



Nebraska History posts materials online for your personal use. Please remember that the contents of *Nebraska History* are copyrighted by the Nebraska State Historical Society (except for materials credited to other institutions). The NSHS retains its copyrights even to materials it posts on the web.

For permission to re-use materials or for photo ordering information, please see:

<http://www.nebraskahistory.org/magazine/permission.htm>

Nebraska State Historical Society members receive four issues of *Nebraska History* and four issues of *Nebraska History News* annually. For membership information, see:

<http://nebraskahistory.org/admin/members/index.htm>

Article Title: “A Really Spectacular and Truly Named Desperado”; Pat Crowe and the Cudahy Kidnapping Case

Full Citation: Garneth Oldenkamp Peterson, “ ‘A Really Spectacular and Truly Named Desperado,’ Pat Crowe and the Cudahy Kidnapping Case” *Nebraska History* 57 (1976): 331-358.

URL of article: <http://www.nebraskahistory.org/publish/publicat/history/full-text/NH1976PatCrowe.pdf>

Date: 7/15/2015

Article Summary: On December 18, 1900, Pat Crowe and an associate kidnaped fifteen-year-old Edward A Cudahy, Jr., son of a wealthy Omaha meat packer, and held him for \$25,000 ransom. Edward’s father paid the ransom and the boy returned home, unharmed, early in the morning on December 20, about 30 hours after the kidnaping had occurred. Crowe outwitted both the police and the Pinkertons. It was not until October 2, 1905, that he was finally arrested in Butte, Montana. Since kidnaping had been an infrequent crime, Nebraska had no kidnaping statute. Because of this, Crowe was tried and acquitted on other charges. Although many professed outrage at the verdicts, Crowe had become something of a folk hero.

Cataloging Information:

Names: Pat Crowe, Edward A Cudahy Jr, Charley Ross, Mrs C B Rustin, J J Donahue, Melvin Sears, Andrew Gray, Frank Glynn, P J McGrath, B K Munshaw, James Schneiderwinds, James L Conner, John C Cowin, John Coad, Frank T Ransom, Joseph Goodrich, Mrs Bertha Mack, James Callahan, A H Jackson, J P English, A S Ritchie, W W Slabaugh, F W Fitch

Keywords: Glynn’s Livery Stable; the “Q Street gang”; *Pat Crowe—His Story, Confession and Reformation; Spreading Evil*

Photographs / Images: Photo of Edward A Cudahy Jr and his two sisters Eugenia and Helen about 1900; Edward A Cudahy; Pat Crowe; Cudahy mansion in Omaha; Omaha Chief of Police John J Donahue; South Omaha looking north at Twenty-fourth and M Streets; Appendix: The Ransom Note and Confession Letter to Father Murphy

**"A REALLY SPECTACULAR
AND TRULY NAMED DESPERADO";
PAT CROWE
AND THE CUDAHY KIDNAPPING CASE**

By Garneth Oldenkamp Peterson

The early years of the 20th century have been pictured as happy, lazy years, a time of simple and uncomplicated life. Among the idyllic recollections are band concerts in the square, bicycle rides on a tandem with a sweetheart, and afternoons spent cheering the local baseball team. But like all memories, the picture given us of the first decade of this century is distorted. A closer look at this period reveals facets often overlooked: One was the violence of everyday life. On December 22, 1900, the headlines of one newspaper's front page screamed: "In Cow Shed With Throat Cut," "School-girl Hangs Herself," "War Office Auditor Murdered," and even a single-paragraph article was headlined "Death and Burglary."¹ Such headlines were not exceptional, but daily occurrences, and their frequency seemed to point to an interest in crime by most readers. As the only important information agency, newspapers wielded great influence in 1900.

Omaha had three daily newspapers, which mirrored its expanding commerce and industry. Through Omaha, a railroad center since the 1870's, moved the agricultural products and manufactured goods of the Midwest. By the turn of the century, Omaha grew rapidly as great numbers of immigrants—Germans from Russia, Italians, Czechs, and others—moved into the city.²

Earlier immigrant groups—Irish, Germans, Scandinavians—found jobs in one of Omaha's major industries, such as in packing plants or on railroads. By 1900 urban growth produced class divisions between labor and management. Although workers were not fixed in a rigid class structure, only about one-quarter of them in 1900 could hope to advance to white-collar status.³ Within the previous twenty-five years, men such as John D. Rockefeller and Andrew Carnegie built their fortunes and earned for themselves the title of "robber barons." As frontier cities of the West attracted industry and gained an urban character, the process of division into owner and worker continued.

Omaha's transportation and meat packing industries brought in transients and some unsavory characters. With the number of people moving in and out of the city, the incidence of crime increased. On the night of December 18, 1900, a crime took place that shocked Omaha and raised interest across the United States. A ne'er-do-well named Pat Crowe and an associate kidnapped Edward A. Cudahy, Jr., son of a wealthy Omaha meat packer, and held him for \$25,000 ransom. This crime had a greater impact on the average citizen than did most crimes because it evoked sympathy for a boy of 15 snatched from his family by criminals.

Prior to the kidnapping, Pat Crowe already had behind him a string of crimes and flamboyant escapes with one characteristic to all of them: his steady nerve under pressure. He had started in the butcher business in 1886 at age 17, after coming to Omaha from his parents' farm near Vail, Iowa. Crowe and his business partner, Cavanagh, allowed their working class customers to fall behind in their bills. Their little butcher shop closed when it could not survive competition from a Cudahy retail outlet. Crowe vowed to make the wealthy Cudahy "pay for this, some day, and pay well!"⁴

Not yet 20 years old, Pat ended up working in the Cudahy retail store. He quickly discovered how easy it was to "borrow" money from the till, a habit which cost him the job. From that time on Pat and crime were companions. Intending to start another butcher shop in Davenport, Iowa, Pat went to Chicago to buy tools. His trip ended in a brothel; when he awoke the next day and found his \$750 gone, he retaliated by robbing the madame of a sum greater than he lost. He continued in crime in

Denver and Kansas City, stealing diamonds worth \$6,000. By 1892, Crowe relocated in Philadelphia, where he first heard about the unsolved kidnapping of Charley Ross. New York City police had convinced young Ross' father to withhold the ransom and allow the police to find the boy. Crowe spent a profitable summer in Philadelphia and in New Jersey seaside resorts robbing summer guests, but the Ross story continued to intrigue him. He vowed to gain revenge on Edward Cudahy, although revenge was probably secondary to profit by this time. Pat returned to the Midwest but did not implement the long-considered plan until 1900.⁵

On the evening of December 18, young Eddie Cudahy left his home at 518 South 37th Street to return some books to Mrs. C. B. Rustin at her home three blocks away. When Edward Cudahy and his wife returned from an evening with friends about 10 o'clock, they expressed surprise that their son had not yet returned. Cudahy was dismayed to learn from the Rustins that Eddie had left for home promptly after delivering the books. Worry increased when Eddie's collie dog returned home alone. This indicated the boy must have left the neighborhood in a street car or other vehicle, for the dog always waited outside a house if his master stopped. Cudahy called in the police at 12 o'clock midnight, whereupon Chief of Police J. J. Donahue decided Eddie had been kidnapped. Melville Sears, Cudahy attorney, organized search parties and alerted hospitals and railroad stations to watch for the boy. Cudahy told police to "spare no expense in their quest"; he telegraphed to Chicago requesting the aid of Pinkerton detectives.⁶

Various theories on Eddie's whereabouts arose. The *Omaha Evening World-Herald* described Cudahy as a "quiet, industrious boy of the best habits," and Edward Cudahy believed his son would "never cause his mother so much trouble by straying away without his consent." The police put Eddie's friends under surveillance. One boy had been seen at 56th and Center Streets, "the extreme limits of the city." The previous evening, a companion, presumably Eddie, had been seen with him. This heightened concern because "places of bad repute" were located in that area.⁷

The kidnapping theory proved true on the morning of the 19th when Andrew Gray, a Cudahy coachman, found a ransom note on the family lawn. Shortly thereafter Cudahy received a phone



Edward A. Cudahy, Jr. and his two sisters, Eugenia and Helen, about the time of the kidnaping. Courtesy of the Omaha World-Herald.

call from a man who asked if the note had been found. Cudahy had the call traced to Glynn's Livery Stable on Leavenworth Street. The police failed to apprehend the caller, but Frank Glynn described the caller and the bay pony he rode.⁸ The police allowed only a small portion of the note to appear in the newspapers: "Mr. E. A. Cudahy: Your son is safe. We have him and will take good care of him, and will return him to you in consideration of the payment of \$25,000. We mean business. Jack."⁹ The full note described the location for delivery of the ransom and contained a threat to blind Eddie with acid if the directions went unheeded. Written so as to "harrow the feelings of his parents," the note recalled the unsolved case of Charley Ross and threatened the same fate for Eddie if money demands were not met.¹⁰ (See Appendix I.)

In retrospect, one of the most interesting aspects of the case concerned its newspaper treatment. The *Omaha Daily News* gave the "straightest" report, running the story in Column 1, page 1, with a conservative headline. The *Omaha Daily Bee* ran a one-column story, although the *Bee* generally supplied more information than the *News*. The *Evening World-Herald*, the most zealous, frequently placed stories in both the right and left hand columns with extra large headlines. Throughout the case, the *World-Herald*, obviously setting out to sell papers, printed every rumor, clue, and related incident.¹¹

The suspense over the kidnapping did not last long. By December 20 Eddie had been returned home safely. The *World-Herald* announced in headlines that the kidnapping resembled "A Thrilling Novel" and that Eddie had been "Seized, Bound and Chained to Floor of Cottage." Eddie's description of his captivity sounded tame in comparison to the headline. As the one who "apparently suffered least from this terrible experience," Eddie appeared to the *World-Herald* reporters as "happy withal and . . . perfectly enjoying the sensation of which he [was] the *piece de resistance*."¹²

Eddie had returned home shortly after 1 o'clock a.m. December 20, approximately thirty hours after the kidnapping occurred. He explained that he had been walking home from the Rustins when two men approached him. Posing as sheriffs from "Saysy County" [*sic*], they accused him of being "Eddie McGee," an escaped reform school inmate who had stolen money from his aunt. Although Eddie protested that his name

was Cudahy, the two would not let him go, claiming he had to be identified by the sheriff. The three traveled south by buggy on 37th Street until they reached Leavenworth Street, where Eddie saw a street car whose conductor could identify him. Eddie told this to his captors, who immediately blindfolded the boy and turned west on Leavenworth. They traveled variously on rough roads and paved roads until Eddie surmised they were in South Omaha. He pointed out that "two or three whiffs from the packing house district . . . assured me that my conjuncture was correct."¹³

The group soon arrived at the captivity house, where the two men led Eddie up rickety stairs to a room with no furniture. His captors fastened leg irons on his ankles to keep him from escaping. Eddie said he lay down for about five hours and attempted to sleep, but his "nerves were too badly shattered to permit of it." He was given coffee and crackers by a guard who was "drinking heavily." Eddie said the guard became garrulous after six or seven hours, and that "his talk rambled, though whether from drink or design I could not say."¹⁴

The guard spoke with a strong Irish brogue, and from his conversation Eddie gathered that six men made up the gang. One man who came from Mexico and Denver was "an expert in the kidnapping business." The guard said his partners really wanted to kidnap Eddie's sisters, but were unsuccessful and settled for the boy. On Wednesday the guard became angry when a partner who had gone to pick up the ransom returned with \$5,000, pleading that he fell in a creek and lost \$20,000. Soon afterward the men brought Eddie to 36th and Leavenworth, where his guard threatened to shoot his partner if the money was not divided fairly. After removing his blindfold Eddie ran home.¹⁵

Meanwhile, Edward Cudahy had been making plans to comply with the instructions in the note. Chief Donahue and the Cudahy attorneys urged him not to meet the demands, because the kidnapers might fail to return Eddie even if they had the money. But Cudahy felt "confident the men meant business,"¹⁶ and that afternoon sent Melville Sears to the Omaha National Bank for \$25,000 in gold. Placed in a bank grip inside a white wheat sack, the money was taken five miles out on West Center Road at 7 p.m. A lantern tied with black and white ribbons marked the drop-off point.¹⁷ Although Cudahy did not mention

it at first, he later admitted he was not alone as specified. He was accompanied by P. J. McGrath, a livestock buyer at the South Omaha packing plant.¹⁸ Cudahy enclosed the ransom note with the money as the kidnapers had demanded, and a letter of his own in which he "called attention to the fact that [he] had complied with their requests and demands to the very letter, and . . . expected them to keep their part of the bargain." The two returned home about 9:30 p.m. Cudahy suggested that the two police officers on duty at the house stay out of sight to avoid scaring off any messengers or persons returning Eddie. The officers adjourned to the barn behind the house and missed the excitement, not realizing Eddie returned until Cudahy told them at 1:15 a.m.¹⁹

Newspapers reported some interesting contradictions on December 20-21. Attorney Melville Sears stated there was "absolutely no truth in the story that he [Cudahy] drove out of the city last night in a carriage with a red light attached to it and paid the ransom." Cudahy's story appeared immediately below that interview, recounting his trip and the fact that he did pay the ransom. The account left Sears red-faced, and the next day he explained that he knew of the ransom payment but not that the story could be made public. Another discrepancy concerned Mrs. Cudahy's opinion of the police. She doubted "whether the police are not in standing with the criminals." The report claimed the captors were informed of police action and so informed Eddie. Mrs. Cudahy supposedly stated she would "like to see them [the criminals] hung and would willingly help pull on the rope." Edward Cudahy, discounting such fiery statements, said, "[Mrs. Cudahy believes] nothing of the kind. There are some features of journalism that ought to be discouraged, and the one on which this assertion is based is one of them."²⁰

In their attempts to capitalize on the Cudahy story, the newspapers built up rivalries. The *News* reported that Chief Donahue knew the criminals involved and could "put them under arrest at any time if Mr. Cudahy wishes." The *Bee* followed with a statement from Chief Donahue calling the *News* report "absolutely false." Cudahy felt it his "duty to prosecute the scoundrels to the fullest extent of the law," and on December 21, offered \$5,000 for the arrest and conviction of any one of the kidnapers, \$15,000 for two, and \$25,000 for three—if indeed three men were involved in the case. Cudahy promised he would



Edward A. Cudahy



Pat Crowe

leave "no stone unturned" in his efforts to "make things too hot for them around here."²¹

The *World-Herald* and the *News* reported that the police sought Pat Crowe because "a reputable citizen" who knew Crowe remembered that Pat had discussed kidnapping a child of wealthy parents and demanding ransom. Because the citizen did not know the contents of the ransom note, the informant's tip pointed to Crowe. Police continued searching for the house in South Omaha where Eddie had been held, and the horse and buggy used to transport him. After locating the house they planned to secure descriptions from neighbors of any strangers seen in the area. Chief Donahue explained why police did not lie in wait for the thieves near the lantern in the country. They believed capture of the kidnapers only a secondary goal, the first being Eddie's safe return. Donahue further stated that the police department did "nothing that was not in compliance with Mr. Cudahy's wishes," and felt Cudahy judged wisely in paying the ransom. Chicago police did not agree, charging Cudahy with setting a "dangerous precedent," and predicting "a series of sensational kidnapping cases" would follow. They contended that eventually "rich men will have to employ servants to act as bodyguards for their young ones." This fear was evident in Omaha, and several wealthy families did hire private detectives.²²

On December 22 a search party located the captivity house in a "lonesome locality" at 3604 Grover Street in South Omaha. Eddie identified the house by the broken stair steps and by articles strewn about the room. Searchers found cigar stubs and burned matches, as well as sugar and coffee and a well bucket from which Eddie drank. Tacks used to fasten newspapers over the windows remained on the sills. The police obtained descriptions of strange men seen in the area. B. K. Munshaw and his daughter Maude of 3640 Grover Street reported a light complexioned man with blond hair had asked about the house two weeks before. The Munshaws' statement led police to the owners of the house, the James Schneiderwinds. Mrs. Schneiderwind had spoken with a "light-complexioned man" who gave the alias James L. Conner (the name of Crowe's brother-in-law) and rented the house for \$6.00 a month.²³

These statements brought Pat Crowe firmly into the case. The *World-Herald* described Crowe as "one of the most picturesque

criminals in the country, because of his daring and the magnitude of his adventures." Since the beginning of the Cudahy affair the *World-Herald* had taken every opportunity to mention any failure of the Police Department. Under the heading of "Police Are Amusing," the paper gleefully reported the scare the reporters had given Chief Donahue, Cudahy, and search party when they arrived at the captivity house. The reporters had been inside when one startled Chief Donahue struggled to draw his revolver. According to the *World-Herald*, "had the reporter been in the bandit's shoes with a firm grip on his gold and the other with a loaded revolver, the Chief would have been a trifle slow in getting his eye over the muzzle of his revolver."

The police chief, it developed, found out about the house through a boy who had seen reporters there earlier. The newspaper criticized the chief for inactivity while the bandits "passed through the highways and byways of the well-protected city of Omaha," General John C. Cowin, another Cudahy attorney, exacerbated matters between police and press by publishing a special thanks to the *World-Herald* reporters: "[There is] no better detective in the world than the sharp, shrewd, energetic, ubiquitous newspaper man." Perhaps the *World-Herald* report was biased, but the *News* also credited two reporters with locating the house and said the police department failed to uncover substantial clues.²⁴

On Christmas Day the livery stable's bay pony ridden by the deliverer of the ransom note was located in Pacific Junction, Iowa, twenty miles southeast of Omaha. The police tried to bring the pony to Omaha, but Pacific Junction residents refused to release it unless paid the reward for producing evidence. John F. Coad, a Pacific Junction farmer, supposedly brought the news of the horse to Omaha. This item caused conflict between the *World-Herald* and other Omaha newspapers. Both the *News* and the *Bee* credited Coad with reporting the story to the police. The *World-Herald*, however, charged the *Bee* with stealing news from the *World-Herald* and of creating a "fictitious" John Coad in order to raise circulation. Coad was real, however; reports on him appeared not only in the *Bee* but in the *News*. The *World-Herald* made another accusation: On December 23, both the *Bee* and the *News* reported descriptions of the kidnapers given by August Schlemme, a farmer on Grover Street. The

World-Herald charged that he was also mythical, a creation of a reporter looking for a scoop.²⁵

While the newspapers battled for primacy, someone discovered that no Nebraska law covered the Cudahy crime. Oddly enough, the *New York Times* had more to say on the question than the Omaha newspapers: Kidnapping in Nebraska, it said, carried a sentence ranging from two to seven years, applicable only when the intent was to transport the victim out of the state. Another Nebraska offense, child stealing, applied only to the abduction of children under 10 years of age. The only charge the police seemed to have against the Cudahy kidnapper was false imprisonment, a misdemeanor subject only to a fine and jail sentence. At the discovery of this omission, senators introduced corrective bills in the state Legislature. Senator Frank T. Ransom of Omaha introduced a bill providing life imprisonment for extortionists and death for threats or actual injuries to the victim. Senator Nathan V. Harlan's bill set punishment from one to twenty years for the abduction of a child under 18. Both bills became law on March 30, 1901.²⁶

Police alternately searched for clues and parried criticism for inactivity. One critic said, the "nadir of police prestige" occurred when two farm boys had found the lantern used by the kidnapers to signal Cudahy.²⁷ The *Bee* termed it "an interesting addition to the abduction museum in the Chief's office which is growing rapidly." Meanwhile, in Pacific Junction, a quarrel had developed over ownership of the pony. Both Joseph Goodrich and Mrs. Bertha Mack claimed possession of the animal. Since Goodrich held the pony, Mrs. Mack took the issue to court. A Pacific Junction judge would not allow the horse moved without a \$100 deposit. Chief Donahue charged that "there [seemed] to be a studied effort . . . to impede us in this case."²⁸

Reports of Pat Crowe came in from everywhere. He was supposedly seen in Chicago, on an ocean liner, at Nantucket Beach, Rhode Island, and in St. Joseph, Missouri. Chief Donahue felt Crowe was too well known in St. Joseph to hide there successfully. Both Chief Donahue and the Cudahy family received crank letters daily: some letter writers claimed to have been involved, were denied a share of the ransom money, and would turn informant for a price. The newspapers gave most attention to the "Eloise T." letters, so called because of their

signatures, which taunted the police for failure to solve the case.²⁹

The *Daily News* ridiculed the police for their attempt to bring the pony to Omaha, questioning the value of the action: If the pony went unclaimed, it could surmise the kidnappers were owners, and possessing the horse, in any event, had little "to do with solving the mystery surrounding the abductors." If someone claimed the pony, "it will likewise be settled that the pony did not belong to the abductors—another important bit of evidence." In a front page editorial a few days later, the paper asked "Do They Really Want Pat Crowe?" The editorial said police did not seem to be trying to find Pat, and had used him as a scapegoat because they had no leads, which cast doubt . . . upon the sincerity of the police in hunting for him." The paper ridiculed Chief Donahue and said he would probably be "flustered completely" if Crowe appeared to prove his innocence.³⁰

Meanwhile, \$100 was pledged to bring the pony from Pacific Junction. The police planned to search for the smith who shod it in hopes of getting a description of the horse's owner. Joseph Goodrich of Pacific Junction threatened to prevent the movement of the mount across the state line. Fortunately, Goodrich waited in Council Bluffs, while B. F. Warren, once owner of the horse, rode it over the East Omaha bridge farther north on New Year's Day. After the exhausting ride from Pacific Junction, the horse required the services of a veterinarian.³¹

On January 30 news of yet another threatening letter to the Cudahys shocked the community. Delivered by the postman rather than by rider, the letter bore a postmark of December 22. Cudahy had withheld any news of the letter at first, but finally it was released to the press:

Cudhy: If you value the boy's life at the price of a bullet you will withdraw the reward at once and let well enough alone. If you don't do this we will finish the job with a bullet. If any man whether guilty or innocent is ever arrested a bullet will close the boy's mouth. You will think of this warning when it is to late.³²

The letter failed to deter Cudahy, who stated he had "not withdrawn the reward, and [did] not propose to do so."³³

The Omaha City Council called a special session to set its own reward for the criminals. The council asked Cudahy to withdraw his reward for his family's safety; they, in turn, would set up one to take its place. The council offered \$8,000 for the arrest and

conviction of one of the criminals, \$15,000 for two, and \$25,000 for three. Cudahy announced his reward would stand, thereby bringing the total to \$50,000. Unsolicited, Brigadier General Anson Mills of Washington, D.C. added another \$500 to the fund. The council even planned to ask the county and the governor to offer rewards. The council felt it must act, believing that the "eyes of the world [were] turned on Omaha."³⁴

The first months of 1901 brought a continuation of the crank letters and reports of Crowe. He was reported to be on Bellevue Island, in Creston, Iowa, and on the steamer *Dudley* bound for Honduras. Near Chadron, Nebraska, a man was trailed to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota, where he was discovered to be a Boston curio collector. Police arrested John Crowe, Pat's brother from Council Bluffs, but released him when Eddie Cudahy could not identify him. A hypnotist offered his services; the chief felt "he may do some good." Reporters in jest said that "some people say the hypnotist may have begun operations on the Chief."³⁵

The first breakthrough occurred on February 19, with the arrest of James Callahan of Omaha as Crowe's accomplice. Callahan had worked for Cudahys at one time. Suspicion turned to him because he was seen with Crowe prior to the kidnapping and had spent freely since the crime. His previous criminal record consisted only of several petit larceny cases, but police knew him as a member of the "Q Street gang." He was described as a "typical hobo . . . with a swagger and a slipshod shuffle," and Eddie Cudahy readily identified him as his talkative guard with the Irish brogue, remarking that he could "pick him out of a thousand."³⁶

The charges brought against Callahan included false imprisonment, grand larceny, and robbery, with bond for each crime set at \$2,500. The trial began on April 23. Eddie Cudahy and his father served as witnesses, along with Callahan himself. Although under examination for two hours while the prosecuting attorney's questions came "with the rapidity of balls from a Gatling gun," Callahan consistently claimed he was in Arff's Saloon the evening of the kidnapping. The judge charged the jury to determine whether Callahan robbed Edward Cudahy by "putting him in fear" and thereby forcing him to give up the money for fear of his son's welfare.³⁷ The jury returned a not guilty verdict for Callahan. When the overjoyed prisoner asked

permission to thank the jurors, the judge retorted that the jurors "[did] not deserve any thanks." The judge proceeded to show his disgust by stating that he could not "conceive of twelve intelligent men . . . [returning] a verdict of this kind." He continued his statement by pointing out that juries should protect "people and society . . . not [make] heroes of men who prey upon people and upon their property." He then discharged the twelve without the compliments of the court, adding that he hoped they would never be called to serve again as jurors.³⁸

Men such as Edward Cudahy echoed the judge's sentiments of the verdict, remarking that it was "incomprehensible. . . that twelve men . . . would wholly ignore such convincing evidence." Chief Donahue felt "very much chagrined" at the verdict and suggested the rewards be dropped, so there would be "no inducement to any witness to stretch his testimony."³⁹ Callahan remained in custody, although he could not be tried on the other charges because of acquittal on the robbery charge. The court later charged him with seven counts of perjury in the robbery trial, but a jury again found him not guilty.⁴⁰

Soon after the Callahan trial, Cudahy received a letter from Elgin, Illinois, this time from an agent of the kidnapper. The letter offered to return \$21,000 if Cudahy would withdraw his \$25,000 reward. The letter intrigued Cudahy, who went to Chicago to deal with the agent. Cudahy eventually refused to withdraw the reward, claiming he would "spend [his] last thousand dollars rather than compromise."⁴¹

The only word of Pat Crowe during the summer of 1901 surfaced in July, when the *New York Times* reported him in South Africa fighting in the Boer War. Crowe had sent a payment of \$250 to a St. Joseph, Missouri, lawyer who once defended him on a robbery charge, and the letter bore a Johannesburg postmark.⁴² In October, Crowe contacted Chief Donahue through a messenger, promising to surrender if the \$50,000 reward was withdrawn and his bond reduced to \$500. Crowe reasoned there would be less chance of "witnesses" manufacturing incidents in order to gain part of the reward. Finally, Edward Cudahy and the city withdrew their rewards, but no judge would release Crowe at \$500 bond.⁴³

The *Des Moines Capital*, especially critical of the police, commented that even though the public was not supposed to be able to understand the "workings of officers of the law . . . the



Cudahy mansion in Omaha.



*Omaha Chief of Police
John J. Donahue*

thick-headed public . . . will persist in wondering who this individual is who can saunter back and forth as the special messenger of Pat Crowe." The *Capital* wanted to take advantage of the messenger to trace Crowe and "took little stock in the practice of compromising with thugs."⁴⁴ The plan called for Crowe to surrender by November 1. When he failed to appear, the *World-Herald* observed that Crowe had succeeded in having the price on his head withdrawn, allowing him to "meander about the country feeling some \$50,000 safer." The *Herald* believed the "most widely advertised and persistently hunted fugitive of many generations" to be hiding in Omaha and said his "exchange of courtesies with the Omaha police is apt to pass down into history as one of the most humorous passages in the annals of crime."⁴⁵ The *Daily News* pointed out that although Crowe was dangerous, "one cannot but respect the infinite genius of the man. He is a character unique in criminal annals."⁴⁶

Crowe suddenly turned up in Omaha in the spring of 1905 and gave an exclusive interview to a *World-Herald* reporter: He was "weary of living as a fugitive and anxious to begin life anew" and "really [meant] to reform." Crowe offered to give himself up but would not admit involvement in the kidnapping. Once free, he planned to enter the saloon business, believing it the only occupation in which he "could stand a show of success." Nothing came of the interview. He slipped into Omaha, made his plea for sympathy, and slipped quietly out. Chief Donahue personally offered a reward of \$200 for the "arrest and delivery" of Pat Crowe to the police department.⁴⁷

Crowe became a suspect again in July of 1905 when gunmen robbed two Council Bluffs street cars of about \$50. A man fitting Crowe's description had been observed in a nearby house. Crowe appeared in Omaha on September 6, 1905, and wounded Patrolman A. H. Jackson in a gunfight on South 16th Street. While outside a saloon, Crowe and his brother-in-law, Frank Murphy, had seen four out-of-uniform policemen approaching, and a shoot-out resulted. After wounding Jackson, Pat again escaped.⁴⁸

Finally on October 2, 1905, outside a saloon in the tenderloin section of Butte, Montana, detectives nabbed Crowe. He put up no fight but "cursed bitterly . . . expressing chagrin at his arrest in a town the size of Butte." Everyone wanted to see the famous

kidnapper; women even brought him fruit and flowers. Crowe enjoyed his notoriety and told the jailer to let all visitors in to see him, since "he [did] not know when he [would] again come to Butte." The wily bandit chose not to fight extradition, and soon left for Omaha, with 15,000 people at the station to see him depart and with the curious at many stations enroute.⁴⁹

The *Omaha Daily News* sent a correspondent to cover Crowe's return. Crowds were so large at Rawlins, Wyoming, that detectives were forced to "almost fight their way to the hotel with their prisoner." In Green River, Wyoming, the sheriff of Sweetwater County boarded the train and rode to Rock Springs to become acquainted with the man he considered "the most famous outlaw in America." At North Platte a resident claimed Crowe attracted "more attention than President Roosevelt did." Unaccountably the estimated crowd of 300 in Omaha appeared almost subdued, although some chanted "hooray for Pat Crowe" at his arrival.⁵⁰

Pat faced trial in December, 1905, for "shooting with intent to kill or wound" Officer Jackson in the battle on 16th Street. The four-day trial ended in Crowe's acquittal because the court could not determine who fired first, and therefore, whether or not Crowe had shot in self-defense.⁵¹ Crowe's trial for robbery from Edward Cudahy of \$25,000 "by putting him in fear," began in Douglas County District Court in February, 1906. J. P. English and A. S. Ritchie served as Crowe's attorneys. In choosing the jury County Attorney W. W. Slabaugh asked each juror "whether or not the fact that Mr. Cudahy was reputed to be very wealthy would have any influence in the final judgment of the case." At the same time Crowe was on trial in Omaha for robbery, Edward Cudahy and other meat packers were being tried in Chicago under a restraint of trade charge. Slabaugh saw that under the circumstances a jury of laboring men in the Crowe trial would be unfavorable to Cudahy. Slabaugh's questioning failed to secure the type of jury he desired, however, and he faced essentially a working man's jury, consisting of men from such varied occupations as a packing house employee, sign painter, delivery clerk, and cigar dealer.⁵²

Edward Cudahy took the stand and became quite emotional in recalling his story. He stated that he gave up the money for his son because "they had threatened to burn his eyes out with acid and cut his ears off, and I was afraid he would be murdered."



South Omaha looking north at Twenty-fourth and M Streets.

Eddie Cudahy also testified, but there had been quite a change in his appearance. No longer little Eddie, the kidnap victim, he had grown to over six feet tall, "with a bass voice as big as its possessor and the appearance of being entirely able to give any kidnapper quite an argument before reaching any basis of compromise." In the course of his testimony, Eddie recalled his guard's threat to shoot his partner if he did not get his fair share of the money. At this statement Crowe "could not keep his face straight and covered it with his hand for a minute or so to conceal his very evident amusement." Various other witnesses involved in the case testified, but no one could be certain of Crowe's identity after a hiatus of five years. Eventually the case worked down to the details of the pony and the lantern, which the *News* facetiously reported. Albert Ayers, who owned the pony when it died, explained that the animal staggered, then "finally laid down and, pointing its toes toward Pacific Junction, gave up its perturbed spirit."⁵³

The prosecution introduced perhaps the most important evidence in the trial on February 13. Crowe had written a letter to his family priest, a Father Murphy of Vail, Iowa, in 1904, in which he asked the priest to intercede for him with the Cudahys. In the letter Pat confessed his guilt in the kidnapping, and asked for a "chance to start life anew." Crowe recalled that he had shown "mercy to the rich and mighty when they were in my power," probably referring to the Cudahy kidnapping. He also testified that he had attempted to return \$21,000 of the ransom money, an offer Cudahy rejected. Crowe wanted to plead guilty and have his sentence suspended to relieve himself "of the burden that is crushing out the last ray of happiness in my waste of life."⁵⁴ (See Appendix II for the confession letter.) A legal battle arose over whether the letter could be admitted to the court. The defense claimed the letter was a privileged communication between a church member and his priest. The court, however, eventually ruled in favor of the prosecution because Crowe had been seeking earthly, not spiritual relief and wanted the priest to serve as an intermediary in a business transaction. The confession letter so satisfied Slabaugh that he dismissed several important witnesses, and allowed the case to go to the jury.

Each attorney finished with involved closing remarks. Assistant County Attorney F. W. Fitch urged the jurors to bring

in a verdict that would "be a credit to them in after life and to the state of Nebraska."⁵⁵ Most memorable were the remarks of defense attorney A. S. Ritchie. A writer later referred to the speech as an "old-fashioned two hour oration that crackled with such words as 'irrefragable,' 'chimerical,' and 'animadvert,' . . . and touched on the history of law, the Catholic Church, Martin Luther, Old Glory, and Abraham Lincoln." But Ritchie's main attack centered on Cudahy as a wealthy businessman, and his connection with the beef trust trial in Chicago. Ritchie's harangue may have been the deciding factor.⁵⁶ On February 16 the jury found Pat Crowe not guilty of robbery. The overfilled courtroom applauded the verdict, causing Judge A. L. Sutton to clear the court and announce his surprise "that such cheering should follow the announcement of the acquittal of a notorious criminal." Newspapers printed comments from townspeople that resembled those of the judge and reflected the social class of those interviewed. Men asked to comment included the mayor, attorneys, insurance agent, druggist, furrier, county assessor, and superintendent of associated charities. Of the forty-four people asked to comment, thirty-one expressed surprise at the verdict and felt it an outrage. A woman's group also met to "protest their indignation and protestation" of the acquittal verdict. Although the report specified that the meeting concerned "all Omaha women and not club women exclusively," the list of officers chosen reflected the more well-to-do of the city.⁵⁷

Chief Donahue, in "high temper," did not conceal his contempt for the jurors, stating it was a pity that no law existed to prosecute them "for neglect of their duty and send them all to jail." For one in so high a position in the city, the chief was clearly undiplomatic in expressing his beliefs on the case. Attorneys of the city banded together in an attempt to keep the men of the Crowe jury off any other cases, calling their verdict a "travesty of justice." And one "well-known businessman" charged Crowe's acquittal to "yellow journalism," pointing out that "these papers have made him out to be a hero." One citizen felt certain the verdict showed the "growing spirit of Socialism." Many believed the jury voted against Cudahy because of the feelings against the beef trust. The *World-Herald* commented that the jury saw Crowe as a "modern Robin Hood," with Cudahy in the role of a modern baron. Indeed, class

consciousness seemed to be the heart of the matter. One person asked to comment on the Crowe acquittal replied:

It was nothing more than we could expect from the jury, composed, as it was, largely of laboring men. Cudahy, in their minds, is robbing the people in small amounts three times a day, and Pat Crowe got back a part of this money in one big chunk and didn't hurt anybody at all. There is no doubt but that the jury thought it no worse to steal one child than it is to starve many.

An Omaha lawyer echoed that statement and expressed no surprise at the verdict either, because of the "character of the jury." He remarked that they "probably thought that Crowe was taking the money from one who had himself filched it from others."⁵⁸

In the meantime police escorted Crowe to a Council Bluffs jail, where he was charged with the street car robbery of the previous July. Crowe, jubilant over his acquittal, "entered the cell corridor as jauntily as if being shown to the best room in a hotel." Over two hundred people came to visit the famous criminal. Crowe told reporters he had been offered \$500 a month to join a theatrical company but had not decided whether or not to accept the offer.⁵⁹ Lawyers were able to postpone his trial, and by February 21 officials released Crowe on bail. The trial did not occur until May of 1907, when again a jury acquitted Crowe in a two-day trial. A key witness did not appear, perhaps because Pat had been observed at her house "for a considerable time Sunday afternoon and evening and again at an early hour Monday morning" during the week of the trial.⁶⁰

The record of Crowe's life after the Council Bluffs trial is sketchy. By October of 1906 Crowe had published a book entitled *Pat Crowe—His Story, Confession and Reformation*, in which he admitted his guilt in the Cudahy kidnapping. The book also included A. S. Ritchie's address to the jury, the lengthy speech filling over half the book. In 1919, Eddie Cudahy married Margaret Carry in Chicago, where he served as vice president of the packing company. Crowe, in New York City working for the Salvation Army, sent a congratulatory telegram to Eddie,⁶¹ which said, "Nobody can wish you greater happiness in the hands of your new kidnapper than do I. Here's hoping you cherish no ill will over our former escapade and enjoy this one more."⁶² Crowe became a lecturer on crime and at various times throughout the 1920's spoke to Presidents (or so he claimed) about prison reform and training for children. In 1922 he

advocated the "vocational training of the country's youth on forty acre farms and ten acre chicken ranches."⁶³ In 1927 he wrote another book, *Spreading Evil*, in which he told his life story and warned boys not to follow his example. Crowe intended the proceeds from the book to go toward a "national publicity campaign in the interest of America's underprivileged youth."⁶⁴ Of course, he had other problems over the years. Police arrested him as a beggar on a subway in 1925. The judge gave him a suspended sentence, and the court took up a collection and sent him on his way. Pat only commented that "honesty is the best policy, and it pays to advertise."⁶⁵ In 1935 he was back in Omaha and apprehended on a drunkenness charge. His old lawyer, A. S. Ritchie, came out of a two-year retirement to successfully defend him of the charge.⁶⁶ Just before he died, Crowe worked as an attraction in a penny arcade off Times Square in New York City. He died of a heart attack in a Harlem rooming house on October 29, 1938. Scrapbooks filled with yellowed clippings of his escapades were the only belongings found in his room. The books were probably his only contact with reality, since by the time of his death he had become a shaking alcoholic.⁶⁷

Pat Crowe never seemed truly malicious, but rather committed his robberies for the money involved and for the daring and skill necessary to pull them off. The Cudahy kidnapping was only one of these escapades, and it appears Crowe probably never did hold a grudge against Edward Cudahy but instead saw him as an easy route to money. The laboring classes apparently sympathized with Crowe because of his ability to steal from the rich—from diamonds to children—and get away with it. Newspapers in 1906 pictured the new aristocrats of the American class system, men such as Edward Cudahy, as capitalists who stole from the poor to increase profits. It was no wonder that a combination of working-man resentment of the rich and a press generally favorable to Pat Crowe produced a jury capable of acquitting him of theft from Cudahy—the Midwest version of the robber baron. The people made Crowe a folk hero, which explained why crowds gathered to greet his train in every little town from Butte to Omaha.

In his own fashion Pat Crowe was perhaps one of the last of the American folk heroes, a picaresque man who outwitted both the police and the Pinkertons and stole from the rich. He carried off

his operations "with a dash and abandon and dare-deviltry that marked the deeds of the picturesque old scoundrels of the days before civilization laid them on the shelf." By the time of his death, a country that had experienced World War I and the Great Depression had no interest in scoundrels of an earlier age. His end as an alcoholic in a Harlem rooming house somehow seemed unfitting for a criminal the *Omaha Daily News* described as "one of the few really spectacular and truly named desperadoes" of the day.⁶⁸

APPENDIX I

THE RANSOM NOTE

(From *Omaha Evening World-Herald*, December 20, 1900. With slight editorial differences, also published in *Omaha Daily Bee* and *New York Times*)

Omaha, December 19, 1900

Mr. Cudahy.

We have kidnapped your child and demand \$25,000 for his safe return. If you give us the money he will be returned as safe and sound as when you last saw him, but if you refuse we will put acid in his eyes and blind him. Then we will ammediately [*sic*] kidnap another millionaires child, that we have spotted [*sic*], and demand \$100,000 and we will get it, for he will see the condition of your child and realize the fact that we mean business and will not be monkeyed with or captured.

Get the money all in gold, in \$5, \$10 and \$20 pieces, put it in a grip in a white wheat sack, get in your buggy on the night of December 19, at 7 p.m. and drive south from your house to Center street going west on Center and drive past Ruser's Park and following the paved road toward Fremont. When you come to a lantern light by the side of the road, place the money by the lantern, "ammediately" [*sic*] turn your horse round and return home, you will know our lantern for it will have 2 ribbons black and white tide [*sic*] on the handle. You must place a red lantern on your buggy where it can be plainly seen. So we will know you a mile away. The letter and every part of it must be returned with the money and any attempt at capture will be the saddest thing you ever done.

CAUTION FOR HERE LIES THE DANGER

If you remember some 20 years ago Charley Ross was kidnapped in New York City twenty thousand dollars ransom asked. Old man Ross was willing to give up the money but Burnes [Byrnes] the great detective with others persuaded the old man not to give up the money, assuring him that the thieves would be captured. Ross died of a broken heart. Sorry that he allowed the detectives to dictate to him. This letter must not be seen by any one but you. If the police or some stranger knew its contents they might attempt capture although entirely against your wish, or some one might use a lantern and represent us,

thus the wrong parties would secure the cash and this would be as "fatle" [*sic*] to you as if you refuse to give up the money. So you see the danger if you left this letter be seen.

Mr. Cudahy, you are up against it and there is only one way out give up the coin.

Money we want and money we will get. If you don't give up the next man will, for he will see that we mean business, and you can lead your boy around blind the rest of your days and all you will have [*is*] dam [*sic*] coppers sympathy. Do the right thing by us and we will do the same by you. If you refuse you will soon see the saddest sight you ever seen.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19.

THIS NIGHT OR NEVER.

Follow these instructions and no harm will befall you or yours.

APPENDIX II

CONFESSION LETTER TO FATHER MURPHY

(From *Omaha World-Herald*, February 14, 1906)

Omaha—April 22, 1904

Father Murphy, Vail, Ia.

Dear Friend: I wrote you a letter from Chicago a few months ago and your answer was very encouraging to me as I have for several years thought of reforming and starting life anew. I suppose you know that I'm married. My wife lives here in Omaha, and while we have been parted for about fourteen years, yet we are not divorced. In fact, we have never had any quarrels or any cause other than my own lack of control which has justified the assaults on my character. In your letter you said that you did not believe half of what was written of me: well, that is the truth. I have been accused of hundreds of crimes which I never commit [*sic*], and I served one term of three years in state's prison for train robbery that I knew nothing about, and to add injustice to the case the railroad attorney told me he knew I was innocent, stating that he was compelled to make a showing for his company.

For the past fifteen years my suffering has been intense. My children are dead and my wife is a servant for others. I am an outcast; a disgrace to the mother that gave me birth.

And to add to my suffering I have wronged a man that has been a friend to me.

I am guilty of the Cudahy affair. I am to blame for the whole crime. After it was over I regretted my act and offered to return \$21,000 to Mr. Cudahy, but he refused to take it and then I went to South Africa, where I joined the Revel [*sic*] army and was badly wounded, being shot twice, then I returned to America and have repeatedly tried to make peace with the man I wronged. Now I am going to give myself up and take whatever comes and if Mr. Cudahy would show me mercy I would come out all right and could start life anew. Cudahy is a remarkably good man. I have known him many years and must say that he is generous and forgiving, and it would be hard to find a better man, but he feels he owes it as his duty to the public to prosecute me. Now I could stand trial and beat the case, but that would not relieve me of the burden that is crushing out the last ray of happiness in my waste of life—I would rather plead guilty and try to have the sentence suspended, giving me a chance to start life anew—There is a large number of people who think the crime was never committed and that it was simply an advertisement; also there has been many false stories told as to young Cudahy's whereabouts on the night of his abduction. My pleading guilty would harm no one but myself and if I could induce Mr.

Cudahy to show me mercy it would stemulate [*sic*] the harsh judgment that is practiced in courts—with a feeling of mercy that God intended should be shown the sinners.

Now I wish you would write to Mr. Cudahy and Mrs. Cudahy and pray for mercy, for as they do so will those who come after them. Tell them of the character of my father and mother and I feel sure that Mr. Cudahy knows it is an old and well established fact having long since been proven so by scientific research that is if the parents are honest there [*sic*] offspring though it may wander away into sin it will eventually abandon evil and return to the good. Remember this and Mr. Cudahy knows as does hundreds of others in this city that I fead [*sic*] the hungry and I myself was poor and that I showed mercy to the rich and mighty when they were in my power and that if I cared to surround myself with stolen gold I could have ten millions inside of thirty days but I have found no happiness in evil, and am going to return to the teaching of my childhood if I must suffer I will not repine.

Please forward this letter to the Rev. Father Linnihan, from whom I received my first communion. He buried my mother and you buried my father, and I wish to prepare myself for the day that is sure to come when I must return to them—write to Mr. and Mrs. Cudahy and ask them to show me some mercy.

This is all and I will say good-bye please tend to this as soon as possible. Cudahys are good Catholics and letters that you or Father Lennahan write to them will never be known by the public.

PAT CROWE

PS Mr. Cudahy's address is Edward A. Cudahy Omaha, Nebr.

NOTES

1. *Omaha World-Herald*, December 22, 1900.
2. Howard P. Chudacoff, *Mobile Americans* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1972), 18-19.
3. *Ibid.*, 101.
4. Pat Crowe, *Spreading Evil* (New York: The Branwell Co., 1927), 7. Crowe's hometown of Vail is located in west central Iowa, near Denison, Crawford County.
5. *Ibid.*, 6-7, 11-12, 50-51, 55.
6. *Omaha Bee*, December 20, 1900; *Omaha World-Herald*, December 19, 1900.
7. *New York Times*, December 20, 1900; *Omaha World-Herald*, December 19, 1900.
8. *Omaha World-Herald*, December 20, 1900.
9. *New York Times*, December 20, 1900. The note quoted here must have been a fabrication of police or newspapermen; it does not reflect the real note. It appeared in the *Omaha World-Herald* with a few differences, but neither the *Omaha Bee* or the *Omaha Daily News* mentioned it.
10. *Omaha Bee*, December 20, 1900.
11. *Omaha Daily News*, December 19, 1900; *Omaha Bee*, December 20, 1900; *Omaha World-Herald*, December 19, 1900.
12. *Omaha World-Herald*, December 20, 21, 1900.
13. *New York Times*, December 21, 1900; Pat Crowe, *His Story, Confession and Reformation* (New York: G. W. Dillingham Co., 1906), 51-52. In *His Story*, Crowe said they accused Eddie of being Eddie McGee to make certain they had the right boy, hoping he would tell them his name was Cudahy.
14. *Omaha Bee*, December 21, 1900; *New York Times*, December 21, 1900.
15. *Omaha World-Herald*, December 20, 21, 1900; *New York Times*, December 21, 1900. Crowe later denied this plan in his book, *His Story*, (48), and stated that he never wanted the girls, only Eddie.

16. *Omaha Bee*, December 21, 1900.
17. *Omaha World-Herald*, December 21, 1900. The spot where the money was delivered was described as "three blocks west of Ruser's Park on West Center Street a short distance east of Little Papio Creek."
18. *Omaha Bee*, December 22, 1900. The 1906 Omaha city directory lists the buyer as Patrick T. McGrath, rather than P. J. McGrath. When McGrath was dying in 1930, Eddie Cudahy rushed to Omaha to be at his bedside but failed to arrive before his old friend died. At that time the whole kidnapping story was printed in newspapers again, crediting McGrath with driving the buggy rather than Edward Cudahy. (*Omaha World-Herald* clipping file, August 8, 1930).
19. *Omaha World-Herald*, December 20, 21, 1900; *New York Times*, December 21, 1900.
20. *Omaha World-Herald*, December 20, 21, 1900; *Omaha Daily News*, December 20, 1900; *Omaha Bee*, December 21, 30, 31, 1900; January 1, 1901; *New York Times*, December 31, 1900.
21. *Omaha Daily News*, December 20, 1900; *Omaha Bee*, December 21, 1900; *Omaha World-Herald*, December 21, 1900.
22. *Omaha Daily News*, December 21, 1900; *Omaha World-Herald*, December 21, 1900; *Omaha Bee*, December 21, 1900.
23. *Omaha Daily News*, December 22, 1900; *Omaha World-Herald*, December 22, 1900; *New York Times*, December 22, 1900.
24. *Omaha World-Herald*, December 22, 1900. The question of who discovered the house was not settled; *Omaha Daily News* agreed with the *World-Herald* that reporters found the house (*News*, December 22, 1900), although the *News* did not mention the boy and claimed Chief Donahue and Cudahy just happened on the house. The *Bee* claimed a search party composed of the chief, Cudahy, and others found the house on Grover Street. (*Bee*, December 22, 1900).
25. *Omaha World-Herald*, December 24, 26, 1900; *Omaha Daily News*, December 22, 23, 1900; *Omaha Bee*, December 23, 1900; *Omaha Daily News*, December 25, 1900.
26. *New York Times*, December 22, 1900; *Laws of Nebraska*, (1901), Chapters 88-89, 487-489.
27. Harry E. Dice, "The Cudahy Kidnapping Case" (Graduate Seminar Paper, University of Nebraska at Omaha, 1964), 9.
28. *Omaha Bee*, December 25, 1900; *Omaha World-Herald*, December 29, 1900.
29. *New York Times*, December 28, 1900; *Omaha Daily News*, December 26, 1900; *Omaha Bee*, December 25, 1900.
30. *Omaha Daily News*, December 26, 27, 29, 1900.
31. *Omaha Daily News*, December 29, 30, 1900, January 1, 1901; *Omaha World-Herald*, January 1, 3, 1901.
32. *Omaha Bee*, December 30, 31, 1900. This letter obviously contained many more misspellings than the original ransom note. It was not determined whether this letter was sent by Crowe or by an imposter.
33. *New York Times*, December 31, 1900.
34. *Omaha Bee*, January 1, 1901. A bit of a furor arose over how the city planned to pay this reward. An *Omaha Daily News* editorial on January 2 questioned the legality of the reward, while the *Omaha World-Herald* commented on January 1 that "none of the city officials profess to know where the money is to come from in case it should be called for." Mayor Frank E. Moores finally took responsibility for the reward, stating he would raise the entire amount by public subscription.
35. *Omaha Bee*, January 2, 3, 23, 1901; *Omaha Daily News*, January 10, 1901.
36. *Omaha Bee*, February 20, 1901; *Omaha Daily News*, February 19, 1901.
37. *Omaha Daily News* February 21, 1901; April 28, 1901.
38. *State of Nebraska v. James Callahan*, Douglas County District Court, Doc. 5, No. 243 (1901). Court records did not supply much information. Their main substance consisted of subpoenas and questions to be approved by the attorneys. Transcripts of

questions and answers in the trial were not included in the records.

39. *Omaha World-Herald*, April 29, 1901.
40. State of Nebraska v. James Callahan, Douglas County District Court, Doc. 5, No. 296 (1901).
41. *Omaha World-Herald*, April 30, 1901; *Omaha Bee*, May 1, 1901.
42. *New York Times*, July 14, 1901.
43. *Omaha World-Herald*, October 14, 1901.
44. *Des Moines Capital*, as cited in *Ibid.*, October 16, 1901.
45. *Omaha World-Herald*, November 1, 1901.
46. *Omaha Daily News*, October 15, 1901.
47. *Omaha World-Herald*, May 6, 8, 1905.
48. *Omaha Bee*, July 3, 7, 1905; *Omaha Daily News*, September 7, 1905.
49. *Omaha World-Herald*, October 3, 1905. Other reports stated Crowe was captured just as he was about to board a train. Chief Donahue's \$200 reward for the "arrest and delivery" of Crowe went to the Butte policemen who captured him, Night Captain W. F. McGrath and Detective M. P. MacInerney. They were hailed as great lawmen, and a picture of them appeared on the front page of the *World-Herald* on October 6, 1905; *Omaha Bee*, October 6, 10, 1905.
50. *Omaha Daily News*, October 8, 9, 10, 1905.
51. State of Nebraska v. Pat Crowe, Douglas County District Court, Doc. 10, No. 90 (1905); *Bee*, December 7, 8, 1905.
52. *Omaha Bee*, February 8, 1906; *Omaha World-Herald*, February 8, 1906. Members of the Jury in Crowe's trial, with their addresses and occupations: H. L. Gibb, 1721 Van Camp Ave., packing house employee. Abner Thomas, 2123 Nicholas, restaurant cook. Louis Rasmussen, 1511 S. 4th, delivery clerk at the Union Pacific. W. Rosenbaum, 1402 Bancroft, sign painter. F. John O'Leary, 422 N. 24th, South Omaha, shoe dealer. Charles Kuncel, 1244 S. 13th, meat market. Robert Severe, 827 N. 26th, janitor Packers' National Bank. C. H. Green, 2225 S. 15th, painter. John R. David, 1408 William, dry goods dealer. W. H. Sloan, 830 N. 24th, South Omaha, poultry supply and cigar dealer. Charles N. Tracy, 12th and J, South Omaha, carpenter. C. A. Baker, 1142 N. 20th, supply driver for board of education.
53. *Omaha World-Herald*, February 9, 1906; *Omaha Daily News*, February 11, 12, 1906.
54. *Omaha World-Herald*, February 14, 1906. (See Appendix II for the entire text of the confession letter.) Linnihan is spelled both ways in the newspaper copy of the letter. Most of Crowe's statements in his confession letter match the story he told in his autobiography, *Spreading Evil*, written twenty-three years after the confession letter. Other sources support the comments as well. Crowe was married to Harriet Murphy when he worked in the butcher shop in Omaha, but they separated when he began his life of crime. She divorced him soon after the trial in 1906, which brought out the fact that they did indeed have three children who had died. (*World-Herald*, March 23, 1906); The friend Crowe had wronged was Edward Cudahy. Shortly before the kidnapping occurred, Crowe had asked Cudahy for \$10 to transport him to a job in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Cudahy gladly gave him the money and even gave Crowe his own overcoat because he did not have one. (B. F. Sylvester, *The West Farnam Story* [1965], 26); Crowe's comments about fleeing to South Africa have been discussed earlier. It is interesting to note, however, that when he was captured in Butte, Crowe claimed he had not gone any farther east than Chicago. (*World-Herald*, October 6, 1906). Lastly, Crowe's reference to feeding the hungry when he was poor probably referred to his early days as a butcher when he allowed his customers to delay payment of their bills. Whether or not Crowe was really sincere in this letter is debatable. Although his opinion of himself was somewhat exalted, it should be noted that Crowe did not believe the letter would be seen by the public, as he wrote in the last sentence. The letter was sent to the family priest, someone Crowe could trust to keep it secret. Given another jury, Crowe's confession letter would have been enough incriminating evidence to convict him.

55. *Omaha Bee*, February 16, 1906.

56. Gunnar Mengers, "The Cudahy Kidnapping," *Sunday World-Herald*, 75th Anniversary Edition, August 21, 1960.

57. *Omaha World-Herald*, February 16, 17, 20, 1906. Further investigation of the officers and committeewomen chosen showed them to have powerful social positions. The Omaha City Directory of 1906 was consulted in determining addresses of the following women and their occupations or that of their husbands. The women involved in the activities were listed in the *World-Herald*, February 19, 20, 1906:

Mrs. W. P. Harford, 1550 S. 29th, president of the Young Women's Christian Association; her husband was assistant general agent of Aetna Insurance Company.

Mrs. Hubert Herring, 2210 Webster; her husband was pastor of the First Congregational Church.

Mrs. Blanche McKelvy, 817 N. 33rd, reporter for the *Omaha Daily News*.

Mrs. George Tilden, 124 S. 19th; her husband was a physician.

Mrs. Emma Byers, 513 N. 25th, general secretary at YWCA.

Miss Elizabeth McCartney, 3923 Decatur, secretary at Creighton College of Law.

Mrs. Ben Gallagher, 513 S. 38th, vice president Paxton & Gallagher Company (grocery company with two large Omaha stores).

Mrs. J. E. Baum, 3545 Harney; her husband was president of the Bennett Company (department store located at the corner of 16th and Harney).

Mrs. Byron Reed, 424 S. 35th, widow of Byron Reed, land developer.

Mrs. C. L. Duel, 2212 Douglas; her husband was a cashier at McCord-Brady Company (wholesale grocers).

Mrs. Draper Smith, 624 S. 29th; her husband's occupation was listed as commission (perhaps a livestock buyer at the Omaha stockyards).

Because only leaders of the group were listed, the sampling may not be accurate. It is doubtful whether women of the working classes were involved in these clubs; if they were, they certainly did not serve as officers or committee leaders. It appears the women's group did consist mainly of "club women," thus, their condemnation of the Crowe verdict reflected their class.

58. *Omaha Daily News*, February 17, 1906; *Omaha Bee*, February 17, 1906. The role of the press in the acquittal of Pat Crowe will never be known. As the only news medium in the 1900's, the press was certainly influential among the laboring classes. But, just as it cannot be determined if the newspapers told the truth about the police of Omaha, their influence on the laboring people cannot be proved; *Omaha World-Herald*, February 17, 1906.

59. *Omaha Bee*, February 17, 18, 1906.

60. *Omaha Bee*, May 21, 1907.

61. *New York Times*, December 14, 1919.

62. *Omaha World-Herald*, December 30, 1919. This note and all the following citations from the *World-Herald* were taken from the *Omaha World-Herald* clipping file on Pat Crowe. (Hereafter cited as CF.)

63. *Ibid.*, March 16, 1922, CF.

64. George Grimes, review of *Spreading Evil* by Pat Crowe, in *Ibid.*, August 21, 1927, CF.

65. *Ibid.*, December 30, 1925, CF.

66. *Ibid.*, September 9, 1935, CF.

67. *Ibid.*, June 30, 1938; October 29, 1938, CF.

68. *Omaha Daily News*, December 30, 1900.