

ERWIN NELSON - SPEAKER
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Aunt Zoe, members of the family and friends, during the last few days as I have been thinking back over the years about Uncle Court's life, some lines from James Phillip Bailey keep running through my mind that read as follows:

"Life is more than breath and a quick round of blood; it is a quick spirit and a busy heart. The coward and the small in soul scarce do live. One generous felling, one great thought, one deed of good ere night would make life longer seem than if a year were numbered a thousand days. We live in deeds, ~~not~~ years, in thoughts, not breaths, in feelings, not in figures on the dial. We should count time by heart throbs. He most lives who thinks most, feels the noblest and acts the best."

There are few people, in deed, to whom this message can better apply than to Courtney B. Harris. Those of us who knew him best, realize that here was a man who had a great spirit and a busy heart. One who lived in deeds, in thoughts, in feelings. He was one who acted nobly and well, as Albert has pointed out. He personified the standards and the virtues which make life really worthwhile, and as a result, he was appreciated, admired and loved. He was modest, humble, retiring almost to a fault; so much so that generally he was hardly known. But while he was quite and unassuming, always putting himself in the background, he was outgoing to others, kind, thoughtful, gentle, considerate, forgiving. It is easy to understand why he was such a good neighbor, and why everyone who lived next to him, in fact, everyone who contacted him, regarded him as one of the most helpful persons they had known. Certainly

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anyone in need never failed to have his interest, his understanding and his help. Albert has mentioned, ^{referred} too, some of Court's experiences on the farm. I remember years ago when ~~he~~ as part of his extended farm operation, he used to come into our neighborhood to ~~thresh people's~~ grain. in the dust ~~and~~ of the shaft thrashing his neighbor's grain. I did not seem to matter to him whther the job was a small one which ~~He was always cheerful, accomodating and cooperative as he was rendering~~ would actually cost him money or a large one in which he could realize part of ~~a much needed service to a friend. His face would light up and countenance~~ expenses. He was always cheefful, accomodating and coöperative realizing ~~beam~~ he was rendering a much needed service to a fraënd. His face would light up and countenance beam as he worked in the dust and the shaft thrashing his neighbor's grain. The fee he was to be paid seemed to be the last thing in his mind, and it is my guess that there are ~~still~~ those who still owe him money, but to whom a bill was never rendered. But Uncle Court was more than a generous, kind, thoughtful neighbor as Albert pointed out, important as that is, he had great mental capacities and many skills. He traveled a great distance in his life. It is a long, hard way from a small farm in the west side of the valley to a prominent engineer in directing hundreds of men in construction projects in the largest city in the United States; but, that is the story of Courtney B. Harris. In his early years, he had to help his father earn the living for the family and therefore he was delayed in getting his education; but he had an inquiring mind, great thoughts in his heart and the patience to wait for things while he was training and working. So after graduating from high school, without the means to enter college, he studied at nights, as Albert has mentioned, and took correspondence classes. After a long, hard grind, without the help of college professors, he became a capable and registered engineer. When arrangements were made and he

became an engineer for the city of Los Angeles, it was a fortunate day for that great metropolis for his work was not only very extensive, but extremely important. In one or two instances, his services were just outstanding. Not only was he a technical engineer, but he was a leader of men. ~~He~~ had the skill and ability to direct them. He was loved and respected by those under him because he was one of them. He had not forgotten the hard years of his early manhood when he lived as one of the common men. When he retired a little over five years ago, there were regrets and disappointments in the entire organization of which he was a part. Yes, he was a man of great mental capacities and one who had skill in getting things done. Those of us who knew Aunt Zoe and Uncle Court well, we realize what a happy and united couple they were. They have certainly set a good example for the rest of us.