

**MEMOIRS**  
OF  
**MICHAEL J. GALVIN, SR.**

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# Foreword

By

**Douglas A. Hedin**  
Editor, MLHP

At age 90, Michael J. Galvin Sr., began writing his memoirs at the “urging” of his family. It begins and ends with them. The long middle section has three parts, each illustrated with colorful anecdotes: first, his early struggles to acquire a legal education and start a practice in Winona; next, his three terms in the Minnesota Senate, 1935-1947; and finally the family’s relocation in 1946 to St. Paul where he was a lobbyist and defended railroad accident suits. During these decades he dealt with many other lawyers, judges, politicians and businessmen and his descriptions of them are always fair, never disparaging. He was especially cognizant of an obligation to answer calls to assist his fellow lawyers. In 1994, after his son was elected President of the Minnesota State Bar Association, he received a handwritten congratulatory note: “It recalled to me many kindnesses of your distinguished father when I was a young lawyer & he was a recognized, leading lawyer.” The writer was the Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court, Warren E. Burger.

The story he tells reveals his good nature, generosity and ambition. He had ambitions to succeed in the law, to provide for his family and to serve his community. He built a thriving law practice in Winona, helped secure passage of many important reform laws as a state senator during the turbulent depression and war years, served as President of the State Bar Association in 1946 and inspired his children. He served his family, community and profession well.

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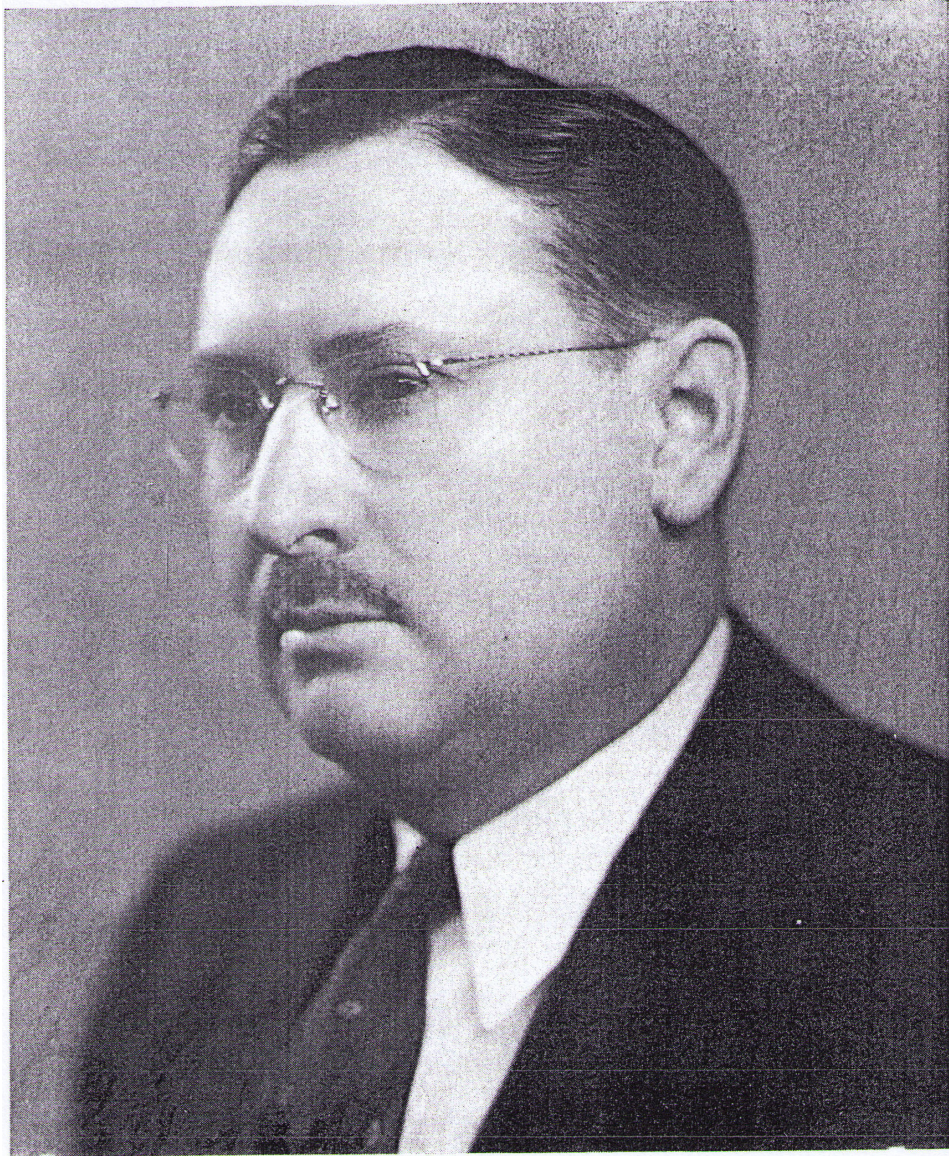
How these Memoirs came to be posted on the Minnesota Legal History Project Website is a footnote that may interest some viewers.

In July 2015, I received a telephone call from Michael J. Galvin Jr., alerting me to an article in a local bar publication. We had never met but of course I knew him by reputation. We chatted awhile about Justice Mitchell when I abruptly changed the subject with a question: did his father by chance ever write his memoirs? “Why yes,” his son replied. “I think the manuscript is under some boxes on the pool table in my basement.” I told him that I would like to post it on the website and urged him to hunt for it. We continued talking and Frank Kellogg for some reason entered the conversation. “I’m sitting at Frank Kellogg’s desk right now,” Mr. Galvin declared, adding, “it is so large you can land an airplane on it.”

He found his father’s memoir and forwarded it to me. I scanned it and added an Appendix which contained the results of his senatorial elections, awards and obituary. Mr. Galvin contributed others, and later his family provided several photographs. I also secured photographs of his father from the Winona County Historical Society. During a phone conversation, I described a remarkable photograph of his father at his desk against a backdrop of a large convex window overlooking the street, and to one side loomed a wall of book shelves loaded with books. “I recall those law books very well,” Mr. Galvin remarked, “as I had to box up every one of them and haul them to St. Paul when we moved up here in 1946.” I never had a conversation with him in which he did not make a memorable comment, usually dry. He died on September 21, 2017, at age eighty-seven.

The *Memoirs* of Michael Galvin Senior follow. For them we are indebted to his son as well.

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M. J. GALVIN

MEMOIRS

Posted with the permission of the Galvin family.

## ***MEMOIRS OF MICHAEL J. GALVIN, SR.***

I was born to Denis Galvin and Cicely O'Connor on July 6, 1900. Mother was born in Fillmore County, Minnesota on May 11, 1856; and father was born near Castle Island, County Kerry, Ireland on December 15, 1843.

Father came to Boston, Massachusetts in 1861 where he worked about two years shoveling coal. He then left Boston to visit with relatives in Columbia City, Indiana. He was referred to the Chicago employment office of the Chicago/Northwestern Rail-road where he worked building a right-of-way across Wisconsin to Cresco, Iowa and where the crew tied up for the winter of 1872.

My father heard that there was a farmer in Minnesota who wished to hire a man with a team of horses to do logging during the winter. He rode one of his horses up to Carimona Township in Fillmore County, Minnesota and hired out to Michael O'Connor, (my grandfather). He did logging there for two winters, and spent one summer working on the farm. He married the O'Connor eldest daughter, Cicely.

In my mother's family there were thirteen children. A family tree is enclosed herewith showing all the children, whom they married, and their descendants. Most of my mother's family lived in and around Preston in Fillmore County, but a number of them settled in Spink County, South Dakota near the town of Athol.

I was born on a farm two miles east of Preston, Minnesota. Father was cutting barley in the field and two of the children were sent for him while the other two children were sent to the Connolly's. Father drove the horse and buggy to Preston to get my Aunt Sara McNiff (who was a midwife) to be the attendant at the birth.

In our family there were three boys and four girls. James, the eldest, died in infancy. Mary, the second eldest became Sister Redempta. Julia, third born, became a business secretary for a grain company in Winona until she was married to John Schlaefer in 1915. Jane, the fourth born became a teacher and taught in Belvidere, Iowa,

Preston, Minnesota and St. Paul, Minnesota until she was married to Burt Kelly of Fountain, Minnesota in 1917. Alice, the fifth born, became a registered nurse working primarily private duty in Des Moines, Iowa. She also worked as a school nurse, taking time out to very generously attend to the members of her family during their illnesses. Denis, the sixth member of the family, married Gertrude Kinney of Des Moines, Iowa in July 1919, after a distinguished career in World War I as Yardmaster at LeMans, France.

Denis and Gertrude raised a fine family; one girl, Mary Alice, and three boys, Charles, Jack and Bob. Mary Alice is a devoted mother to nine wonderful children who were all excellent students in schools near Davenport, Iowa. Two of the boys became lawyers while Charles became an insurance executive in St. Louis, Missouri. Jack, the eldest, spent many years as a lawyer in Des Moines, Iowa and Bob, also a lawyer, had a very fine life and a somewhat notable career. I have been urged to make a record of some of the interesting events in my life, so now, at the age of 90 years, I set forth on this, the events in my life.

At the age of six, in the spring of the year, when we were living on a farm south of Preston, my father gave me a lamb. The lamb was a twin and, as the mother could only care for one, I was told I would have to care for this lamb, feeding him and seeing that he was well taken care of. Mother would warm the milk each day and I would feed him from a bottle. The lamb grew rapidly and we kept him in the fenced yard around the house. By fall he had become a little troublesome. He would run at or attack people who came into the yard. He butted me several times, even knocking me down, because he loved to play rough. Late in the fall father announced that he was selling the lambs the next day. I protested the sale of my lamb telling my father he was not to sell my lamb. To settle the dispute father said he would get a separate check for the sale of my lamb. He would deposit the check in the bank and it would draw interest, increasing in value each year. So, I agreed to the plan. The lamb was sold for \$10.00 and father deposited the money in the Preston Bank. Interest in 1906 was 2 1/2%, increasing as the years went on. I heard no more about the lamb money until the winter of 1924 when I was a junior in law school. I received a letter from my father with a check for \$20.00

enclosed, explaining that the ten dollar deposit had doubled in value. The letter also stated that it was right to save money and earn interest - that money works for a person. This was my first lesson in investing money.

I attended kindergarten at age five and Jane, my sister, accompanied me to Miss Bigelow's room at the Preston Public School. I managed to get through grade school with Jane's help. She taught me in the 6th and 8th grades. I entered high school at Preston and tried out for football and track. I was not quite big enough for the football team, but I enjoyed getting banged-up at practice. In the fall of 1916, when I was a junior in high school, we moved to Winona, Minnesota, where I spent part of a year at Cotter High School and a full year at Winona Public High School. I worked out for football playing some at the end position. In the fall of 1917, in a scrimmage with Winona Normal School on a Thursday, my nose was broken. Winona played LaCrosse, Wisconsin, on the following Saturday. I played the last half of that game and my nose was broken again. The nose-guard given to me gave out on the first play I was in, so Christmas vacation was spent convalescing after having the turbinate bone removed from my nose by a doctor, in his office.

I graduated from high school in May 1918 and got a job at the Northwestern Railroad car/repair shop. Father suggested that I become a farmer and offered to buy me a farm to be furnished with livestock and machinery. He said it would belong to me but that he and mother would live with me and keep up the house as long as they both were alive. I refused the offer saying I wanted to become a lawyer. I was instilled with that ambition in Preston, when school was recessed to allow the class to go to the court house to hear A. D. Gray, a lawyer and president of the school board, argue to the jury.

In the fall of the year 1918 I went to Omaha, Nebraska with the idea of enrolling as a pre-law student at Creighton University. I got a job as a bus boy at Brandies Store & Restaurant, receiving two meals daily for the work I did there. Soon after registering at Creighton the U.S. Army moved in and established a unit of the "Student Army Training Corp". The government paid the expenses for the student, furnishing him a place to live, which was the gymnasium of the

school, with cots spread around on the main floor. Food was provided and military uniforms were also furnished. A large portion of the members' time was spent in drilling. We were taught the manual of small arms, formations, and much marching. Winter uniforms were never issued. In November the flu epidemic hit the unit, I answered a "sick call" one morning and was admitted to St. Joseph's Hospital in Omaha about November 4th. I was still there on the 11th when everyone was awakened around 1:00 a.m. by bells and whistles announcing the end of World War I. I spent about ten days in the hospital recovering, then received a five-day leave of absence and went home for Thanksgiving. The tension at our "camp" lasted quite awhile after the armistice, but members were still being sent to Officers Training School for a 90 day instruction program, after which members were commissioned as second lieutenants. My time for officers training never came and I was discharged from service on December 9, 1918. I went home to Winona where I made arrangements to enter the freshman class at the University of Minnesota. I received the regular army bonus of \$360.00 plus three month's pay of \$90.00, so I had the funds to continue my education. My father was still opposed to paying any of the expenses in my attempts to become a lawyer.

At the University I registered at the employment office for part-time work and got a job at the College Inn Cafe, as a bus boy. Earl Baker, a friend of mine from Winona, had accompanied me to the University and we became roommates, living at 1313 5th Street, S. E. in Minneapolis. I got several chore like jobs that winter and spring, such as washing windows, putting on screens, mowing lawns and shoveling snow. When June came I didn't have enough money to pay for summer school tuition so I got a job through the want ads of the *Minneapolis Tribune*. One of the jobs was at an excelsior factory in N. E. Minneapolis. The raw material used was cordwood, which was piled in a yard and piled near the factory. I was given the job of moving the wood from the yard near the saws and shavers. The wood was first cut into 16 inch lengths which were then piled near the shavers. One day a man severed his finger when running the shaver, so I was then advanced to be an operator of a shaving machine. As such my job was to place a stick of wood on top of the blades where it was clamped down to maintain pressure on the stick



during the shaving process. When the wood became too small for more shavings it was then picked off by hand and thrown into a scrap pile. The foreman was always urging that the wood be kept on the blades as long as possible to get the most amount of shavings from each pile of wood. One day I left the stick on so long that in trying to remove it the blade cut off the end of my middle finger. I did not stop working, but applied a heavy band-aid, from the first-aid kit in the plant, renewing it whenever necessary. A few days later my brother Denis and his wife came to Minneapolis and we had a nice dinner together at the Ryan Hotel in St. Paul. They were on their way by train from Des Moines, Iowa, to Winona and they advised me to quit my job at the excelsior plant because of the risk involving hands or fingers. So a few days after they were gone I quit the job and took a job selling Fuller brushes door-to-door, which only lasted about two weeks because I couldn't sell enough brushes to make it pay. The employment office at the University got some odd jobs for me so I had enough money to pay the tuition for the fall quarter starting in September 1919.

When school began I roomed with Frank Fraser, an old classmate from Preston, Minnesota. We lived at 1013 University Avenue in Minneapolis. I kept on at school until the winter quarter opened in February. I didn't have tuition money available, so I wrote to my brother, Denis, asking him to find me a job. My letter was answered by telegram advising me that I had a job as timekeeper for the bridge and building crews on the Rock Island Railroad at Valley Junction, Iowa, and that a pass on the Rock Island Railroad was waiting for me at the Milwaukee Depot in Minneapolis.

I picked up the pass and went to Des Moines where I reported for work on January 20, 1920. I stayed temporarily with my brother Denis and Gertrude, until I located a rooming house in Valley Junction. I worked as timekeeper in the office of the bridge and building crew until September 1, 1922, when I quit and reported to Creighton University at Omaha, where I was accepted as a student in the Law School. All classes were held in the morning so I got a job at the McCallrey Motor Company (a Ford Agency) at \$50.00 a month, teaching people to drive cars. The company agreed to pay me 5% of the price of any car I could sell. I sold a car to Mayme Mullen, who

was student at the Law School. I joined Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity and stayed at the house the fraternity maintained near the school. Some of the time I worked as a bus boy at the Brandies Store Restaurant. I sold my 1917 Ford Roadster and used the money to pay expenses. Father, opposed to my becoming a lawyer, paid none of my expenses until the last year of school.

I earned enough to live on, finished law school and received a certificate of completion for the course of study for three years. No degree accompanied my graduation as I had not completed the required two years of college, a rule which was put into effect about 1922. But my certificate permitted me to take the bar examination in the states. School was out around May 29, 1925 and the bar examinations were set for June 15, 1925. About June 4th I left Omaha and went to Falls City, Nebraska with Lee Kelleher, who was a graduate of the night law school. We had bar examination questions from previous years so we crammed for the bar exam at Kelleher's home. His father, a district judge, was of help to us in getting the right answers. Lee and I drove to Lincoln in my 1919 Ford Roadster, which I had purchased from McCaffrey Motor Company for about \$175.00.

We reported to the Board of Law Examiners at the State Capitol at 8:00 a.m. on June 15th and wrote answers all that day to bar examination questions. Returning at 8:00 a.m. on the 16th we answered the questions until 3:00 p.m. We were then excused until 5:00 p.m. when we were to report back to the Board, who advised us that those who passed the bar would be notified and taken to the Supreme Court Chamber where we would be sworn in. The examinees were from many different schools all over the country. All the while we were writing the exams, the members of the Nebraska Board of Law Examiners sat in the front of the room and corrected the papers which were turned in by the candidates, so no delay was experienced when we reported back at five o'clock. Nearly all the candidates passed the exam. We were taken in a body to the Supreme Court where all were sworn in and given a certificate permitting the recipient to practice law in Nebraska. Then we were all introduced to the members of the Supreme Court and a small reception was held, where we were congratulated on passing the

Bar. We had dinner at the Lincoln Hotel after which Lee Kelleher got a ride home from another examinee. I drove back to Omaha and went to the fraternity house where the members who were still there had a drink and a little celebration with me. The next day I called my Omaha friends and told them I was leaving on the 18th for Winona. On the 17, I packed my things for the trip home and had a farewell dinner with some friends, including the sales manager at the McCaffrey Motor Co., where I was employed most of the time for the three years, ending on June 15, 1925.

Early on the morning of June 18, 1925 I headed the Ford Roadster toward Winona. I had about \$20.00, which I thought would be enough for gas to get to Winona. I had an air-pump for the tires, tools in the car, and a tank full of gas to start out (gas cost \$.11 a gallon). I headed for Sioux Falls, South Dakota where I could pick up Highway 16 (now I-90) which went directly east across Minnesota to Winona. There was a short distance of paved highway (about 20 miles) north from Omaha. All the rest of the way the road was dirt covered with some gravel. Most of the roads were washboarded and rough, but I drove 30 to 35 miles per hour all the way. The rough road was hard on my tires and I had several flat tires which I patched while I was stopped on the side of the road. I had a box of patches and glue in the car. When I was about 30 miles east of Sioux Falls my air-pump for tire repair gave out. I stopped at Jackson, Minnesota to see if I could get the pump repaired. At the store, I was advised the pump was not repairable, but that I could, and should, get a new pump, which I bought for \$5.00. This depleted my cash but I kept on going and reached Austin, Minnesota about 11:00 p.m. I was out of gas and out of money.

I had stopped close to downtown Austin and I could see the bright lights of a place that seemed open. I headed for it and saw it was a restaurant and on the front steps was a classmate, by the name of Eagan, whose home was near Austin. He was with a friend who was a student at the dental school at Creighton. I explained my plight to Eagan and asked to borrow \$3.00 to get enough gas to get to Winona. These two people were my life savers. The Lord must have placed them where they were to help me out. They took me into the restaurant and bought me some food. I had not eaten since noon.

The dental student said, "Don't try to drive to Winona tonight, come to my home and sleep. My father is a railroad engineer and he will be getting up for breakfast as he has a one o'clock call to take out a train." Eagan loaned me \$5.00 so I filled the gas tank and went home with the dental student. His mother fed me again and put me to bed. It was a great relief to know that such good friends were living in Austin.

I awoke about five o'clock in the morning and took my things out to the car and took off. I drove to Fountain where my sister, Jane Kelly, lived and I stopped to see her and Burt, her husband. He filled my car with gas from his tractor tank. After another breakfast and a visit, I took off for Winona, arriving home about 2:00 p.m. My folks were pleased to know that I had finished Law School. I renewed my acquaintance with old high school friends and then started looking for a job. Meanwhile, I took the Ford apart, ground the valves, removed the carbon, put in new spark plugs and bargained for a couple of new tires. My sister, Alice, came home on vacation from Des Moines, where she lived. We had some good visits with friends, neighbors, and my sister Julia's family. During the summer my brother Denny came to visit. My father talked to him and told him he had some investment certificates in his bank box that he wanted to give to his children. So one day, Father, Denny and I went to the bank and looked over his holdings. He gave each of the children about \$3,000.00 worth of bonds. That was a great thing for me to have.

I talked to the Winona lawyers and watched the Twin Cities papers trying to get a job. I worked some at the Northwestern Railway car shops, where I had worked in the summer of 1917 for \$.23 an hour. My sister, Alice, who was a nurse in Des Moines, did not have a car and wanted to get a new Ford touring car, two seated with curtains for rain protection. I shopped around and agreed to turn in my roadster and to own a half-interest in a new car. We bought one in Winona and when she left to go home, I agreed to buy her half, but she decided she would keep the car and drive back to Des Moines. I bought a new Ford roadster (I think the price was \$359.00) and kept on looking for a job.

Dad's lawyer had agreed the summer before to take me into his office when I got admitted to practice. When I got home he had left and was in Aberdeen, South Dakota. I spent some time around the office of a young lawyer by the name of Knaugh. One day, when reading the Minneapolis paper, I read an ad placed by a lawyer wanting to hire a young lawyer. I answered the ad and the man asked me to go to Minneapolis for an interview. The man was Frank Larabee, about 74 years old, who officed with two other lawyers (not partners), a Mr. Peterson, who had been a Hennepin County Attorney, and Ed Chalgren. Both of these people, like Larabee, were in general practice. Larabee said that he would hire me if I wanted to work for him and do all the errands, look up law and follow his directions. He said he would pay me 25% of his net earnings, after paying expenses of the office. The three men had one secretary. She was a very good legal stenographer and was a great help to me. I went to work for Frank Larabee on October 1, 1925, and stayed there until April 1, 1927.

I studied to take the Minnesota Bar Examination and lived much of the time at the Delta Theta Phi fraternity house. The fraternity members had many of the old bar exam questions. One person that I met at the fraternity house, who had to take the bar exam, was Bert McKasy. He had graduated from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. We became life-long friends and later, when I became President of the Minnesota State Bar Association, he was the Executive Secretary and maintained the Bar Office. While I was in the Larabee office I met Floyd B. Olson, who was then an Assistant County Attorney. He had worked in the Larabee office and had left there shortly before I came along. I later had much to do with him when he was Governor and I was in the State Senate.

In 1925 and 1926 I lived mostly at the fraternity house in Minneapolis, near the University of Minnesota. It was a pleasant association to have as I came in contact with many alumni in Minneapolis and from around the state. I enjoyed very much visiting with Gunnar Nordby, who was appointed a District Judge in Hennepin County. Later he was made a U.S. District Judge and I had the pleasure of trying some cases before him, of which I will report, if memory serves me, when I get into relating my practicing experience. I remember well a party

at the fraternity house on St. Patrick's Day in 1926. There was a good orchestra and many couples were there. Having no girlfriend, I spent much of the time watching the dancers from a post near the fireplace. Garret O'Connor was a law student and a member of the Fraternity and I was attracted to the appearance of his date. I later learned that his father was the General Roadmaster of the Soo Line Railway and that his date was the daughter of the Roadmaster of the Soo Line Railway in Mellen, Wisconsin, by the name of Margaret O'Donahue. I got to dance with her and also got her telephone number. I called her later and made a date to take in a movie and to a chow mien restaurant after the show. We became better acquainted, and I continued calling upon her. She was a school teacher in the Minneapolis Public Schools. On January 1st, 1928 she resigned her teaching job and we were married on February 14, 1928. We went to live in my mother's house at 153 West 5th Street in Winona, across the street from the Winona Public Library. We lived in that house until July 1932 when we bought a house at 279 Sioux Street in Winona. We have now finished more than 62 years of married life, and have raised three wonderful children, who gave us 14 grandchildren, who now have ten of our great grandchildren. I was very fortunate to have found Margaret. She has been a great and untold help to me, a great cooperator in my enterprises and undertakings. Because of my occupation and activities she was left alone many evenings when I was at meetings or attending a function which was thought to be of help in building my law practice. She was a wonderful mother to our children and the principal reason for their turning out to be such good people.

In one of my February trips to Winona I talked with many friends about starting my law office there. I talked with the Choate people who had a general store in a four-story building with offices occupied by doctors, lawyers, real estate people and others. I finally agreed to rent a room on the 4th floor for \$10.00 month. I had some money left from what father had given me so then I spent \$1,200.00 for books, a filing cabinet, a safe, a table for a desk and some chairs. The chairs, a typewriter, a safe and some other things came from the Toye Plumbing Company office that had just closed. In starting out, when I had anything to write, I hired girls to type from the Winona Business College. Howard Clark, his father and his brother had an insurance

and real estate office. They were all helpful in helping me get started by having me draw deeds and mortgages. I got a notary commission so I could take oaths. I became active in the Knights of Columbus, which I had joined in Des Moines in 1921, and also joined the American Legion. Many of the Legion members had claims for disabilities pending and were required to have sworn statements submitted supporting their claims.



Winona law office: ca. 1930s

In 1928 Mr. Knaugh, who was the Special Judge of the Winona Municipal Court, moved to California and resigned as judge. I applied for the job and in September, 1928 was appointed Special Judge. The Special Judge was to preside over the Municipal Court when the Judge was absent, or otherwise engaged. My very good friend, Ed Libra, was the Judge. He was gone a good deal of the time especially during hunting season. I got a lot of valuable experience in that job.

I was elected service officer of the American Legion Post #9 of Winona in 1928, and as such, drew many affidavits for service men attempting to get government compensation for war-time injuries. Many of these people remembered me when they, or some friend or relative, needed a lawyer. The same was true of the Knights of Columbus Council, where I was elected Chancellor, and later Grand Knight. The Knights of Columbus Council sponsored a boy scout troop and built a camp for them at the Trempealeau Wisconsin State Park. Much of my time was spent on Knights of Columbus and Legion work. When I was Commander the Legion Post had a state champion junior league baseball team. The Legionaires transported the players to the games throughout the state, and to the regional playoff games, so one had to supervise getting the cars and drivers, etc. The Commander did much of that work. I also ran a veterans employment service out of my office for a couple of years before the state got into that business.

In 1928 the state senator from Winona died and in September there was a special election held to elect a successor. I ran for the Senate in the primary election and I was the top winner. Dr. Rollins from St. Charles was second. There was no party designation for members of the Legislature at that time. In the general election Dr. Rollins beat me by about 300 votes; that was for a term to finish the deceased senator's term, which ended at the end of 1930. At that time the Municipal Judge was running for County Attorney and I supported his candidacy. Members of the Republican County Committee said they would support my appointment to be Municipal Judge, if Judge Libra was elected County Attorney. However the Republican Governor appointed an older lawyer, Leo Murphy, to be Municipal Judge. In 1934, at the urging of many friends including the Farmer Labor representative from Winona, Harold Atwood, Dr. Rollins ran again, but I was elected and re-elected in 1938 and 1942.

The factions in the Legislature were known at the time as liberals and conservatives; I was urged by the conservatives to join their group. The conservatives would control the Senate. I became a conservative senator and went to the IR caucus just before the legislative session. The steering committee asked me which committees I wished to serve on. I told the Appropriations and Education. I was



interested in seeing the Teachers' College in Winona kept going. I served 12 years on the Education Committee, 6 years on finance and 6 years on taxes. The Committee Chairman said they had no chairman for the Labor Committee and asked me if I would take it. My



reply was "I'll do whatever this group wants me to do, I wish to be cooperative." I was appointed Chairman for the Labor Committee and served in that capacity for 8 years. The remaining 4 years of my time in the Legislature I served as Chairman of the Motor Vehicle and Motor Tax laws, but continued as a member of the Labor Committee and other committees.

I made many close friends in the Senate, some of whom were the following: Charles Orr, the Majority Leader from St. Paul; A. J. Rockne, Chairman of the Finance Committee, from Zum-

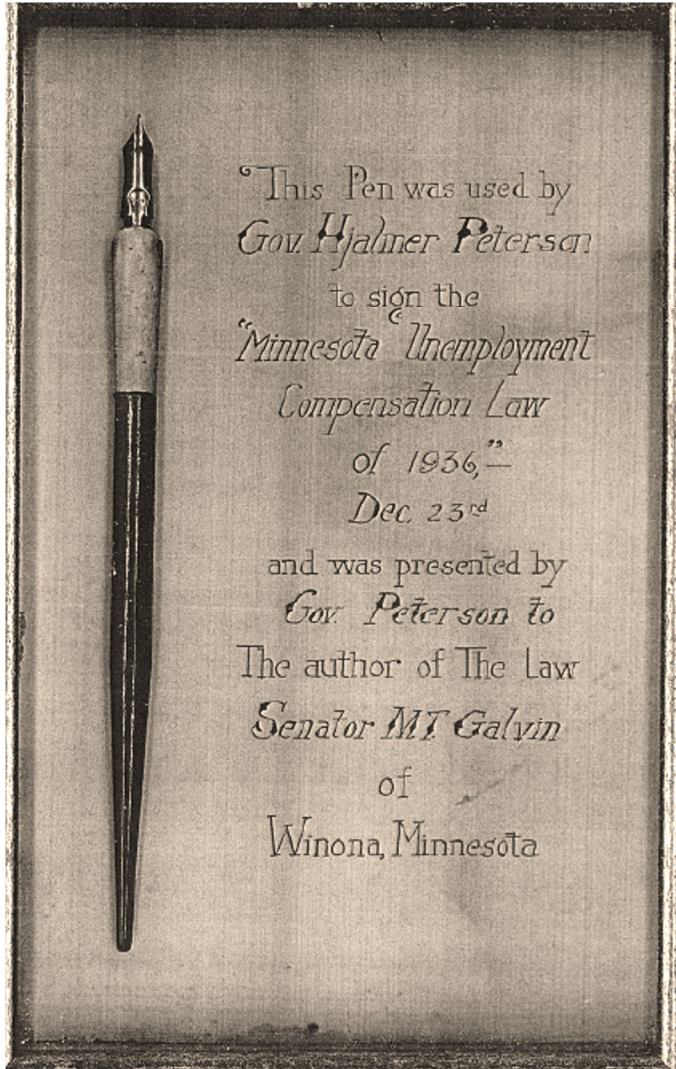
brotta; Fred Miller from Little Falls; Don Wright of Minneapolis, who became Chairman of the Tax Committee; Mike Cashman of Owatonna; Tom Welsh of Buffalo whom I induced to run for the Senate and who spent many years as a leader there. I owe a lot to the people who helped me including secretaries Adeline Moore, Myrtle Johnson, Katherine Hart, Frances Bambenek and my two Winona partners, Harold Brehmer and Martin Beaty.

In 1935 Congress passed the Social Security Act which set standards for the States to comply in passing Social Security legislation. One of the provisions imposed a Federal tax of 3% on employers payrolls. However, it permitted a tax deduction for the amount of tax imposed on a payroll. The payroll taxes would provide a fund from which unemployment compensation would be paid. Employable persons were to be exempt from such a payroll tax under state law. Bills were introduced and heard in the Labor Committee during the 1935 session. I sponsored and handled bills in the Senate. The House passed a bill and it came to the Senate where it was defeated on the floor of the Senate by a narrow majority. The Federal Social Security Act provided that employers in a state that had an Unemployment Compensation law would be exempt from the 3% Federal payroll tax if the state law met certain requirements. It provided that such a state law must be passed and submitted to the Social Security Board for approval before January 1, 1937. Many employers contended that the Federal Government could not impose a tax on payrolls to compel the states to create an Unemployment Compensation Plan. They contested the law on constitutional grounds and lost. In August, 1936, the Social Security law was declared constitutional by the Supreme Court of the United States.

When the Minnesota Senate defeated the Unemployment Compensation bill in 1935, the leadership was in a quandary and conferred with me. I suggested that a committee be established to study the matter and report back to the Legislature on January 1, 1937, or at any time thought to be appropriate. Such a resolution was passed on the last day of the 1935 Legislature. It appointed five members from the House and five from the Senate. I handled that resolution on the floor of the Senate and it was passed. I was elected Chairman of this interim committee, and a great deal of my time in the next 2 years was spent having committee meetings, holding hearings and getting information on unemployment compensation laws.

In the meantime Floyd B. Olson, the current Governor, died and was replaced by Hjalmar Peterson, the Lieutenant Governor. When the Supreme Court sustained the constitutionality of the Social Security Act, including the tax and the Unemployment Compensation pro-

visions, Governor Peterson asked me what should be done. I advised him to call a special session of the Legislature as soon as possible to pass a State Unemployment Compensation law. He wanted to know if our committee would get a bill ready, and a report. I told him yes and



we went to work on it. The Governor thought that a one day special session would be long enough. In any event, he called the special session for December 17, 1936. We introduced three bills which we had prepared. Hearings were held in both the House and Senate Labor Committees. A bill fashioned after the interim committee bill was ultimately passed and was sent to the Governor. I spent nearly all day and night during the five days of that legislative session on this issue. The interim committee suggested that I take the approved bill to Washington and ask the Social Security Board to approve it. There was a question raised by Washington authorities that the bill would not be approved because the amount of administrative expense was limited

to \$75,000. I assured the Board that there were additional funds available, if necessary, out of an appropriation to the Legislative Advisory Committee. Rollin Johnson, a very able House member, went with me to Washington, as did the Industrial Commission who was charged with the administration of the Act, the President of the Minnesota Federation of Labor, and other state officers.

In 1936 we were still living in Winona with our two older children, Sheila and Mike Jr. It was decided early in December that we would

spend Christmas with their maternal grandparents in Mellen, Wisconsin. Mrs. Galvin, Mike & Shelia went to Mellon by train. I was advised that I should be in Washington on December 29th to appear before the Social Security Board for the State of Minnesota. I did not get to see the family until after January 4th. I had to proofread all the versions of that Unemployment Compensation bill and examine all the proceedings of the Legislature in the House and Senate to see that no errors were made. The bill lived through many battles, and I believe it has been amended each Legislative session since 1936. I have spent many days and evenings since then explaining the features of the bill and talking about unemployment compensation.

During my service in the Legislature labor problems were very common. Threatened strikes were discussed in the media every day. I worked with the State Bar Association and produced, with the help of other lawyers, a Labor Relations Act for the state, which assured means of arbitration and mediation. This, I believe, has helped solve many labor disputes.

One more good bit of legislation which I sponsored in the Senate was a statute that outlawed defects in real estate titles which were over 50 years old (later amended to make it 40 years). Titles in the Winona area had many rather serious defects from early surveys and conveyances, misspelling of names, etc. This has saved many real estate owners much money formerly used to quiet title. The idea for this act should be credited to Abbott Sawyer, a very good Winona lawyer.

In my State Bar activities I became friendly with Billy Gibson of Minneapolis, and Jim Otis, both of whom were to later become President of the State Bar. Both were active in establishing the Minnesota State Bar Foundation. During World War II the 1945 State Bar Convention of 1945 was cancelled by the Board of Governors and it was decided that the Board of Governors would hold the regular meeting in St. Paul. Donald Harries of Duluth was President of the Bar at that time. I was urged to become a candidate for Vice-President. Ed Libra of Winona was the Third Judicial District member of the Board of Governors. He became the campaign manager of Mike Galvin for Vice-President of the Minnesota State Bar in 1945,

and he was successful. Also, Don Harries, Bill Gibson and Jim Otis were very helpful. It was customary for the Vice-President to become President the following year. During 1945 and 1946 I visited all of the Judicial District Bar meetings and spoke on all occasions. One of the best was at International Falls where the Minnesota District invited the Bar of western Ontario to attend. We had an International meeting which was very good and improved the international relationships of lawyers. After my term as President of the Minnesota State Bar Association, I became President of the Minnesota State Bar Foundation, where I served for 19 years, and raised money for tuition to law school for needy students.

(I served as President of the Kiwanis Club of Winona in 1944 and resigned when we moved to St. Paul in 1946).

During the practice of law in Winona I had occasion to come in contact with a young man by the name of Daniel Przybylski, who was a draftsman for the Northwest Flax Company, which prepared flax straw to make cigarette papers and other fine papers in Winona. The flax company failed in its business. Dan had been managing, by that time, a plant in Windom, Minnesota, built from public money to create use for flax straw. A man who ran a machinery business there, recognizing Dan's ability as a mechanic, suggested to him it would be a profitable venture to make a trencher for drainage ditches that ran off of the power take-off of a regular tractor. Dan devised and patterned such a machine. The people in Windom wanted to manufacture the machine and Dan was agreeable to use his half-interest in the patent to acquire the funds to start the business. Many discussions were held with these people where I sat in to represent Dan. Finally we agreed that it would take \$30,000.00 to start the business. I agreed to rent a building I owned to the enterprise. The Windom people said that three of them would put up \$10,000 each to start the business, and they would own a half interest between them. Dan and I met with these people in Mankato, Minnesota on a Saturday morning. I explained that they should structure the corporation and decide who would own the business in such a manner that neither party with a half interest could stymie the other if they disagreed on any procedure. I suggested that Dan Przybylski have 45% of the stock and the men from Windom each have 15%. The

balance of the stock would be held by a “voting trust” of three people; one appointed by Dan, one appointed by the Windom people and the third selected and mutually agreed upon by Dan and the Windom people. The plan was agreed upon and I asked if I should draw up the papers, including the Articles of Incorporation. They said “no” as they had a lawyer in St. Paul who would draw the papers. We agreed to meet in my office two weeks later, on a Saturday. They brought the proposed Articles of Incorporation to my office and when I checked it over, I noticed that all of the stock was to belong to the Windom people, and that the entire ownership was to be with them. Dan would only be a manager and depend on the Board to receive any income from the business. I asked why they did not comply with our original agreement. They said their lawyer had advised against any such agreement. Dan said “What will we do now?” I said “My advice to you is not to sign the agreement.” Dan said, “You are the boss. What you say goes.” So, I tossed the big pile of papers back to the Windom man. They left in their airplane for Windom and we never heard anymore from them.

In the meantime, Dan was making ditchers in the building I owned in Winona. Dan had borrowed all the money he could at the Merchants Bank of Winona. I tried to get a loan for the Badger Machine Company at the First National Bank. After reviewing the matter, President Mahl advised us that a loan would not be permitted under the rules of Northwestern National Bank with whom First National Bank was currently affiliated. Mr. Mahl, the president, said he thought Charles Britts, the vice-president, might be interested so we permitted Charles Britts to purchase one-third interest for \$15,000, the amount the Galvins had invested. Loans for the business were transferred to First National. I raised more money and loaned it to Badger. So we reduced the some of the debts and paid some bills. A corporation was formed. Stockholders were Margaret Galvin, Dan Przybylski, Marion Britts, Charles Britts, and M.J. Galvin, Sr. The Board of Directors of the company were Dan Przybylski, Charles Britts, and Mike Galvin. Business picked up and Dan hired Elmer Morozek to be office manager and bookkeeper. He was a veteran, a trainee, being partly paid for by the U.S. Government. Things improved at Badger and it paid the rent for the building, the old curling club, which I bought at a reasonable price because no one

curled during the War. I borrowed money on my life insurance policies to loan to Badger, and business continued to improve. Some investment people talked to Britts about buying the company and the Board agreed to sell, but no price was fixed. I thought we should get at least one million dollars for the business, which had a lot of machinery, and a stock of steel on hand. The machinery was mostly steel cutters and shaping equipment. We permitted Warner-Swasey to sell the backhoes which were the principal product of Badger at the time. The export agent was informed that we would sell the business as we were under-financed and needed more capital.

In 1945 I was scheduled, if customary practice continued, to be President of the Minnesota State Bar Association. I decided that I would not run for reelection to the Senate and announced my intent. I stated that I would spend time trying to improve the status by which lawyers were regarded in Minnesota, and increase the number of lawyers belonging to the Minnesota Bar Association. That statement was reported in the newspapers. Shortly thereafter Carl Christopher, President of the Minnesota Transfer Railroad and the Union Depot Company, called me and asked if I would be available to represent the Minnesota Railroads on legislative matters and act as attorney for the companies of which he was President. He reported that the railroads had organized an association and were looking for a person to head-up the association activities. He said that Mr. Alex Janes, an attorney for the Great Northern who had done the legislative work, had retired. He wanted me to agree to meet with the railroad general counsels. Christopher was Jane's assistant and he wanted a friend in the position of Legislative Representative.

After much urging I agreed to meet the general counsels of the railroads operating in Minnesota. I met with them and agreed to take on the job and move to St. Paul. I went to work as general counsel for the railroads on April 1, 1946 and stayed on that job until 1966 when I retired and opened an office to practice law in St. Paul.

In 1957, the American Bar Association arranged to meet in London, England with the British Bar Association. I was then a member of the House of Delegates, serving on the Commerce Committee of the ABA and I agreed to go to London. I talked to the export agent in New

York before leaving the USA. The meeting in London was in August, so Margaret and I flew from New York to the Shannon airport to visit Ireland before the London meeting. After the meeting we visited Amsterdam, Paris, Geneva, Rome and returned home from Lisbon, Portugal. When we arrived in Rome, there was a telegram at the Hotel from Dan advising me that the export agent claimed to have a purchaser for Badger and that I should get to New York as soon as possible. Our flight arrangements had been made for August 18th. So, I wired Dan telling him I would arrive that afternoon. From the export agent's office I talked to Dan Przybylski, Charles Britts and the Warner-Swasey people in Cleveland. I found out the prospective buyer was the Warner-Swasey Company. Their proposal was to exchange their stock for our stock. We made a date for their auditors and inspectors to look over the business and the books in Winona. Negotiations continued until late October, when we sold the business to Warner-Swasey in Cleveland. I made several trips to Winona, drawing up papers and conferring with the Warner-Swasey lawyers.

Winona and its people were very good to me. My practice of law grew each year after 1927. I was elected to three four-year terms in the State Senate. The Winona Bar and the Third Judicial District Bar endorsed me for President of the State Bar Association. My relationship with lawyers was always pleasant. Bob Looby, the Probate Judge in Winona, was very helpful to me as a young lawyer. Herb Bierce was the referee in Bankruptcy. I spent considerable time involved in matters in his court. Karl Flinkenburg was made District Judge shortly after I started practicing in Winona. I tried many cases in his court and was always treated well. He was an excellent judge. Ed Libera was a great friend, a very good Municipal Judge; and later a County Attorney and Probate Judge. Maurice Owen was County Attorney during much of the time I practiced in Winona. I had many cases that I defended, which were prosecuted by Mr. Owen. He was Republican County Chairman and helped me to elected to the State Senate. Jim George, one of Owen's partners, represented the National Direct Selling Association which included the Watkins Company. Kenny Nissan was the State Representative from Winona most of the time I was in the Senate. We worked well together.



My father had purchased a number of rundown farms and houses after he retired from farming in 1908. He fixed up the rundown places and I was pressed into contributing to the restoration of many old places around Preston and Winona. I kind of fell into the habit of looking for rundown places. I bought some old houses and buildings, which I rehabilitated and sold. That augmented my income so that we could live quite comfortably. In 1938 Floyd Simon who was Mayor of Winona, and I, with the help of my friend Senator Mike Cashman from Owatonna, bought an old patent medicine company known as Koch Medical Company. We changed the manufacturing procedure into making detergents about the time World War II broke out. This company did quite well and made some money for the Simon and Galvin families. That business was sold out after we moved to St. Paul.

The first house we bought in Winona was purchased through Clarence Witt, who was Vice-President of the First National Bank, and a real estate broker. The purchase price in July 1932 was \$4,500. The house was located on the northwest corner of Sioux and Broadway. I didn't have the money to pay for the house, but Witt took three lots I owned near Sannia Street and Franklin in exchange. The down payment was \$1,500. I had picked up the lots at a tax judgement sale, for a cost of about \$300.00. The balance of \$3,000 for the purchase price of the house was a mortgage to the First National Bank which we paid monthly until 1941 when we purchased the H.L. Buck house at 315 West Broadway.

H. L. Buck was an old lawyer in Winona whose father had been appointed U.S. Marshall by Abraham Lincoln. Buck was County Attorney and Probate Judge in Winona in the years before my time as a lawyer. In his old age he practiced law but did not have much of an income. The family had another home south of Lake Winona where they lived in the summer. Carp Buck was the old Judge's son (about my age), and a World War I Veteran, whose marriage I performed as a Special Municipal Judge. One day Carp told me the family was about to lose their home as the bank had foreclosed the mortgage and the time for redemption would soon expire. He said his folks had talked the matter over the night before and his father had asked him to talk to me to see if I wouldn't buy the house. Margaret and I looked

at the house which was full of lovely antique furniture. The location was one of the best in Winona. We became interested in the house and bought it cheap and paid off the mortgage. We then got two carpenters to go to the house to rebuild it, both inside and outside. We spent more money repairing the house than we did purchasing it. When the house was finished it was a lovely home. We moved in December 1st, 1941 and lived there until 1946 when we moved to St. Paul and bought a home. We sold the Buck house for a little more than we had invested in it.

It was a difficult move leaving Winona and all of our good friends, but I thought it was a good move for income and occupational reasons. I was furnished a spacious office in the front on the second floor of the St. Paul Union Depot. Passenger business was pretty good in 1946. I believe there were about 26 trains arriving and departing per day in St. Paul at that time. Our family had free transportation on any of the railroad lines operating in Minnesota. After a year or so, I also had family passes on the Pennsylvania, Baltimore and Ohio railroads, in order to get to Washington D. C. in short order. My major work for the railroads was to protect them from adverse legislation in both the State Legislature and National Congress. During the legislative session I spent most of my time at the Capitol. I went to Washington whenever the Association of American Railroads requested my help with members of Congress.

When I started with the railroads, Joe O'Hara was the Minnesota Congressman from the 2nd Congressional District. He became the top-ranking Republican on the Commerce Committee in the House. We became very good friends. Margaret and I spent much time with Mr. & Mrs. O'Hara in Washington, until he died. He was succeeded by Ancher Nelsen who had been in the Senate with me. He came to the Senate at age 26 when the Senator from Hutchinson died in 1935. Ancher was put on the Commerce Committee to fill the vacancy caused by Joe's death. I worked with him for most of the 18 years he served in Congress until he retired. He was very fair and treated me well. Sometimes I hunted pheasants on Ancher Nelsen's farm. We had a lot of fun. He always kidded me about a big black bird-dog we called "Casey". Many people in Washington were told about Casey's escapades.

I worked hard for the railroads during the 20 years I did their legislative work. Much of the time was spent at the St. Paul Hotel, where I could confer with people, and try to convince Legislators they should support the position of the railroads on legislative matters. I remember one occasion when we had an important bill pending and our count of noses looked like the vote would be close. One of the members, whom we expected to support us, had a heart attack and was in the hospital. When the bill was set for final passage I got the doctor to agree that the member could attend the session. I took him by ambulance to the Capitol and placed him into a wheelchair at the front door. I wheeled him to the House Chamber and into the retiring room. With the Speaker's consent I wheeled him into the Chamber where he voted when his name was called. The bill passed. On another occasion I got the Speaker of the House to author a bill opposed by Railroad Station Agents. The principal opposition came from a House member, who was a station agent. When the bill was up for debate, the Speaker appointed the opponent to preside over the House. As speaker, he couldn't debate the bill, so we got our way on that one.

There are some notable experiences which I had in the practice of law that should be mentioned in this review of my activities during much of my early time in the practice. The sale and manufacturing of intoxicating liquors was prohibited and most of those prosecutions took place in Federal Court. I represented many people who were accused of "bootlegging". In one case the prohibition agents claimed that a farmer from near LeRoy, Minnesota, was accused of selling an agent a gallon of alcohol. The defendant claimed that he was playing cards in the stock yards at Lime Springs, Iowa at the time the government claimed the offense occurred. One of the members of the jury panel was the wife of a County Attorney in a nearby county. I left her on the jury because I knew she must have heard talk about the degree of proof required to convict in a criminal case. Many lawyers knew about my accepting this woman on the jury and branded it as a mistake. The jury was out all night, but acquitted the accused on the basis of the degree of proof submitted by the government. I had argued that question extensively to the jury. The acquittal brought me many liquor cases, many of which went to trial, but many more were settled by fines rather than a trial and jail sentence.

On one occasion I was appointed by the Court to defend a man accused of counterfeiting. Two men were arrested for passing counterfeit money at Austin, Minnesota. They were witnesses for the government on the promise of a light sentence. They testified that the twenty dollar bills were made by a photography process down in Iowa. The government furnished money for expert witnesses, but not fees for the lawyer. I got expert witnesses, one a photographer and the other a printing expert. The photographer borrowed some of the money the government had seized and experimented with it. A picture will wash out when washed with "hypo", but the picture of the samples did not wash out, so he testified the money was not made by a photographic process. The printer, who made a notable record in the printing business, testified it was a three-process printing process used to make the money. I rested my case at noon on Friday and expected to close the case that day. George Heise, Chief Deputy U.S. Attorney for Minnesota tried the case and asked to have it continued until Monday. He claimed to have rebuttal testimony available then, which was not available on Friday. The court continued the matter until Monday. On Monday the government came to court with another photographer. The testimony was that the money was made in Iowa. They found a jar there which apparently had been thrown away. By rubbing the stuff in the jar on paper they could get the paper to produce a picture. That testimony convicted the counterfeiter. He was sentenced to 99 years in prison.

On one occasion, shortly after the appointment of Judge Gates of Rochester, I had two rather small jury cases pending at Caledonia in Houston County. Both were set for the same day, which was a Friday. The Judge wanted to wind-up the term of court in Houston County and go home to Rochester. We started at eight in the morning and ran until seven in the evening. Both cases were completed and decided by the jury. I won one and lost one. Both were automobile cases with local lawyers defending.

On another occasion an old friend of mine from Preston, who was then living in Canton in Fillmore County, called me and said a young relative of his was in jail, accused of carnal knowledge (having intercourse with a person under 18 years of age). I took the case. The family had only \$50.00 to pay down but promised to pay

whatever the fees would amount to. I went to Canton and Harmony, took statements and notified the County Attorney, Dave McVeety, who was well known to me. The two girls and my client were taken into custody when the Sheriff raided a home in Harmony where homebrew was being sold. This was at a time when the sale of intoxicating liquor was banned by law. The two sixteen year old girls were taken to the Preston jail where statements were taken from them stating that they had intercourse with my client. I found out that there had been a preliminary hearing in both cases before a justice of the peace, who was also the janitor at the Court House. At the preliminary hearing both girls testified they did not have intercourse with the young man. I examined the testimony from the hearing and learned that the Justice had admitted the statements taken from the girls at the time of the arrest. I discussed this matter with the girls and they made a statement to me. They told me that they did not know what the word 'intercourse' meant when they were arrested. The law, at the time of this incident, provided that a party to an action could not impeach his own witness, unless he was surprised by the testimony given. I discussed the matter with the County Attorney, and told him the statements were not admissible in District Court, because he would know that by their testimony was that there was no such crime committed. He refused to dismiss the case, so it was tried. The girls both testified that there was no intercourse. McVeety offered in evidence the statements taken at the time of arrest. I objected cited the Statute applying and referred to the cases supporting my position. Judge Peterson from Albert Lea recessed the Court and had us argue the matter in his chambers. He finally decided he should hold that the Statute was valid. The statements were not admissible, and the record showed that the County Attorney had conducted the preliminary hearing, and the testimony was the same as was given in Court. This left no testimony to the commission of a crime, so I made a motion to dismiss the case. The Judge had to take time for an argument in chambers, but finally dismissed the case. It was about 4:00 p.m. then, but the County Attorney insisted on trying the second case. So, after two chamber arguments and much delay, the second case was also dismissed and I left about 8:30 p.m. for my home in Winona, having had two carnal knowledge cases tried and acquitted in one day.

While this case was being tried, a young man in the Fillmore County jail, was accused of holding up the bank at Spring Valley. A man called me from Omaha and asked me if I would defend the man accused of the bank hold-up. I didn't get much of a fee from the young man from Canton, involved in the carnal knowledge cases, but due to the result obtained there, I got the bank robbery case and received a good fee even though my client was convicted of robbing the bank. I believe he served several years in Stillwater prison.

My record in trying cases for the railroads, from 1946 to 1968, was satisfactory. Most cases were very difficult because they involved employee injuries and federal law requires that the railroad furnish its employees with a safe place to work. One railroad matter of significance was tried in the U.S. District Court. Congress created a commission to hear cases where price increases were concerned, if any cost or price increase was proposed. The Board of Directors of the Union Depot in St. Paul passed a resolution to increase the parking cost in that portion of the Depot designated for car parking. No petition was filed to have the increase approved by the Office of Price Administration. The Depot was accused of violating the law. I defended this accusation before Judge Donovan, of the U. S. District Court, contending that the railroads were regulated exclusively by the Interstate Commerce Commission and not subject to the Office of Price Administration Regulations. We prevailed in the trial of this case and it was used extensively by railroad lawyers throughout the United States.

From April 1, 1946 until April 1, 1968 I attended to the business of the Minnesota Railroad Association and its members, doing mostly legislative work both in St. Paul and Washington D.C.

It behoves me at this time to make some mention of our children and their families.

Mike, Jr. transferred from Cotter High School in Winona to Cretin High School in St. Paul where he graduated in 1949. He then enrolled at St. Thomas College and graduated in 1952. He then entered the Air Force and was based in Newfoundland for two years. After leaving the Air Force he enrolled in the University of Minnesota Law

School and graduated in June, 1957. He was hired by the law firm of Briggs and Morgan from St. Paul, Minnesota, which at that time was known as Briggs, Morgan, Kyle and McCartney. He is now Vice President and full partner. He has also been selected by "Metro Lawyer Magazine" as one of the 100 BEST LAWYERS in the metro area. He was selected by the Junior Chamber of Commerce people to be "Mr. Boss" of 1990. He married Frances Culligan in September, 1957 and; after four years of marriage and having no children of their own, they began adopting children, six in all. Those children are Sean, Kevin, Kathleen, Nora, and the twins, Margaret and Mary. Then, on October 12, 1972, they had a child of their own, named Patricia. Five of these children have graduated from Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. Margaret and Mary are enrolled in Law School at the University of Minnesota. Patricia is attending Creighton University as a Freshman.

Shiela was married in June 1954 to George Rangitsch, whose father was comptroller of Minnesota Transfer Railway and the Union Depot Companies. They have three boys and one girl. Mark, the eldest, is an efficiency expert for the Donaldson Mfg. Company and has done very well. Mark and his wife, Mary Pat, have four children and live in Apple Valley, Minnesota. Scott, the second son, and his wife Ten live in Forest Lake, Minnesota. Scott owns a business known as Northern Auto Specialists. He does well at repairing cars, and carrying on an auto agency. They also have four bright young children. Todd, Sheila and George's third son, is in the computer business for the Unisys Corporation. Todd and his wife Lori have two children. Lynn, daughter of Shelia and George, graduated from the University of Kansas in 1991 and teaches a group of 8 disabled people near her home in Prairie, Kansas.

Mary, our youngest daughter, attended grade school in St. Paul at Nativity and Immaculate Heart of Mary. She attended and graduated from Derham Hall High School. She married Bill Farrell. They had three children and were divorced in 1966. Bill Jr., is now married to Angela Yang and is the Director of the ELST School in Taipei, Taiwan. Bridget, who was teaching in Washington State, had taken time off and obtained her Master's Degree in Behavioral Disabilities from the University of Washington. Robert graduated from the

University of Minnesota, Duluth, in 1989 and is an Art Education teacher. He is presently doing very well as an English teacher in Taipei, Taiwan. In 1990 Bob spent the majority of his time in Taipei teaching English and traveling. Mary Farrell has been selling real estate since the early 1970's and has a very successful career with Edina Realty/Highland Park Office in St. Paul, Minnesota. •

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## APPENDIX

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## A. The Elections of Senator Galvin

Michael J. Galvin ran four times to represent the Second Senate District, which covered Winona County, in the State Legislature. His first run in 1928 was very unusual. Henry Steen, elected to a four-year term in 1926, died on July 27, 1928. To fill the remaining two years, Governor Christianson set a special primary election for Tuesday, October 30, 1928, followed only one week later by the general election on November 6, 1928. The two candidates who received the most votes in the primary would face off in the general election. There were six candidates in the primary, and Galvin received the most votes: <sup>1</sup>

Michael J. Galvin.....1,373  
 Frederick H. Rollins.....1,282  
 Carl J. Goetzman.....1,257  
 Harry P. Felgate.....1,069  
 Edward C. Knopp.....774  
 Carl Schultz.....447

These were nonpartisan elections, where the candidates ran without party endorsement. He published these advertisements in the local newspaper, the ad on the left before the primary, the one on the right before the general election. <sup>2</sup>

**PAID ADVERTISEMENT**  
 Prepared and inserted by M. J. Galvin in his own behalf, for which the sum of \$4.52 has been paid.



**M. J. GALVIN**  
 FOR  
**STATE SENATOR**  
 TO THE VOTERS OF WINONA COUNTY:

If you are interested in electing to the State Senate a resident tax payer who is qualified to hold the office by training and experience, and who will, if elected, exert every effort to protect the interests of the people of Winona County do not fail to vote for

**M. J. GALVIN**  
 ATTORNEY AT LAW  
 on October 30, 1928.


PAID ADVERTISEMENT. Inserted by M. J. Galvin, 221 Chas. Block, Winona, Minn., in his own behalf, for which the sum of \$10.50 has been paid.

*Vote for*

**M. J. GALVIN**

*for*

**STATE SENATOR**



*Born on a farm near Winona*

*A graduate of Winona High School*

A property-owner and taxpayer. Not the candidate of any particular group or locality. If elected, I promise to honestly and conscientiously devote my efforts to the best interests of the people of Winona County.

As State Senator I offer the use of my training and experience as a lawyer.

*Your support will be appreciated*

<sup>1</sup> Winona Republican-Herald, October 31, 1928, at 8 (unofficial).

<sup>2</sup> Winona Republican-Herald, October 26, 1928, at 6 (left); November 5, 1928, at 4 (right).

In the general election on November 6, 1928, he lost to Dr. Frederick H. Rollins, a physician from St. Charles. The results were:

Michael J. Galvin.....6,437  
 Dr. F. H. Rollins.....6,807<sup>3</sup>

Dr. Rollins was re-elected to the Senate in 1930 to a four year term. In 1934, Galvin challenged Dr. Rollins. These advertisements were published in the *Winona Republican-Herald* in November 1934:<sup>4</sup>

**PAID ADVERTISEMENT** Prepared and inserted by M. J. Galvin, 279 Sioux St., Winona, Minn., in his own behalf, for which \$9.34 has been paid.



**M. J. GALVIN**  
 for  
**State Senator**  
 A vote for Galvin is a vote

For economical government  
 For complete tax reform  
 For relief of real estate from its heavy tax burden  
 For active and effective representation for Winona County.

**PAID ADVERTISEMENT**  
 Prepared and inserted by Winona County Medical Society, Dr. F. T. Benoit, 477 Main St., Winona, Minn., president, Dr. I. W. Steiner, 264 McBride St., Winona, Minn., secretary, in behalf of M. J. Galvin, 279 Sioux St., Winona, Minn., candidate for State Senator, for which \$5.04 has been paid.



The Winona County  
 Medical Society  
 has chosen to endorse  
 the candidacy of  
**M. J. GALVIN**  
 for the office of  
**State Senator**

This endorsement is given without solicitation and without promise of favor.

He was elected, receiving 52.5 % of the vote on November 6, 1934:

Michael J. Galvin.....6,629  
 Frederick H. Rollins.....6,001<sup>5</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Winona Republican-Herald, November 7, 1928, at 1. These were unofficial, incomplete results as the votes of two precincts were missing.

<sup>4</sup> Winona Republican-Herald, November 3, 1934, at 7 (left); November 2, 1934, at 5 (right).

<sup>5</sup> 1935 Blue Book, at 382.

In 1938 and 1942 he was re-elected. These advertisements were published in the *Winona Republican-Herald* in November 1938 (left) and 1942 (right):<sup>6</sup>

**PAID ADVERTISEMENT**  
 Prepared and inserted by M. J. Galvin in his own behalf for which the sum of \$5.04 has been paid.

**RE-ELECT  
 SENATOR  
 GALVIN**



If re-elected I will continue my efforts for **ECONOMY IN GOVERNMENT, AGRICULTURE, PUBLIC WELFARE AND FOR GOOD GOVERNMENT.**

**PAID ADVERTISEMENT** Prepared and inserted in his own behalf by M. J. Galvin, 315 West Broadway, Winona, and paid for at the regular advertising rate.



**RE-ELECT  
 STATE SENATOR  
 GALVIN**

If re-elected, I will devote my best efforts to the interests of the people of Winona County and the State of Minnesota.

*I Appreciate Your Support*

In the election on November 8, 1938, he received 53.2 % of the vote:<sup>7</sup>

Michal J. Galvin.....7,851  
 John W. Donehower.....6,896

On November 3, 1942, his final election, he received 79.4 % of the vote:<sup>8</sup>

Michal J. Galvin.....9,445  
 Mat Wagner.....2,445

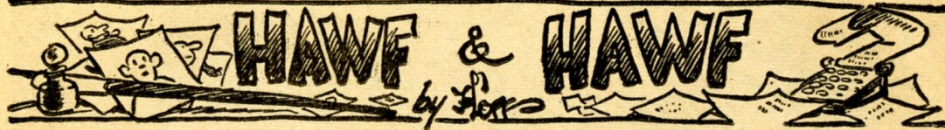
<sup>6</sup> *Winona Republican-Herald*, November 5, 1938, at 2 (left); October 32, 1942, at 5 (right).

<sup>7</sup> 1939 Blue Book, at 402.

<sup>8</sup> 1943 Blue Book, at 456.

The following story was published in the *St. Paul Dispatch* at the beginning of his second term:

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1940.



These are troublesome days indeed.

When we get up in the morning we can't tell which not to read first—the war stories or the stories about Admiral Byrd at Little America.

WURRA WURRA!

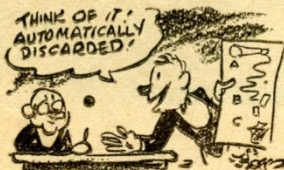
FAITH 'N 'TIS ALMOST AS GOOD AS A FIGHT?



When ye read the ahlmost unpronouncible names  
Av some outsthandin' stars in competitive games,  
Ye might think the foreigners have us outstripped,  
Or concede, with regret, that the Irish have slipped.  
But be aisy. Consider our own basketball,  
And notice who's perched on the top in St. Paul.  
Fer uphouldin' the prestige of our fightin' race,  
Are the bould Harding laddy-bucks settin' the pace.  
As Celtie a line-up as iver ye'll see  
In the land of the brave and the home of the free.

So Erin-go-bragh! and here's shamrocks to ye:  
Two Kellys, two Sheehans, Mc-Loughlin and Lee.  
—Scooty.

The Postoffice is trying out a machine that automatically stamps and mails letters. The Machine Age will really be doing something when it evolves a machine that automatically tosses circular letters into the wastebasket.



Dr. Leon J. Saul of the Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis says that studies have led to the belief that prolonged or severe frustrations of wishes for love may be important factors in causing colds in some persons.

Perhaps Burn's poem should be changed a little to read:

O, my luve is like a red, red nose,  
For now it can be told;  
O, my luve has turned me down again  
And given me a cold.

The headlined announcement, "First Mosquito Boats Ready Soon," causes "Hoffan" to wonder if they can go through smoke screens.

We wouldn't know—but our guess is that the enemy might get somewhere by launching a cruiser named "Citronella."

Just a Great Big Copy Reader at Heart

Sir: I notice that in referring to Darryl Zanuck's trip to New York for the premier of his movie version of "The Grapes of Wrath" George Ross says: "He did not make the trip across the continent in vain. Every local cinema critic pronounced "Grapes of Wrath, a masterpiece in print."

A masterpiece in print, huh? Is this an underhanded slam at the picture?—RHS.



(Being another in a series of spasmodic visits with popular citizens of St. Paul's neighbor cities and towns.)

Today's guest represents some 34,000 constituents from down around Winona. He's State Senator Mike Galvin of Winona and he's serving the second term of a pretty busy official life. He is chairman of both the Interim Committee on Social Legislation and Relief and the Senate Labor committee. Among other things he has aided materially in shaping our unemployment compensation legislation. And you'd have to make a pretty good day's journey to find a closer student of the problems of labor.

Senator Galvin took pre-law at Minnesota after a prep school education at Winona. Then he went to Creighton University at Omaha for his degree. He is married and has a couple of up-and-coming young Senators—one a girl.

When the Senator is not weighing matters of state in his mind, or worrying over the problems of some client in his law practice he plays golf over the rolling hills of the Winona Country club or goes hunting. Ducks used to occupy a lot of his attention, but of late he



MIKE GALVIN

has been squirrel hunting considerably with his boy who is nine years old.

It's pretty hard to keep an ambitious young politician down when he gets the knack of bagging squirrels.

**B. Resolution endorsing Michael J. Galvin, Sr.,  
for the office of President of the  
American Bar Association**

**Preambles**

When the American Bar Association enters the eighty-fifth year of its existence in 1963, it will be a quarter of a century since a Minnesota lawyer held the office of President of the American Association. The American Association is rich in leaders available to serve their fellow-lawyers in this high office; but equitable considerations of geographical rotation are entitled to some weight; and, Minnesota is able to offer a candidate especially equipped by training, temperament and experience to render outstanding service to the Bar during the critical period confronting our Country and our Profession.

Michael J. Galvin of St. Paul served the Minnesota State Bar Association as its President with distinction in 1946-1947; has been President of the Minnesota State Bar (Endowment) Foundation for over ten years. He has been member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association and is currently serving as Chairman of that Association's Communications Committee.

A former State Senator, Mr. Galvin practiced law in Winona, Minnesota, for over twenty years until he moved to St. Paul, where he serves several; clients including the Minnesota Railroad Association as Director of its public relations and legislative program. In this capacity he has been called on to defend his clients against adverse legislation, thus gaining valuable experience in one of the manifold functions of an ABA President.

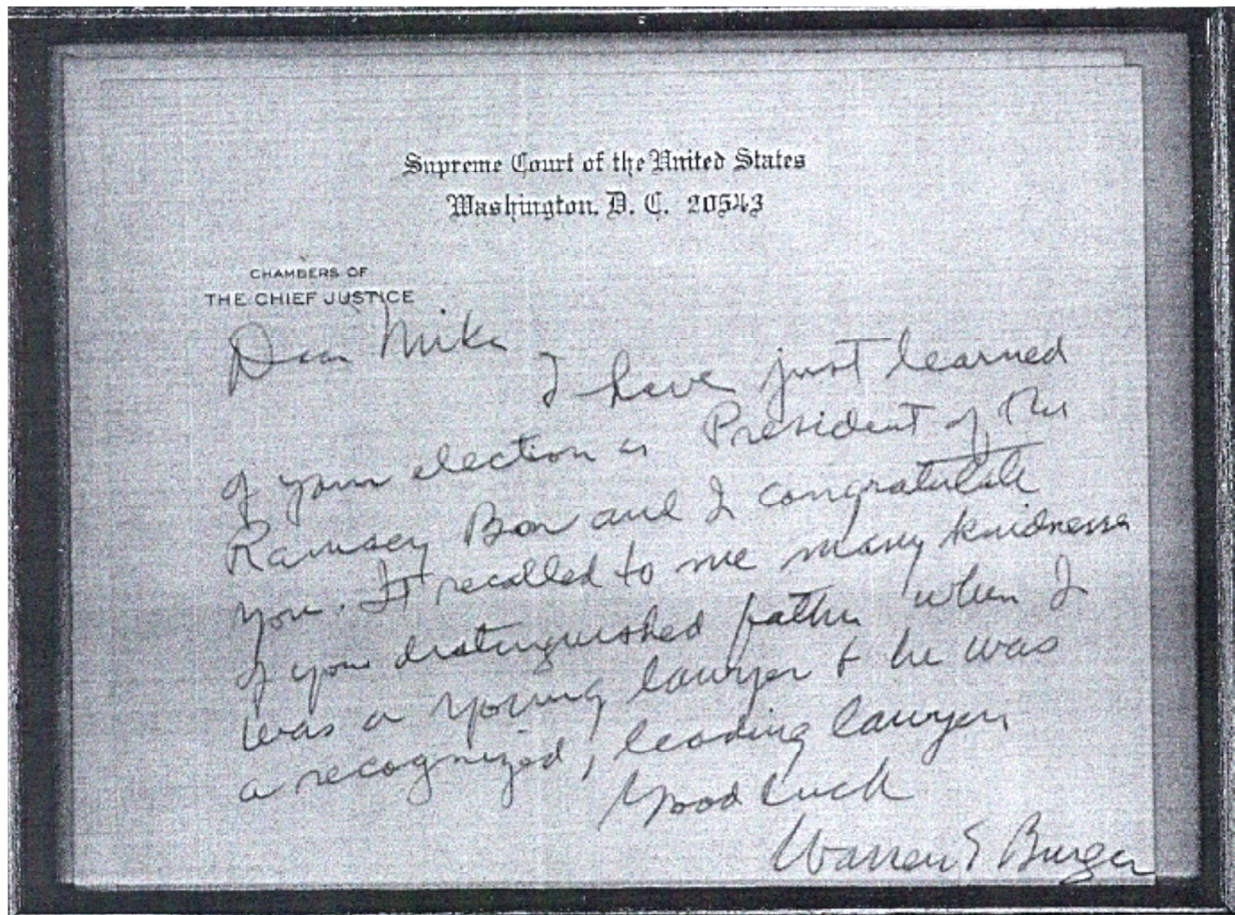
**Mr. Galvin has been active in a great number of fraternal organizations and has devoted and untold amount of time and energy to the welfare of many civic activities in the State of Minnesota; has successfully guided the affairs of manufacturing businesses in which he has held office; is a member of the American Judicature Society; and, as as State Senator and Chairman of the Labor Committee of the Minnesota State Senate with reference to social welfare and labor legislation. He is a Past Commander of his American Legion Post and a Past President of his local service group.**

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Minnesota State Bar Association in Convention assembled at Duluth, Minnesota, June 17, 1960, hereby adopts the foregoing preambles and**

**HEREBY RESOLVES that this Association heartily endorses Michael J. Galvin for the office of President of the American Bar Association, deems that he is by his experience, ability, integrity and devotion to the Legal Profession well qualified for said office and, therefore, unqualifiedly recommends him for that office to the lawyers of the Country, and earnestly bespeaks of them their enthusiastic support of his candidacy for that office.**

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**C. Note from the Chief Justice to Michael J. Galvin Jr.,  
after his election in 1984 as President of the  
Ramsey County Bar Association:**



## D. Obituary

Michael J. Galvin, Sr., died on August 27, 1998, at age ninety-eight. The following obituary was published in the *Winona Daily News*:

### WINONA DAILY NEWS

Saturday, August 29, 1998

4A

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#### **Michael John Galvin, Sr. July 6, 1900 – August 27, 1998**

**ST. PAUL –** Michal John Galvin, Sr., died Thursday, Aug. 27, 1998.

Michael John Galvin, Sr., was born in Carimona Township, Fillmore County, on July 6, 1900, to Dennis C. Galvin of Scartaglen, Ireland, and Cecilia O'Connor of Carimona Township. Michael was the youngest of seven children. He attended grade school in Preston and high school in Winona.

He served in the U. S. Army during World War I. He attended the University of Minnesota and graduated from Creighton University Law School in Omaha, Neb., in 1925. He practiced law for two years in Minneapolis and then opened a law office in 1927 in Winona, where he practiced law until 1946.

Michael J. Galvin, Sr., married Margaret O'Donahue in Mellon, Wis., on Feb. 14, 1928. In 1946, the Galvin family moved to St. Paul.

Michael served in the Minnesota Senate from 1934 to 1946 representing the Winona area. He also served as municipi-



pal judge in the city of Winona. During his professional career he served as president of the Minnesota State Bar Association, the Minnesota State Bar Association Foundation and the Minnesota Safety Council. He served as general counsel of the Minnesota Railroad Association in St. Paul from 1946 to 1966. He continued to be active in law practice until his retirement at the age of 91.

While a resident he served as commander of American Legion Post No. 9, Grand Knight of the knights of Columbus and numerous other civic organizations. He was the last surviving World War I veteran still active in Post No. 9. He assisted in the organization of the Badger Machine Company (Warner Swazey Company) with the late Dan Pzyzylski and Charles Britts in 1945. He also was a partner with the late Walter Kelly and rebuilt the Oaks Night Club in Minnesota City after it was destroyed by a fire in 1946.

Michael is survived by one son, Michael J. Galvin, Jr., (Frances)(of St. Paul; two daughters, Sheila Galvin Rangitsch (George) of Kansas City, Kan., and Mary Galvin Farrell of St. Paul; 13 grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 67 years, Margaret O'Donahue Galvin; granddaughter, Lynn Rangitsch of Kansas City; one brother and four sisters.

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Memorials are preferred to the Michael Galvin Sr., Scholarship Found, Creighton University Law School,

25090 California Plaza, Omaha, Neb. 68178, The Marian Care Center of donor's choice.<sup>9</sup>

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**E. Homily at the Mass of Christian Burial for  
Michael J. Galvin, Sr.  
2:00 p.m. 31 August A.D. 1998**

On behalf of Archbishop Roach, seated behind me; on behalf of Msgr. James Lavin, representing the University of Saint Thomas; of Father Thomas Hunstiger, from the Highland Catholic Community, on behalf of Father Duffy, our parochial vicar, the trustees and staff of St. Louis, the little French church, I convey our heartfelt prayers to Mike's family and dear friends.

The scriptures refer to Michael as the great prince, as lord and guardian of God's people. In Christian tradition we oftentimes refer to him as the archangel: so potent is his power, so noble are his deeds, so eloquent his testimony.

Our Judeo-Christian tradition has understood angels to be messengers of God. In no insignificant way was Mike, who bore the

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<sup>9</sup> *Winona Daily News*, August 29, 1998, at 4A (funeral arrangements omitted). In Galvin's obituary in *the Saint Paul Pioneer Press*, his work in the legislature was emphasized:

Galvin moved to Winona in 1927 and served as a state senator from there from 1935 to 1946.

"He was instrumental in enacting legislation including the first unemployment compensation provision in Minnesota and the Labor Relations Act." Said Fred Lauerman, son of former state Sen. Leo J. Lauerman, one of Galvin's colleagues.

"He played a prominent role in many pieces of legislation at a time when Minnesota was going through a turbulent time due to labor unrest."

For eight years, Galvin served as chairman of the Senate Labor Committee. He also headed the Senate committee overseeing motor vehicles and motor tax laws.

*St. Paul Pioneer Press*, August 29, 1998, at 7C. The obituary in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, August 30, 1998, at 37, was shorter ("Michael J. Galvin Sr., 98, former Winona Senator").

name of Michael the archangel, a messenger from God to us.

Mike's life is a litany of accomplishments as he lived out his many years: as a Minnesota state senator and veteran of World War I., a champion of unemployment compensation; playing a distinguished and prominent role in the Labor Relations Act; acting adroitly, knowledgeably and competently in times that were unsteady due to labor unrest; serving for a number of years as chairman of the Senate Labor committee.

He was also for two decades counsel for the Minnesota Railroad Association; President of the Minnesota Bar Association and president of the Minnesota Safety Council; member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Association . . . all of these, to mention just a few data from his rich and abundantly full Curriculum Vitae.

But behind and above his public persona was a man grounded and rooted. If he was preeminently successful in law and politics and business -- and many reports testify that he was indeed that -- there was a more sublime reason. He was grounded and rooted in FAITH. To borrow the words from Daniel the Prophet: "Bright shall be the glory of wise counselors, as the radiance of the sky above; starry-bright for ever their glory, who have taught many the right way"<sup>10</sup>

No small wonder such an accolade is befitting this man of great stature for he bore nobly and worthily the name of the great prince, Michael, the archangel whose attributes are summarized in the sacred writings with simple and eloquent words: QUI SUT DEUS, who is like unto God.

Mike's contributions in public life are well known and well documented, and rightly so.

But his being a messenger of God is more supremely evident in His witness to God, in his care and concern for his family: in the love of his wife, Margaret, to whom he was devoted for almost 70 years, in the affection for and care of his children, his grandchildren and his great grandchildren, his nieces and nephews; in his loyal and reverent devotion to his Church: Who he was to, you and for you; What he accomplished for you; what he inspired in you: those

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<sup>10</sup> Daniel 12, 3 (Msgr. Ronald Knox translation).

phenomena, both rich and rare are amply evident in you, his family and friends. And each of those fond recollections you are privileged to have; each of those narratives and stories whether sad or happy, Far too numerous to enumerate, yet no less venerable and important. Each of those need to be celebrated by you and kept safe and sweet in the treasurehouse of your hearts.

It would be foolish to attempt in such a short space of time to even begin to summarize Mike's life, and yet that does not dispense us from trying at least to suggest a worthy epithet for him.

In this vein I suggest we ponder some words taken from the church's most ancient prayer book, a book which was written some 200 to 400 years before the birth of Christ and which we venerate as the Book of Psalms, words from the Hebrew Scriptures. The words I propose are taken from Psalm 119 the longest of the psalms and no doubt the tour de force of the Psalter. Let us listen to those poetic and prophetic words not only as God is speaking them to us; but also as if Mike were to be counseling us:

Meditating all day on your Law, [O God]  
how I have come to love it!  
By your commandment, ever mine,  
how much wiser you have made me than my enemies!  
How much subtler than my teachers,  
through my meditating on your decrees!  
How much more perceptive than the elders,  
as a result of my respecting your precepts!  
I refrain my feet from every evil path,  
the better to observe your word.  
I do not turn aside from your rulings,  
since you yourself [O God] teach me these.  
Psalm 119, 97-102

Beat! . . . qui ambulat in lege Domini (Ps 119, 1) so the first verse of that monumental psalm begins in the Latin text. Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord. Mike certainly did that; he lived and breathed his faith. His life of hope and love was rooted in, grounded in, and anchored on faith in God.

"True wisdom [after all] is not a matter of age.  
True wisdom is not a matter of education,

or even social status  
but of adhering to the divine commandments." <sup>11</sup>

Mike certainly lived and showed that by his gracious and generous faith-filled life.

His faith was so extremely important to him. His real concern was to know God and to know his own soul, and to do this he practiced his religion with both zeal and loyalty.

Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord. . . . that law admirably and perfectly poised in detail with the beatitudes of Christ's Gospel.

May we celebrate Mike's life and legacy as a gift of God; and may we be grateful and glad that he has touched our lives; confident also, that with God's help, we may all be, one day, reunited in Heaven where all is grace and peace.

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## F. An Album of Photographs

The following photographs have been furnished by the Galvin family.

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<sup>11</sup> Jerome Biblical Commentary on Psalm 119, specifically vv. 98-100, p. 547)



**Meeting of Board of Governors of the Minnesota State Bar Association (1946).  
Michael J. Galvin, Sr., President of the MSBA, is seated sixth from the right.**



**Michael J. Galvin, Sr., calling a meeting to order.  
Date: probably 1940s.  
Place and subject of meeting not known.**



**Michael and Margaret Galvin (far left) on Capitol steps during Eisenhower/Nixon inauguration ceremonies in 1957 in Washington, D.C. (others unidentified)**





**Photograph taken after reception following inauguration of  
President Eisenhower in 1957.  
(figure in middle unidentified)**



**Photograph taken during ceremonies following inauguration of  
President Eisenhower in 1957.  
On the right are Michael Galvin, standing, and his wife Margaret  
and daughter Frances (Culligan) Galvin seated.  
On the left are their close friends, the Mathias'.**



Portrait: 1950s.

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## Acknowledgments

The photograph on page 15 is from the archives of the Winona County Historical Society. All other photographs are from the Galvin family.

The political advertisements on pages 33-35 are from newspapers on microfilm at the Minnesota Historical Society.

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Posted MLHP: February 25, 2018.