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President's Page

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BENCH AND BAR

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I HAVE become interested in regard to the number of members of the American Bar Association which we have in the State of North Dakota, and how we compare with the other States of a like population.

You may be as interested in this as I am. Here is the number: Montana, one hundred ninety-six members; South Dakota, one hundred sixty-four members; North Dakota, one hundred thirty members; and Idaho, one hundred twenty members.¹ North Dakota has about five hundred fifty lawyers, so it looks like we should be making a drive to increase the number belonging to the American Bar Association.

Qualifications for Membership: Any person who has been duly admitted to the Bar of the State of North Dakota and is of good moral character shall be eligible to membership in the Association. Any eligible person may on endorsement, nomination, and election, as provided in the by-laws, become a member of the Association.

Applications for membership shall be considered only upon endorsement thereof by a member of the Association in good standing.

The cost of admission is three dollars per year for the first two years of your practice, two to five years, six dollars per year; more than five years, twelve dollars per year. This includes a subscription to the American Bar Association which is a monthly magazine.

If you are interested let me know and I will send you an application for membership, and I will be glad to recommend you, or you may have someone at your home town recommend you.

I have plenty of membership applications and would be pleased to have any of the present members secure new membership applications from the Attorneys in their town. If you have no membership applications I can supply you with them. It seems to me that we should be able to secure at least sixty new membership applications. This would put us on a par with the other States. Why not secure more and put us in the lead?

¹ According to the survey of the legal profession prepared from data in Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory, 1949 (Copyright 1949, by Reginald Heber Smith), Montana has 620 lawyers listed; South Dakota, 625; Idaho, 459.

The American Bar Association Journal is easily worth the price which you pay for membership. It contains timely articles upon current questions and is very interesting as well as instructive. The September issue of the American Bar Association Journal carried an article by William Logan Martin of the Alabama Bar written in opposition to the proposed National Health Insurance Act. In the March issue is a reply on National Health Insurance by Oscar R. Ewing, Federal Security Administrator. These two articles give both sides of the question. If you have not read a copy of the magazine ask someone who is a member to lend you a copy, then I am sure that you will wish to become a new member.

F. J. GRAHAM
President.

LINTON ATTORNEY HONORED ON 75TH BIRTHDAY *

CHARLES Coventry, prominent Linton attorney since 1908, pioneer Emmons county school teacher and former county superintendent of schools, received a pleasant tribute on December 23, 1949, when several hundred friends paid their respects and offered congratulations on the occasion of his 75th birthday at a reception held in the city hall of Linton.

The reception followed a reunion dinner of the Coventry family. All the children — Mrs. Clinton (Mariam) Richards, her husband and their three children of Deadwood, S. D.; Mrs. Lloyd (Phyllis) Unzelman, her husband and their two children of Linton; and Stewart Coventry and his wife of Van Neys, California — were present for the birthday celebration.

Two brothers of Mrs. Coventry, Archie Stewart, his wife and their son Kenneth of Carson, and James Stewart and his wife of near Pollock were also in attendance.

Charlie, as Mr. Coventry is commonly known over the entire country, has enjoyed a long and interesting career. He came to the United States at the age of 18, worked as a ranch hand, taught school, served in public office and with great industry and determination, fitted himself for the profession of law. During his law practice of over 40 years he has acquired the enviable reputation of being one of the ablest lawyers in this part of the state.

* Reprinted, slightly modified, from the Dec. 29, 1949, issue of the *Emmons County Record*, Linton, N. D. — Ed.

Mr. Coventry was born Dec. 23, 1874, in Sewardstone, Essex, a suburb of London, England. He was the oldest of the five children of Charles and Mary Ann (Long) Coventry. He attended school in England until he was 18 and then decided to go out and see the world. He seriously considered going to South Africa or Australia, but finally decided on the United States because he knew some of his family's friends who had settled over here.

On Oct. 14, 1893, he sailed for America, landing at New York. From there he took a train to Eureka, S. D., and then a wagon to the community now known as Dale, in Emmons county.

For about a year after coming here he worked as a ranch hand. His curiosity about the American system of government led him to attend a rural school in the community. His experiences in the field of education began in 1896, when he took a position as a teacher in a rural school. For a month's work he received a warrant in the amount of \$30. Of this, \$1.50 was lost when the warrant was discounted. Another \$10 went for room and board.

In 1898 he went to Valparaiso, Indiana, to study education at the college there for one year. It was during this time that the Spanish-American war broke out and he joined a company of volunteers for military training. The company was alerted several times but was never called into active service.

Returning to North Dakota he again went into the teaching profession. Entering the political field he was elected Emmons county superintendent of schools. Before moving to Linton he married Miss Agnes Stewart of Dale. The couple are the parents of three children, all of whom were in Linton for their father's birthday celebration.

While serving as county superintendent of schools, an office he held from 1903 to 1906, he became interested in the legal profession and began reading law under the tutelage of the late Linton attorney, George Lynn. After finishing his term as county superintendent he went to the University of North Dakota to complete his study of law. He was admitted to the bar in 1908 and has practiced law here since then, serving several terms as states attorney of Emmons county.

During the year 1933, in company with his daughter Phyllis, Mr. Coventry visited a brother and a sister who still live in England. He also spent some time in Scotland and Norway.

He was impressed with the beauty of the countries he visited, but returned to the United States with the firm conviction that opportunity, as we know it, does not exist in Europe.

At the age of seventy-five Mr. Coventry enjoys more than a passing acquaintance with the fine points of the law. His health is good and there is nothing he enjoys more than a good hunt, tramping the brush for pheasants or walking the creek banks looking for a good shot at his favorite greenhead ducks.

When not practicing law or hunting he can probably be found matching his skill at chess with several of the other "experts" in Linton.

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NOTICE OF BOOKS FOR SALE

The following law library has been offered for sale. Persons interested are requested to contact Mrs. Clair F. Brickner, 801 Second Ave. South, Fargo, N. D.

Volumes 1 to 300, Northwestern Reporter; Volumes 1 to 38, Northwestern Reporter, Second Series; Volumes 1 to 71, Corpus Juris, with 6 volumes of Annotations; Northwestern Reporter Digest, Volumes 1 to 19, and 1933-1949 Inc. Ann.; Bancrofts Code Pleadings, 11 volumes; Callaghan's Dakota Digest, 5 volumes; Patton on Titles; Ruling Case Law, Volumes 1 to 28, Supplement Volumes 1 to 4; Federal Statutes Annotated, Volumes 1 to 12, and 2 volumes of Annotations; Greenleaf on Evidence; N. D. Revised Code (1943), 7 volumes; N. D. Laws, 1949; 3 volumes, Code of Laws of United States in Force January 1, 1935; Church's Forms of Law and Business; Rules of Civil Procedure for the District Courts; and 34 sectional book cases.

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MORTON L. MCBRIDE

MORTON L. McBride, Dickinson, pioneer North Dakota attorney and for many years Secretary of the State Bar Association, died at Dickinson on January 16, 1950, at the age of 71.

Mr. McBride was born at Lake City, Minnesota, on October 21, 1878. At the age of five he moved with his parents to that part of Dakota Territory now comprising the State of South Dakota. His preliminary education was received in the schools

of that State and he entered the Law Department of the University of Minnesota and graduated in 1902. Immediately after graduation he came to North Dakota and was admitted to the Bar of this State on September 16, 1902, and continued to practice in this State from that time until failing health forced his practical retirement.

Mr. McBride served three terms as State's Attorney for Stark County, and also acted as City Attorney for the city of Dickinson. He was elected to the State Senate in 1912 and served two successive terms. He was long active and interested in Bar Association matters and served for a number of years on the Executive Committee of the State Association.

In March of 1936 he was appointed Secretary-Treasurer of the State Bar Association to fill a vacancy and was thereafter elected for ten successive terms, retiring in 1947 on account of ill health.

Mr. McBride was a member of the State and American Bar Associations, the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Masonic and Elks Fraternities. On October 21, 1904, he was married to Emma F. Lish, daughter of a Pioneer Dickinson family. She preceded him in death.

He is survived by one son, Morton L., and four daughters, Carol, Nancy, and Janice, all residing in Dickinson, as does the son, and Mrs. Charles M. (Audrey) McQueen of Hollywood, California. One sister, Olive S. McBride, Pasadena, California, also survives.

Funeral services and interment were held at Dickinson.

Committee on Memorials:

E. T. CONMY

J. H. NEWTON

RAY R. FRIEDERICH

E. J. MCILRAITH, *Chairman*

CLAIR F. BRICKNER

CLAIR F. Brickner, lawyer, soldier, legislator and businessman, resident of Fargo, North Dakota, died suddenly Jan. 25, 1950, at the age of 54 years.

He was well known and well liked by his fellow lawyers and businessmen of Fargo, and by his fellow legislators in the North Dakota House of Representatives.

His passing leaves an emptiness and genuine regret in the hearts of all those who knew him.

He came to Fargo in 1916 and started the practice of law. He served with distinction in World War I and was discharged with the rank of First Lieutenant. After World War I he maintained his interest in military affairs through membership in the Army Reserve. He again served his country in World War II, and was discharged with the rank of Colonel.

In the interval between World War I and World War II, he was active in the interests of the American Legion and served as commander of Gilbert C. Grafton Post No. 2 in Fargo.

His frankness, his friendliness and his sincerity will always be remembered.

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