



1951

## President's Page

Eugene A. Burdick

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## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

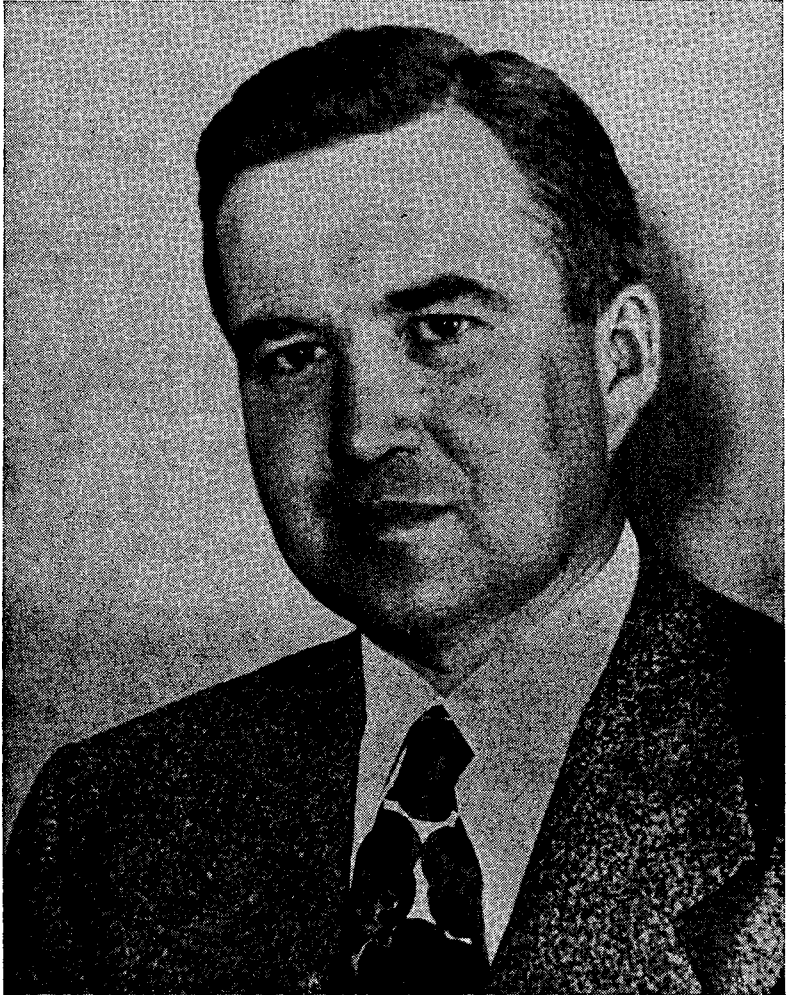
During the past several years, with an improved financial situation, our Association has greatly expanded its activities and its services to the lawyers and to the public. In recognition of the worth of this program we have been honored to receive the Award of Merit of the American Bar Association in our division for the bar association of the United States which had the most outstanding program of public service during the past year. It is difficult to conceive of a higher tribute to the work of our Association. Every lawyer in North Dakota should take inspiration in this recognition as each played a part in our growth and progress.

This is no time to rest on our laurels; we must continue to advance our program and discharge our obligations in the public interest. Our program for the ensuing year includes a continuation of our outstanding work in American citizenship; institution of lawyers reference service in our larger cities; legal service to the armed forces; continued study on improvement of our judicial system, including the adoption of minimum standards of judicial administration; integration of federal court rules of civil procedure and continued study of the plan for unification of inferior courts; seminars of the American Law Institute on continuing legal education; legal research in mineral law and other fields where the statutory law may be improved; and, a continuation of our excellent work in the field of public relations.

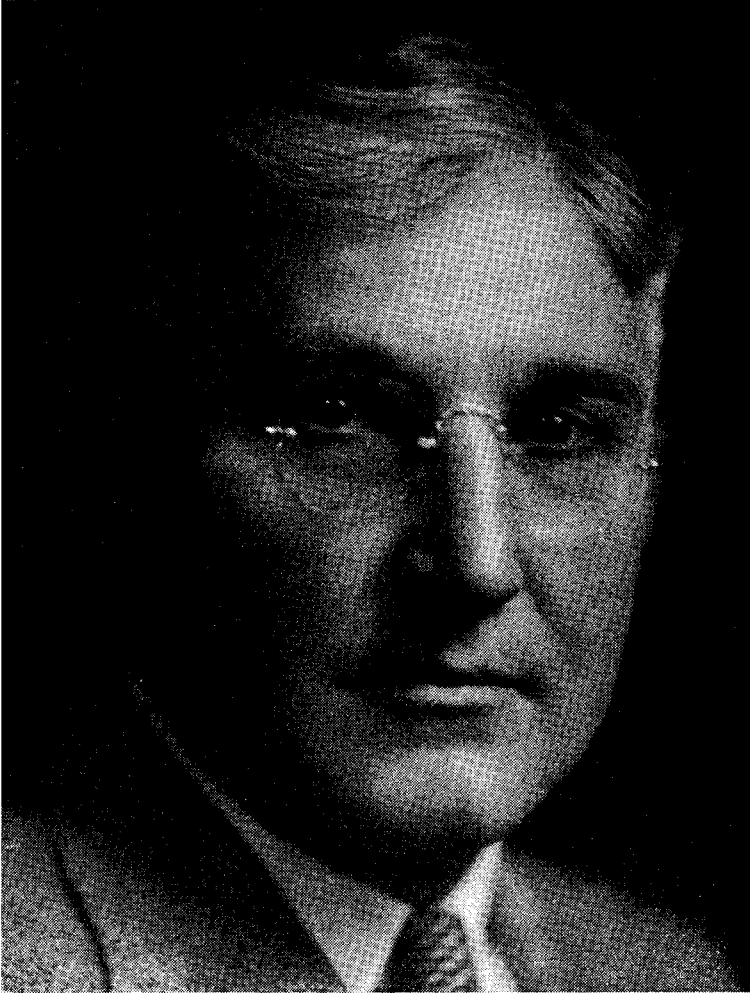
To maintain the interest of the members of the bar regular district meetings should be held. Wherever possible a speaker should be obtained, but even a district meeting without an agenda will bring forth many worthwhile ideas and suggestions to say nothing of the lasting friendships and associations that are formed.

If each of us will strive for self-improvement, observe high standards of ethical conduct, and discharge our obligations to the profession and our Association, we shall continue to receive recognition throughout the land.

EUGENE A. BURDICK



**EUGENE A. BURDICK**  
President, State Bar Association  
1951 - 1952



**E. T. CONMY, SR.**  
**Vice-President, State Bar Association**  
**1951 - 1952**

## F. W. McGUINNESS

One of our pioneer lawyers, F. W. McGuinness, who spent most of his life in Williams County, North Dakota, passed away at the Stanley Hospital, Stanley, North Dakota, on March 12, 1951, at the age of nearly 81 years.

Mr. McGuinness was born in Adams County, Wisconsin, on September 23, 1870. At the age of eleven years, he moved with his parents to the Dakota Territory and located near what is now known as Arlington, South Dakota. Following his grade school education he entered the agricultural college at Brookings, South Dakota, and later taught school in South Dakota for several years. He then entered the Valpariso University in Indiana and received a degree in law. Returning to Arlington, South Dakota, he established practice until 1906 when he moved with his family to Max, North Dakota.

In the spring of 1912 he and his family moved to Tioga, North Dakota, where a farm was purchased northeast of Tioga. Mr. McGuinness was very interested in politics and was elected States Attorney of Williams County, in the fall of 1920. He served until the year 1924. He continued to practice law in Williston until he returned to Tioga in 1928.

He was active in the Presbyterian Church and in the Yoeman and Masonic Lodges. In politics he was active on the progressive side. In the practice of law he was noted for his honesty and his common sense in reasoning.

He left a record of achievements in the community where he lived.

*Committee on Memorials:*

E. T. CONMY

J. H. NEWTON

RAY FRIEDERICH

E. J. McILRAITH, *Chairman*

## GEORGE M. REGISTER

1871 - 1951

George M. Register, oldest attorney in Burleigh County both from the point of age and years of practice, died at his home in Bismarck on August 12, 1951. Mr. Register had been in failing health for several years, but the end came without warning.

George M. Register was born near Lewes in Sussex County, Delaware, February 7, 1871, the son of Elijah and Cornelia Register. He graduated from Lewes High School and St. Johns College of Annapolis, Maryland. He came to Bismarck in 1896 and was admitted to the Bar of this State on November 6, 1897. He later moved to Williamsport, Emmons County, where he was elected State's Attorney of Emmons County. He later returned to Bismarck and was elected State's Attorney of Burleigh County and for a number of years was associated with his brother, F. H. Register, in the practice of law and continued in practice after the death of his brother until the time of his own passing. His practice was largely confined to real property and probate law.

Mr. Register was active in church and civic affairs. He was for many years superintendent of the McCabe Methodist Church Sunday School and served as a member of the Board of Trustees of that Church. He also served on the Bismarck School Board for twenty years and was active in the establishment of Bismarck Junior College and took an active interest in the promotion of the welfare of that institution. In church and educational matters he was one of Bismarck's most outstanding citizens.

In addition to his wife, Mr. Register is survived by two daughters; Lavina L. Register and Beatrice Register, and one son, George S. Register, State's Attorney of Burleigh County. One sister, Mrs. Ella Ross, Lewes, Delaware, also survives.

Burial was had at Fairview Cemetery in Bismarck.

*Committee on Memorials:*

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## DAVID S. RITCHIE

1879 - 1951

David S. Ritchie, pioneer Valley City Attorney, was born at Fergus, Ontario, November 12, 1879. He died at a Fargo Hospital on June 26, 1951, as the result of a heart attack.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas N. Ritchie, he moved to Valley City with his parents in the early nineties. He was a graduate of the Valley City High School and received his academic training at Illinois Wesleyan College of Bloomington, Illinois. His law education was received at the University of Michigan of which he was a graduate. He was admitted to the Bar of North Dakota on April 24, 1905.

He early became interested in military life. In fact he attempted to enlist for service in the Spanish American War, but his father took steps to secure his discharge by reason of his minority. He enlisted in Company G., First Infantry, North Dakota National Guard on February 3, 1901, and continued as a member of the National Guard during the greater portion of his life. He served as a Captain during the Mexican incident in 1916. He was called into Federal service in 1917 and served at various camps in this Country as well as the AEF, with the Adjutant General's Department, being attached to the Staff of General John J. Pershing in France. He was promoted to Major in 1919. In peacetime he again became attached to the N. D. National Guard and was Brigadier General from 1928 until 1940, later serving as Paymaster General of the Guard. He also took an active interest in wild life preservation and was serving his third term as President of the North Dakota Wild Life Federation at the time of his death. General Ritchie never sought political office, but took an active interest in politics and in promoting candidacies of others. He was a member of the Elks, Knights of Pythias and the Masonic Fraternities.

He was married August 23, 1905, to Katherine Hackett, Saginaw, Michigan. Besides his widow he is survived by one son, Lt. Col. Thomas N. Ritchie, now stationed in Tokyo, a daughter, Mary Katherine, Seattle, one brother, L. S. B. Ritchie, Los Angeles, and a sister, Mary Ritchie, Bozeman, Montana.

A man of more than ordinary ability, Dave Ritchie served his community and country well and honorably. Burial was had at Valley City.

*Committee on Memorials:*E. J. McILRAITH, *Chairman.*

E. T. CONMY

J. H. NEWTON

RAY FRIEDERICH

**Annual Convention**  
of the  
**State Bar Association**  
of  
**North Dakota**  
**Bismarck, North Dakota**  
**August 23, 24, 25, 1951**