

The Legacy of Lubbock and the Law

Compiled by Chuck Lanehart

100+ Years Ago

What About a New Court House

Since the article appeared in the *Avalanche* some weeks ago with regard to the building of a new court house a number of people have talked with us about it, and but few that we have talked to are in favor of letting conditions remain as they are. They all agree that the present building is not the kind that Lubbock should have. It is not adequate to the needs of the county at this time. None of the offices are equipped as they should be, and the District Court room is not the kind that many towns and counties that take their position among the foremost of the state should have. It has gotten to a point now that it takes quite a good deal of money to keep the old building looking its best, and even then, it does not show up in keeping with the balance of the improvements. It is too small. Part of the officers, who should have their office in the court house do not for the reason that there is no room for them.

Another thing this is the head of the 72nd Judicial District, the court house should be provided with District officers apartments, so that they can be found when they are wanted without having to search the office buildings of the city for them.

Then the records of the county many of them cannot be preserved for the reason that there is not sufficient vaultage to accommodate them, and in case of a fire the county would lose much valuable paper in various forms.

We believe that the time is ripe for agitating the building of at least a \$100,000 court house, and we believe that a majority of the people living in the county are in favor of it.

We are confident that within the next few weeks a move will be put on foot with this end in view. We are in favor of it and believe the people would vote for issuing bonds with which to build it.

—The Lubbock Avalanche, June 6, 1912

[Note: The original wood frame courthouse, built for a cost of \$12,000 in 1892, was replaced by a \$100,000 brick courthouse in 1916. The present Lubbock County Courthouse was completed in 1950.]

75 Years Ago

A Good Judge Dons Uniform



Decision of Judge Daniel A. Blair, of 72nd District court, to don an Army uniform for the second time in his life is readily understandable. To have an active part in the war against totalitarianism is the natural desire of every patriotic male American. In making the decision to serve in the current war, as he did in its 1917-1918 fore-runner, Judge Blair is simply doing what he thinks he should do and what millions of others of his countrymen have done, are doing and will do.

Any discussion of Judge Blair's action, it seems to us, should carry with it two points.

(1) The judge's decision to have an active part in the war is his and his alone. His action was voluntary. His years—he is near 45—made it highly unlikely that he would be called to service via the draft.

- (2) In going into the Army, even with a captain's commission, Judge Blair is making a financial sacrifice, as well as foregoing the pleasures and the comforts of normal home life. His salary as district judge—which he will not draw during his tenure of active duty—is almost twice the amount he will draw from the Army, including whatever extra payments for quarters and rations which may be his.

Therefore, it may honestly be said that Judge Blair is sacrificing to serve his country in uniform; that in accepting the invitation to be a part of the Army's new governmental-executive branch he was prompted only by a desire to serve.

We believe the public of Hockley, Cochran, Crosby and Lubbock counties—served by the 72nd District Court—will approve of Judge Blair's action; will join the *Avalanche-Journal* in wishing him well and hoping for his eventual safe return. His tenure on the bench, which he mounted in January 1937, has been highly satisfactory to the bar and public, alike, and has marked him as outstanding among fellow jurists in Texas. He may be expected to do the same job in the Army that he has done in the courtroom.

—*Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*, June 20, 1943

[Note: History has a way of repeating itself. In 1990, the Honorable Mackey Hancock, when he presided as Judge of Lubbock County's 99th District Court, was an officer in the U.S. Army Reserves. At age 44, he was mobilized for Operation Desert Shield/Storm. He offered to forgo his judicial salary for the duration of his deployment, but the Lubbock County Auditor refused the offer. At age 48, Mackey was mobilized for the Bosnia operation, and at age 55, he was mobilized for Afghanistan. Current 99th District Judge Bill Sowder has also been mobilized for active duty overseas.]

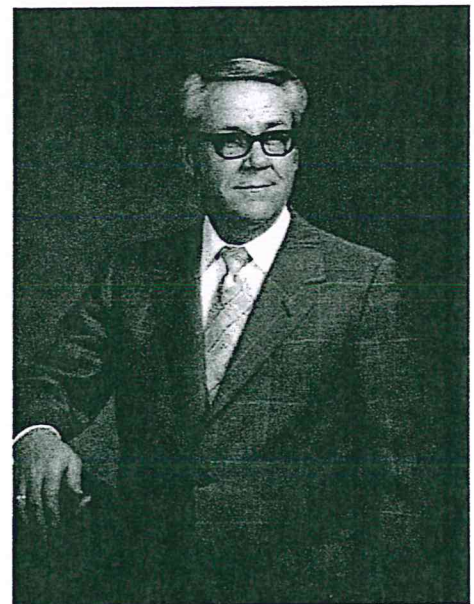
50 Years Ago

Lawyers, Judges to Attend Convention

Attorneys Travis D. Shelton of Lubbock and Karl Cayton of Lamesa will head a delegation of area lawyers and judges and their families to the Texas State Bar's 86th annual meeting, opening July 3 at Houston.

Cayton will succeed Shelton on the bar's governing board of directors. The four-day convention, with headquarters at the Shamrock-Hilton Hotel, will attract more than 5,000 persons.

Some 50 speakers will include Gov. John Connally, Texas attorney general Crawford Martin, Houston congressman George Bush, Postmaster General Marvin Watson, a native Texan; the Texas-born president-elect of the American Bar Association, W.T. Gossett; and astronaut Michael Collins. At the final session, the Bar will honor Texas lawyers who have practiced 50 years or more.



—*Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*, June 23, 1968

[Note: Travis Shelton became President of the State Bar (1977-1978). He was a sole practitioner with a busy criminal defense practice. The Lubbock bar's effort to elect Shelton to the SBOT Presidency has been described as one of our bar's greatest achievements.]

25 Years Ago



Vox Populi
By Hon. J.Q. Warnick, Jr.

Never Underestimate the Power of a Jury

Mike Worley tried a jury case when he was a prosecutor at the Lubbock Municipal Court. During his closing argument he emphatically stated, "There is no way a verdict of not guilty can be rendered." One of the jurors who was just within a couple of feet of Worley mumbled loudly enough for Worley, but not loud enough for anybody else to hear. The juror said, "You wanna bet?" (Worley did not reveal the verdict. I hope Worley didn't wanna bet.)

—*Lubbock Law Notes*, June 1993

On The Courthouse Steps

The 2018 TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY AMERICAN INNS OF COURT coveted bowling trophy for best program was awarded April 24 by AIC President Justice Judy Parker (second from left) to (left to right) Judge Mark Hocker, Professor Brie Sherwin, Mike McCauley, and Dane Norman. Team members not pictured are Elizabeth Hill, Neil Spradlin, and LeeAnn Kidd. Their program, "Wine Law" was presented April 10th.

JOB OPENING. During a period of transformational and historic growth, the Texas Tech University System invites applications for a Vice Chancellor and General Counsel. The position requires an individual who can lead, manage and provide superior legal advice and counsel for a highly-complex, distinguished higher education system with four diverse universities and multiple campus locations. Interested candidates must include a cover letter and résumé. Recruitment will continue until the position is filled. Job Posting & Apply — <https://bit.ly/2IDvYS3>

About the Texas Tech University System — <http://www.texastech.edu/> ; About the Office of General Counsel — <http://www.texastech.edu/offices/general-counsel/>.



LOOKING FOR THE WILL of Bonnie Nichols Teague, DOB 09-10-1930, drafted after May of 1986. Please contact Dane Norman with any information at Dane@DaneNormanLaw.com.

Send your news, classified ads, address changes, and other items to *Law Notes*:
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