

NOV 8 - 1951

E. H. Speck, Jr.
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MEMORIAL
IN
FIRST JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
CADDO PARISH, LOUISIANA

I

ROBERT ARTHUR CRAIN

I

On May 29, 1951, Robert Arthur Crain received from the Great Architect of the Universe that immutable summons to join that innumerable caravan which constantly moves on towards that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler ever returns.

Bob Crain, as he was affectionately known to all his friends, had practiced law in the State of Louisiana for 50 years. He was born at Campti, Louisiana, on July 2, 1879. His father was Dr. Penn Crain, a successful and well-loved country doctor. His mother was Virginia Sompayrac, a member of one of the leading families of Natchitoches.

Bob was educated in the public schools of Natchitoches Parish and Tulane University, having graduated from Tulane Law School in 1901. Earlier he studied law in the law offices of Jack & Fleming of Natchitoches, Louisiana, Jack of this firm having been William H. Jack, father of the late Whitfield Jack, Judge of the United States District Court in and for the Western District of Louisiana.

He married Miss Nellie Beale of West Feliciana Parish in 1905. Of this union four children were born, namely: Robert Ashton Crain, Marguerite Lucille Crain, now the wife of Albert J. Meek, Marian Irene Crain, now the wife of Victor Cox, and Fred Markham Crain, all of whom are now grown and leading citizens in their respective communities.

Bob Crain moved to Shreveport in 1904 and immediately began the practice of law which he continued actively until his death. During this period of time he was associated with a number of Shreveport lawyers in various law partnerships. Their names are: Alf D. Land, Henry C. Walker, Jr., Albert C. Benoit, Joseph H. Jackson, and J. Bennett Johnston. The names of the firms were: Land & Crain; Crain & Williamson; Crain & Walker; Crain & Benoit; Crain, Benoit & Jackson; Crain, Jackson & Johnston; and Crain & Johnston. He served as Referee in Bankruptcy from 1914 to 1918 for the United States District Court in and for the Western District of Louisiana, under appointment of the late Federal Judge Alex Boarman.

Bob always possessed a lovable personality, and all who knew him loved him. If he had an enemy in the world, he did not know it. In his younger days he displayed the sociability of his nature to a much greater extent than in later life. He was a member of a number of social, fraternal and civic organizations, including the Elks Club, Free & Accepted Masons, Scottish Rite Masons, and the Shrine. Throughout life he was a devout member of the Episcopal Church. He was a lover of nature and outdoor life, having devoted much of his time to the sport of angling. All who knew Bob Crain knew he was a great fisherman and sportsman.

Bob, by nature, possessed a quiet and more or less retiring personality. He was not loud and vociferous, or of the bombastic type. His nature was more on the quiet, reserved and dignified type. Twice in his life he was a candidate for public office. Once, for City Judge of the City of Shreveport, and once for Clerk of the First District Court of Caddo Parish. While he was unsuccessful in each of these elections, he received upon both occasions a flattering vote which is an undisputed testimonial of the high regard and affection all his friends had for him.

The retiring side of Bob's nature caused him to choose that phase of the practice of law which is commonly termed an "office lawyer." He seldom appeared in Court. This, of course, was by his own choice. His practice of law, however, was successful, as is borne out by the fact that he practiced continuously for 50 years, during which time he had no other business or vocation whatsoever and he raised and educated a fine family.

Above all, Bob Crain was a model husband and father. He was a model man and citizen. His personal and moral character are above reproach. He walked morally

upright and honorably in his several stations in life before God and man, and surely the Great Creator will say unto him: Thou hast been faithful over a few things; I will make thee ruler over many, enter thou into the joy of our Lord.

J. Bennett Johnston
J. Bennett Johnston, Chairman

Joseph H. Jackson
Joseph H. Jackson

Henry C. Walker, Jr.
Henry C. Walker, Jr.

W. B. Massey
W. B. Massey