

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE  
ALLEN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION

LOUIE H. DUNTEN

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ALLEN CIRCUIT COURT

Mr. President, members of the Allen County Bar Association and friends.

As era has ended. Louie H. Dunten died. He was one of the last of a group of lawyers given to theatrical performances in court.

Louie Dunten was born and raised in Allen County, graduated from Central High School and proceeded to the University of Michigan where he received both his Liberal Arts and professional degrees. He has practiced law in this community since 1915, and has been a member of our Bar Association since 1919. He served in World War I. As a lawyer, he was a feared and respected cross-examiner, relentless and ruthless. To him, the court room was a stage in which he was the star performer. As part of his efforts, he appeared to be shocked, amazed, angry, surprised, disorganized, or amused, but nevertheless was at all times in complete control and only putting on an act for the benefit of the judge, jury, parties or spectators. Yes, he was aware of the spectators, and as one performing spectacularly for an audience, he drew a large audience. In fact, he has been known to invite spectators when a particularly interesting direct examination or cross-examination was contemplated and used the audience's reactions for his purpose in setting the stage for the result he sought to attain. Indeed, his reputation was such that witnesses had to be well-coached before

being subjected to his efforts, and in spite of the coaching many still lost their cool. It can be said that he used audience reaction to emphasize a point. Those who have seen Louie Dunten in court over the years will never forget the sight of him parading, mimicking, shouting, or sitting back curled in a Lotus position long before such ever became popular. As a lawyer, Louie Dunten will not be forgotten, and the many stories about his methods and tactics will be repeated over succeeding generations.

Louie Dunten ever exhibited loyalty - loyalty to the institutions in which he was interested. He was one of the greatest backers of the University of Michigan's athletic teams, and for years seldom missed a maize and blue football game. I can recall, even before I started the practice of law, going with my father, Louie Dunten and former Judge Harry Hilgemann to attend football games at the Michigan stadium. They were all excellent conversationalists, and I was intrigued listening to the varied subjects covered in their discourses.

Most of all, Mr. Dunten was a believer in the conservation of our natural resources. He was an outdoorsman and he worked to preserve the natural beauty of this country for those who were to follow him. He was a charter member of the Izaak Walton League, one of the earliest chapters in the nation, and served in many capacities, even as president, of the local chapter of the state chapter and of the national League.

As busy as he was in the practice of law, it is hard to conceive of the vast amount of time and effort which he

spent working for the establishment of the National Elk Reservation in Wyoming, the preservation of the Boundary Waters Canoe area, the National Wild Life Refuge on the borders of Minnesota and Wisconsin, and in the establishment of preservation of the various wilderness areas in the country. In 1963, he was elected to the Hall of Fame of the Izaak Walton League. As an outdoorsman and lover of nature, he maintained for many years a summer residence in Les Cheanux Islands in northern Michigan.

Louie Dunten was a man of small stature with exceptionally small feet; however, his life left large footprints on the path of the trial bar of this county and on the path toward the preservation of the beauties of our nation. Those who have had the pleasure of knowing him over the years have many stories to relate of his various activities.

In the last years, he was senior partner in the firm of Dunten, Beckman, Wyneken, Lawson and Fruechtenicht. They especially will miss his counsel.

He left surviving him his widow Bess, a son George of Aurora, Illinois and a daughter Mrs. Adella Edwards of Lansing, Michigan. To them we extend our deepest sympathy in the passing of a great conservationist, and with this expression of sympathy, we can assure them that his memory will long be cherished.

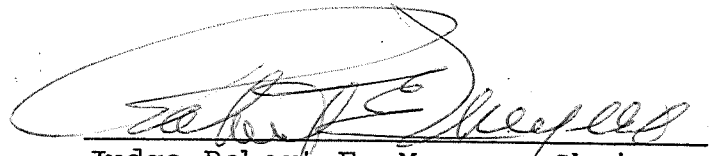
Mr. President, I move that the Allen County Bar Association give public expression of the sorrow of its members upon the death of Louie H. Dunten;

That the adoption of this Resolution be made a matter of record in the order books of the Courts of Allen County;

That a copy of this Resolution be sent to his widow Bess and family.

WITNESS our hand and seal this 24th day of June, 1976.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Allen County Bar Association  
Memorial Resolution Committee



Judge Robert E. Meyers, Chairman

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