

18 consecutive years he was pool champion of the world. That's longer than any other man ever held a title in any other line. The nearest to that record is Frank Kramer, bicycle champion, 15 years.

De Oro was born in Cuba. He came to the United States when 10 to go to school. When he returned to Cuba on a vacation trip he and his brother started for church one Sunday morning, but stopped at a pool hall. De Oro's brother taught him to handle the cue and he has been at it ever since.

At the time of the Spanish-American war, De Oro was quite wealthy. He lost nearly all his money and went to playing pool to earn a living for himself and family.

The Cuban took part in a professional pool tourney for the first time in 1887. He won the title in 1889. In 1890 he was beaten by Al Powers, but won back the title and was unbeaten in 18 years. Benny Allen of Kansas City, a much younger player, took the title from him.

De Oro did not break into three-cushion billiards until 1904. Four years later he won the championship. Since then he has won it and lost it several times.

In his match with Kieckhefer he will play with two favorite cues. He has used one of them 31 years, the other 24.

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OFFICER ALLEN IS FINE FRIEND OF BOYS—NOT!

A boy with the face that the kid wears on Christmas morning was in the boys' court yesterday. He carried a box given him by a tailor containing his first pair of long trousers and he wore a coat of the latest cut and his shoes were brand new. But behind the Christmas joy on the face of the lad lies a story that almost was a tragedy.

Charles Banks is almost 18, but he looks 14. He is thin and small. He has worked at everything he could get to work at and he bears an ex-

cellent reputation among the people who know him, but twice last year Charles landed in the boys' court, after spending the usual length of time in filthy police cells. Both times Charles, charged with disorderly conduct, was discharged for lack of evidence.

Monday, Nov. 1, he was arrested by Officer Allen of the Woodlawn station. Allen charged disorderly conduct and the law requires that the officer making the arrest must witness the disorderly conduct or must have a warrant if he didn't witness it. Allen had no warrant and no evidence and Charles was discharged by Judge Trude on Tuesday, after he had spent a night in a cell.

Wednesday, Nov. 3, Charles was in a candy store talking to a boy friend when Officer Allen, walking with Officer McGuire, spied him and McGuire sent a boy into the store to call Charles out, whereupon, again without a warrant, Allen rearrested the lad and charged him with disorderly conduct. He was in a filthy cell all night and again on Thursday morning he was haled into court and Allen had no evidence against him.

Judge Trude became suspicious and asked Miss Sara Blumenthal of the Jewish Aid Society to make an investigation and continued the case until Nov. 10. Miss Blumenthal found the lad bore a splendid reputation, but when the case came up on Nov. 10 Officer Allen did not appear in court to press the charge on which he arrested Charles and the boy was discharged.

The Christmas smile? Miss Blumenthal took Charles shopping and outfitted him and he had his first pair of long trousers and an overcoat of the latest cut. Charles is going to get a chance where cops cannot drag him into court whenever they want to arrest somebody.

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It's sweet indeed to have a friend you can trust so long as he doesn't ask you to trust him.