

A review of the life of William H. Fruechtenicht brings forceably to our minds that America is the land of opportunity, and that hard work and perseverance leads to success. He had a keen sense of humor, was a delightful story teller, and a boon companion.

Mr. Fruechtenicht was born in Hanover, Germany, on the 20th day of February, 1880, and came to America with his parents when he was a lad nine years of age. The family at first settled near Holgate, in Defiance County, Ohio, and William immediately took advantage of the opportunities which the new home offered. He studied hard to master the English language, joined the debating society of the community, took an active part in the debates. He read the works of the great German poets, Schiller and Goethe, and recognized their merits, he early became a student and admirer of Shakespeare, and could quote at random the principal passages from the works of the great Bard.

In the year 1900, the family moved to Fort Wayne, and in 1904, through his own efforts, he was graduated from the Law School of Valparaiso University. In the same year he was admitted to the bar in Allen County. His practice was general, and he worked hard in his chosen profession until his recent illness about a month ago. He died in Fort Wayne on June 8, 1957, at the age of seventy-seven years.

Mr. Fruechtenicht took a deep interest in public affairs during his entire adult life. Shortly after his graduation from college, he was elected to the General Assembly of the State of Indiana. His record in that body is replete with fine accomplishments. It was mainly through his efforts that the Track Elevation Bill was passed, separating the railroad crossings from the streets, without which Fort Wayne could not have made the development of which we are now so justly proud. He also sponsored a bill placing Prosecuting Attorneys on a salary instead of having them depend for livelihood on fees resulting from successful prosecution of criminals, a system which embodied within it great evils. He was also mainly responsible for the passage of the Full Crew Law applying to railroads.

From 1930 until 1935, he was City Attorney for the City of Fort Wayne under the late William J. Hosey, Mayor. For many years he was the Town Attorney for the Town of New Haven.

Mr. Fruechtenicht early recognized the evil of the destruction of our natural resources in America. He was an active member from its inception of the Izaak Walton League. He also early recognized the value of our northern lakes as recreation centers, and developed and promoted two modern summer resorts at Lake James, Glen Eyre Beach and Glen Eden Springs. For the protection of the lake shores he organized the Lake James Cottagers' Association, and was its first president. He was also Vice-president of the Indiana Fish and Game Protective Association.

He was a member of the St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Fort Wayne; the founder and president of the Lake James Lutheran Chapel Association; a member and past President of the Optimist Club; for many years a member of the Johnny Appleseed Commission; President of the Allen County-Fort Wayne Historical Society; a member of the Fort Wayne Turners, and of the Y. M. C. A.; and chairman of the Executive Board of the Home Loan Savings Association.

He is survived by his widow Clara, nee Richter; two sons, William H., Jr. and Arthur H., both of whom were associated with him in the practice of law; and one daughter, Mrs. Dorothea Brown, of Wilmette, Illinois.

Respectfully submitted

The Memorial Committee

Hon. Edwin R. Thomas, Chairman

Hon. Lloyd S. Hartzler

Hon. Clarence R. McNabb

Hon. Harold E. Korn

Hon. Robert E. Leonard

Hon. Harry H. Hilgemann

Hon. William H. Schannen

Hon. James M. Barrett, Jr.

ALLEN CIRCUIT COURT

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MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

The Allen County Indiana Bar Association meets once again to pay its respect to the memory of one of its members.

William P. Fruechtenicht died on Monday, June 23, 1980, following a long and incapacitating illness. He was born on October 1, 1915, and was 64 years of age at the time of his death.

He is survived by his widow, Loreen M.; two daughters, Christine Cook, Kendallville, and Alice Havens, South Bend; his brother, Arthur H., Fort Wayne; and a sister, Dorothea Brown, Lake Forest, Illinois.

A lifelong resident of Fort Wayne, Mr. Fruechtenicht attended St. Paul's Lutheran School and graduated from North Side High School in 1934. He received his pre-law training at Indiana University and was a 1940 graduate of the Valparaiso University Law School. He began his law practice in 1940 with his father, the late William H. Fruechtenicht, and was later associated with his brother, Arthur H. Fruechtenicht, until retiring in 1968 due to his illness.

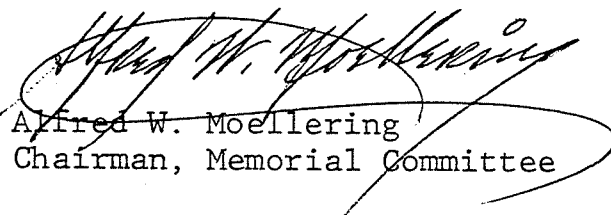
He was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, the Lake James Lutheran Chapel Association, the Allen County Bar Association and the Indiana Bar Association.

He had a lifelong interest in several hobbies to which he devoted much of his time. These interests led to his involvement, together with his family, in the early years of Fort Wayne Ballet, Inc. Bill was very active in a supportive role in Fort Wayne Ballet and devoted many hours to behind the scenes work to insure a smooth and successful artistic production by the ballet.

During his active years in the practice of law, he handled mostly real estate and probate matters for the Fruechtenicht Law Office. Bill was a quiet and unassuming type of person who preferred the routine and rigor of a demanding office practice to the flamboyant courtroom style of many of his colleagues.

Mr. President, I move that the above resolution be adopted, that a copy be sent to his widow, Loreen M. Fruechtenicht, and that it be spread of record in the Courts of Allen County.

Respectfully submitted,



Alfred W. Moellering  
Chairman, Memorial Committee