

*Henry Lee Jost*

1874 - 1950

Rider to Hopkins, Missouri in 1881

Henry was the son of Simon and Lena (Beer) Jost. Simon and his family had immigrated to the United States from German. Both Simon and his brother Matthew were barbers and their father was a physician. Lena Beer was American born. In 1876, little sister Lizzie would join the

family. Sadly, the family would come apart with the death of mother Lena. Unable to care for his son, Simon, placed his children in the Five Points House of Industry temporarily as a boarder. Lizzie is not found in the record after her birth. Henry became a ward of the House of Industry when his board was not paid and thus the parental rights were severed.

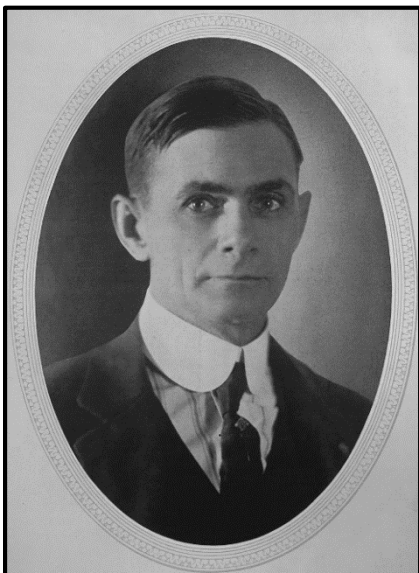
The Children's Aid Society selected Henry and seventeen other children to be placed out in Hopkins, Nodaway County, Missouri in 1881. Jost wrote the following about his placements, "All the children readily found homes but me, who for want of a taker, was received by Judge Dale into his established family, where I stayed until into the next spring when he put me in first one and then a second farmer's home in Gayner-Orrsburg community. Those folks, good people they were, tired of me after a time and Judge Dale had me back on his hands in the fall of 1884. Then in the family of Uncle Jesse and Aunt Lee Ann Lasswell, which included 16-year-old Mary. I began life anew in the Valley district – the wonderful county of a wonderful people...The terms of my various placements on farms, by Judge Dale, were a horse, saddle, and bridle and a new suit of clothes when I arrived at the age of twenty-one years...But splendid as were the Lasswell's, I went out on my own as a farm hand at 15 years of age." (Hopkin Journal, 1945)

In 1896, Jost began to study law in the office of S.E. Browne. By the spring of 1897 he was elected Justice of the Peace of Hopkins Township. He attended the Kansas City Law School in 1898. Henry moved to Kansas City and began working for the Jackson County prosecuting attorney's office in 1909. He practiced law in Kansas City for 46 years.

The Democratic Party nominated Henry Lee Jost as their candidate for Kansas City mayor in 1912. One newspaper article headline read, "ONCE STREET WAIF NOMINATED FOR MAYOR". It is widely believed that the party's use of Henry's background as an orphan train rider led to an easy election for Henry Lee Jost. He was re-elected in 1914 but lost in 1916. During his years as mayor two notable events occurred, the construction of Union Station and the establishment of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. From 1917 to 1936 Henry lectured at Kansas City School of Law on criminal law. In 1922, he was elected as a Democrat to the Sixty-eighth Congress and served one term.

Henry married Minnie Hanks in 1911 and the couple had two children, Mary and Henry Lee, Jr. His son would follow in his father's footsteps and become a lawyer. He graduated from Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee. Jost retired in 1944 and lived on his farm in Belton, Missouri until his death in 1950 at the age of seventy-six.

Henry Lee Jost wrote an article for the Hopkins Journal about his life in 1945 The Journal served his hometown of Hopkins, Missouri. The community that had taken him in as a boy had a special place in his heart. He began his article with, "Hopkins and the country roundabout hold much of my childhood and adolescent past. To me, the sky is a bit more blue and the grass grows a bit more green there than anywhere else on earth; and I have seen a considerable part of the earth's surface and the overhead sky in my nearly 72 years of life." Not once in the article does Henry mention his time as mayor or as a Congressmen. Henry ended his article with the same admiration for his hometown, "What a town and what a people to remember! I am miles away from it now but paraphrasing the title of a currently popular song, "Don't fence me' out." Keep the Hopkins Journal coming to me – the best newspaper of its size, in the best community of its kind, in the best nation on this earth."



*Statue sponsored by the City of Concordia*

## *Orphan Train Town Statues*

- **Statue 1 – Miriam Zitur:** Underneath the clock at Broadway Plaza. Sponsored by Miriam’s 220+ descendants. (*Corner of Broadway & Sixth Streets*)
- **Statue 2 – Elmer & Ethel Barney:** In front of Britt’s Fountain & Gifts. Sponsored by Amanda & Brian Strait family (*118 W 6<sup>th</sup> Street*)
- **Statue 3 – Jessie Feit/Teresa Binder Martin:** On the north side of Frank Carlson Library. Sponsored by the Charles H. & Isabell Blosser Foundation. (*702 Broadway Street*)
- **Statue 4 – Fallen Soldier:** Stands in front of the American Legion. Sponsored by Senator Elaine Bowers. (*506 Washington Street*)
- **Statue 5 – Holly Stoll/Hallie Garwood:** Near the main entrance to Cloud County Museum (South side of the museum on 7<sup>th</sup> Street). Sponsored by the Charles H. & Isabell Blosser Foundation. (*635 Broadway Street*)
- **Statue 6 – Kansas Riders:** In front of Brown Business Services. Sponsored by Irene Brown in memory of her mother. (*1710 Republican Street*)
- **Statue 7 – Alberta Cole/Roberta “Happy” Slifer:** She stands near the playground up from the tennis courts at City Park. Sponsored by the Concordia Rotary Club and Rotary Club International 5670 (*Off of 11<sup>th</sup> Street. Park in parking lot by Swimming Pool.*)
- **Statue 8 – Father Paul Fangman:** In front of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church. Sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 1142, OLPH Altar Society and an anonymous donor. (*307 East 5<sup>th</sup> Street*)
- **Statue 9 – Stanley & Victor Cornell:** In front of Cloud Corp and the Chamber of Commerce office. Sponsored by Cloud Corp and Champlin Tire Recycling. (*606 Washington Street*)
- **Statue 10 – Thelma Taylor:** In front of Monique and Company. Sponsored by Lisa Brewer in memory of her parents. (*225 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street*)
- **Statue 11 – Genevieve Hunt/Sister Roberta Dreiling:** Next to main entrance to the Nazareth Motherhouse. Sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph. (*1300 Washington Street*)
- **Statue 12 – Gertrude Vale/Sister Eva Marie Vale:** Next to main entrance to the Nazareth Motherhouse. Sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph. (*1300 Washington Street*)
- **Statue 13 – The Clement Brothers:** Sponsored by and in front of Citizens National Bank. (*115 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street*)
- **Statue 14 – Anna Fuchs:** Stands between the Majestic Theater and Dumbbells. Sponsored by the Marian D. Cook Foundation. (*229 W 6<sup>th</sup> Street*)
- **Statue 15 – Michalena Birraglio/Lena Nelson:** In front of State Farm Insurance. In memory of Keith and Fern Waters by their children. (*605 Broadway*)
- **Statue 16 – Frank G. Simmons:** In front of Wentz Eye Care. Sponsored by St. John’s Masonic Lodge #113. (*Corner of 6<sup>th</sup> and Highway 81*)
- **Statue 17 – Mary and Catherine Burns Cornell:** In front of Farm Bureau Financial Services & Fresh Perspective Counseling Services. Sponsored by the Chuck and Amber Lambertz Family. (*821 Broadway St on south side of building*)
- **Statue 18 – William Sidney Emay:** Sponsored by and in front of Farm Management Service, Inc. (*310 Washington Street*)
- **Statue 19 – Mamie Gunderson:** Sponsored in loving memory of Bob and Darline Rasure. At the T-Ball field at Rasure Field (*South East corner of East 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Cloud Street*)
- **Statue 20 – Alfred Ulshoefer:** Sponsored in loving memory of Bob and Darline Rasure. At the T-Ball field at Rasure Field. (*South East corner of East 7<sup>th</sup> Street and Cloud Street*)
- **Statue 21 - Henry Lee Jost:** Sponsored by The City of Concordia. At Concordia City Hall. (*701 Washington*)