

FILED

IN MEMORIAM

ALBERT EDWARD BRYSON

OCT 31 1983

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It is an uncharitable commentary on society that all too often we learn of the essential qualities of our friends when we prepare or listen to a eulogy. It is, however, a tribute to the modesty and humility of Albert Edward Bryson that I, who knew him in life, have come to recognize the unusual and extraordinary qualities in him only in the preparation of this eulogy.

Albert Edward Bryson was born on May 2, 1903, in Greenwood, Louisiana. His family was a distinguished one that played a substantial part in the development of Northwest Louisiana. Albert was educated in the public school system of Caddo Parish, and as an adult read and studied law with the firm of Dickson and Denny. He passed the State Bar examination and launched his legal career in the promising year of 1929. During his career he served as a United States Magistrate. At one time in his career he was associated in law practice with the late J. Norrie Marcautel; I can scarcely imagine a more delightful and pleasurable association than those two gentlemen. In 1939 he married Miss Genevieve Molt of St. Louis with whom he lived until his death on March 15, 1983. When he died, Albert Bryson had practiced law honorably and successfully in this community for some fifty-three years.

This brief recital was the Albert Bryson many knew, quiet, unassuming, a quite modest man. Now I want to tell you about the Albert Bryson who unfortunately all too many did not know or appreciate.

Albert Bryson was a scholar. You can tell much about a man from a study of his library. To me it is disconcerting to enter a home that is bare of books. I somehow suspected that Albert Bryson

would have a marvelous library and I was not disappointed. In a neat, comfortable room in the front portion of the Bryson home, an entire wall from floor to ceiling contained often used and well thumbed volumes which this student of history and politics had assembled and read. It was not the library of a surface reader, not the milieu of a shallow student. Nor was it a collection for show. There is depth and substance in that collection just as there was in its owner.

To those who conversed with Albert Bryson, this should come as no surprise; in addition to his command of law, he was indeed an excellent student of the world. He had a curiosity and thirst for knowledge all good intellects share. In 1957 Albert Bryson wrote a short history of the Town of Greenwood which was delivered to the North Louisiana Historical Association and reprinted in that organization's journal. It was scholarly and interesting, to my knowledge the only treatment of the development of that area.

One sentence in that history was a commentary on his own life. Albert Bryson wrote:

"If there be vouchsafed any personal comment to the writer of these notes, it would be to say that in going through old writings and records he was again impressed with the vigor and great sense of duty and responsibility of our ancestors."

Everything Albert Bryson did was motivated by a grand sense of duty and an old world courtesy that was as sincere as it is rare. If Albert Bryson was ever guilty of a mean or small act, I never heard of it. We speak loosely of someone being a gentleman and a scholar. And yet, that is precisely the epitaph I would choose for Albert Bryson.

Albert Bryson was a gentleman in everything that he did. Over the years he demonstrated to us time and again that one could

represent a client well and still maintain the qualities and behavior of a gentleman. He exemplified the strength that is inherent in gentleness.

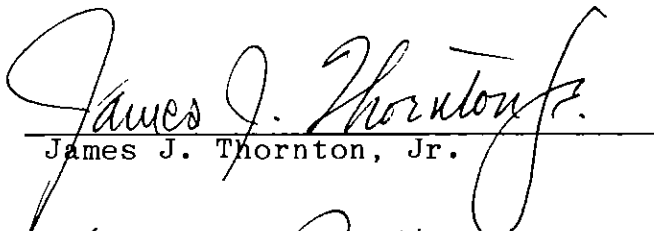
In thinking of Albert Bryson I am reminded of the words of the Old Testament Prophet Micah.

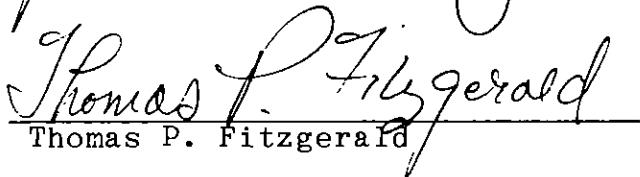
"He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

In addition to being a scholar and a gentlemen, Albert Bryson was a just man, a kind man, a generous man. He was a religious man, a devotion he lived rather than talked about. In his humility and modesty he lived his religion in the way his God wanted him to live it.

Albert Edward Bryson is survived by his pretty and gracious wife, a number of cousins and an army of friends who will not soon forget him.

BY THE COMMITTEE:


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