

JERRY L. COSLOW

September 12, 1930 - August 9, 1986

Once again, we gather to bid farewell to one of our number who was taken from us far too soon.

Jerry L. Coslow was 55 at his death on August 9, 1986. Death, when it came, was a blessing for he had had many years suffering from the ravages of pancreatitis and diabetes.

Before the onset of his illness, he had been an exceptionally active, warm and caring person.

He was born in Titusville, Pennsylvania, and was active as a sprinter in high school. He was a member of a relay team from a small high school of 200 which won the Pennsylvania State Championship and the Pennsylvania Relays in 1948. It is a measure of the strength of his friendship that the other members of the track team and their coach visited Jerry in Fort Wayne just three months ago.

After high school, he went to Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, where he graduated in 1952 with an AB degree in psychology. He was a member of Phi Kappa Psi.

He continued to be active in track at Dickinson, and he also was a member of the swimming and golf teams. He did not become an avid golfer, but those who played with him in Fort Wayne still remember his beautiful swing and the competitiveness he brought to the game, as to everything else he did. In this connection, it might be mentioned that he was one of the finest Ping-Pong players of his time in Fort Wayne.

The year he graduated from college, Jerry married Joan, with whom he spent the rest of his life. He worked several years for a small electronics firm and then went to work for Gulf Oil which sent him to Fort Wayne in 1955 for his initial assignment. After three years, Gulf transferred him to Michigan and after two more years with Gulf, he entered Michigan Law School in 1959. This was not an easy decision

because, by that time, he had three children, C. Richard, Mark and Lee Ann, all of whom were very young. However, Jerry worked days in the law school and Joan worked afternoons and evenings in a psychiatric hospital and they managed to get Jerry through law school with his JD in 1962.

He returned to Fort Wayne and joined the firm of Newkirk, Keane, Kowalczyk & Leal. Soon after beginning his practice, he became a deputy prosecutor under Walter Helmke. Thus, began what was to become Jerry's greatest interest in the practice, the prosecution and defense of criminal cases.

Not only did he enjoy his work, but he was very good at it. It provided a good outlet for his competitiveness. He fought hard, and he was resourceful. Arnold Duemling knew him well both as a colleague in the prosecutor's office and as an opponent after Jerry became a defense lawyer. Arnold summarizes Jerry's career in a few words: "He could strike hard blows, but he didn't strike foul ones."

Later, Jerry became the first police attorney in Fort Wayne and it fell upon him to carve out the role that was to be played by the legal advisor to a department which was trying to adjust itself to the then new Supreme Court decisions which created so much change in police methods.

After establishing the position, Jerry returned to private practice. By this time, he had become a pilot, and flying gave him his greatest pleasure during those last active years. However, illness struck and he became confined to his home for the long years preceding his death. His children were a source of much enjoyment and pride as they grew into fruitful adulthood; Richard is now completing studies in chiropractics, Mark is a counselor at St. Joseph's Medical Center and Lee Ann is just beginning her practice as a family physician.

It is moved that this memorial resolution be approved and adopted by the association, with appropriate copies to the court records, and to his family.

Respectfully submitted,

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE



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David B. Keller