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Report of the Necrology Committee

Bruce P. Badley

William A. Swainson

Lee S. Nebeker

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REPORT OF THE NECROLOGY COMMITTEE

During the past year since our 1958 annual meeting, the deaths of seven members of the Wyoming State Bar have been reported. Of the seven, one had just been graduated from the College of Law at the University of Wyoming and was scheduled to take a position as assistant to the Natrona County Attorney; three had actively practiced in Wyoming for over 35 years and two for over 50 years; and the seventh, although a member of the Wyoming Bar, had in more recent years been practicing in Utica, New York.

ROSS BEYER

Ross Beyer was born January 2, 1934 at Scottsbluff, Nebraska. In 1937, the family moved to Casper and have resided there since that time. Mr. Beyer went to Jefferson School, Natrona County High School, and attended Casper College graduating with the class of 1954. He received his Bachelor Science degree in Law in 1956 from the University of Wyoming and in June, 1958, was graduated from the College of Law at the University. He was scheduled to take a position as an assistant to the Natrona County Attorney.

In 1952, he had undergone successful heart surgery in Denver but because of the renewal of such heart condition, he entered the Variety Club Heart Hospital at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis for surgery which failed to save his life.

He is survived by his wife, Frances; a daughter, Keri Lee; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Merlin E. Beyer of Casper; a sister of Casper; and two brothers, one of Laramie and one of Worland.

This promising young man will be missed by the future citizens of Wyoming who would have profited by his service.

C. R. ELLERY

C. R. Ellery, a Cheyenne attorney since 1920 and one of Wyoming's best known men, died April 9, 1959 at the age of 73. In recent years, he had divided his time between residence at Cheyenne and Chula Vista, California.

A Canadian (he was born June 16, 1885 at Newington, Canada) Mr. Ellery came to Cheyenne in 1920 and was first associated in law practice with the late William Ross. He was next in practice with the firm of Kincaid, Ellery and Henderson, and in 1927 established his own office. Association with Norman B. Gray, now Wyoming attorney general, and J. J. Hickey, now governor, followed, and he was at the time of his death senior member of the firm of Ellery, Hickey, Rooney and Walton. Mr. Ellery was highly respected for his competence in all facets of the practice of law and won particular recognition through his courtroom

eloquence and exhaustive preparation of cases. He participated in scores of highly-publicized lawsuits, several of which had national scope and impact.

He was christened Clymo Robertson Ellery, but he preferred to be called "C. R.", which virtually became a nickname. He was an ardent golfer, using a crosshanded grip, and long was one of Wyoming's topflight players.

In addition to his widow, he is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Leonard (Frae) Hay of Rock Springs. The present members of the Wyoming Bar will have to work long and hard to replace the loss of this respected member.

JOHN W. GUDMUNDSEN

John W. Gudmundsen, a resident of Wyoming for nearly eighty-two years, died on August 27, 1959, in Riverton, Wyoming.

Mr. Gudmundsen was born in Green River, Wyoming, on September 25, 1877, and attended Green River public schools. He was admitted to the Bar in 1898, and practiced law in Green River for several years.

In 1905 Mr. Gudmundsen and his wife moved to Shoshoni, Wyoming, and his family was among the first residents of the Town of Shoshoni. He was a member of the Episcopal Church and of Masonic Lodge No. 25 of Shoshoni.

Mr. Gudmundsen is survived by his wife and one brother, J. G. Gudmundsen of Reno, Nevada. He will be missed by his friends.

HAL E. MORRIS

Hal E. Morris, 51, whose death occurred January 8, 1959, was born March 23, 1907 at Franklinville, New York. He was graduated from the University of Wyoming Law School in 1932 and went to Torrington that same year where he formed a law partnership with the late Thomas F. Kennelly. From this time until 1938 he was acting county attorney.

In 1942 he was appointed by Louis O'Marr to be his deputy attorney general and he served in this capacity for two years before returning to Torrington to resume his private practice. He formed a law partnership with the late Erle Reid in 1952 and this continued until the death of Mr. Reid. From that time Mr. Morris had practiced alone.

Survivors include two sons; two daughters; three sisters; two brothers; and three grandchildren. One daughter preceded him in death. This long public service to the Bar and to the people of the State of Wyoming will certainly be greatly missed.

MILTON D. NELSON

Milton D. Nelson, more recently a prominent Utica attorney and civic leader, died at the age of 49 in New York. He was born July 17, 1909 in Utica, attended Utica schools, was graduated from Syracuse University in 1931, and from Harvard Law School in 1934.

Mr. Nelson had been active in leadership of the Greater Utica Community with the Community Chest, the United Fund, Boy Scouts, as a director of the Salvation Army, with many Jewish organizations, and many other such community efforts. He served in the Army from April, 1941, to March, 1946, and held the rank of major at the time of his discharge. In the Army, Mr. Nelson served as aide to the commanding general at Fort Francis E. Warren, and also as chief of the legal branch of the Jeffersonville Quartermaster Depot.

Mr. Nelson left a brother, two sisters, and a niece, all of Utica, New York. The Wyoming Bar Association regrets that it did not become better acquainted with such an outstanding public servant and appreciates his services at Fort Francis E. Warren during the War.

WILFRID O'LEARY

Wilfrid O'Leary, a widely known Cheyenne attorney, died May 16, 1959, at the age of 82. He had been a resident of Cheyenne since 1907 when he established his Wyoming law practice, and until his death maintained a leadership role in civic, state, and regional affairs. His law work was confined largely to oil and utility practice, in which he was distinguished.

Mr. O'Leary was born in 1876 at New York City. He attended Sacred Heart Academy, now Claussen Point Military Academy at New York City; Manhattan College, also at New York City; and the law school at Grant University at Chattanooga. He received his law degree in 1902 and was admitted to the Tennessee Bar. The attorney served in the Spanish-American War with the Eighth Regiment of New York infantry.

An aviation enthusiast, Mr. O'Leary was a member of the state aeronautics commission (since its inception in the '30's), the city airport committee, and he served on the chamber of commerce committee, active in the original construction of the Cheyenne airport.

For five years during World War II he served as chairman of the Laramie county draft board. He was the first chairman of the Cheyenne Boy Scout organization, and during World War I he was major judge advocate general for the military department of Wyoming, army national guard.

The survivors include his widow, two daughters, and a grandson. Mr. O'Leary will be sorely missed by his many friends in public life.

JOHN W. SONGER

John W. Songer, a resident of Sheridan for nearly 40 years, died there on September 27, 1958, at the age of 72.

Mr. Songer was born in Crawford County, Kansas, January 22, 1886, and came to Sheridan from Buffalo, Wyoming, 37 years ago. A practicing lawyer, he became District Court Clerk in 1940 and held that position until 1958, and at one time had served as Sheridan County Attorney. He was a member of the Elks Lodge and the Christian Science Church.

He is survived by his wife, Ellen, of Sheridan; four daughters; two brothers; two sisters; and nine grandchildren.

Mr. Songer's long service to the Bar of the State of Wyoming, both as a County Attorney and a Clerk of Court, is a record difficult to equal.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Wyoming State Bar at its regular annual meeting assembled in Cheyenne, Wyoming, September 10, 11, and 12, 1959, pay its respect to: Ross Beyer, C. R. Ellery, John W. Gudmundsen, Hal E. Morris, Milton D. Nelson, Wilfrid O'Leary, and John W. Songer, and recognize their contribution to the legal profession in the State of Wyoming, that our sympathy be hereby extended to their bereaved relatives and that their memories be perpetuated by extending this resolution upon the minutes of the meeting of the Association.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the families of these seven distinguished members of our profession.

Respectfully submitted,

THE NECROLOGY COMMITTEE

Bruce P. Badley, Chairman

William A. Swainson

Lee S. Nebeker