

Arthur E. (Gus) Cook (- 16 Ja 1959)

Cook, Arthur E. (Gus). Suddenly on Friday, January 16, 1959 at the Woodner Hotel, Arthur E. Cook (Gus). Services at the S.H. Hines Co. Funeral Home, 2901 14th st. nw., on Tuesday, January 20 at 10 a.m. (parking facilities). Interment Congressional Cemetery.

The Washington Post, January 17, 1959, p. B2

'Gus' Cook Dies; Capitol Figure

Arthur E. "Gus" Cook, assistant architect of the Capitol who was a familiar figure to lawmakers and visiting statesmen through his 60 years of service there, died Thursday at his home in the Woodner Apartments. He was 85.



ARTHUR E. COOK

Mr. Cook started at the Capitol in November 1896 as a laborer and later worked as a machinist and clerk before becoming supervising engineer in 1921.

As virtual custodian of the Capitol and the House and Senate Office Buildings, one major task was supervision of the cleanup which follows adjournment each year. Each year "Gus" directed over 150 workers through cleaning the necks and frock coats of over 80 statues, also 60-odd crystal chandeliers -- with each prism removed and individually scrubbed -- and miles of floors and walls.

Throughout the years, Mr. Cook made it a practice to visit each office daily, to see everything was spic and span.

In 1946, he became assistant architect, with additional duties of representing the Capitol architect in relations between House and Senate leaders and at ceremonies. Mr. Cook was an expert in arranging inauguration ceremonies; he had handled the complicated arrangements flawlessly on nine occasions.

He was widely remembered at the Capitol for his efforts to spare Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Edinburgh from seeing the mural of the surrender of Gen. Cornwallis at Yorktown, when the royal couple visited Washington in 1951. His efforts were defeated however, when the inquisitive Duke particularly asked to see the painting. Mr. Cook had arranged tours for many other foreign dignitaries over the years, including King George VI and Queen (Mother) Elizabeth.

He was at work as usual on Thursday. He collapsed in his apartment Thursday night. Cause of death has not yet been determined.

The Evening Star, January 18, 1959, p. C15

Tribute to Cook Paid by Senate

A tribute was paid in the Senate yesterday to Arthur E. (Gus) Cook, 85-year-old assistant Architect of the Capitol, who died Friday.

Lyndon B. Johnson (D-Tex) and Everett M. Dirksen (R-Ill), the majority and minority leaders, led off the tributes to Cook, an employe at the Capitol for more than half a century. Johnson spoke of Cook's long and faithful service. Dirksen said Cook had given freely of his time to help every member of Congress.