

In Memoriam

Theodore F. Wendland

September 25, 1889 • May 15, 1943



Hennepin County Bar Association
District Court
Fourth Judicial District
Minneapolis, Minnesota
1944

THEODORE F. WENDLAND

1889-1943

Theo. F. Wendland was born on Sept. 25, 1889 in the city of Minneapolis. He grew up and lived on the North Side some thirty-five odd years.

Early in life, Mr. Wendland became interested in music, namely the piano and organ. He worked at odd jobs to earn enough money to purchase an old foot-pedal organ, upon which he became quite proficient. He was educated in the Minneapolis schools and organized the first orchestra in the City of Minneapolis, which played at North High School.

While still in his teen age, Mr. Wendland became interested in law and with this as his goal, he used his ability as a musician to earn his way through law school at the U. of M. He graduated and was admitted to the Bar in 1911 and practiced law in this city for thirty-two years until his death. Mr. Wendland specialized in no one field of law, however, he acquired the reputation of one of the outstanding original attorneys of Minneapolis.

Perhaps next to the law, comes music as a major interest and hobby of Mr. Wendland's life. While attending law school, he played evenings in such theaters as the Schubert, Lyceum and Metropolitan. He spent some thirty years as a church organist – for ten years at the German Evangelical Church and for over twenty years at Pilgrim Congregational church, where he was also a member. He brought his music into lodge work, too, where for many years he was organist for the Elks Lodge #44, as well as a member. He also was elected the Exalted Ruler of the Elks Lodge for one year. Other club affiliations were with the Plymouth Chapter of the Masonic Lodge and the Evergreen Club, a professional musicians' organization.

Another outside interest, with which Mr. Wendland spent much time and effort, was children. He was very active in P. T. A. work, being president for several years of both Willard grade school and Lincoln Junior High P.T.A. organizations. He also served as President of the

Minneapolis Central Council Parent-teacher Association for three successive terms. During his administration, Mr. Wendland was active in every phase of the Council's activities. It was through his efforts that interested organizations were united to work for the Schools at the State Legislature. While President, the P.T.A. arranged to bring Admiral Byrd to Minneapolis for two lectures in the Minneapolis Auditorium, one in the afternoon for the school children, and an evening lecture for adults, for the benefit of the P.T.A. Child Welfare Committee. This proved a very satisfactory undertaking, and received much favorable comment from principals and others in the educational field.

Mr. Wendland was instrumental in recommending the services of the P.T.A. Child Welfare Committee to the Minneapolis Tribune for their Pantry Surveys conducted on three different occasions during a period of four and one-half years. Each one of the surveys carried through by the Welfare Committee resulted in earning \$1,000.00, which further aided the needy school children dependent upon that department for assistance.

And even after Mr. Wendland was not the President of the Council, he continued to show an active interest in P.T.A. work, and it was through his efforts that the Council sponsored a wholesome recreational activity which dented the organization \$2500. This money was used to aid needy school children through the P.T.A. Child Welfare Committee, the Parent-Teacher Scholarship Fund, and a donation to the Michael Dowling School.

While Mr. Wendland was President, he was very active in the work of the Public School Child Welfare Committee. It was during his term of office that the Committee was extended to include children from all the parochial as well as public schools. He continued to serve as chairman of the Public and Parochial School Child Welfare Committee Advisory Board up to the time of his death.

The service rendered by Mr. Wendland in his activities in Parent-Teacher work will long remain as a memorial to his interest in the school children of Minneapolis.

Mr. Wendland was married in 1910 to Anne L. Swenson and was a father of two sons – Theo. Ray and J. Warren. Needless to say his interest in children was also deeply felt at home. He was keenly interested in the activities of his boys and tried in every way to give them every advantage possible. Both Ray and Warren were educated in Minneapolis schools and graduated from Carleton College, and his older son, Ray, continued his education at Ames, Iowa received his PhD in chemistry.

Mr. Wendland became ill in September, 1942, undergoing two major operations. A severe heart ailment then set in and after a long, painful illness, Mr. Wendland passed away on May 15, 1943. He is survived by his wife and two sons, deeply grieve his passing.

The name of the memorialist and the date of the memorial proceedings are not listed.



Members of the Minneapolis Council of Parent-Teacher Associations Receive
\$1,000 Check from the Minneapolis Tribune.

C. A. Peterson, left, advertising manager of The Tribune, presents a \$1,000
check to Minneapolis Parent-Teacher association members, L to R: Mrs. J. F.
Werschem, chairman of the child welfare committee of the PTA, Mrs. H. K.
Painter, president of the PTA, and Theodore F. Wendland, past president.

The funds will go to the child welfare committee of the PTA which aids
underprivileged children.

Date of photograph: December 14, 1938.

Minneapolis Tribune

Minneapolis Newspaper Photograph Collection

Hennepin County Library



Members of the Minneapolis Council of Parent-Teacher Associations Receive
\$1,000 Check from the Minneapolis Tribune.

C. A. Peterson, right, advertising manager of The Tribune, presents a \$1,000 check to Minneapolis Parent-Teacher association members, L to R: Theodore F. Wendland, past president of the PTA, Mrs. J. F. Werschem, chairman of the child welfare committee of the PTA, and V. E. Mikkelson, president now. The funds will go to the child welfare committee of the PTA to be spent on clothing for needy children.

Date of photograph: May 19, 1937.
Minneapolis Tribune
Minneapolis Newspaper Photograph Collection
Hennepin County Library



Meeting of Public Officials and Parent-Teacher Association Representatives
The committee met to make plans for a ball to be given at the
Minneapolis Armory on February 21.

L to R, seated: Wendland, Latimer, Bessesen.
L to R, standing: Lund, Thorson, Youngdahl, Pearson, T. Ryan,
W. Ryan, Drake, and Alexander.

Date of photograph: February 4, 1936.
Minneapolis Tribune
Minneapolis Newspaper Photograph Collection
Hennepin County Library



Wilbur Farrington Trial.

Farrington (left), a Robbinsdale carpenter, who is charged with the murder of David Theodore Mellin, an attorney, smiles while listening to testimony in district court. His attorney, Theodore Wendland, has his back to the camera and James McGuire is the white-haired deputy sheriff.

Date of photograph: October 27, 1939.
Minneapolis Newspaper Photograph Collection
Hennepin County Library



Arnold Johnson Murder Trial.
Local lawyers wait to interview the jury,
L to R: Ralph Earle Dickman, Theodore Wendland and A. C. Strauman

Date of photograph: October 10, 1938.
Minneapolis Tribune
Minneapolis Newspaper Photograph Collection
Hennepin County Library



Ralph Andrews and His Lawyer, Theodore Wentland, at His Murder Trial
McCord was the victim of the crime.
Andrews is at left, Theodore Wentland at right.

Date of photograph: February 27, 1941.
Minneapolis Tribune
Minneapolis Newspaper Photograph Collection
Hennepin County Library

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