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News of Bench and Bar

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NEWS OF BENCH AND BAR

FIRST DISTRICT

A dinner in honor of Ernest J. Crenshaw was given by the Evansville Bar Association on June 3rd. Mr. Crenshaw planned to leave for Paradise Valley, Texas, where he intends to take up the business of citrus fruit growing. Mr. Crenshaw was honored by his associates of the bench and bar, many of whom had known him for the full period of his 23 years of practice at Evansville. High tribute to his character and his ability was paid him.

For a period during the month of June Robert N. Tracewell was appointed special circuit judge at Evansville by circuit Judge Bock. This appointment was occasioned by the absence of Judge Bock in Indianapolis to argue against a writ of prohibition which had been issued against him by the Supreme Court of Indiana prohibiting him from trying city clerk Louis P. Sarlls on a charge of contempt of court.

SECOND DISTRICT

The *Spencer Leader* published an editorial on October 5th in hearty support of the proposal of Secretary Work of the Department of Interior that a committee composed of representatives of the petroleum industry, the American Bar Association, and the Government should be formed to draft adequate measures protecting our petroleum supply and that these measures be submitted to the next Congress.

Mr. Daniel Ortmeyer of Evansville made the principal address before the monthly meeting of the Evansville Bar Association on Monday, October 3rd. His topic was "No Man is Above the Law," and in the course of his address he undertook to express his conviction that lawyers should recognize their duty and their dignity as officers of the court and that in this capacity they should vigorously champion the rights of their clients to appeal to the higher courts or to change of venue on just grounds whenever occasion warranted it. Mr. Ortmeyer pointed out that many judges use what amounted to extra-judicial authority in impeding or embarrassing attorneys who defended his client's rights in the matter of appeals or change of venue.

It was announced that Professor Charles M. Hepburn of the Indiana University School of Law would be the principal speaker at the November meeting.

FOURTH DISTRICT

It is reported that the attorneys of Wabash County have agreed on a schedule of fees to be charged in connection with legal services in the construction of highways.

FIFTH DISTRICT

The Fifth District Bar Association held its annual meeting at Turkey Run on Saturday, June 25th. The Parke County Bar Association acted as hosts in welcoming the guests from the entire district. While the speeches occurred in the afternoon, much of the rest of the day was taken by the members for informal association with their brethren at the bar.

The families of the members were invited and a large number of ladies attended. An excellent musical program was provided by the local committee consisting of John M. McFaddin, H. L. Hancock, and Earl M. Dowd. The speakers of the occasion were Wm. A. Pickens, President of the Indiana State Bar Association; James A. Van Osdol, Vice-President; Joel A. Baker, Secretary; and Dan W. Simms of Lafayette. Mr. Simms made the principal address in which he spoke on the Constitution. It was this address by Mr. Simms which was later particularly remarked on at the Annual Meeting of the Indiana State Bar Association where a resolution was passed inviting Mr. Simms to submit this address for publication in the *Law Journal*. The members of the Executive Committee in charge of this excellent meeting were: John S. McFaddin, Chairman, Ira Kisner, of Terre Haute, Secretary-Treasurer; Judge B. S. Aikman of Newport, Gilbert Gambill of Terre Haute; B. C. Craig of Brazil; Judge J. P. Hughes of Greencastle; and Edgar M. Blessing of Danville.

The meeting of the Vigo County Bar Association held on Tuesday, October 4, passed a resolution in favor of more stringent rules for admission to the bar. Twenty-four members of the Association were present at this meeting. James E. Piety is President of the Association and Geo. T. Kisner, Secretary. Gilbert Gambill was elected Vice-President. The president appointed committees to deal with the following matters: Amendment of the law; Judiciary; Grievance; Legal Education; Entertainment; Legal Ethics. The meeting adopted rules for admission to the bar in Vigo County. In keeping with these rules all candidates for admission to the bar in the future must pass a written examination.

The *Terre Haute Post* printed an article on September 30th in which it commented upon a letter written by William A. Pickens, former president of the State Bar Association, in which he called upon Attorney General Gilliom to bring out all the facts in connection with the alleged attempt of Senators Watson and Robinson to influence the action of the Supreme Court of Indiana in connection with the impeachment proceedings against Dr. Shumaker.

SEVENTH DISTRICT

A committee appointed by the Governor for the purpose of framing a complete new code of Corporation laws for the State of Indiana consists of: Frederick E. Schortemeyer, Secretary of State, Chairman; George O. Dix, Terre Haute; Paul V. McNutt, Bloomington; Maurice Mendenhall, William Bosson, George Morgan, Harvy Hartsock, George Kettleborough, Roy C. Street and Herman B. Grey. A sub-committee composed of Dean Paul V. McNutt, Chairman, Mr. Grey and Mr. Kettleborough was appointed for the purpose of getting information in regard to the corporation laws of other states.

The Indianapolis Bar Association held an excellent meeting on June 8th in the Columbia Club. Mr. Walter Myers spoke on "Peeping Through Chinks at China." Mr. Myers discussed in detail the ways in which the Chinese look at things differently from Americans.

EIGHTH DISTRICT

Attorneys at Alexandria who practice in Judge Morrow's court have signed a pledge not to become angry at each other during the year 1928-9.

Some twenty attorneys attached their names to this pledge which was posted in the court room. There are no reports available as to whether the said pledge has been kept or not.

NINTH DISTRICT

At the annual meeting of the Ninth District Bar Association the following officers were elected:

President, Brenton A. Devol, Frankfort.

Vice-President, Ira Clauser, Crawfordsville.

Secretary-Treasurer, M. C. Morrison, Frankfort.

The Ninth District Bar Association held a most successful meeting at Crawfordsville on Saturday, October 15th. Luncheon was served at the Crawfordsville Chamber of Commerce Building. A large number of lawyers from all the county associations in the district attended the meeting. The principal address was given by Mr. C. W. Dice of Covington, who spoke on "The Present Tax Law." Chase Harding of Crawfordsville, Conrad Wolfe of Kokomo, Tom Ryan of Frankfort, and Meade Vestal of Noblesville led the discussion following the address.

The Howard County Bar Association held a most successful meeting on Tuesday, October 18th. Virgil Coffel, Deputy-Prosecutor, made the leading address on "Some Phases of the Law Concerning Automobiles." Mr. Coffel pointed out that the number of persons killed or injured by automobiles was appalling. He suggested that an automobile was in many respects a dangerous instrumentality and that it was perhaps unwise to permit individuals to operate automobiles with consequent danger to others unless they were financially able to respond in damages in case of accident. He pointed out that the presence of automobiles on the streets was subject to reasonable regulation and that if they endangered the public they could be precluded from the streets entirely. He suggested that it might be required by law that all owners of automobiles give adequate assurance to the authorities that they were able to respond in damages in case of accident or that they carry insurance in a reputable company which would protect those who were injured.

TENTH DISTRICT

The East Chicago Bar Association held a successful meeting on Friday, October 8th. The meeting was of a social character. The members held a dinner in company with their wives and friends.

The Tippecanoe County Bar Association held its annual meeting at the Lahr Hotel in Lafayette, Indiana, on Wednesday, October 12th. The following officers were elected: William C. Mitchell, President; Frank Kimmel, Vice-President; John B. Hudson, Secretary-Treasurer. Tribute was paid to the memory of Thos. F. Gaylord, who was the oldest member of the Association at the time of his death.

A meeting of the "Twin City" Bar Association was held on Friday, October 7th, in Robertsedale. The members of the association and their families had dinner together and following the dinner Judge Morris E. Crites acted as toastmaster and called upon each lawyer present for a few words. The discussion dealt mainly with the new court house which will soon be in operation.

ELEVENTH DISTRICT

The Eleventh District Bar Association held a most successful meeting on October 25th at Marion. Lawyers from all the local bar associations of the district attended. President Guy C. York presided. Other officers of the association are William Coryell of Marion, Vice-President; and Henry P. Lucas of Huntington, Secretary. The principal speaker of the evening was Senator Thomas J. Walsh of Montana who is a most distinguished lawyer and a political leader of unusual force, independence and eloquence.

A recent meeting of the Grant County Bar Association passed a resolution commending Judge Hurd Hurst of Peru for passing the maximum sentence of life imprisonment upon a defendant in his court who had been convicted of bank robbery. This is the first instance of imprisonment of a life sentence for bank robbery under the new law.

TWELFTH DISTRICT

The *Fort Wayne Journal Gazette* printed an editorial on October 2 in high commendation of a letter of William A. Pickens, former president of the Indiana State Bar Association, in which Mr. Pickens called on the Attorney General Arthur L. Gilliom to bring to light all evidence that might show any improper influence upon the Supreme Court of Indiana.

The DeKalb County Bar Association held a most successful meeting on Tuesday afternoon and evening, October 4th. The members of the bar held a golf tournament during the afternoon and enjoyed a delicious dinner at the DeKalb County Clubhouse, at which Edgar Watkinson of Auburn, President of the Association, presided. During the evening different members of the bar related incidents in their practice and recollections of interest to all of those who were present.

THIRTEENTH DISTRICT

The Indiana Conference of Social Workers held its annual meeting at Elkhart October 8-14. Mr. Eugene C. Foster, Director of the Indianapolis Foundation, was the president. Among the speakers were James A. Van Osdol, President, the Indiana State Bar Association; Sherman C. Kingsley, of Philadelphia, President of the National Conference of Social Workers; Roscoe Pound, Dean of the Harvard Law School; and Michael E. Foley, Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Indiana State Prison. Dean Pound gave an address of especial interest to lawyers in which he dealt with the inter-relation of legal remedies and the efforts of social workers.

The St. Joseph County Bar Association held a most successful meeting on Monday, October 17th, in the Oliver Hotel at South Bend. Members of the Elkhart Bar were the special guests on that occasion. Professor Edson R. Sunderland of the University of Michigan Law School was the principal speaker.

The St. Joseph County Bar Association held its June meeting on June 21st in the Oliver Hotel. The fifteen members from St. Joseph County and adjoining counties were present. Dean Paul V. McNutt of Indiana University School of Law was the principal speaker. Dean McNutt discussed the modern legal problems and emphasized especially the present co-operation and interdependence of practicing lawyers, judges and law schools

in a common effort to increase the efficiency of the administration of justice. Dean McNutt spoke of the commission for the revision of the entire corporation law of Indiana which has been appointed by the Governor. This committee is now at work in studying corporation laws elsewhere and in preparing the material for a complete new statute in this state. Dean McNutt is chairman of the special sub-committee of this commission that is doing the research work at present. Mr. Walter R. Arnold of South Bend gave an admirable address in explanation of the Declaratory Judgments Act which has recently been passed in Indiana. The address dealt with the significance of this Act and the discussion of the whole question of declaratory judgments as they have prevailed in other states.

The members of the Michigan City Bar Association held a banquet at Duneland Inn on Thursday, October 6th. No special guest was invited to address the meeting. The members spent the evening in informal conversation.

In keeping with the action of the Lake County Bar Association on the same matter, the St. Joseph County Bar Association at a recent meeting voted unanimously to request the representatives to Congress from the 13th district and both United States Senators from Indiana to support a bill which would divide Indiana into two districts with Federal District Courts in each district. It was suggested that Judge Robert C. Baltzell with his staff continue as the Federal Judge for Southern Indiana while Judge Thomas W. Slick would sit at South Bend as Federal District Judge for Northern Indiana and would have the usual officers assigned to him in connection with the administration of his office.

OBITUARIES

John E. Cox, former judge of the Vigo County Superior Court, died at his home in Terre Haute, Indiana, on Wednesday, October 12th. He had been prominent in the practice of his profession and in Democratic politics in this part of the state for over twenty years. It was largely through his efforts that the Democratic party was dominant in Vigo County for many years. He held an admirable position of esteem in the communities for ability and integrity. Resolutions in honor of his memory were passed by the Vigo County Bar Association.

William A. Cullop of Vincennes, four times Democratic Representative in Congress from the Second Indiana District, died on Sunday, October 9th. It is believed that grief over the death of his wife last summer was the real cause of his fatal illness. Mr. Cullop had practiced law in Indiana for many years. He was 74 years old at the time of his death. He is survived by one daughter and two brothers. Mr. Cullop was known as a distinguished lawyer and able political leader throughout the State. The Knox County Bar Association and other County bar associations passed resolutions in honor of his memory. Mr. C. B. Kessinger, a former law partner, paid high tribute to his character and ability. Mr. Cullop's term in Congress was during the latter part of Taft's administration and throughout the Wilson administration. Mr. Cullop took an active part in business, church and fraternal life in addition to his distinguished work at the bar and in political activities.

John F. Dillon, former judge of Dubois and Pike Counties, died on Friday, June 3rd. Judge Dillon held extensive oil interests in his part of the state. He belonged to one of the most wealthy and prominent families

in this section of Indiana. He was educated at Indiana University and took a prominent place in the profession of the law. Later in life, however, his real estate interests absorbed his efforts. Resolutions in honor of his memory were passed by the Dubois County Bar Association and commendation of his life appeared in local press notices.

Thomas Emmett Ellison died on December 18, 1925, at his home in Pasadena, California. Judge Ellison was formerly engaged in the active practice of the law at Fort Wayne, Indiana, but since he had been absent from the state for some time before his death no notice of his passing appeared in the *Journal* at the time. Judge Ellison was born at Lagrange, Indiana, in 1852 and received his LL.B. degree from the University of Michigan in 1874. He was married to Emma S. Stockbridge of Fort Wayne, in 1878. Following her death in 1884, he married Hanna Hall of Logansport in 1887. Judge Ellison is survived by his wife, Mrs. Hanna Hall Ellison, and two children, Mrs. Warren D. Smith of Eugene, Oregon, and Andrew Winslow Ellison of Cleveland, Ohio. Judge Ellison was a member of the State Board of Charities from 1892-9, a member of the Indiana State Senate, 1895-9. He drew the present law which provides for the care of dependent children and he drew the laws which now provide for the remodeled penal system and the establishment of the parole system and the indeterminate sentence. He was the first President of the Indiana Reformatory and was also Vice-President of the National Conference of Charities and Corrections. He was a delegate to the International Prison Congress at Brussels and a delegate to the Universal Congress of Lawyers and Jurists at St. Louis in 1904. In 1920 Judge Ellison was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in San Francisco and following that convention he remained in California. Apart from his legal and political activities he was an active worker for the Lakes to the Gulf Waterways and was largely responsible for the initiation of this great national undertaking. Throughout his long and highly useful life, Judge Ellison was constantly engaged in some work for the good of others. His extraordinary ability and energy enabled him to accomplish lasting results to the advantage of the penal system, and the entire administration of the law and the general welfare of the people of Indiana. He was a member of the First Church of Christ Scientist at Fort Wayne, Indiana and was a careful student of the Bible. In his work he was an efficient administrator and an able lawyer; in all his efforts he was a devoted Christian gentleman.

Lon D. Fleming, attorney of North Manchester, died on Friday, September 23rd. He was 72 years of age at the time of his death. He is survived by two sons and four daughters. He was a highly respected member of the association. Tribute was paid to his memory by his many associates.

Sydney B. Hatfield, 85 years of age, prominent attorney of Boonville, Indiana, died at his home on Monday, October 17th. He was a graduate of Indiana University and was the dean of the Warrick County Bar Association. He is survived by two sons and four daughters. He was a highly respected member of the association. Tribute was paid to his memory by his many associates.

Harvey A. Logan, one of the best known lawyers in Indiana, died at his home at Plymouth on Sunday, June 5th. Mr. Logan was 63 years old at the time of his death. He had served as Mayor of Plymouth in 1904

and again in 1905. He had a distinguished and honorable career at the bar. Tribute was paid to his memory by his many friends and admirers.

William H. Pigg, one of the most prominent attorneys of Martinsville, Indiana, died at his home on Monday, June 12th. He was a graduate of Indiana Central Normal College. Mr. Pigg was a former law partner of Governor E. F. Branch. He was an active and able Democrat in a county which was strictly Republican. Resolutions in honor of his memory were passed by the Morgan County Bar Association and many editorials appeared in the press emphasizing the deep loss which his associates and many friends sustained by his death.