

Winston-Salem's Popular Policemen

The Twin City's Efficient Law - Enforcement Department--Its Early History and Development--Its Personnel.



JESSE JAMES COFER
Captain of Police of Winston-Salem

The strong but friendly face that is peering from this page of the Gold Leaf today is that of Jesse James Cofer, Captain of Police of Winston-Salem; veteran of the service, and all-round good citizen. Captain Cofer is a native of Forsyth, having been born in this county in 1864. When a young man he decided to leave the farm, moving to Winston in 1887. That was 44 years ago. Three years later Captain Cofer joined the local police department, a position he has held, almost uninterrupted, from that early time up to the present moment. Since then he has served as patrolman, sergeant and captain of police. During his connection with the city Mr. Cofer has served under eleven Mayors and six different Chiefs. Probably no officer, here or elsewhere, can boast of a cleaner record, or a more honorable career, than can Jim Cofer. For during all the years of his service to the city, he has never been called before the Board, or given a reprimand on any charge affecting his honor. Under the present plan of organization the city has two captains of police; Captain Cofer and Captain Whiteheart. The two captains are next in command to the Chief of Police and act in this capacity in the absence of their superior officer. At present Captain Cofer has the morning shift, taking up his daily duties at 6:30 each morning and retiring at

2:30 each afternoon. In addition to this, Captain Cofer serves as Municipal Court Clerk, attends to checking up prisoners and transporting to jail all those who receive sentences. The police stock-room is directly under his supervision, he being responsible for the safe keeping of all stolen goods coming into the possession of the department. Captain Cofer, also, has custody of all liquor seized, and is entrusted with the duty of destroying the "liquid fluid" when it has served its purpose as evidence. That this is no small task may be judged by the fact that local officers seized more than 5000 quarts of whiskey and it kindred products last year. All of which came into the hands of Captain Cofer, and was later poured out, as can be testified by the strong odor that daily prevades the north wing of the Municipal building. Captain Cofer is the oldest in the service, but not the oldest in age. His associates stating that despite his '67 summers' he still has "young ideas" and can be depended upon, in duty or pleasure, to "hold his own" with the best of them. Thousands of friends, here and abroad, will join the "Gold Leaf" in extending congratulations and best wishes to the veteran officer; hoping for him, many more years of faithful service, and that full measure of joy and contentment that is his by reason of his service