

Shreveport, Louisiana

IN MEMORIAM

CHARLES L. BARNETTE

We, the undersigned, were designated by the Shreveport Bar Association to prepare a suitable memorial for our late brother, Charles L. Barnette, who departed our midst tragically and untimely on November 30, 1969. We set out below a skeleton of the vital statistics of this man and what we believe to be the Bench and Bar sentiments regarding him as a man and a lawyer.

"Charlie," as we fraternally called him, was born in Vivian, Louisiana, on January 26, 1911 of the marriage of Charles P. Barnette and Hattie Bruce Barnette. His boyhood was small town. In his early teens he worked in the neighboring oil fields while not attending school and this kind of employment continued until he began the practice of law in 1938 or 1939 in Vivian, Louisiana. He began the study of law in the law office of Jasper K. Smith in Vivian, Louisiana, and supplemented it with night school law studies at Centenary and Louisiana State University, where he became a member of Kappa Sigma Fraternity.

He began the practice of law in Vivian but this was interrupted by the Great War in 1941. Charlie had a simple, uncomplicated faith in America and its institutions and he immediately responded to his country's need but, being blind in one eye he was unable to serve in the fighting forces but instead was employed by the military in a civilian capacity and served with distinction in the West Indies and Oak Ridge, receiving citations therefor.

He married his wife, Anne Runyon, of Kentucky in 1943. She survives him, together with 5 children of this marriage: Andrea Lee Toth, Shreveport, Louisiana; Robert Bruce Barnette, in the Army; Peggy Anne McDuff of New Jersey; Kathy Sue Barnette and M'Lou Denise Barnette of Shreveport; and also by a sister, Mrs. J. M. Moncrief of Vivian, and a brother, George Ralph Barnette of Oil City.

With his background of oil field work and acquaintance, his practice from the very beginning was predominantly compensation and tort.

In this field he developed an acknowledged expertise and, unlike some lawyers who will undertake engagements beyond their knowledge, Charlie made no pretense to an ability to handle successfully problems outside of his field and either passed them up or obtained qualified assistance. To him this was an ethic based upon the basic honesty of the man.

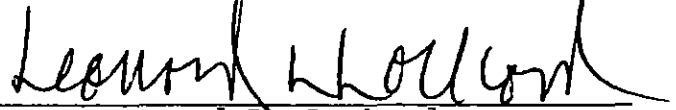
He was devoted to his cases, worked hard at them, and was engaged in off hour work when he came to his tragic end, falling in an open elevator shaft on a holiday in his office building.

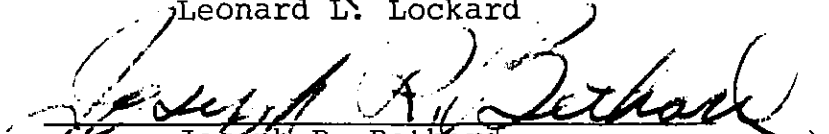
Additionally, in his later years, beside his law business, he was engaged extensively in the production of oil.

Charlie was fiercely conservative. He thought that those who would change our institutions, which he believed had served this country and mankind so well, should have an excessively heavy burden. He did not believe in experiment in Government and with people. He gave unstintingly of his time and money for years to organized conservative causes, and men like Charlie undoubtedly stayed the onrush of revolutionary ideas seeking to engulf our country.

Charlie was a quiet man, disliked pretense and ostentation. He loved his country, his family and the profession of the law. Possibly there could be a more glowing tribute to a man, but we doubt it.

FOR THE SHREVEPORT BAR ASSOCIATION


Leonard L. Lockard


Joseph R. Bethard


C. J. Bolin, Jr., District Judge

COMMITTEE