

FILED

SEP 3 1972

Elio Gentry
Deputy Clerk

Memorial to

GRANVILLE LEO SMITHPETER

July 26, 1905 - January 13, 1972

.

Presented to the First Judicial District Court of Louisiana in and for Caddo Parish by the undersigned Committee designated by the President of the Shreveport Bar Association to prepare and submit a resolution in memory of the late Granville Leo Smithpeter, of Shreveport, a member of the Bar of this Court and of this Association.

.

Greatness lies, not in being strong, but in the right using of strength; and strength is not used rightly when it serves only to carry a man above his fellows for his own solitary glory. He is the greatest whose strength carries up the most hearts by the attraction of his own.

Granville Leo Smithpeter was such a man. He was born July 26, 1905 in Denver, Oklahoma, the son of Oscar W. Smithpeter and his wife Julia Margaret Chandler. He died on January 13, 1972 in Shreveport, Louisiana, where he had lived and practiced law since February, 1966.

Mr. Smithpeter's great grandfather and family were originally from Carter County, Tennessee. Alfred Smithpeter and Mary C. Smithpeter moved to Laclede County, Missouri and during the Civil War Alfred was a Union sympathizer. On December 24, 1861 he was captured and shot. His tombstone is located in the grass divider of the Interstate Highway near Lebanon, Missouri and is inscribed "Murdered by Rebels".

Mr. Smithpeter's grandfather and grandmother, Albert Smithpeter and Jennie Lucas Smithpeter, were widely known in and around Lebanon, Missouri.

Mr. Smithpeter's parents had moved west to western Oklahoma by covered wagon and lived in Denver, Oklahoma until Mr. Smithpeter was three years old. At that time they moved to Grove, Oklahoma, where he attended elementary and high school. He attended Junior College at Miami, Oklahoma and then the University of Oklahoma, where he graduated as a major in Chemistry in 1930. He moved to Vivian, Louisiana and was employed as a chemist for Stando- lind Oil and Gas Company for nine years. While in Vivian he studied law at night in the Office of Mr. Jasper K. Smith

and on April 4, 1940 he passed the Bar. He practiced law for about one year before moving from Vivian to Indiana, where he was the Senior Inspector of Powder and Explosives for the Government, at the Indiana Ordinance Works.

While he was employed in Indiana Mr. Smithpeter met Evelyn Lucille Spalding of Lebanon, Kentucky, and they were married November 30, 1941. In December, 1941 they moved to Little Rock, Arkansas where Mr. Smithpeter was Senior Chemist for Ford, Bacon & Davis, Inc. at the Arkansas Ordinance Plant. He was in charge of all laboratory work and trained and supervised a staff of approximately thirty chemists and technicians engaged in working out methods of analysis of primer mixes and testing of explosives. After the War ended they moved back to Grove, Oklahoma, where he farmed and manufactured feed. In 1950 Mr. Smithpeter and his family moved back to Louisiana and he worked as a Safety Inspector for the Government at Louisiana Ordinance Plant in Webster Parish. He won awards and recognitions for the work as Safety Inspector there. In 1954 he started work for Thiokol Chemical Corporation in Texas, and in February 1966 he opened his law Office in Shreveport, where he practiced law until his death.

Mr. Smithpeter is survived by his wife, Mrs. Evelyn Lucille Spalding Smithpeter, two sons, Oscar Willis Smithpeter of Stoutland, Missouri, and Michael Leo Smithpeter of Shreveport, Louisiana, six daughters, Christine Louise Smithpeter Chance of Miami, Oklahoma, Sarah Lynn Smithpeter Miley, Julia Ann Smithpeter Washburn, Clara Frances Smithpeter Turner, Patsy Lucille Smithpeter Rebouche and Carla Fay Smithpeter, all of Shreveport, Louisiana, and ten grandchildren.

Mr. Smithpeter's favorite pastime was photography and traveling. Many times he would take a quick week-end trip and bring back picture slides to show to all the married children. To show and tell at length about his trips was of great joy to him.

Mr. Smithpeter and his family enjoyed family gatherings. Thanksgiving Day always brought the entire family to the home place for turkey and all the trimmings. His greatest delight was the opportunity to take pictures of the family around the table and the grandchildren at various activities.

As a member of the Westview Christian Church Mr. Smithpeter served as a deacon, trustee and Sunday School teacher. The Church was a very important role in his life.

Young and old alike loved and respected him. One year he took part in the Christmas program at the Church by portraying Santa Claus, wearing a complete costume, including wig, to the delight of the entire congregation. His youngest daughter, later admitting that she recognized his shoes, said "That's not Santa Claus; its my Daddy!"

Mr. Smithpeter had a marvelous sense of humor. Yarns of his younger days and days of his ancestors were delightful to hear as he had the gift to tell a good story.

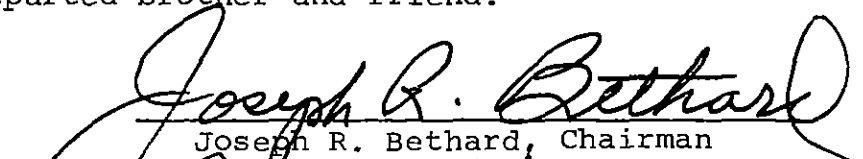
Mr. Smithpeter thoroughly enjoyed his legal career. His cases were all of equal importance to him, in that he immediately became completely involved in his client's interest and researched all issues to the nth degree, never considering whether the fee he might earn would in no sense compensate for the time and effort he put forth. He made many friends in his practice of law and was highly regarded by all of his associates.

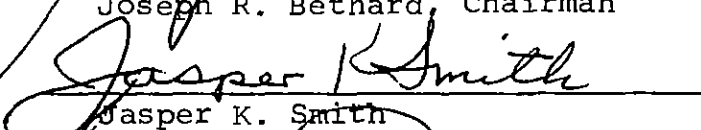
Mr. Smithpeter's nature can best be summed up in the words of Cecil---"The grandest operations, both in nature and grace, are the most silent and imperceptible. The shallow brook babbles in its passage and is heard by everyone, but the coming on of the seasons is silent and unseen. The

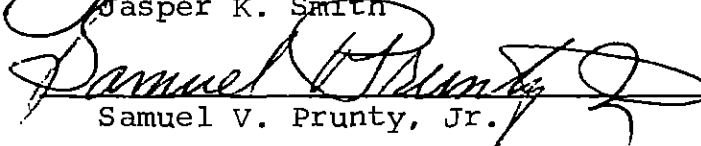
storm rages and alarms, but its fury is soon exhausted, and its effects are but partial and soon remedied; but the dew, though gentle and unheard, is immense in quantity, and is the very life of large portions of the earth."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Shreveport Bar Association, hereby affirm the respect, the admiration and the regard in which we held Granville Leo Smithpeter, for his character and ability, his industry, skill and learning, and for his example of the lawyer at his best; and we extend to his widow and children our sincere sympathy in their loss.

FURTHER RESOLVED, That this memorial and resolution be made a part of the records of this Court and that copies of the record hereof be delivered to the members of the family of our departed brother and friend.


Joseph R. Bethard, Chairman


Jasper K. Smith


Samuel V. Prunty, Jr.

Shreveport, Louisiana

1 September, 1972