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President's Page

Roy A. Ployhar

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BAR BRIEFS

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—BY—

STATE BAR ASSOCIATION OF NORTH DAKOTA

M. L. McBride, Editor

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NO. 5.

PRESIDENT FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT WAS A CASUALTY OF THIS WAR.

The world has lost an enlightened statesman.

The Nation has lost a distinguished President.

The common people have lost a great champion.

Time and history will finally evaluate his work and
political philosophies.

TO MY FELLOW MEMBERS OF THE BAR OF NORTH DAKOTA:

The Bar of this State has suffered a great loss in the untimely death of our President, the Honorable William G. Owens. The writer attended the funeral at Williston, North Dakota, and was deeply impressed with the large attendance of fellow townspeople and outside friends, including representatives of various organizations with which he had been affiliated. It was a very fitting tribute to the memory of our President and indicated to my mind that the public, as a whole, as well as the Bar, appreciated the ability, loyalty and devotion of our President to his calling and to the people of the State of North Dakota. Again another pioneer lawyer has passed to the great Unknown. North Dakota has lost one of its outstanding citizens and the North Dakota Bar has lost one of its valued and learned members.

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Under the by-laws of our Association, it becomes my duty to carry on as acting President of the Association until the next annual meeting. I personally feel that I do not possess either the wisdom or ability to carry on the program of the Association as Judge Owens would have done. However, I want to assure each and every member that I will do my utmost to try to promote and promulgate every worthwhile endeavor for the benefit of the Association. May I earnestly solicit your suggestions and advise in directing the affairs of the Association. The question of whether or not we will be able to hold our annual meeting during the year 1945, depends primarily upon the Office of Defense Transportation. However, I expect to be able to make a definite statement before the next issue of the Bar Briefs.

Sincerely yours,

ROY A. PLOYHAR
Acting President.

PRESIDENT WILLIAM G. OWENS DIES

Funeral services were held in the Congregational church at Williston Wednesday afternoon, March 21st, 1945, for William G. Owens, who died in his sleep Sunday morning. The Rev. N. E. Elsworth of the Episcopal church conducted the services and interment was in Riverview cemetery.

Prior to the services in the church more than 100 members of the Elks, many from all parts of North Dakota, attended the Elks memorial service held in the Everson Funeral Home chapel.

Mr. Owens recently began his second term as county judge, and was at the time of his death president of the State Bar Association, which he represented as honorary pall bearer at the funeral of Sen. John Moses. He was past exalted ruler of the Elks lodge and had served as state deputy grand exalted ruler, president of the North Dakota state Elks association and treasurer of the Williston lodge for a number of years.

He was born at Leavenworth, Minn., July 7, 1877, graduated from the high school at Sleepy Eye and in 1900 graduated from the Law College of the University of Minnesota with the degree of Bachelor of Laws. He opened a law office at Walnut Grove, Minn., and came to Williston in 1910 to take over the law practice of A. L. Knauf, when the latter moved to Jamestown.

He was a member of the North Dakota legislature in 1913 and was elected state's attorney of Williams county in 1915, serving two terms, whereupon he was appointed assistant attorney general.

During the Hoover administration he was appointed attorney for the federal farm board, and in 1933 he returned to Williston and resumed his law practice, which he continued until his election as county judge.