

STATE OF MINNESOTA

IN DISTRICT COURT

COUNTY OF TRAVERSE

SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

Memorial Exercises in Tribute to the Memory of
VICTOR ANDERSON, S. C. ODENBORG and
F. J. STEIDL, deceased,
held at the Court House, at Wheaton, Minnesota,
on the 14th day of November, 1949,

THE HONORABLE E. R. SELNES
Judge of said Court, presiding.

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

[The transcript of these proceedings, on file at the Minnesota Historical Society, has been reformatted by the MLHP but no changes to the text or punctuation have been made. Footnotes are by the MLHP]

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THE COURT: Counsel you may proceed.

MR. LUNDQUIST: Your Honor, distinguished guests, and ladies and gentlemen. At the commencement of the November term of court at Wheaton, a petition and order has been entered into the records, which I will read:

STATE OF MINNESOTA
COUNTY OF TRAVERSE

IN DISTRICT COURT
SIXTEENTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

--- O ---

In the Matter of the
Memorials of F. J. Steidl,
S. C. Odenborg and
Victor Anderson.

--- O ---

Marvin E. Lundquist, having filed herein a petition and it appearing that the following distinguished and respected members of the Traverse County bar, viz: F. J. Steidl, S. C. Odenborg and Victor Anderson, have passed away;

IT IS ORDERED, That a fitting memorial service be had on the 14th day of November, 1949 at 2:00 p.m. before this court in the court room in the court house in the village of Wheaton, Minnesota, to honor the memories of F. J. Steidl, S. C. Odenborg and Victor Anderson.

Dated November 14, 1949.

 /s/ E. R. Selnes
District Court Judge.

MR. LUNDQUIST: Your Honor we have asked Mr. Charles Houston to prepare a eulogy for Judge Steidl, Mr. Earl E. Huber to prepare a eulogy for Sidney Odenborg, and Mr. A. Johanson to prepare a eulogy for Victor Anderson. I will then proceed to call upon the Honorable Charles Houston to give his eulogy of the Judge Steidl.

MR. HOUSTON: May it please the court, the Chief Justice, gentlemen of the bar, and neighbors.

I have the honor to present to you for your approval a memorial in the honor in the memory of Ferdinand J. Steidl.

Ferdinand J. Steidl, former judge of this court, was born in Moravia, Austria, in August 1857.¹ He attended the public school there for a period of six years. When his parents, Reimond and Thresia Steidl, came to the United States in June, 1872, he came with them and lived with his parents in Mitchell County, Iowa, and thereafter in Floyd County, near Nora Springs, where the family still resides. He attended the public schools in Mitchell and Floyd counties and the seminary at Charles City, Iowa, in the fall and winter of 1879 and 1880. He read law in the office of L. M. Rice at Osage, Iowa, in the winter and spring of 1882 and thereafter enter the law school of Drake University at Des Moines, from which he graduated in 1883.

He practiced law in West Mitchell, Iowa, one year, then moved to Carver County, Minnesota, where he practiced seven years. During four years of that time, he was in partnership with W. C. Odell, whom the Bar of Minnesota recognized as an able lawyer. In July, 1891, he moved to Browns Valley and for the remainder of his life, resided in Traverse County.

In 1895 he married Millie H. Lillejord, who preceded him in death less than one year.

¹ Ferdinand Joseph Steidl was born on August 27, 1857, and died on March 28, 1944, at the home of his daughter in St. Paul. He was 87 years old. His obituary appeared on the front page of the weekly *The Wheaton Gazette*, March 31, 1944.

In 1894 he was elected county attorney for Traverse County and moved to Wheaton. He was reelected county attorney and in the fall of 1899 was appointed by Governor Lind as Judge of the District Court of this district to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Judge Calvin L. Brown, when he went to the Supreme Court.

I will depart for my manuscript for a moment to call your attention to a case which was decided while Judge Steidl was on this bench. He told me the story when I was in partnership with him years ago, but I never saw the file until this afternoon. There was a mortgage that was foreclosed by advertisement and the time for redemption of that mortgage had expired. After the time for redemption at expired, the mortgagors, two women who lived in this county, still occupied the premises, and the mortgagee brought an action in the nature of an ejectment to cover the property which had been mortgaged. A lawyer by the name of Gibbons represented the defendant. I will not mention the name of the lawyer for the plaintiff. He didn't reside in this district. But, this lawyer who represented the defendant, at the close of the plaintiff's evidence, made the usual motion to dismiss, more as a matter of habit with lawyers than anything, never thinking the motion would be granted when he made it. This attorney and the plaintiff's attorney were both very surprised when the judge granted the motion to dismiss. The attorney for the plaintiff rose to his feet and said "Your Honor, I'd like to know the ground in which this motion is granted." Well, Judge Steidl took the mortgage that had been introduced in evidence. It was one of those old type mortgages on four pages, opened like a book, and, (indicating) down here in the in the crease in the middle, it had been folded back and forth so many times that was worn in two — two pieces of paper. He said "Two pieces of paper have been introduced here. There is no evidence to show that they constitute one instrument." He said "The covenants are on one page and the signatures are on the other," and he said "you simply haven't made out a case." "Well" the lawyer said, "Your Honor I will ask leave to reopen the case." He said, "My reputation is at stake here." "Well, the judge said, "You say your reputation at stake? I will call your attention of the fact that all these two women on the other side have in the world is at stake. I think we'll let the ruling stand."

In the fall of 1900, Judge Steidl was exceeded by Judge Flaherty and he reentered private practice with his office at Wheaton.

After retiring from the bench he entered partnership with Edward Rustad, which partnership continued into January 1, 1903, when Judge Steidl formed a partnership with Charles E. Houston, which continued until July 1, 1908, when Judge Steidl retired from practice.

In 1932, twenty-seven years after he retired from the practice of law, he ran for the office of judge of the probate court and was elected. He continued to hold that office until shortly before his death. So, it was that when he was five years older than is today considered the time for retirement of a judge, the people of Traverse County chose to elect and retain him in judicial office as long as he was willing to hold it. He took great pride in his work in the matter not whether his work was that of a judge or that of a lawyer, once engaged in a task he was not concerned about the time that this job took, but his pride was in seeing that his work was correctly done.

I knew him best during the five and one-half years that I practiced law with him.

He was faithful to his clients. He was a student. In the days of his active practice it is my present impression that a greater proportion of cases was litigated to a final conclusion than is now the case. More cases were tried and less cases were settled than at present. It is true that in those days the sums of money involved in litigation were smaller than they are today but that is probably because the dollar in those days was a larger measure of value than today.

After Judge Steidl retired from practice, he gave his entire attention to farming for a long period of years. He was interested in pure bred Holstein cattle and when one of his smaller daughters heard her father called judge, she thought it was because he was a good judge of cattle.

He told me years ago that his parents were weavers in the old country.

He and his wife raised a family of two sons and three daughters who have found their places in the respective communities, all of whom regard their father as I do.

He was a great citizen. He loved his country. Those who knew him honor his memory.

At the bar, he was in his prime at the time when his contemporaries, Frank L Cliff, Ray G. Farrington, Edward J. Schofield, Lewis E. Jones, Louis C. Spooner, George Beise, James B. Orman and Frank W. Murphy were at the height of their respective careers.

He was known for his honesty and his fidelity to his clients.

Where else than in the United States of America could an immigrant boy whose first earnings were at the rate of \$5 a month and who worked barefooted because he could not afford shoes, rise by his own efforts and hold judicial office in two courts, attain a position of respected leadership?

Long will he be remembered.

MR. LUNDQUIST: Mr. Huber.

MR. HUBER: Your Honor, Chief Justice Loring, members of the Bar, and friends: As I understand our purpose here this afternoon, we do not come in the spirit of mourning, but, rather, to scatter a few flowers along the pathway of memory. I think it is eminently fitting that we do pause to pay honor and to pay tribute to the memory of our departed colleague, and, it is my privilege in my honor this afternoon to speak briefly in honor of Sidney C. Odenberg. I should like to refer to him as "Sid", and I am sure that if it was his fortune to be here at our undertakings this afternoon that he would prefer that reference.

Sid truly was a common man. He was filled with poise and dignity and with sympathy for the less fortunate. I have always felt, but I realize of course that is not within my province to judge or determine, but I have always felt that his passing was untimely and premature, in the vigor of life.

Sid's lifespan was from April 13, 1898 to February 12, 1945, barely 47 years. He was the son of Svenung and Selma Odenberg, pioneers of this community, highly

respected. Sid was born on the farm, the homestead of his parents, and that farm constitutes quite a substantial part of the corporate limits of the Village of Wheaton. This court house, I believe, is located in that particular farm.

Sid's father passed away long ago long before I came to Wheaton. It was not my privilege to know him. I do know the mother. She is in good health, of very mature years, very active, and highly mentally alert. A visit with her is an inspiration.

Sid married in August, August 15 of 1927, to Ebba Nelson, one of Wheaton's most charming women, and, to this union two daughters were born, Donna Clair and Karen Jean. This trio, the mother and two daughters, make their home on this homestead that I mentioned, carrying on in their fashion the standard and the tradition established by the father and mother of Sid, and the tradition of Sid and his own family.

It was Sid's privilege to be in the Army in World War I. Sid saw service overseas, saw rugged combat. His experiences were many and varied and he only talked about them with reluctance and on solicitation. Sid's nature was such that he loved and respected the ideals and institutions of America, of our American government and our American way, and he never hesitated to go all out in the support of their maintenance.

Sid was admitted to the bar in the year 1924 and upon his admission, he returned to his home town and, unaided and unassisted and alone, opened his office for the practice of law. I came to Wheaton about three years later, 1927. At that time, Sid was County Attorney. From the very beginning he met with success. He served his clients well. During that time, that span from 1927 when I came until 1945, his passing, it was my privilege to be associated with Sid in many undertakings and in many legal matters. By that I mean, as we say, "on the same side of the table", working together. Naturally during that time span, it was my lot to oppose him, but, in every instance the contact was more satisfying and really to me an inspiration and a guide. No written agreement was necessary with Sid. Naturally it was necessary to make agreements and arrangements and understandings as matters progressed, but once an understanding was reached, there

was never any degrading of the effectiveness of it, trying to circumvent it or bypass it, but always a full and complete compliance with all the terms of that agreement; and, truly, that is an experience that is the joy of any lawyer to have. I do not mean of course that he failed in any duty toward his client. I do mean just the opposite. Sid was known for his habit of whatever he considered to be right, to continue on in that behalf to the very end, fair, honest and efficient.

As I said, Sid was county attorney of this county. He served in many other minor capacities. He gave freely of his time in minor ways, in civic life, civic duties. But in his way of discharging his duties in that respect, he endeared himself. As I say, he was elected to the office of county attorney and then later, to the office of Representative. He was elected to that office and re-elected. He held many important positions in the legislature. At the time of his passing, he was Chairman of the all-important and all-powerful Tax Committee, a job that he fulfilled with credit to himself and with great service to the state.² In fact in all of his

² Memorial services were held in the Minnesota House of Representatives on April 2, 1945:

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR THE LATE SIDNEY C. ODENBORG.

Messrs. Cummings, Hall, Martinson, Dunn, Reidner, Iverson, Daun, Rines, Allen, Nelson, W. N., Schwanke, Wegner, Therrien, Feig, Powers, Burnap, Baker, Burdick, Arnold and Olson offered the following resolution:

Whereas, The Honorable S. C. Odenborg, a member of the House of Representatives during sessions of 1939, 1941, 1943 and 1945 from the 48th district, was called by Divine Providence on February 12, 1945, and

Whereas, he was a man of high integrity, representing his people and the State of Minnesota, in an able, loyal and progressive manner, and

Whereas, he was a kind and devoted husband and father and a helpful friend,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the House of Representatives of the State of Minnesota, grieved by the loss of our friend, and co-worker, hereby extend to his bereaved family our deepest sympathy in the loss of their husband and father, in this our mutual sorrow.

Be It Further Resolved, that an engrossed copy of this resolution be sent to his devoted family as a token of our esteem and friendship for their dear one and our sincere friend.

Mr. Cummings moved that the foregoing resolution be adopted.

Messrs. Cummings, Zwach, Baker, Feig, Martinson, Dunn and Hall paid tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Odenborg.

The question recurred on the motion of Mr. Cummings.

Which motion prevailed and the resolution was unanimously adopted by a rising vote.

Journal of the House of Representatives, April 2, 1945, at 1045-46.

His obituary appeared on the front page of the weekly *The Wheaton Gazette*, February 16, 1945.

undertakings and in the practice of law he had the confidence of his clients and the respect of his fellow lawyers and the respect of the Court.

Had he lived, I feel certain that he would have gone on to higher responsibilities and to greater honor. However, such was not his life, and, as I have said, in the very vigor of life, while his greatness was still aspiring, frost touched that gentle shoot of life and he felt like the autumn leaves to enrich our earth.

It has been a pleasure to have known Sid. It has been a pleasure to have worked with him. His passing has resulted in a loss in every field of his activity and, while I said at the opening, we do not come in the spirit of mourning, yet friends, on this occasion, we do mourn his passing and at this belated hour we extend to his beloved ones our deepest sympathy.

Thank you, Your Honor.

MR. LUNDQUIST: Mr. Johanson.

Mr. JOHANSON: My it please the court, Mr. Chief Justice and members of the Bar and friends: I appreciate the assignment that was given to me to say a word or two on behalf of and to the memory of Victor Anderson, one of the young men who was born and grew up right in our community and became a successful lawyer and one of some repute before he left our circles and went elsewhere, not only to Saint Paul but to Washington. Now, there are several members of the Bar here who want to say a word for Victor and I am going try to make my statement quite short and concise.

“May it please the court: The life of Victor E. Anderson was a full one and crowded with events and activities from his very early youth. Born on a farm in Monson Township, this county, of Swedish parentage in 1883, he early became known by his many activities include in various fields of athletics as football, baseball and golf, and the interest in all of which he continued during his entire life. He was prominently associated with the Lutheran Church and in his early life taught its Sunday school.

After graduation from the Wheaton High School, he continued his studies at the then Northwestern College at Fergus Falls and he was the first graduate of that institution, and in 1905 received his law degree at the University of Minnesota. He practiced his profession in Wheaton until 1923 when he was appointed assistant attorney general of this state by Clifford L. Hilton. He resigned from that position in 1928 and again entered private practice until his appointment at Washington in the office of the Attorney General, which he held until he was appointed United States District Attorney of Minnesota, which position he held at the time of his death.

“Victor Anderson was stricken in September, 1948, and died suddenly in the depot in Chicago, while en route to Washington, D.C. to attend the national convention of U. S. district attorneys in which organization he took an active part.³ Apparently in robust health and appearance he was stricken down at the height of his career, and comparatively a young man. His widow, Mrs. Anna Anderson of St. Paul and his son, Cyrus, an attorney in the East survive him.

“Victor was a large man and presented an imposing presence with his erect carriage. He was a tireless and industrious worker, not only in the law and his profession but in anything he undertook to do, including also sports. He was able to get a great deal of work done, and his varied experiences in many fields rendered him an unusual background knowledge and ability. He tried many cases and I would say that his voice was heard at the Bar of this Court and in probably every one of the 87 courthouses in the State of Minnesota. He had a jovial disposition, and if he were in a group his presence was noted for his joviality and laughter, and he had and made a host of friends who greatly feel his sudden passing.

“He was a man of exemplary habits, and had the confidence of his business acquaintances, and of the courts. I can say this with some amount of experience and personal contact; he had an insatiable desire and urge to be helpful, beyond the call of duty, and rarely was any request made of him that did not call out the best there was in him to comply therewith, and which was to a large measure the

³ Victor E. Anderson was born on May 27, 1883, and died in Chicago, Illinois, on December 9, 1948.

reason of his multitude of friends and supporters throughout the state and elsewhere. In fact, the morning that he died in Chicago, I had an engagement with him immediately upon his return where he had gone out of his way to associate himself in a matter in a most helpful way. He was loyal beyond question to his duty and to his superiors and which made him an invaluable public servant. He was often mentioned as a possible member of the federal court of this state, and it is quite likely had he lived he would have been called to that position. It can be well said that he died in the harness at his full height of energy and ability, and that his column was broken while his job here was unfinished, and he left a large position to fill.”

MR. LUNDQUIST: Your Honor, we are pleased and honored today by the presence of distinguished members of the Bar and of the Bench, and, among these is the Hon. Charles Loring who is the Chief Justice of the State of Minnesota, and we would like to call on him for a word at this time.

CHIEF JUSTICE LORING: May it please the court: I agree with my professional brethren who appeared before you that we’re not meeting here in sorrow but in pride at the careers of three gentlemen to which, I believe, could not have occurred in any other country but United States. I would like to speak particularly about Victor Anderson whom I knew throughout his entire professional career.

From the first he was a lawyer of great promise and he developed into one of the leaders of the bar of the state. As he grew with his professional achievements he won the confidence, the respect and the sincere affection of our entire bar. Courts listened to him with the courtesy which his sincerity merited.

He made a great United States Attorney and his professional attainments were always exerted in the furtherance of causes he believed to be just.

To know Victor Anderson was a privilege. To count him as a friend warmed the heart.

His abilities and his temperament were such that he would have adorned any bench. Indeed, had his friends had their way he would have been in judicial robes for many years. As it was he devoted his life to the furtherance of justice. No man can do better than that.

MR. LUNDQUIST: Thank you Justice. One of the gentlemen we have presented here this afternoon is the successor of Mr. Victor Anderson, and, at this time we like to call on Mr. Graff.

MR. [JOHN W.] GRAFF : May it please the court, Mr. Chief Justice Loring, members of the bar, ladies and gentlemen: I am very happy and proud to join with you this afternoon in commemorating the associations that I have had with Victor E. Anderson. I first became acquainted with Victor Anderson some twenty years ago. In 1934, I was associated with him with his work in Washington, D.C. He left there in 1937 to assume the position of the United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota, and I joined him approximately two years after he was appointed.

From 1939 until the date of his death I felt that I was very close to Victor. I felt that I know him very well. I was associated with him in litigation that took us to different parts of the country.

I like to remember Victor as the great humanitarian that he was. I like to remember him for the philosophy that he had. It was a philosophy of kindness, a philosophy of solicitude, not only for those in high positions but a solicitude for those less fortunate. He had a philosophy of religion. He had his religious side and I think he did, and he took time, each day to remember his religion. He remembered his friends not only in good times but he remembered them in need, and I like to remember him for his philosophy.

Two days before his death I spent a present four hours with him going over many, many matters which were not to be completed by him.

I think all of us are poorer with his loss but I think all of us are richer by having known him and having been associated with him.

MR. LUNDQUIST: Also associated with Mr. Anderson and his work as United States District Attorney is Mr. Hammond, Linus J. Hammond of Minneapolis, and I would like to call on him at this time.

MR. HAMMOND: May it please the court, Mr. Chief Justice, fellow lawyers, ladies and gentlemen: I am very pleased that the members of the bar of this district have invited us from St. Paul to participate in your memorial services. We were very close to Mr. Victor Anderson during the time that he was United States Attorney. I suppose anyone who ever knew Victor Anderson felt they were very close to him. He was the type of gentlemen that if you knew him you felt that you were close to him.

He had a very lovely and likable disposition and character. I don't suppose there is a man who I ever knew who lived a better Christian life than Victor Anderson. I strive in my humble way to live as a Christian, but I don't think I ever could attain the perfection that Victor attained in his life in seeking the happiness that Christianity brought to him. He was a man that spoke no ill of anyone and at the suggestion of any ill will, he had a knack of brushing it aside.

As a lawyer he was a big man. He had capacity. He seemed to be able to handle cases no matter what size they were. And I think that speaks well of your bar here in this district. A bar who can turn forth a lawyer without abilities certainly must be a bar that has within it great lawyers. Certainly a bar as you have here must have the reputation of being one of the best and one of the most capable bars in the State of Minnesota.

I think you all have sustained a great loss by the loss of Victor Anderson.

MR. LUNDQUIST: Also present with us today, your Honor, is the venerable member of the Wilkins County bar, Mr. [Lewis] Jones, and we would like to call on him at this time.

MR. JONES: May it please the court, Mr. Chief Justice, gentlemen the bar and friends who are here so many of my old friend, Judge Steidl, my young friend Sid Odenborg, and my old pal Vic Anderson. I felt highly honored when I was asked by Brother Johanson to appear here to pay my tribute to these three old friends. In the interest of time I was asked to confine my remarks to Vic Anderson. I simply want to say that I re-echo to what Charlie Houston and Earl Huber said about Judge Steidl and Sid Odenborg.

It has been my privilege in the last sixty years to appear before this court, the Sixteenth Judicial District, at many memorials: Judge Stone of Morris, Ormand and Flaherty, Webster of Glenwood, Scofield of Elbow Lake, Farrington and Cliff of Ortonville, and my old friend, Frank Murphy, who I sat across the table from, with many heated words and some discussion of the law, Valentine and Mathews of Breckenridge. And I little thought when I walked in Frank Murphy's office in 1906 and was greeted by a rosy-face boy who told me Mr. Murphy was in conference, that I would be here today to pay my tribute to Victor Anderson.

This is probably not the time to say it, but I think Victor Anderson's regard for me was owing to Frank Murphy. When I went in there that day, I was informed that Mr. Murphy was in conference and then a voice soared out, "Is that you Lewie?" and I said "Yes." And he said "Vic, when Lewie Jones steps into this office, show him in", and I think Victor Anderson's regard for me started from that day. He thought I was – as my old friend LeSage said – he thought I was a great fellow, but I ain't.

I watched Victor Anderson from that day to the date that he was struck down just as he reached the goal of his ambition, a promised judgeship on the Federal bench, and I have no hesitancy in saying that Victor Anderson was a great lawyer. That takes in lots of territory. There are great advocates. There are great consultants. There are great jury lawyers, but Victor Anderson combined all of those attributes. I have sat across the table with him too many times and got licked for the simple reason that he knew his onions. He came prepared. If it was a jury case, he had his facts marshaled and he presented them to a jury – well, as Johanson said, with commanding stature and through his voice, he carried weight.

In trials to the court he was equally successful. He briefed his cases in advance and presented his cases to the trial court with the same force and energy that he did in trials to the jury.

He was a great consultant. He was patient. He went deeply into everything he undertook and why in the colony of Heaven he should have been taken away in the prime of life and us older worn out lawyers left is more than I know.

I differed with Victor both in religion and politics. I admired the consuming faith that he had, built up from what lawyers think of as a foundation, from evidence of things unseen. The Bible to him was God's word and I am sure that if his conceptions of the future were correct, when he approached the pearly gates, he was met with a glad hand and the words, "well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joy of the Lord." I am sure that he was escorted to one of the finest suites in His Master's many mansions.

If, perchance, his theory of the future could prove to be wrong, I know that in some other avatar, his soul would find a beautiful Valhalla were the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest. There you will find the soul of Victor Anderson and I am equally sure that it will never be found in Gehenna.

MR. LUNDQUIST: We have another representative of the Wilkin County Bar, Mr. Nelson.

MR. NELSON: May it please the court, Honorable Chief Justice, fellow lawyers and friends: I knew all of the three men who we have been talking about here today. Outside of the Traverse County bar, I probably knew Sidney Odenborg better than most of you lawyers in this room. Sidney was a friend of mine for almost twenty years before he, too, was stricken down at the height of his power.

Sidney Odenborg was a friendly man. You know, I have always felt that one of the greatest privileges that comes to a lawyer is the privilege of meeting and knowing other lawyers. There are some fine men in that profession. Good men. Friendly men. Sidney Odenborg was such a man.

It was mentioned here that he was county attorney. I remember him when he was county attorney. He never sought to establish a reputation for convicting people. He never sought the headlines. All he was seeking always to do was to do what was fair and just. If Sidney Odenborg felt and didn't believe that a man who was accused of some crime wasn't guilty, he wouldn't prosecute that man just to establish a name for himself, and, that is the way he was in all of his dealings with all people. He just he wanted to do what was right and what was fair and what was just.

I think I probably tried the first lawsuit I ever tried in my life against Sidney Odenborg and that has now been quite a few years ago, that date to his death, I saw him often. Regardless of the circumstances, he was always the same friendly, kindly person. When he went into anything, he went into it with all his heart and soul.

It was mentioned that he was on the Tax Committee of the State of Minnesota, and I remember after Sid started to work on that Committee, how interested he became in that work and how he studied the philosophy of taxation, and, at the time of his death, I don't believe there was any man in the State of Minnesota who knew more about the theory and philosophy back of taxes than Sid. He would have been a great man, a great help to the State of Minnesota if he had been allowed to live, and, it is with a heavy heart that I pay this last tribute to my friend Sid Odenborg.

MR. LUNDQUIST: We have another attorney from the Twin Cities, Mr. Wangenstein who also was associated in St. Paul with Mr. Anderson. Mr. Wangenstein.

Mr. WANGENSTEEN: May it please the court, Mr. Chief Justice, fellow members of the bar and friends. In my career as a lawyer, I have had the good fortune of having served under two eminent lawyers of this district. When I first entered the practice of law I came to the office of Frank W. Murphy, whose picture adorns this court room, and I was with him in his Minneapolis office until he died.

I had heard of Victor Anderson faintly through my association with Mr. Murphy and I had read of Victor Anderson in his career as a lawyer and in politics, but it wasn't until he came back here to the State of Minnesota and became United States District Attorney that I really got to know him. And that has been one of the greatest pleasures of my life, to have known Victor Anderson and to have been associated with him as an assistant in his office for some six or seven years.

There is little I could add to what has here been said about Victor Anderson. He was a man of many good qualities both in his professional and personal capacities. In my travels with him when we go around to the various terms of court, Fergus Falls, Winona, and Duluth, we would travel in his car and what has been said here by, I think Mr. Johansen, when perhaps there was not a court house in the State of Minnesota, which court house or court room had not echoed the voice of Anderson, I believe that is right. We would drive along this highway or that highway throughout state and he would tell me, "Ted, see that piece of land, see that parcel of land there", and he had condemned that for the State of Minnesota years ago when he worked for the State when the trunk highway system was in its infancy, and he with Mr. Babcock built up the highway system in the State of Minnesota.

He was a very friendly man, an honest soul, a Christian man; and I remember at times when we roomed together various hotels, he would take and pause a few minutes every morning to read his Bible a little bit, and of all the years I have spent with him and all the travails and of the office, I never heard Victor Anderson say a cuss or a cross word. He was always pleasant, always affable, kept his troubles, if he had any, to himself. Now, that in my opinion, was a very commendable feature. He was a Christian man, and, I think and I say that Victor Anderson in his person both as a lawyer and an individual epitomizes the saying of the poet when he admonished

"So live, that when thy summons comes to join
The innumerable caravan which moves
To that mysterious realm where each shall take
His chamber in the silent halls of death.
Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,

Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave,
Like one who wraps the drapery of his coach
About him and lies down to pleasant dreams.”⁴

Thank you.

MR. LUNDQUIST: We like to call upon Judge Steidl’s successor, Judge Hofstedt, at this time.

JUDGE HOFSTEDT: May it please the court, distinguished guests, members of the bar, ladies and gentlemen: There are many memories that come to one when you take up the duties of an individual that is gone on before. I feel honored this afternoon to have this opportunity to say some word in behalf of my predecessor, Judge Steidl.

I consulted with him a few times prior to my decision to file for that office. Judge Steidl always counseled me and guided me along in my campaign, did what was fair and reasonable in whatever he did for me, and he always admonished me at the time that I spent about two or three weeks after my election and prior to his time of departure from office, to be fair and honest and be sure to treat all those who came into court with dignity. It is perhaps a hard and difficult job at times to do so, knowing the experience and training that the predecessor had, but he will always be a guiding light for me. And, as every year goes by, I find that the duties and the work of that office as carried out by Judge Steidl become more and more close to me, and I always look forward to be guided by Judge Steidl’s services to the people of Traverse County. And I want to say this to the people of Traverse County that I am really honored that they should select me to carry on where he left off, a man who had training for years not only in the private practice of law, but in the District Court and then to serve in the Probate Court for eight years. They have been an inspiration to me and always it has been an inspiration to know that the age is of little difference in making a man do the services of the people near when they so determine that an individual shall serve them.

⁴ *Thanatopsis* (ca. 1811) by William Cullen Bryant (1794-1878).

Judge Steidl was more of a mature age at the time he was elected to the office and I discussed that with him and he guided me on that, warned me that the age is not important. He said it is honesty and your fair dealings with people that will decide it and steady you through the trying times that you will find in this office. So, today, I want to say that I will shall always consider Judge Steidl my guiding star and light in that office as long as I serve the people of Traverse County.

MR. LUNDQUIST: I notice there are some members of the Big Stone County Bar here and I would like to call on Mr. Eastvold to say a word. I realize I haven't informed him previously that I would call on him, but I am sure he has an experience or two that he would like to relate at this time. Mr. Eastvold.

MR. EASTVOLD: If it please the court, Chief Justice, members of the bar: I am happy to be here today and listen to the eulogies of the three members of the bar that passed on from this district. I couldn't help but listen and gather this thought, that they were three men of leadership.

They had leadership because they had the right objective in life. They had leadership because they could impart that knowledge to their fellow men. They had that leadership because they told the right principles of justice and humanity.

Though I did not know Judge Steidl, I knew the other two and particularly Victor Anderson. He was my friend. He was my close friend. He was my companion, socially and in a business way. He was at my office and I was at his. I played whist with him, played golf with him. I worked on cases with him, and no matter what activity in life my contact with him was, he was always a great man. He was a great man because he was a simple man. He was a great man because he was an honest man. He was a man of character. His reputation run behind his true soul. And when I heard about the death of Victor Anderson, I felt badly because there had come a void in my life which I will miss and miss as long as I live, the kind of human companionship that you can only find in a fellow like Victor Anderson. So I am glad to be here with his friends and to mention his name again to us mortals that are here on earth.

Mr. LUNDQUIST: Your Honor, it has been a pleasure for the Traverse County Bar to present this memorial service afternoon in honor of Judge Steidl, Mr. Odenborg and Mr. Anderson. I believe that anything I might say in conclusion would be amiss, because these gentlemen who have known these deceased members of our Bar so well have spoken from their hearts and what has come to our ears has been edifying and gratifying. It is wonderful to be a member of a county bar which has produced such eminent men as these three men have been.

I am certainly happy that this memorial ceremony has brought to Wheaton and to Traverse County such distinguished members of the bench and bar as have spoken here today. We appreciate the fact that they have seen fit to come from their busy schedules and have taken these hours off to come and speak a word to us.

We appreciate also that the widows of Mr. Anderson, Mr. Odenborg have appeared here today and also that the daughters of Judge Steidel have been able to come to our memorial ceremony. Each of these gentlemen in their own way and in their own sphere performed services that have led these men to come here today and speak so glowingly in tribute.

We have a number of letters, your Honor, from distinguished members of the bench and bar that I would like to have incorporated in the record in this proceeding and a conclusion, perhaps your Honor has a word that he would like to say.

THE COURT: Thank you, Mr. Lundquist. In bringing this service to a close, I do not wish to indulge in any lengthy discourse but I would like to call attention to the fact that the three men we are honoring today are closely associated with a large part of the Judicial history of this territory and this of this district.

The Sixteenth Judicial District was organized in 1887. In the 62 years since then, these three men have been very active and very closely connected with the history of the district. Judge Steidl served as the second of the four Judges of the

district. He was connected with the Judicial history of Traverse County almost as long as he lived.

Mr. Anderson was born here in the county and was connected with the Judicial history of this district throughout all of his life after he was admitted to the bar. The same thing is true of Mr. Odenborg. I knew all of these men and I can vouch for nearly everything that had been said about them today of my own personal knowledge.

Again in bringing this proceeding to a close, I wish to express the thanks and gratitude of this Court to all those who have taken part in this proceeding, to all of the members of the bar who were here today, to Chief Justice Loring for being present, and, last but certainly not least, to all of the relatives and friends of our deceased members of the bar who are present. And, in order that the record be complete, may I ask of all of you who have not been definitely identified with the record so far that you give your names and addresses to the reporter before you leave. It may seem a small thing now, but in the future when people come to read the record of this proceeding, it be well if it was complete. So, all of you who are present in the courtroom complete the record by giving your names and addresses to the reporter.

Again I say thank you for your presence and for your participation in the service. Now,

IT IS ORDERED that the memorials that have been offered be filed and become a permanent record of this court and, further, that all the proceedings be transcribed and that suitable records to be filed with the Court.

The following persons were present in addition to those

already mentioned:

Mrs. Victor Anderson
Miss Lola Steidl
Mrs. Sidney Odenborg
Chester Rosengren
Mrs. A. R. Johanson
Mrs. Albert Olin
Mrs. O. Rydell
Helen C. Bussjaeger
Mrs. Fred F. Moore
Reuben Heggen
Mrs. Harold C. Pederson
Rev. Walter L. Wang
Mrs. Walter L. Wang
G. A. Oscarson
E. V. Cliff
George Schmitz
John W. Graff
C. J. Benson
Albin C. Hofstedt
Ben Cunningham

Donna Lou Johanson
Connie Quast
Morris Eyster
Mrs. Morris Eyster
Mrs. John Weeks
Mrs. Eugene Jackson
Mildred E. Johnson
Mrs. J. E. Pearson
Myrtle Heggen
Mrs. E. M. Rusten
Reinhold Raguse
J. T. Knutson
F. J. Clemmensen
Dela O. Huber
A. H. Winter
Theodore H. Wangensteen
Linus J. Hammond
Kieth C. Davison
Louis O. Flom

It was reported that J. J. Purcell of Ortonville was
unable to be present on account of illness.

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