

IN MEMORY OF  
HARRY V. BOOTH

**FILED**

SEP 1 1971

*Elmo Entry*  
Deputy Clerk

We, the undersigned, being directed by the Shreveport Bar Association, do hereby submit the following memorial to Harry Vincent Booth, esteemed member of the Shreveport Bar, who departed this life November 5, 1970.

Harry, as everybody referred to him, was born in Bardolph, Illinois, in 1894 of the marriage between George Vincent Booth and Blanch Ann Wilson Booth. The Booth family moved to Longmont, Colorado, in 1906 where Harry attended and finished high school. Shortly before the outbreak of World War I he enrolled in the Law School of the University of Denver. Before completion of his studies, he was inducted into the United States Army. Upon his honorable discharge in 1918 he re-entered Denver University and graduated from the Law School in 1922.

Harry was a unique character in most respects. This was demonstrated in an early significant move of his in that it was not to him "Westward ho, young man!" Instead of drifting westward he turned eastward, enticed and cajoled, he explained, by flamboyant talk of people he met in the Army from Northwest Louisiana, regarding the salubrious climate of our section and the economic opportunities inherent in oil. Attracted thus, he came to Shreveport and for a short while he joined the ranks of those called "lease hounds". His experience as such didn't inspire a long continuance in this precarious business and so he prepared himself and took the Louisiana Bar. He was admitted to practice in Louisiana in 1923 and immediately began practice in Shreveport. Predictably, he went from office to office seeking connections but the legal establishment saw nothing to entice them to this lean mountain transplant. This proved to be a good

example of the infinite capacity of intelligent people for making mistakes. He was told gruffly by one leading lawyer, probably in jest, that they didn't need any "top waters", equating him with a minnow. He was forced to start his legal career as a bill collecting lawyer. But shortly he dropped the "bill" part of his activities but he collected, collected and collected as long as he was active.

We opine that nobody would deny that Harry Booth was a successful lawyer. He was acutely intelligent, intense and sincere, which qualities quickly sparked the public's interest. His success was early, steady and increasing. He founded the firm presently known as Booth, Lockard, Jack, Pleasant & LeSage, Shreveport, Louisiana.

During his active practice of law in Shreveport Harry Booth served as a member of the Caddo Parish Police Jury from 1932-36, Commander of Lowe-McFarland Post of the American Legion, 1936; President of the Shreveport Bar Association, 1937; Democratic National Committeeman from Louisiana, 1960-64. He was a Fellow, International Academy of Trial Lawyers and served many years as an editor of the Journal of the American Trial Lawyers Association.

Harry Booth ranks with the best of his time and many regard him among the best who have ever practiced in this parish. He, of course, was not the perfect lawyer, no man can be. His interests were oriented to trial work. He was not what might be called a student or scholar of the law but his immensely natural talent and his inordinate application to each case easily compensated. The fact is that many at the bar were fortunate that he was not as they say "widely learned" in the law. A remark of Judge Stephens, a trial judge late of Caddo Parish, illustrates this. At the end of a dramatic trial some lawyer

remarked in Judge Stephens' presence, "What would Harry Booth be if he was a student of the law?". Judge Stephens replied in effect, "God Almighty gave Harry much, but to protect others he didn't give him everything. Had he made him a student, nobody could have got due process against him."


In addition to his unusual ability as a trial lawyer, Harry was gentle and unassuming. His disposition always was to give everybody more credit than was due, especially his partners. Insofar as it is given the writers of this memorial to know what other people think, we believe that Harry Booth had no enemies in spite of a long, vigorous and active life and there was no one even who had a distaste for him.

He was a very good lawyer, but better than that he was a warm, gentle, generous human being. The writers of this memorial who are members of his law firm recall him with deepest affection and respect and we here declare that we believe that our emotions have not led us to effusiveness or overpraise herein.

Harry Vincent Booth is survived by his widow, Alma Louise Booth, his first and only wife, of Shreveport, Louisiana; one son, George Vincent Booth of Dallas, Texas; three grandchildren, Lisa, Cindy and Debra Booth; and three brothers, Dr. Edgar W. Booth and Harold L. Booth of Shreveport, Louisiana, and Howard G. Booth of Portland, Oregon.

For the Shreveport Bar Association

  
Leonard L. Lockard

  
Whitfield Jack

  
John R. Pleasant