

LEWELL COLBERT BUTLER, SR.

We are here today to honor the memory of our late departed members of the Shreveport Bar, one among them being Mr. Lewell Colbert Butler, Sr.

Mr. Lewell Colbert Butler, Sr., was born in Gibsland, Louisiana, November 22, 1882, but moved to Shreveport when he was a boy of 16, where he resided until his death on January 29th of this year. He was married to Miss Mary Lou Doll, a member of an old and prominent family of Shreveport. He is survived by his widow, three children, Mrs. Loretta Reagor of this city, Mrs. J. C. McCleery of Memphis, Tennessee, and Dr. Lewell C. Butler, Jr., a prominent Shreveport physician, and four grandchildren. He also left two sisters, Mrs. Willie Mercer of Chicago, Illinois, Mrs. George Allen of New Orleans, and two brothers, John Butler of New Orleans, and our popular and able Caddo Parish Coroner, Dr. Willis P. Butler.

Mr. Butler was admitted to the Bar in 1903, and practiced here in Shreveport until his retirement in 1951. Success came to him early in his career, and in 1908 he became City Attorney, which position he held for two terms; and he was later Assistant United States Attorney. He was interested in fraternal work and was a past Exalted Ruler of the Elks Lodge of Shreveport.

Mr. Butler was an able and forceful speaker, and his services were in great demand throughout this area. He

FILED

SEP 15 1958

Deputy Clerk

was especially good in speaking at ceremonies of this nature and the Woodmen of the World had a number of his unveiling and memorial speeches placed in book form for distribution and guidance in Louisiana and elsewhere. The speeches contained in this book are valuable and worthy of serious literary consideration.

Mr. Butler's outstanding characteristics, in addition to being an able and successful lawyer, were his ability to make friends, and his complete unselfishness. He was ever willing to lend a helping hand to anyone, and especially to the beginning lawyer. He thought that a young lawyer should have a start and he was always pleased to help him in that start. There are a number of attorneys who received their early encouragement in Mr. Butler's office; and with it have gone on to successes on their own.

As for the character of Mr. Butler, and, his was a splendid one, we could best illustrate it by using Mr. Butler's own words, which we have taken from the book of his speeches compiled by the Woodmen of the World. On one occasion he had this to say, "As the purse is fuller by the gold we save and not the coins we spend, so the mind is richer by the treasures it contains and not the things forgotten." On another occasion in eulogizing a friend, he said, "Zealous in his commendation, gentle

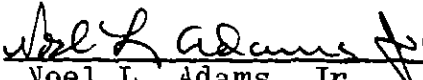
in reproof, he spoke no ill of his fellow man—***.
Remaining speechless always when he saw a sinful deed
performed, he judged his fellows as he would be judged."

The Bar mourns the loss of an outstanding lawyer
and a devoted friend. More could be said of his memory
but it could not be better expressed than in the words
of Shakespeare,

"His life was gentle, and the elements
So mix'd in him that Nature might stand up
And say to all the world 'This was a man!'"

Respectfully,


Robert A. Hunter, Chairman


Noel L. Adams, Jr.


E. Purcell Wallace