

Memorial

For

W. Kenneth Nissen

(February 10, 1906 – December 22, 1955)



Winona County Bar Association
Winona County District Court
Third Judicial District
Winona, Minnesota

September 17, 1956

W. Kenneth Nissen

Memorial presented by the Winona County Bar Association to the District Court of Winona County, Minnesota, September 17, 1956

W. Kenneth Nissen, lawyer, died December 22, 1955, at the age of forty-nine years.

Kenny, as he was known by his immediate friends and associates, was a lifelong resident of Winona, born here on February 10, 1906. He attended elementary school at the Model School of the then Winona State Normal School and attended Winona Senior High School where he graduated in 1924. For two years thereafter he attended Winona State Teachers College and then transferred to the University of Minnesota School of Law from which he graduated in 1929.

After admission to the bar in 1929 he began his practice of the law alone here in Winona, Minnesota in January, 1930. He practiced continuously here in Winona from that time until his death. He had practiced law here in Winona just short of thirty-six years. Shortly after he opened his law office here in Winona he was appointed and served as assistant city attorney and in 1934 he was elected city representative to the House of Representatives to which office he was re-elected in 1936. After serving these two terms in the state legislature he was successful in his bid and was elected as county attorney for Winona County, and this office he held for four successive terms, or sixteen years.

His private practice of law was devoted largely to probate matters and real estate transactions. He was a member of the Minnesota State Bar Association and of the Winona County Bar Association.

Mr. Nissen was long active in a number of Winona civic, fraternal, and other organizations and in 1934 was selected as the first winner of the Junior Chamber of Commerce distinguished award as Winona's "Young Man of the Year." He was an active member of the Improved Order of Red Men and served as sachem of the Winona group in 1947. He belonged to the Red Men 24-hour Club and was a member of the Past

Sachems Association. He was a member of the Central Methodist Church and served on its board of trustees, a member of the Winona Masonic Lodge 18, AF & AM, the Sottish Rite bodies, Zurah Temple of the Shrine in Minneapolis, the West End Commercial Club and the Benevolent Protective Order of Elks.

Perhaps Mr. Nissen's greatest interest outside the law was in Boy Scout work and for this work he was in November of 1946 awarded the highest honor that Gamehaven Area council, Boy Scouts of America, can bestow on adult leaders in Scouting. This was the Silver Beaver award given for his longtime and outstanding contributions to Scouting. Mr. Nissen had been a scoutmaster of troop six of the Central Methodist Church here in Winona from 1930 to 1934, a member of the council executive board from 1940 to 1942 and again scoutmaster of troop six from 1943 to 1948. In 1948 Mr. Nissen's scout troop had the singular distinction of having seven Eagle Scouts.

Mr. Nissen never married. He was survived by his father, Hans Nissen, and his only sister, Mrs. Russ (Virginia) Nichols, who lives in Loveland, Ohio. Mr. Nissen's mother, Emma Nissen, died in 1934.

The Winona County Bar Association requests that this memorial be spread on the minutes of this court and that a copy thereof be sent to the family of the late W. Kenneth Nissen.

Dated at Winona, Minnesota, this seventeenth day of September, 1956.

William A. Lundquist

David S. Strater

Milton A. Goldberg

Committee Members

APPENDIX

Wilfred Kenneth Nissen was admitted to the bar on September 20, 1929. *Roll of Attorneys, Supreme Court, State of Minnesota, 1858-1970*, at 207 (Minnesota Digital Library).

In the November 1954 election, he was defeated in his bid for a fifth term as County Attorney.

His death was ruled suicide by carbon monoxide poisoning. *Winona Daily News*, December 22, 1955, at 1 ("Kenneth Nissen Found Dead in Parked Car").

CREDIT

The photograph on the first page is from the Minnesota Legislative Reference Library.

—■—