

I N M E M O R I A M

B E N J A M I N F. H E A T O N

Benjamin F. Heaton, one of the oldest and most venerable Members of the Allen County Indiana Bar Association passed away Thursday evening, January 29, 1959. His parents, Jesse and Samantha C. Heaton settled in Marion Township, Allen County, Indiana, in 1833 and cleared away the forest upon the farm where Ben was born in June of 1878. He was the youngest of eleven children. At an early age he engaged in the business of raising fine stock and was doing exceptionally well until a sudden and devastating epidemic struck and killed nearly all of his animals. Discouraged and disheartened over his great financial loss and not wanting to resume in a business which to him seemed very hazardous, he entered Tri-State Normal College at Angola, Indiana, and completed his preparatory education at the Fort Wayne Business College. He then decided to become a lawyer and began his studies in the office of Vesey and Heaton where he was employed as a clerk. In 1900, at the age of twenty two, he was admitted to the practice of law and became a member of the firm of Vesey and Heaton, then one of the leading law firms in the City of Fort Wayne.

Of his four score years he devoted a half century to the active practice of law and in his retirement he continued to be vitally interested in his chosen profession. Ben will be remembered not because of the many years he lived but because of his fine personal traits, his kindly and cheerful disposition, his sense of humor, his diligence, his scholarship and knowledge of the law and his integrity and devotion to the highest principles of humanity and justice.

Ben enjoyed life and helped every one around him to enjoy

life. He was especially fond of golf and cards to each of which he gave as much of his time as he could without in any manner neglecting his family or his practice of law. He was a gracious host and loved to entertain his friends. One who never had the privilege of being a guest at the Heaton home cannot appreciate the sincerity of his charm, courtesy and princely manners. On the first two occasions of the Annual Meeting of the Indiana State Bar Association in Fort Wayne, Ben was Chairman of the Entertainment Committee which accounts in part for the fact that our Association has a reputation of being a wonderful host and for the further fact that the State Bar Association in recent years has come to Fort Wayne for its Annual Meeting more frequently than to any other Indiana City. Ben was always active in our Association.

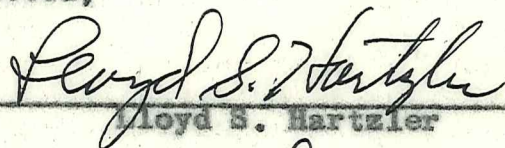
Ben served with distinction as Probate Commissioner for approximately six years, as Referee in Bankruptcy for a number of years and would have been the first Judge of the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana except that Lady Luch had a date with the genial and affable Thomas W. Slick. Our Association made a tremendous effort on behalf of Mr. Heaton and it appeared that he would be recommended for the appointment but for some unknown reason Senator Watson changed his mind and recommended Thomas W. Slick. This was a great disappointment to Ben, one which might have generated ill will in the heart of the average individual but not in the heart of Ben Heaton. Judge Slick and Ben Heaton became fast friends and Judge Slick seldom came to Fort Wayne without visiting Ben at his home.

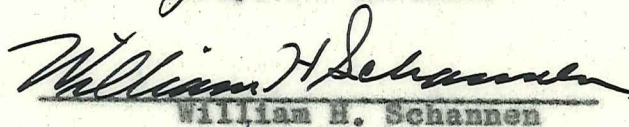
Ben's identification with the First Presbyterian Church, Professional Organizations, Chamber of Commerce, Fort Wayne Country Club, Blue Lodge, Scottish Rite, Shrine, and civic affairs evidences a life of devotion to his community and to his profession.

Honored and respected by Judges, Lawyers and countless friends,
he leaves an impressive record which will inspire and favorably
influence all of us.

BE IT NOW RESOLVED by the Allen County Indiana Bar
Association that a copy hereby be spread of record in all the
Courts of Allen County, Indiana and a copy hereof be transmitted
to David H. Heaton, Esquire.

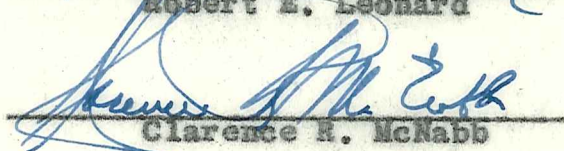
Respectfully submitted,


Lloyd S. Hartzler


William H. Schannen

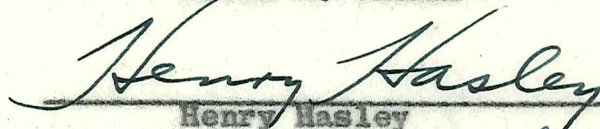

Harold E. Korn

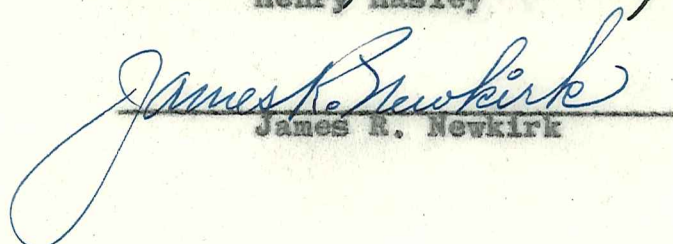

Robert E. Leonard


Clarence H. McNabb


Dan C. Flanagan


Edwin H. Thomas


Henry Hasley


James R. Newkirk