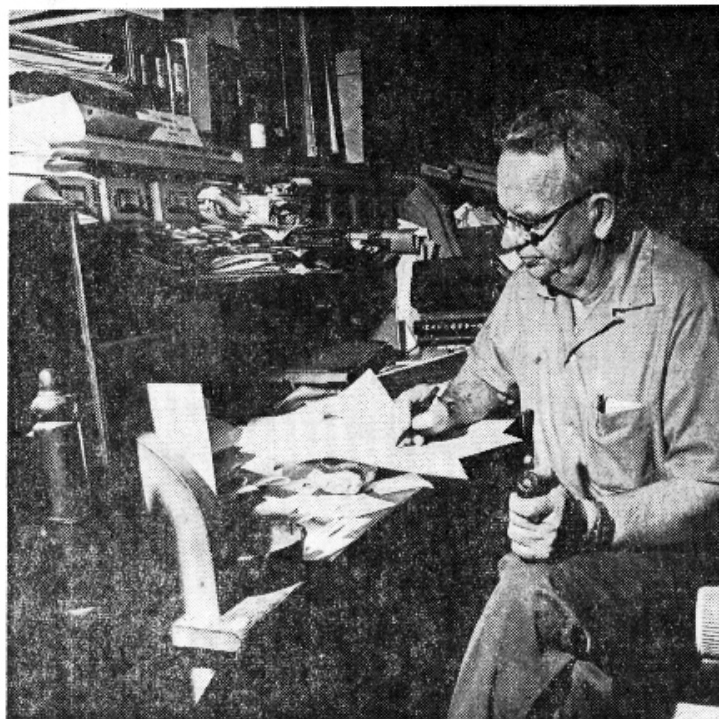
ⁱ In 1954 the street names of Akron were changed with the north-south streets designated 'avenues' and east-west streets 'streets'. The avenues west of Main were named after the counties of Colorado (Adams, Bent, etc.), and the north-south streets east of Main named after trees (Ash, Birch, etc.). The east-west streets were numbered with the exception of the southern-most street (Railroad) and the east-west highway running through town (US Highway 34) that would otherwise be 1st St.

Sports Enthusiast

Coyne had a lifetime interest in sports, first as a participant in his school years and young adult life and always as an avid observer and reporter. He was a New York Yankees fan, a Baltimore Colts fan, and a fan of the Triple-A, minor league Denver Bears, a Yankees farm team from 1955 to 1992. He attended many games at the old Denver Bears baseball field on North Federal Blvd that was expanded in the mid 1960's to become the famous Mile High Stadium.

In the late 40's and early 50's he was the catcher for the Akron baseball team that was a member of the northeastern Colorado "Highway 34 League" stretching along US-34 from Brush, Colorado on the west to Haigler, Nebraska to the east and to Haxtun and Holyoke on the north (both actually on Highway 6).

Locally, he announced Akron High School Ramblers football games and reported on all Akron sports functions generally traveling to all away football and basketball games.



Coyne Cooley edits copy in the offices of the Akron News-Reporter which he publishes with his brother, M.B., who has spent 50 years in printing.

Colorado Press Association

Coyne was an active member of the Colorado Press Association, serving on the board of directors for several years, as treasurer in 1966, and as president for the 1967-1968 term. Following his year as president, he served for one year as chairman of the board of directors.

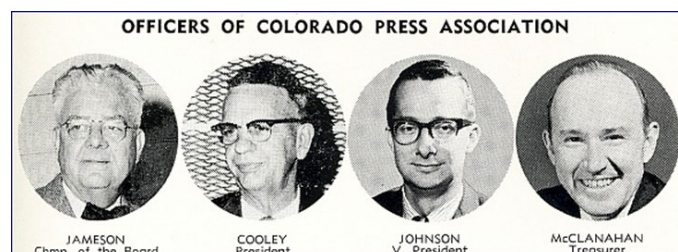


Fig 6. CPA Officers

Attorney and Juhl... case

the January term in Akron on Tuesday largely to motions for the trial cases.

Jr. was appointed Waino Johnson as Hans Juhl, Jr. is being held on all with a deadly

March 8, 9 and 10 will be arranged in case within the

of the Newing of Louis J. who is a patient in Denver

of the bond Richard McFarland Akron, where both Juhl had arrived as which he was

the weapon on Reese is said to talk him into, and after some

is returned to be started to at time, Juhl is shot from about

the inner part badly shattered being confined for five days, made for his in Denver.

C. Enterprises, E. and Dennis Smith Brothers, 25. This action ownership of

inator ed by e-ops

of the Y-W announced the law of Fort employed by

to be served electric, High Union Run, and Morgan at Fort Moran

order the di- state man- drator expert positioning and a lot of alertness around the boards

cent field discoveries ed for early drilling

umpin field discovery has been stated an- affirm the original success. Bander and

THE AKRON NEWS-REPORTER

Thursday, Jan. 12, 1967 Akron, Washington County, Colorado 80720 Fifty-fifth Year—No. 46

Rams decision Wray in overtime after Friday night loss to Haxtun

AKRON high school's Rams divided a pair of league games last week end, dropping a 65-56 decision to Haxtun Friday night at home and then traveling to Wray the following evening, where they edged the Eagles, 68-66, in overtime. Coach Bill Ellis, despite the loss to Haxtun, said it was his team's best performance of the year and, together with the game at Wray, represented outstanding effort in the face of odds that might be called overoptimistic.

Insured growers get big payoff for crop losses

Insured growers of wheat, dry beans, barley and corn in 18 counties of Colorado and Wyoming, have received more than \$700,000 in Federal Crop Insurance payments for the 1966 crop year losses, says Leon W. Hagen, Colorado-Wyoming, state director for the USDA Insurance agency.

Primary causes of loss were freeze, drought and hail. As crop conditions were generally above normal for 1966, this was the largest indemnity payment made by FCIC notwithstanding that there is an all-time record acreage insured.

In addition he said, beginning with 1967, this all-risk investment protection plan is being offered in three northern Wyoming counties, Big Horn, Park and Washakie, and corn silage insurance is offered in eight counties in the two state area.

Hagen says production guarantees on irrigated barley have been raised and the new silage corn provisions was introduced to bring the crop program in line with the average yield and accepted practices in the area.

Still another program improvement is offered for the first time in 1967, this being the provision for a premium discount the first year after there is no loss on a crop contract.

Previously, it took three years to earn this discount which is progressively greater with continued good experience.

In all, he adds, 1966 saw more than 6000 Colorado-Wyoming farmers voluntarily insuring \$49,000, and \$12 million in funds invested to insure their crops.

Farmers may obtain information and applications by contacting nearest Federal Crop Insurance district office or by writing: Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, 12022 Federal Building, Denver.

Death of office taken by six county officials

Six officials, who were elected to public office in Washington county in the general election on Nov. 8, were sworn in Tuesday morning. The ceremony was conducted by District Judge George A. Doll of Fort Morgan and the six who took oaths of office were:

- County Clerk and Recorder Cecil S. Force, County Treasurer Harold L. Sisson, County Assessor Floyd Reese, County Superintendent of Schools Mrs. Ruth Higginbotham, County Sheriff W. L. McDonald and County Commissioner Percy W. Crosby.

All of the six officials were elected to succeed themselves in the November election.

Junior high cagers win two from Wray

AKRON's junior high basketball teams won a pair of games from Wray on the local floor last Thursday evening. The period before the game was without incident.

This Thursday evening game for the boys' team was at 7:30 p.m. at the local floor. The girls' team played at 6:30 p.m. at the same place.

Against Wray, the boys' team had the trouble of losing the first half, but they rallied in the second half to win 23-17.

Against Wray, the girls' team had a 13-8 win, holding Wray to 13 points in the first period and to 20 in the second. At the end of the first period, the score was 13-8.

Against Wray, the girls' team had a 13-8 win, holding Wray to 13 points in the first period and to 20 in the second. At the end of the first period, the score was 13-8.

Stamp program discussion is set by food retailers

Greenwood and other food retailers in Wray then county will discuss the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Stamp program at a meeting for Tuesday, Jan. 17.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. at the Wray Community Center. The program will be discussed by the Colorado Department of Public Welfare, the Washington county welfare office and the Consumer and Marketing.

Under this program, farmers are eligible to buy food stamps for cash to buy food. They must buy the stamps for the money they normally spend for food. Then, they receive additional coupons without cost.

The value of "bonus" coupons is determined by the amount of the farmer's income, resources and other factors. The program was set up by Roy Bjornson, USDA executive of Fort Morgan.

A significant contribution to the program was a presentation by Eagle Scout Mike Davey of Akron Troop No. 27.

He related his experiences as a candidate in the "Report to the Nation" competition last year. Morawana district officers for 1967 were installed during the program.

Among these were Leo F. Davey as district vice chairman; Wally Greb, commissioner's staff member; and Jim Burnett, camping committee member.

An important achievement during the past year was topping a challenging recruitment goal of 1,000 boys for participation in the program in the district which included Morgan, Washington and Yuma counties.

District judges name deputy clerk of court

Mrs. Judy Hall has been employed as deputy clerk of the district court and commenced her duties on Tuesday of this week.

Mrs. Hall's appointment was approved by District Judges Francis Shulshberger, Waino Johnson, W. L. Wainwright and George A. Doll, who were in Akron Tuesday for the opening day of the district court.

She succeeds Mrs. Idris Gordon, who resigned recently. The deputy clerk is employed on a part-time basis.

Wray man rolls in county road

Wray man, Joseph A. Wady, escaped with only minor injuries when his car turned over on a county road, four miles east and one mile north of Akron last Saturday afternoon.

Wray Patrolman T. J. McLaughlin, who investigated, found the car driving east on the gravelled road at about 4:45 o'clock, when he pulled the vehicle back to the right side of the road.

The car rolled three-quarters of a mile on its left side, then rolled back to the right side of the road.

The driver, Joseph A. Wady, 45, of Wray, was not injured. The car was a 1965 Chevrolet.

Town's operating expenses up slightly to \$1,426,000 for present fiscal year

Given approval by the town council, the budget for the present fiscal year, which showed an increase of \$11,426,000 figure. Town operating expenses for the year are estimated at \$1,426,000, as compared with \$1,414,574 for the previous year.

The increase in operating expenses is due to an increase in the cost of materials and supplies. The town council will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 17, to discuss the budget.

Scout personnel participate in event held here

AKRON Thursday evening was the scene of a special appreciation reception for the Wray district officers of the Boy Scouts.

Dinner, served in the dining room of St. Joseph's church, was served by the Wray district officers.

The dinner was presided over by the district director, Mrs. Pat Hagen. The Wray district officers were: Leo F. Davey, district vice chairman; Wally Greb, commissioner's staff member; and Jim Burnett, camping committee member.

An important achievement during the past year was topping a challenging recruitment goal of 1,000 boys for participation in the program in the district which included Morgan, Washington and Yuma counties.

During the development of the program, the town council will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 17, to discuss the budget.

Two Akron wrestlers win in mid-season league

AKRON Wray wrestlers dropped a 34-15 league match Friday evening and on the following day, they participated in a mid-season league tournament, which was held in Yuma.

Friday evening of this week, Burlington's grapplers and on Saturday night, the Rams will go to Brush to compete in a mid-season league tournament.

AKRON fifth and sixth grade wrestlers will perform before the exhibition matches Friday evening.

In the match at Wray, Paul Fincher wrestled an 8-8 draw with his opponent; Jerry Goodman picked up an 8-0 decision—his seventh win without a loss this year—in the 154-pound class; and Arthur Cline (165) and Mike Jamison, heavyweight, registered pins.

Gary Carr (120), Clint Johnson (130), Roland Cross (138) and Cliff Johnson (145) lost decisions, while Steve Eskew (112) and Mike Jamison (177) were the winners in the Akron forfeited the match.

Admission called a "tournament" was held at Burlington, Monday. Participants were: Paul Fincher, Wray; Jerry Goodman, Wray; Arthur Cline, Wray; Gary Carr, Wray; Clint Johnson, Wray; Roland Cross, Wray; Cliff Johnson, Wray; Steve Eskew, Wray; Mike Jamison, Wray; James Klein, Wray; Bruce Scheff, Wray; and Mike Jamison, Wray.

Goodman and Mike Jamison were the winners in the 154-pound class.

The winners in the 154-pound class were: Jerry Goodman (Wray) and Mike Jamison (Wray).

The winners in the 154-pound class were: Jerry Goodman (Wray) and Mike Jamison (Wray).

Colorado Editor

FEBRUARY 1967

Signup dates announced for feed grain and wheat

Monday, Feb. 6 has been set as the opening day for the signup for the 1967 feed grain and wheat programs, according to an announcement made this week by Arthur Ligar, chairman of the State Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Committee.

Final date for filing an intention to take part in the 1967 programs is March 3. The signup period for the commodity programs extends over four weeks in this area.

Started on Nov. 28 of last year, the signup for the 1967 Coplant Adjustment program, which also has been extended, which was the signup for the 1967 Coplant Adjustment program, which also has been extended, which was the signup for the 1967 Coplant Adjustment program, which also has been extended.



Fig 7. Colorado Press Association magazine, Colorado Editor, cover featuring Coyne Cooley as the new President



Fig 8. Coyne Cooley and Margaret Sears Cooley
at a Colorado Press Association Meeting

Civic Affairs

Coyne was an active member of the Akron Chamber of Commerce and a charter member and two-term president of the Akron Rotary Club. In addition he wrote a weekly newsletter for the Rotary Club called the *Rotarian* which was published, quite distinctively, on letter-size, goldenrod paper.

He was very civic minded, always working for the betterment of the town by active participation in the various community organizations of the town. He always believed that his, as well as ALL local residents' personal business transactions should be with local merchants. "Keep your business in Akron" was a continuing theme in his editorials for the *Akron News Reporter*.

Clifford Coyne Cooley's life comes to an end

Coyne died on 5 Dec 1979³⁸ of COPD (Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease) due to smoking. He was buried in Akron Cemetery, one mile west of Akron.



Fig 9. Gravestone in Akron Cemetery

Margaret May Sears (23 May 1912 – 18 Jan 1987)

Margaret May Sears was born 23 May 1912 in Akron, Washington County, Colorado,³⁹ to Nelson Evans Sears and Edna Maude Barnhouse. She was delivered by Dr. Kaylor in her parents' house on the east side of Akron as were her elder brother, Alva Raymond, in 1910, and her younger sister, Faye Eleanor, in 1914.



Fig 1. L to R, Margaret May, Faye Eleanor, Alva Raymond.
Undated picture, probably 1917-1918

The Nelson Sears house in east Akron

The house on the northeast corner of the block at present 5th & Date in Akron, where she grew up, has some interesting history. Margaret's maternal grandparents, Ira Morgan Barnhouse and Mary Francis Albin, moved their entire house from the country (Woodrow, 32 miles away) to that site in the early 1900s and lived there until Nelson and Maude occupied the house in 1910 just before Alva's birth.

Ira and Mary subsequently moved to a newly-built house on the southeast corner of the block (at present 4th

& Date). But there's more. Nelson and Maude also moved their country house (again from the Woodrow area) into Akron and had it joined to Ira and Mary's house.

Margaret describes⁴⁰ that house on the northeast corner of the block:

There was a driveway leading into the yard from the north where a car (or maybe a wagon, earlier) could park right by the back door. Across the driveway, west of the house, was our windmill. That's where we got our water...for everything. Mother used a galvanized tub and a wash basin to do the [clothes] washing. The tub was moved into the kitchen for our weekly baths... [Our kitchen] opened out onto the back room (we always called it the "back room") where mother washed [dishes] and where some things were stored and where the cellar was.



Fig 2. The Nelson Sears house in 1939. Notice the street was just graded ground



Fig 3. 41 Date Street, northeast corner of the block, in 2007, Cape Cod shutters removed. Notice the division in the house. Front part, Ira and Mary's, back part, Nelson and Maude's; also the 1939 barn still stands in back.

The cellar (probably a storm cellar used to escape the wind and dust) was a place of dark mystery:

A lift-up door opened up to the cellar where Mother kept the jars of food she canned in the fall. Other foods that had to be kept cool were stored there. A black and scary hole in the ground I thought it to be. A barn stood to the west of the house, across what would now be the alley of that block.

That barn, in fact, still stands in 2007 as shown in Fig 4 below. Margaret describes the barn:

There was the big red barn west of the house...the north part of the barn was a garage. In the south part [were] stalls and mangers with an aisle running between them. My father kept a sow for several years (for our supply of milk, plus a few families we sold to) and in the west stall a horse named Dick.

While the cellar was a mysterious hole in the ground the barn was a cornucopia of childhood delights, especially for the two girls of the family:

When we children were small we had a swing in the aisle that ran between the east and west stalls. What fun it was to swing there. The hayloft entrance was at the north end of the aisle, a ladder leading straight up to the left. We used to play up in the loft, jumping around in the hay and having lots of fun.



Fig 4. Present house in 2007, 41 Date Street, northeast corner of the block

Ira Barnhouse had been in the Civil War, having participated in Sherman's March to the Sea, but returned with dysentery that lasted for the rest of his life. He died 4 Apr 1914 and is buried in Akron Cemetery. Margaret didn't remember her grandpa Ira but she had vague memories of her grandma Mary. She wrote:

I do remember a little about grandmother B. She was in poor health and didn't get out much. I only remember once when she trudged slowly along the path that led from their place to ours. She must have suffered from arthritis. Anyway, I remember her stopping to look around. She was dressed in black clothes, a full long skirt and black bodice, high necked (very much the style in those days...).

The Nelson Sears Family 1941-1942



Fig 5. L to R, Nelson Evans Sears, Alva Raymond Sears, Margaret May Sears, Edna Maude Barnhouse, and Faye Eleanor Sears. This picture was taken at their east Akron residence just prior to Alva's induction into the U.S. Army, making it about 1941-2. Alva served in England during World War II.

Grade (Elementary) School

When Margaret started school (kindergarten) in 1917, the old grade school building (Fig 7), built in the late 1890s, was undergoing remodeling and expansion so she attended classes in the old Akron School (fig 6) north of the Methodist Church (present town park) and later in an upstairs room in the high school. In 1919 the project was completed and the new school was opened where she completed her elementary schooling (Fig 8), graduating from 8th grade in 1925.

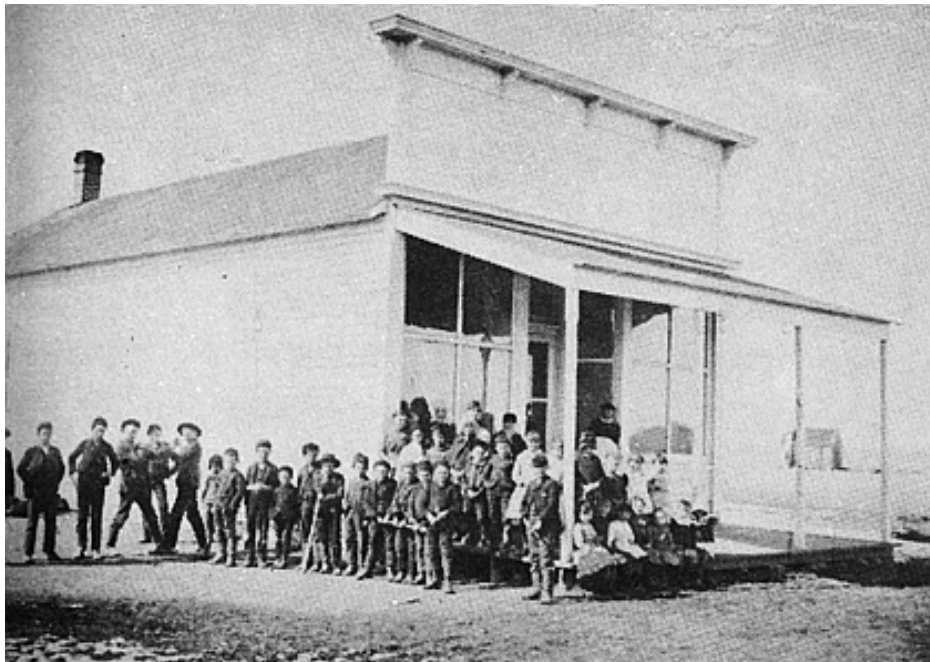


Fig 6. Akron School built in 1887 located north of the Methodist Church



Fig 7. Old Akron Grade School built in the 1890s

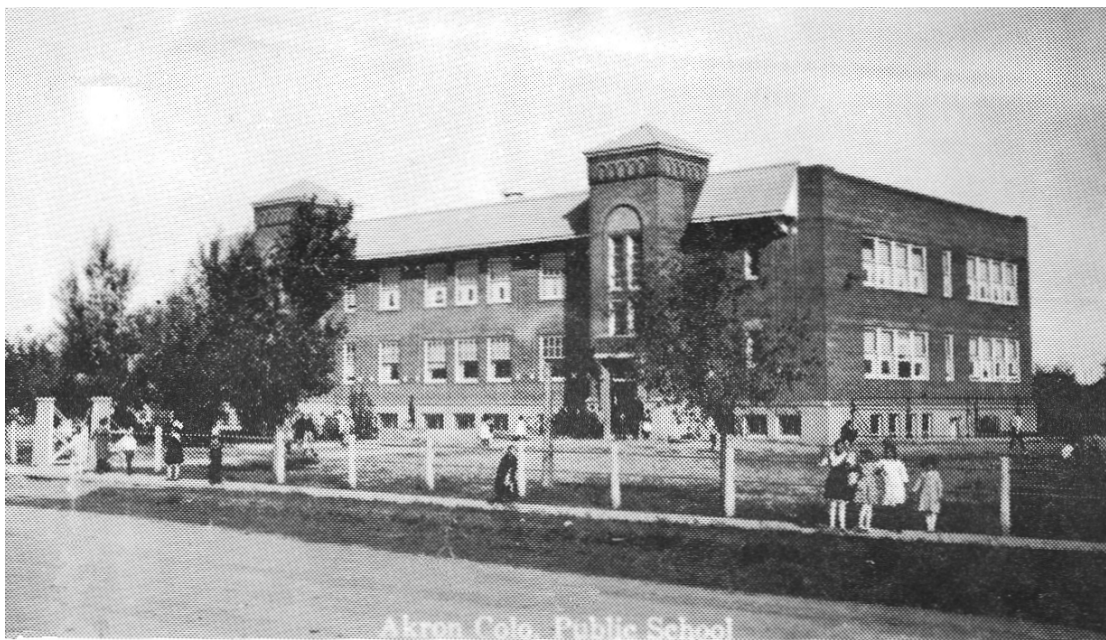


Fig 8. Akron Grade School after remodeling with an addition to the old school

High School and the "Ukulele Girls"

Margaret enrolled in Washington County High School at Akron in late 1925. She graduated in 1930 as a member of the largest class in the history of the Washington County School System to date, 41 seniors. Commencement was held Friday, May 23rd 1930 coincidentally on Margaret's 18th birthday.

As a freshman in 1926 she appeared in the class play "*Circus Solly*". She was in the chorus that sang and danced "*Rag Doll Dance*" and "*Spanish Dance - Marchitio*". In March of 1929 she appeared in "*The Treadors*" and in March of 1930 she appeared, along with her future husband, Coyne Cooley, in "*The Gypsy Rover*".

In high school she and her best friend, Helen McCabe, were known as the "Ukulele Girls" for their ukulele duo and flapper styles, the naughty rage of the 1920s. They sang and played for the Lions Club at their meetings as well as other civic events.

Overall, Margaret was known for her talent as a musician in high school as denoted in their senior class poem (that doesn't rhyme):

Margaret Sears, a great musician
causes us to pause and think
will she ever reach the lime lights
with her thrills and warbles clear

Teaching Career⁴¹

She entered *Colorado State Teachers College* in Greeley, Colo. in the fall quarter of the 1931-1932 school year. She continued with her studies through the summer quarter of 1933 whereupon a "Limited Rural Certificate" to teach was granted August 27th 1933.

In the next school year beginning in the fall of 1933, Margaret began teaching in rural Washington County, Colorado at the South Buena Vista School, Dist. 58,⁴² northwest of Akron just north of Fremont Butte. She taught nine students, every student in a different grade except for two first graders. Classes for all students included Reading, Arithmetic, Language, History, Spelling, Penmanship, Drawing, and Physiology. Geography was taught to the 4th and 6th grade students only.

In the fall of 1934 she began teaching at Pleasant Hill school⁴³ (Dist. 42) "often called the Johnson school" at that time. It was located east of "The Buttes" (Fremont Butte, 11.7 miles northwest of Akron) with the Harry Johnson home was just a half mile east. "There was an old pump organ in the school and I really loved playing it; we had singing every morning", she wrote in her short essay, "My Years of Teaching", for the book *Washington County History* (Vol. 1) published in 1989. She taught at this school for three years.

She wrote of the dust bowl years: "It was in the latter part of 1934 and 1935 that the dust storms were the worst. The most terrible of these storms came one afternoon (I don't remember the date). We could see a huge black cloud rolling in from the northwest. When it came roaring over us, the schoolroom became dark and the smell of dust was heavy in the air. The parents came and got their children. I drove the McDonald girls to their home which was on my way to town. I could not see the road, and all the way to town I kept squarely in the middle between the fence posts, which I could just barely see on each side. I did make it into town all right, but will always remember this frightening experience."

In the summer 1936 she was married to Coyne Cooley but she continued with her teaching career. Her third and final year in the Pleasant Hill School began in the fall of 1936.⁴⁴ In her words, "As a contrast to the previous year, there were several heavy snow storms in the school year 1936-1937. Many times snow drifts blocked sections of the road, and I had to take to the fields and pastures, opening gates and, in one instance, taking down the fence, and then of course, stopping again to close gates and put the fence back up. It was a joy one day late in the winter of 1937 when I saw the first fleecy white clouds in the sky and knew that spring was on the way."

For the 1937-1938 school year she transferred to Center School (Dist. 21) north of Platner (8 miles east of Akron). She taught there for just one term. In the 1938-1939 school year she taught at Pleasant School (Dist. 15) southeast of Platner⁴⁵ for just one term after which she had her first child, Daniel Berton Cooley, requiring a pause in her career.

Marriage

On June 21st 1936, Margaret and Clifford Coyne Cooley, son of Robert Berton Cooley and Carrie Louella Miller, were married at the Presbyterian manse in Akron by Reverend G. Grey Dashen. They were attended by Eleanor Newcomb of Melba, Idaho, and Robert Miller Cooley, brother of the groom. After the ceremony the newlyweds, accompanied by the groom's parents, left for a honeymoon trip to Niagara Falls. They returned July 6th 1936 to begin residence in the Rena Lewis Apartments at 5th Ave and Genoa St (Main St) in Akron.

The War Years

Beginning in June of 1939 she took a six-year hiatus from teaching due to the duties of motherhood and the demands of World War II. Coyne and Margaret's first child, a son, Daniel Berton, was born 25 Oct 1939 in the Anderson home in west Akron at present 581 Fremont St. (refurbished and still standing in 2007). Their second child, a daughter, Catherine Lou, was born 14 Nov 1943, also in the Anderson Home.

They were still residing in the Lewis Apartments when Daniel was born but shortly after his birth they acquired from J.B. Fisher the property known as "Lot Three in Block Three of the First Addition of Akron, Colorado". E.E. Hickman was contracted to build a Cape Cod-style house on the lot and its construction was accomplished solely by Hickman himself at a cost of \$2000. The designated address of this dwelling was 243 Geneva St.⁴⁶ See Fig 9.

On April 1st 1940 they acquired the north half of Lot 4 (adjoining Lot 3 to the south) thereby increasing their frontage to 75 feet. An addition to the original dwelling was built in 1958 extending into the middle portion of the half lot; the cost, \$3000.



Fig 9. Lot Three, Block 3, First Addition. Above before 1939, below completed house, new address 233 Geneva

Teaching Career Resumed

On Sept 1st 1947 Margaret renewed her Teacher's Contract with the Washington County District 16 Board of Directors for the period beginning Sep 1st 1947 and ending 180 days later. Her salary was \$150 per month. She was required to teach the four upper grades, 5-6-7-8 and "to supervise school grounds at all times".⁴⁷

1947-1948 would be last school year in Margaret's teaching career. On May 14th 1948 her Platner class along with the eighth grade classes from Curtis⁴⁸, Union Center,⁴⁹ and Sunshine⁵⁰ were graduated in an eighth grade commencement program at the Platner School at which she provided musical accompaniment. Donna Mountain gave the valedictory address. As special entertainment Margaret and Marjorie Schmidt played the musical piece "Two Guitars"...as a piano duet.

Community Activities

For many years Margaret was a member of the Fortnightly Club⁵¹ of Akron, Colorado. She was president 1952-1953 and again 1965-1966. In 1966-1967 she was Parliamentarian and a Program Committee member.

Margaret gave piano lessons in the 50s through the 80s and she provided piano accompaniment to many music students in their instrument solo endeavors (including her son, Danny, who played, among other pieces, the trumpet solo "Willow Echoes", on his baritone horn).



Fig 10. Margaret, piano, accompanies Stanley Asbury on the trumpet. Undated photo, probably about 1960

She was often called upon to play for funerals and other church functions at the Presbyterian Church. She also played for church Sunday services on occasion when her cousin-in-law, Viola Cooley, the designated church organist and musician, was unable to do so. She was a member of the church choir, faithfully singing every Sunday morning

Books and Writing

Margaret had a life-long enthusiasm for books and writing. She served as librarian at the Akron Public Library from 1970 until her death in 1987. She fervently believed that the community should become more involved with books and their local library; she wrote the weekly newspaper column "From Off the Shelves" for the local newspaper, the *Akron News Reporter*. See a moving tribute to Margaret "A small town librarian" by Michele Parish-Pexler in Appendix I.

Because of a limited town budget, Margaret would often purchase books for the library from a Denver book supplier with her own funds, minus the 33% public library discount. She even purchased a book for the library

from the beatnik *City Lights Books* in San Francisco during a visit there. Alas, *City Lights* gave her no discount.

In 1976 she applied for and received a grant from the State of Colorado to engage in a *Bicentennial-Centennial⁵² Oral History Project⁵³* whose goal was to preserve valuable history that would otherwise be lost to the next generation (see Appendix II). Various Washington County residents were interviewed and the interviewees life, work, remembrances, anecdotes and personal feelings about his/her years, especially spent in Washington County, were recorded onto cassette tape. Many valuable tapes were recorded and are available at the Akron Library for anyone researching the county and its residents.



Akron Public Library, Main and 3rd

Turning her own hand to writing, she joined the Grass Roots Writers group and wrote a short story, "*A Day in the Life of Mrs. Whatsername*". She submitted it to several publishing houses including the *New Yorker* but was unsuccessful in getting it published. She did receive some valuable criticism from the *Denver Quarterly* ("...the strong, touching conflict that appears at the end of the story should be introduced earlier...") and, with a little touching up, it is quite likely that she would have succeeded in getting the story published.

Margaret Sears' life comes to an end

Seven years after her husband, Margaret died Sunday, 18 Jan 1987, at Washington County Hospital from complications related to lung cancer. She was 74 years old. She is interred at the Akron Cemetery in the same plot with her husband. Her brother and parents are buried close-by.



Appendix I

A small town librarian

By Michele Parish-Pexler

Soon after we moved to Akron nearly seven years ago, I walked across the street to the Akron Public Library to sign up for a library card. That's when I first met Margaret Cooley. Margaret was warm and friendly, and the library seemed a haven in a strange new community. For a person who loves books, a library can be a comfort indeed, especially if you are made welcome there. I began to appreciate the saying that a good book is like an old friend.

Margaret often put aside books she thought I would enjoy and asked for my opinion of the ones I read. Occasionally, she would order books from the Bookmobile she thought I would like.

Margaret often donated her own books to the library and got me in the habit of bringing over books I was finished with. With a limited budget for new books, that was one way she could add new titles. I liked her idea of letting other people enjoy my "old friends" rather than having them collect dust on my overcrowded shelves.

Margaret became the new librarian in Akron in 1970 after doing quite a bit of substituting. After 16 years, she knew where almost every book in the place was shelved. She didn't have to rely on the card catalog like the rest of us. As her eyesight became weaker, Margaret became more aware of the need for large-print books. She began borrowing increasing numbers of large-print books from the Bookmobile, mostly romances, mysteries and westerns.

This past year, she added a large number of large-print novels to our permanent collection. These books have a large number of users. Several years ago when I started writing my first book, I shared with Margaret my exhilaration and discouragement - the agony and ecstasy of a seemingly impossible project.

She shyly confessed that she was "closet" writer too. I invited her to visit my writers' group in Yuma and, to my surprise, she accepted. For the past several years, we drove there together. In our group, the writers read samples of our work and then everyone responds with constructive criticism. Margaret usually had a helpful comment or a humorous, encouraging remark.

I loved Margaret's writing, especially her delightful short story about being a small-town librarian, and another that captured the awkwardness and bitter-sweet feel of a teenage romance about to break up. I looked forward to the drive to Yuma and back. Margaret would tell me about growing up in Akron, teaching school, attending newspaper conventions. She was very proud of her newspaper column, 'From Off the Shelves.' And, of course, we argued about literature and current events and solved the problems of the world, as writers tend to do.

She told me some of her dreams for the library and projects she wanted to get done. It was a pleasure for me this fall when Margaret asked me to help with the library because "we both love books" and right she was, it's been a delight. When I'm working in the library, I think of Margaret often. I wish she could have seen that large photo of the Akron Library in the Denver paper last week -- how pleased she would have been.

A small-town librarian has the privilege of touching many lives each week as people come in for entertainment or information - toddlers to nursing-home residents - and a stray newcomer or two who find in the library a welcome to a new community.

Thank you, Margaret. God bless.

Note: This was taken from a newspaper clipping (the *Akron News-Reporter*) with no date or other identifying information.

Appendix II

Bicentennial-Centennial Oral History Project

Margaret applied for and won a grant to conduct and record Washington County Colorado oral histories. She recorded many cassette tapes which are currently stored in the Akron Public Library in poor condition (the tapes need to be digitized and the sound cleaned up).

Akron Public Library
Bicentennial-Centennial
Oral History Project

Dear

Akron Public Library has been extremely fortunate in recently receiving a grant of money to record Washington County history. This has enabled the library to buy two cassette tape recorders and related materials in order to preserve much valuable history that would otherwise be lost to the next generation.

We feel that our library should have a part in the Bicentennial-Centennial activities being carried out in Washington county, and the oral history program seems a most appropriate project for this special period of celebration in our history.

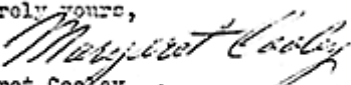
You have been selected as a person who has had an important part in making our county what it is today. One of the people working on the project will call you during the next few weeks to answer questions you might have and to make an appointment for the interview.

The purpose of the interview is to record your life, your work, your memories, anecdotes, and personal feelings about the years you have lived, especially those in Washington County. You will merely carry on a friendly conversation with the person in charge, so you will need no particular preparation.

After the tape recording is made, it will be transcribed into a written manuscript and, along with the tape, will be placed in Akron Public Library to be used by anyone doing research about the county.

All of us working together in Washington County can make this a most worthwhile project and we hope you will take a small portion of your time to give us history that might otherwise never be recorded.

Sincerely yours,


Margaret Cooley
Librarian, Akron Public Library
and Project Director

Endnotes

¹ State of Colorado Birth Record 236 #19 nr 91

STATE OF COLORADO
Office of the Local Registrar of Vital Statistics
Washington County, Colorado
CERTIFIED COPY OF BIRTH RECORD

(THIS COPY IS NOT VALID IF IT DOES NOT BEAR THE SEAL OF THE LOCAL REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS)

NAME OF CHILD Clayton COOLEY		SEX Male	
PLACE OF BIRTH Oats, Washington County, Colorado		DATE OF BIRTH July 15, 1912	
NAME OF FATHER Robert Berton Cooley	AGE 36	NAME OF MOTHER Carrie Louella Miller	AGE 29
DATE OF BIRTH FILED August 24, 1913		LOCAL REGISTERING AGENCY Dist. 236 #19	

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION SET FORTH ABOVE WAS CORRECTLY COPIED FROM THE RECORD OF BIRTH IN MY CUSTODY AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

WITNESSED BY HAND AND SEAL
THIS 20th DAY OF December, 1969

James M. Howard
LOCAL REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS
REGISTRATION DISTRICT NUMBER 236 & 237
Akron, Washington County, Colorado

NO. 91
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AD 85 106 (REV. 11-09-100)

² State of Colorado Death certificate, Dist 237-25

STATE OF COLORADO
Office of the Local Registrar of Vital Statistics
Washington County, Colorado
CERTIFIED COPY OF DEATH RECORD

DECEASED - NAME FIRST MIDDLE LAST Clifford Coyne COOLEY		SEX Male	DATE OF DEATH MONTH DAY YEAR December 5, 1979
RACE AND COLOR White		CITY OF BIRTH Washington	
MARRIAGE HISTORY Widow		DATE OF BIRTH July 15, 1912	
CITY, TOWN OR LOCATION OF DEATH Akron		HOSPITAL OR OTHER INSTITUTION - Name of hospital and street address Washington County Public Hospital	
STATE OF BIRTH Colorado		PLACE OF DEATH Inpatient	
CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY USA		MARRIED, NEVER MARRIED, DIVORCED, WIDOWED, SEPARATED Married	
SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER 523-09-7502		SURVIVING SPOUSE (if any, give name) Margaret M. Sears	
RESIDENCE - STATE COUNTY Colorado Washington		PROF OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY Journalist	
FATHER - NAME FIRST MIDDLE LAST Robert Berton Cooley		MOTHER - NAME FIRST MIDDLE LAST Carrie Louella Miller	
INFORMANT - NAME Mrs. Margaret Cooley		MARRIAGE HISTORY Widow	
Mailing Address Street or R.F.D. No. 219 Bent Ave.		CITY OR TOWN STATE ZIP Akron Colorado 80720	

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION SET FORTH ABOVE WAS CORRECTLY COPIED FROM THE RECORD OF DEATH IN MY CUSTODY AS REQUIRED BY LAW. NOT VALID WITHOUT REGISTRAR'S SEALED SEAL.

WITNESSED BY HAND AND SEAL
THIS 9th DAY OF January, 19 80

James M. Howard
LOCAL REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS
REGISTRATION DISTRICT NUMBER 237-25
Akron, Washington County, Colorado

NOT VALID WITHOUT LOCAL REGISTRAR'S SEAL

COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AD RS 160 (REV. 1-78)

³ <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/70816562/clifford-coyne-cooley>

⁴ State of Colorado, County of Washington Marriage License nr 2129

NOTE: This is a MARRIAGE LICENSE - NOT A MARRIAGE CERTIFICATE. If it is not used, the person to whom it is delivered must return it to the County Clerk and Registrar who issued it within thirty days of its date. Any person who fails to do so shall be liable to a fine.

MARRIAGE LICENSE

The State of Colorado No. 2129
County of Washington

Know all Men by this Certificate: That any regularly ordained Minister of the Gospel, authorized by the rules and usages of the Church or denomination of Christians, Hebrews, or religious body of which he may be a member, or any Judge or Justice of the Peace, to whom this may come, he not knowing of any lawful impediment therein, is hereby authorized and empowered to solemnize the rites of Matrimony between

Coyne Cooley of *Akron*
in the County of *Washington* in the State of *Colorado*

Previously married? *No* Wife deceased? *No* Divorced? *No*

And *Mrs. Margaret M. Sears* of *Akron*
in the County of *Washington* in the State of *Colorado*

Previously married? *No* Husband deceased? *No* Divorced? *No*

and to certify the same to said parties, or either of them, under his hand and seal, in his ministerial or official capacity, and thereupon he is hereby required to return his Certificate in form following as hereinafter annexed.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Seal of the said County, at Akron, Colorado, this *9th* day of *January*, A. D. 19*80*, at the hour of *3:25 P.M.*

Uwea. Coyle
County Clerk

By _____ Deputy

5 State of Colorado birth certificate 237 #8 nr 90

STATE OF COLORADO
Office of the Local Registrar of Vital Statistics
Washington County, Colorado
CERTIFIED COPY OF BIRTH RECORD

(This copy is not valid if it does not bear the seal of the local registrar of vital statistics)

NAME OF CHILD Margaret May SEARS	SEX Female
PLACE OF BIRTH Akron, Washington County, Colorado	DATE OF BIRTH May 23, 1912
NAME OF FATHER Nelson D. Sears	AGE 36
PLACE OF BIRTH Piano, Illinois	DATE OF BIRTH May 23, 1912
NAME OF MOTHER Edna M. Barnhouse	AGE 34
PLACE OF BIRTH Meadowville, Ohio	LOCAL REGISTRATION NUMBER Dist. 237 #8
DATE RECORD FILED April 1, 1939	

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THE INFORMATION SET FORTH ABOVE WAS CORRECTLY COPIED FROM THE RECORD OF BIRTH IN MY OFFICE AS REQUIRED BY LAW.

WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL
THIS 29th day of December, 1969

E. Brittain
LOCAL REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS
REGISTRATION DISTRICT NUMBER 237 & 237
Akron, Washington County, Colorado

NO. 90
COLORADO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AD RS 156 (REV. 11-28-100)

6 State of Colorado, Certificate of Death, State File nr 87001682

CERTIFICATION OF VITAL RECORD
STATE OF COLORADO
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

237-1 87001682

DECEASED NAME MARGARET MAY COOLEY	SEX Female	DATE OF BIRTH January 16, 1907
PLACE OF BIRTH Volts, Adams, Colo.	AGE 71	DATE OF DEATH May 5, 1978
PLACE OF DEATH Akron	LOCAL REGISTRATION NUMBER Washington County Public Hospital - Inpatient	
DATE OF DEATH May 5, 1978	PLACE OF DEATH Akron	
NAME OF FATHER Nelson D. Sears	AGE 36	PLACE OF BIRTH Piano, Illinois
NAME OF MOTHER Edna M. Barnhouse	AGE 34	PLACE OF BIRTH Meadowville, Ohio
DATE RECORD FILED April 1, 1939		

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS IS A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY OF THE OFFICIAL RECORD WHICH IS IN MY CUSTODY.

DATE ISSUED DEC 21 1998

Carl J. Stewart
LOCAL REGISTRAR

7 <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/70816564/margaret-may-cooley>

8 State of Colorado, County of Washington, certified copy of birth record, Dist 237-36 nr 67

STATE OF COLORADO
Office of the Local Registrar of Vital Statistics
Washington County, Colorado
CERTIFIED COPY OF BIRTH RECORD

(This copy is not valid if it does not bear the sealed seal of the local registrar of vital statistics. Any reproduction or alteration of this copy is prohibited.)

NAME OF CHILD DANIEL BENTON COOLEY	SEX Male
PLACE OF BIRTH Akron, Washington County, Colorado	DATE OF BIRTH October 25th, 1939
NAME OF FATHER Coyne Cooley	AGE 27yrs
PLACE OF BIRTH Coyne, Colorado	DATE OF BIRTH 1912
NAME OF MOTHER Margaret Mae Sears	AGE 27yrs
PLACE OF BIRTH Akron, Colorado	LOCAL REGISTRATION NUMBER 237-36
DATE RECORD FILED November 6th, 1939	

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE THE OFFICE OF LOCAL REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS IN WASHINGTON COUNTY, COLORADO, AND HAVE CAREFULLY EXAMINED THE BIRTH RECORD APPLICABLE TO THE COPY OF THIS RECORD AND THAT THE INFORMATION SET FORTH ABOVE WAS CORRECTLY COPIED FROM THE RECORD OF BIRTH IN MY OFFICE.

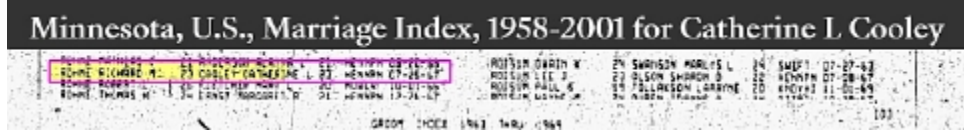
WITNESS MY HAND AND SEAL OF LOCAL REGISTRAR
ON THIS 1st day of October, 1969

Carl J. Stewart
LOCAL REGISTRAR OF VITAL STATISTICS
REGISTRATION DISTRICT NUMBER 237
Akron, Washington County, Colorado

NO. 67
AD 156 (1-24-100)

⁹ Author Daniel Berton Cooley knowledge of his immediate family

¹⁰ Minnesota Center for Health Statistics, Office of the State Registrar. Minnesota Marriage Index, 1958-1995.



¹¹ Colorado Divorce Index, 1851-1985, database, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc. Provo, UT, USA, 2015

¹² Author Daniel Berton Cooley knowledge of his immediate family

¹³ Ibid

¹⁴ b. 5 Oct 1942 in Hamilton, Ravalli Co, Montana (Montana Dept of Public Health and Human Services, Helena; Montana Birth Records 1919-1986)

¹⁵ LDS film nr 001939871; 21 Aug 1971

¹⁶ b. 12 Oct 1951 in probably Barnstable County, Mass ("U.S. Public Records 1970-2009" FamilySearch database)

¹⁷ Daniel Berton Cooley witness, gave sister away at Seaman's Bethel in New Bedford

¹⁸ Gregory Arthur Villarosa, b. 13 Aug 1959 in Ridgewood, Bergen County, New Jersey (.S. Public Records Index, Volume 1 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010)

¹⁹ New Jersey Archives certificate nr 0030439

²⁰ Estimated birth year 1947 in probably North Carolina (U.S. Public Records Index, Volume 1 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010)

²¹ Author Daniel Berton Cooley knowledge of his immediate family

²² Much of this material was obtained from Orville Dale Cooley's paper entitled "The Story of the R.B. Cooley Family in Washington County"

²³ Orville Dale (1903-1994), Ronald Delos, cousin (1906-1980), Merton Beth, cousin (1907-1992), Clifford Coyne (1912-1979), and Robert Miller (1914-1992)

²⁴ A printer's devil was an apprentice in a printing establishment who performed a number of tasks, such as mixing tubs of ink and fetching type. A number of famous men served as printers' devils in their youth, including Ambrose Bierce, Benjamin Franklin, Samuel Fuller, Thomas Jefferson, Walt Whitman, Mark Twain, Joel Chandler Harris, Warren Harding, John Kellogg, and Lyndon Johnson.

²⁵ A hellbox is a receptacle where cast metal sorts are thrown after printing. The job of sorting the type from the hellbox and putting it back into the job case was given to the apprentice, known as a printer's devil. Later, when continuous casting or hot-metal typesetting machines such as the Linotype machine and Monotype became popular, the hellbox was used for storing discarded or broken type that were melted down and recast.

²⁶ *Colorado Editor*, publication of the Colorado Press Association, February 1967; "84th CPA President, Coyne Cooley, Akron News-Reporter."

²⁷ The Linotype machine (LINE-ə-type) was a "line casting" machine used in printing sold by the Mergenthaler Linotype Company, Brooklyn NY, and related companies. It was a hot metal typesetting system that cast blocks of metal type for individual uses. Linotype became one of the mainstay methods to set type, especially small-size body text, for newspapers, magazines, and posters from the late 19th century to the 1970s-80s when it was largely replaced by phototypesetting and computer typesetting. The Linotype machine used asbestos insulation extensively and the Mergenthaler Company was sued by its employees in 1972 for asbestos poisoning. As of 2019, 10 lawsuits are active against Mergenthaler. - Wikipedia

²⁸ Original photo (Image:Linotype-vorne-deutsches-museum.jpg by Clemens Pfeiffer, Vienna with annotations by Paul Koning. <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=3196232>)

²⁹ *Colorado Editor*, publication of the Colorado Press Association, February 1967; "84th CPA President, Coyne Cooley, Akron News-Reporter."

³⁰ The CU Department of Journalism was a unit of the Department of English until 1937 when it became a college within the College of Arts and Sciences.

³¹ Kappa Sigma Fraternity tradition holds that it evolved from an ancient order said to have been founded at the University of Bologna in the Middle Ages. According to some accounts, the order was known as "Kirjath Sepher" and was founded between 1395 and 1400. On December 10, 1869, five students at the University of Virginia met in 46 East Lawn and founded the Kappa Sigma Fraternity in America establishing the fraternity based on the traditions and of the ancient order in Bologna. These five founders became known as the "Five Friends and Brothers".

32 On May 6, 1909 at DePauw University at Greencastle, Ind., ten student-journalists formed Sigma Delta Chi, a journalism fraternity. The founders decided at the outset that the fraternity should be honorary, as distinguished from the usual pattern of social Greek-letter fraternities. The idea was to support a truthful, honorable press, one not dominated by commercialism. By planting journalistic ideals in student newspapermen they could make great strides towards their goal. The organization officially changed its name to the Society of Professional Journalists in 1988 with headquarters in Indianapolis, Ind.

33 Marriage License

34 The Lewis Apartments was located on the second floor of a very large house at 5th and Main. This house was converted to the Victory Hospital shortly after WWII and remained Akron's hospital until a new hospital to the south in the same block was built in the fifties. Incredibly, the house was moved fully intact to a location two miles south of Akron and remains there to this day (2011).



35 Author Daniel Berton Cooley knowledge of his immediate family

36 Ibid

37 Ibid

38 State of Colorado Death Record 237-25

³⁹ State of Colorado birth certificate 237 #8 nr 90

⁴⁰ This material was taken from Margaret's brief autobiography entitled "My Story", a hand-written paper starting with "Margaret Mae Sears was born...", "Senior Memory Book" 1930, and other notes and letters

⁴¹ Much of this material was taken from a paper entitled "My years of teaching at South Buena Vista and Pleasant Hill schools (by Margaret Sears Cooley), a hand-written paper "Write some names of students at different schools", "My Years of Teaching" for the book *Washington County History (Vol. 1)*, various Washington County Teacher's Contracts, a Colorado Teacher's Certificate (1936), and various State and County teacher's permits during the ever-changing conditions of World War II.

⁴² District 58 comprised the North Buena Vista school 12½ mi N, 2½ mi W of Akron and just the Buena Vista school the southerly school in the district better known as South Buena Vista school, 7 mi N, 6 mi W of Akron, roughly 1 mi north of Fremont Butte.

⁴³ District 42 comprised the Butte School 5 mi N, 7 mi W of Akron (1 ¾ W, 1 S of Fremont Butte) and Pleasant Hill, Dist 42, 6 mi N, 4 mi W of Akron. There were several "Pleasant Hill" schools scattered throughout the county so each must be identified by its district.

⁴⁴ On April 25, 1936 she was issued a State of Colorado Teacher's Certificate entitling her to a certificate of the first grade [and] licensed to teach in the Public Schools in Colorado, any county, for three years.

⁴⁵ The Pleasant school was located 3½ miles southwest of Otis which placed it about the same distance southeast of Platner.

⁴⁶ Some 15 years later, the street names of Akron were changed with the north-south streets west of Main Street named after the counties of Colorado (Adams, Bent, etc.) and the north-south streets east of Main Street named after trees (Ash, Birch, etc.) East-west streets were numbered with the exception of the southern-most (Railroad) and the highway running through town (Highway 34) that would otherwise be 1st St.

⁴⁷ Margaret signed the Teacher's Contract with Dist. 16 on Sep 1st 1947 but apparently hadn't brought her Colorado Teacher's Certificate up to date. The next day, Sep 2nd 1947, she was issued a Colorado Special Emergency Certificate for Teaching having paid \$1 to the Colorado Dept of Education a few days earlier.

⁴⁸ Curtis District 29 was organized in 1893 about 10 miles north of Platner.

⁴⁹ Union Center District 62 was 13 miles north of Akron on Highway 63

⁵⁰ Sunshine District 41 was organized in 1907 and was located 2 miles east and 4½ miles north of Akron. The school operated from 1908 to 1960 when it was closed.

⁵¹ **Fortnightly** clubs were women's organizations with the object of the group being "mental culture and mutual helpfulness". Each meeting began with the reciting of a short prayer comprising an invocation, petition, and conclusion called the "Collect".

Mary Stewart wrote the Collect in 1904 as a member of the Longmont (Colorado) Fortnightly Club. It was written to instill a sense of unity among women working together with wide interests and important goals. The meeting had as its basis a general topic, e.g. Fine Arts, Civil Rights, Education, Conservation, etc. and for each general topic one member developed a specific program, e.g. for Fine Arts, "What Makes a Masterpiece" or for Conservation, "What's Happening to Our Land?"

The original Fortnightly Club was established [in Columbia, Mo.] in October 1892 for [University of Missouri, Columbia] faculty wives for the dual purpose of providing "congenial associations for the wives of faculty members" and "building community resources and good will at the University."

Fortnightly clubs were affiliated with the General Federation of Women's Clubs (GFWC). The GFWC had its origins in 1890, when Sorosis, a women's literary club founded by journalist Jane Cunningham Croly, issued invitations to other women's literary clubs to form an organization with the goal of uniting "women's clubs to enhance community service by volunteers throughout the world."

⁵² It was the year of the United States of America Bicentennial and since the State of Colorado was admitted to the Union exactly 100 years after the Declaration of Independence, 1876, it was the state's Centennial celebration year.

⁵³ From an undated letter "Akron Public Library, Bicentennial-Centennial Oral History Project" see Appendix II