

## IN MEMORIAM

### BYRON ATKINS IRWIN

When Byron Atkins Irwin passed away on January 16, 1956 Shreveport lost one of its most popular and talented members of the bar. His proficiency in the law was combined with a keen, alert mind and a sense of humor that made the practice of his profession a pleasant, useful and successful art. He believed that the law which governs all men was something more than legal mandate or restraint, and that justice and equity were interwoven with, and based upon, the laws of nature and of God. It was this creed that gave him a sense of proportion and ingeniously mixed human interest with legal platitudes and judicial precedents.

Byron Irwin was born in Clinton, Louisiana on November 11, 1899 and was a member of one of the pioneer families of East Feliciana Parish. His father, Ashby Pelham Irwin, and his mother, Emma Atkins Irwin were prominent and highly respected citizens of that Parish. It was there that Byron received his elementary and high school education and spent the days of his boyhood and young manhood.

In 1922 he graduated from the Louisiana State University with an L. L. B. degree and began the practice of law in Baton Rouge. The next year he was married to Altie Holmes, a charming native of Magnolia, Mississippi, and came with his bride to Shreveport where he became associated with Pugh and Boatner, one of Louisiana's leading law firms. After several years with that firm, he practiced alone, and in 1936 became the senior partner in the firm of Irwin and Cowles until 1942 when he became associated with the firm of Wilkinson, Lewis and Wilkinson in Shreveport where he remained until his death in 1956. During the later years of his life he devoted the major part of his time to corporation and mineral law and represented many large oil and gas companies whom he served with honor and distinction. During his busy and successful career he passed upon and perfected land titles in most of the major oil and gas fields in Louisiana in addition to the trial of cases in the District and Appellate Courts of his native State.

Although Byron Irwin did not live his allotted time of three score years and ten, he made the most of his shorter span of


life, and found time for fun with the family he loved, for fellowship with friends, and for communion with his Church. During his years in college he was a member of the Kappa Alpha fraternity, a venerable and honorable Southern fraternity of college boys and young men. He was a communicant of the First Methodist Church of Shreveport where he and his family were loyal and devoted members. He also assisted in many worthy civic, charitable, and educational movements for the advancement of his community and State.

In addition to his beloved wife, Byron Irwin is survived by a daughter, Joan Altie Irwin, wife of J. W. Russell of Magnolia, Arkansas and Ashby Pelham Irwin II, now a senior in the L. S. U. Medical School. To them he has left some of life's finest legacies, the proud memory of a devoted husband and loving father, the comforting assurance of a Christian Spirit, and the inspiring example of a fine character with the highest ethics in the ancient and honorable profession of law. He will be long remembered by his friends and associates for his pleasing and gracious personality, for his kindly character, for his deep and sympathetic understanding of human nature and keen sense of humor, as well as his achievements as a member of the bar.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that this Memorial be presented and read at Memorial Exercises held in the Caddo Parish District Court on September 17, 1956, that it be presented also to the Supreme Court of Louisiana at Memorial Exercises to be held in that Court on October 1, 1956 under the auspices of the Louisiana State Bar Association, for recordation on the Minutes of the Supreme Court.

  
W. Scott Wilkinson

  
Dixon Carroll

  
John T. Guyton

Memorial Committee.