

Marion County Bar Association Unique Organization

Brief History of Marion Co. Bar Association

The attorneys of this county have maintained an organization from times when the memory of man runneth not to the contrary. This does not mean that they have always had a formal and highly articulated organization, with committees and salaried officials, and constitution and by-laws. But they have existed mostly with an unwritten constitution, a fast and loose organization generally boasting a president and a secretary, and assembling conveniently when there was occasion to take any action. A very democratic body are the members of the legal profession, and every man jack of the sacred order is a member of the bar association whether he wants to be or not. The present officials are:

John H. McNary, president.
Thos. Brown, vice-president.
Grant Corby, secretary.

The former is district attorney of the Third Judicial district, and the latter is city attorney of the city of Salem, and both gentlemen can probably hold their jobs if they want to, at least for the term for which they are elected, and then some. The recall is in the hands of the people, and if they do not exercise it during a man's term of office they can have a chance when his term expires, and the Bar Association itself has the power to recall its officials. But the indications are that both president and secretary will escape for an indefinite period. The only time a member is removed from the Bar Association is when he is served with a summons from that land whence no one has ever returned to acknowledge service, and which cannot be even reached with notice publication. Then a committee is appointed and the departed friend is treated with that unvarying kindness that recites all his virtues and forgets all his defects if he had any.

Knows No Laws.

There are no rules and regulations governing the conduct of the members of the Marion county bar. In the older days it was attempted to adopt a code of ethics and promulgate a schedule of fees to be charged the unfortunate or the fortunate clients, but it was finally abandoned and left to the conscience and honor of each individual member. The relation between attorney and client is so intimate and is based on such variable factors that no hard and fast rule can be contrived that will apply and operate fairly to both sides. Sometimes the fee that would be right to charge and collect the lawyer would feel ashamed to ask or receive on account of the circumstances of the client. On the other hand the fees that lawyers receive and have to accept are sometimes so out of proportion to the service rendered that the more modest members of the craft are almost ashamed to accept them. So there is no way to adjust this but to leave it in every case to the lawyer and his client to come to agreement.

Lawyers Busy Men.

The members of the Marion County Bar association are so busy they do not have time to hold meetings or attend any perfunctory sessions. There is not even a roll of the members but every attorney in the county is supposed to belong and does belong to the organization. When one of the profession is elevated to a judicial position or one of them goes to his reward in the next world the association meets and takes formal action. The bar has lost some of its older and most highly respected members in the past few years. A strong group of younger men are most active in the profession, and those who were youngsters as it seemed just a few years ago are becoming veterans in the profession. The morals of the profession are of a high standard in Marion county, generally the unfit being driven out and returning to callings better suited to their natures and where there are fewer relations based purely upon honor, for be it said to the credit of the profession they handle more thousands of money and property without giving a dollar of bonds than bankers and more solemn confidences than even ministers of the gospel.

most lucrative law practice in the Capital City of Oregon. For many years his practice has extended into the courts of Alaska. This is due to the fact that the code of Oregon was early adopted as the statute of that territory. With the code went the methods of practice and pleading followed in the Oregon courts. Mr. Carson has had single cases in the United States courts of Alaska involving property worth millions of dollars, and he has received the largest retainer ever given to a lawyer in this city. His methods of fighting cases in courts and before a jury are strenuous. He leaves nothing undone in the preparation or presentation of a lawsuit in which he is engaged. Mr. Carson enjoys the confidence of a large clientele and is also a very popular man among the great mass of the people. This was evidenced by his election to the state senate in 1910 by a large majority, although he refused to blind himself by any pledges whatever except his general reputation as a citizen and a member of the legal profession. Carson & Brown have a suite of offices and a large library on the second floor of the United States National bank building.

Thomas M. Brown.

Thomas M. Brown is the modest associate of Senator Carson in the law firm of Carson & Brown. Like his partner, he enjoys the advantages of having received a classical education for the bar, and is considered one of the most scholarly brief writers in this state. After he has examined the authorities and summed up the citations upon which he relies into paragraphs of clear, lucid and unambiguous English, there is no occupant of the bench who has the slightest difficulty in comprehending what he seeks to convey, hence this firm has been uniformly successful with important cases in the circuit and supreme courts. Mr. Brown is at the head of the Catholic Order of Foresters, and has a very wide acquaintance in the county. Mr. Brown is city attorney for the town of Mt. Angel and Silverton.



Walter C. Winslow.

Walter C. Winslow graduated from the University of Oregon with degree of A. B. in 1906, and then graduated from the law school of Willamette in 1908, beginning the practice in March of that year. He has ever since then been associated with the law offices of John H. and C. L. McNary, succeeding the latter as deputy district, public prosecutor, and has been directly associated with the office of district attorney ever since he began practicing. He has served as acting district attorney for Polk, Yamhill and Tillamook counties, and will be a candidate for that office at the coming primaries.

John H. McNary.

John H. McNary of the firm of McNary Brothers, who have offices on the third floor of the United States National bank building, may well be called the dean of the Marion county bar. While not the oldest man in practice, he has probably had a larger volume of civil and criminal business in the past twenty years than any man now in active practice. He has served several terms as district attorney in a very acceptable manner, and has secured conviction of a large number of criminals. As a legal advisor of the five counties in this judicial district, he is uniformly a safe and conservative guide to public officials. He has few superiors as a pleader before the court or before a jury. By the dispatch of criminal business in a common sense manner he expedites the work of the courts and grand juries and saves the taxpayers of the several counties a great deal of money. Mr. McNary is not contentious or litigious in his conduct of business and settles more cases than he brings to trial—a disposition that is equally appreciated by members of the bar and the general public.



John D. Turner.

John D. Turner, 214 U. S. National bank building, when interviewed by the reporter, answered all questions propounded in one short paragraph as follows:

"I was born in this world, the son of my father and mother, educated at home and in school, graduate of the law department of the University of Pittsburgh, admitted to the bar of Oregon in 1909, located at Salem a few months later, and have done nothing since."

But the reporter found following

statement to be the facts: Big mentally and physically, good natured and full of fun, a profound student of the law, strict and methodical in his business and practice. He has demonstrated his ability as a lawyer by getting three verdicts at one term of the circuit court and not having lost a case in the circuit or justice's courts of Marion county. He believes in a high standard of ethics and has risen within two years to be one of the eminent members of the Marion county bar.



Carey F. Martin.

Carey F. Martin has offices at 220 North Commercial street. He was born at Salem in 1870 and was educated in the public schools of Oregon. After engaging in school teaching for a number of years he took preparatory work in the State University from '89 to '93, graduating from that institution with the degree of A. B. in 1896 and from the law department of the Willamette University at Salem in '98. He was admitted to the bar in '99 and entered upon an active practice as a partner of Judge B. F. Bonham, to whose large clientele he succeeded. Mr. Martin had a very valuable experience from 1894 to 1898 when he was assistant secretary of state, and has compiled a very comprehensive blue book of the state of Oregon. Mr. Martin has been very successful in the practice of law and has built himself a beautiful home in this city.



J. W. Morton.

J. W. Morton was born in Henry county, Iowa on the 23rd of January, 1865, and came to Oregon by way of San Francisco, California, in 1875, landing in Portland, on the first day of May of that year. He attended the district school at Dilley, attended the district school at Dilley, and afterwards the public schools at Forest Grove, Washington county. On removal to Yamhill county he attended public school at Dayton, also two years at McMinnville college. One year was spent at business college in assisting in class work after graduating in Portland, Ore. He taught two terms in the district school near the city of Hood River, and one term in the district school in Tillamook county. Mr. Morton was one of five delegates from Tillamook county to the Republican state convention in 1894. He also attended many of the county conventions as a delegate in former years and gained some knowledge of the ways of some of the politicians of that time. He was elected a member of the legislature from Stearns and Wasco counties in 1898, and served sixty days in that capacity at a special and regular session thereof. He attended school at Willamette University, and was admitted to the bar a number of years ago and practiced law in the city of Hood River. Mr. Morton spent eleven years on his fruit and dairy farm in Hood River county, in the cultivation of strawberries, peaches and other fruits and in raising Jersey cattle. He is now engaged in the practice of law in the city of Salem, and is a candidate for the nomination for U. S. senator from Oregon.



Walter M. Keys.

Walter M. Keys is one of the rising young attorneys of the Capital City. He has offices and a library adjoining the office of the city attorney on the third floor of the United States bank.

Mr. Keys is a graduate of the Willamette University Law school and has served a term as corporation counsel for the city of Salem. He is a man of very pleasing address and seldom fails to hold the attention and win the confidence of the court or the jury. He has a general practice in the justices' and circuit courts. They are in almost continuous session in the city of Salem.



Frank Holmes.

Frank Holmes has law offices in the Tloga building on State street in the city of Salem. He is a native son, having been born in The Dalles in 1871. Was educated in the public schools and attended Willamette University for three years and was admitted to the bar in 1897. He entered into the law practice with his brother Webster Holmes, and continued to 1900, since which time he has practiced alone, and has built up a very fine line of clientele. Mr. Holmes is recognized as one of the best jury lawyers in the Capital City and makes a specialty of damage cases. He is a member of W. O. W. fraternity, and has built himself a beautiful home on Fairmount park.



Max Gehlar.

Max Gehlar is of German parentage and speaks that language fluently. He was admitted to practice in 1907, and has built up a fine practice. He is also secretary and manager of the Union Abstract company, and makes a specialty of examining into the titles of property. Last year Mr. Gehlar was a popular candidate for the republican nomination for county clerk, and only failed by a small vote of receiving the nomination. Office, 345 State street.



C. M. Inman.

C. M. Inman has law offices in the new Breyman block on Commercial street. He was born in O'Bryan county, Iowa, educated in the public schools, came to Oregon in 1898, and graduated from Willamette University Law school in 1901. He was admitted to practice in the supreme court and opened a law office in Baker county in 1902. He was associated with F. A. Turner at Salem, where he has followed the legal practice ever since. In 1906 he was elected city attorney and has built up a first-class clientele. Mr. Inman is a man of fine presence, and has had remarkable success as a jury lawyer.

THEODORE M. BARR.

Anything said of Salem would be amiss without a word of Theodore M. Barr. Mr. Barr has been identified with the business interests of Salem for a number of years, and during that time he has done more than his share towards its growth. His business is that of heating and plumbing, although connected with other interests. Mr. Barr's heating and plumbing work is of the highest grade; he uses only the best material and has the most competent of workmen, thereby assuring his customers the highest grade service.

He has a system of heating houses which is adapted to the wood of this country, and has been found by many users the most economical on the market today. It will be worth any one's time to look into this heating system.

Active Year in Salem Real Estate

The year just drawing to a close has been a very important one for Salem, so far as changes in the real estate market have been concerned. While a comparatively small amount of business property has changed hands, yet an enormous amount of residence and farm holdings have passed to new owners.

It would be hard to site a parallel among the cities on the coast where so much property had moved and where so small an amount had been business property, and this very fact accounts for so small an apparent change being made in our business district.

Probably the most important deals made during the year in the business center were the following: The Vernal corner sold to the McGilchrist; the corner of Liberty and Ferry sold to the state for the new armory; the Hirsch property on Commercial near Ferry; the Rineman block on State between Liberty and High and a property on Liberty just north of Court bought by Steusel Brothers.

In addition to buying a site for an armory the state of Oregon has purchased the entire block bounded by Waverly, Twelfth, Court and State streets. This last named site was for the purpose of having a location for the new state capitol annex or supreme court building.

In residence circles there has been an enormous amount of property change hands. Many new additions have been placed on the market and largely sold out.

Among the larger tracts laid off and improved this past year are the Oaks, on Capitol street, Richmond, on East State street, and that charming tract across the river known as Kingwood park.

Not only have the new tracts been sold, but much property in tracts laid out heretofore has been resold, and a great number of new residences have been built in all parts of the city.

Many beautiful homes have sprung up on the newly paved streets until now Court, Capitol, Summer and Winter streets are taking on metropolitan airs.

In Kingwood park alone ten beautiful homes have been started and this section has within the past year changed from a rural district to a well residential portion of the city.

In the Oaks something like \$100,000 worth of improvements have been installed, and the old nursery grounds turned into a veritable park.

The many improvements undertaken by the city with the attendant assessments have made many property owners let go their holdings, and still wiser ones to buy them, for with such things as sewers, paved streets, sidewalks and cluster lights coming to Salem is going to make a town of the place.

The twelve months just gone have seen many farms cut up into smaller tracts and sold off. This is a strong factor in the upbuilding of the city for to merely change ownership of a farm does not help the community, while to cut it up and to secure a dozen or more residents where only one lived before certainly makes more trade for the merchants in all lines.

The entrance of the Oregon Electric railway into the field south of Salem has awakened a keen interest in that section and a new field for subdivision purposes has thus been opened and it is quite likely that the coming year will see vast changes in that portion of the county lying south of the city.

Great changes have occurred the past year in that district just east of the Fair Grounds, where some beautiful homes have been erected, among them being the Charles D. Ford residence, one of the finest country homes in the county. At Hollywood alone over twenty dwellings have been erected and all along on the main thoroughfare to Silverton may be seen

new homes springing up on the many tracts that have been purchased in this desirable region.

Among the larger public buildings to have been either finished or begun during 1911 may be mentioned the armory, the Jason Lee church, the new library, the high school annex, new buildings at the asylum, and the Bligh theatre, all splendid additions to the city.

Taken as a whole the year 1911 has been a very bright one for Salem. Many new comers have settled in her midst, scores of new homes have gone up, hundreds of pieces of land have changed hands, substantial buildings have been erected and many new projects have been launched that will bear fruit in 1912. If all the coming years are as good to Salem as close been the one now drawing to a close she will have her 50,000 in 1915.

GORDON & AMBROSE—CONTRACTORS.

Of all the public work which has been undertaken in the city of Salem or this part of the west, none has ever been of a more satisfactory character than the extension of the Salem sewer system, which has been done by the well known contractors, Gordon & Ambrose of Portland. Mr. Gordon has been engaged in the general contracting line for a considerable period of time and has executed a large number of important contracts. He has provided ample equipment for any undertaking and the satisfactory manner in which he has handled the Salem sewer extension

has further proven his efficiency in his line. About ten miles of sewer has been laid by him under his contract, the work being rushed from the time it was started until completed. A large number of men have been furnished his means; much to Salem merchants, the highest wages being paid of any nature. Many miles of sewer have been laid in Salem by these contractors, and the work has aggregated thousands of dollars, but as yet the first complaint in regard to their work has to be heard.

Under Mr. Gordon's able direction this work has been accomplished along most approved lines and is of a character to insure the greatest faith in public works contractors. However, both Mr. Ambrose and Mr. Gordon have enjoyed a reputation for the strictest integrity and wherever they have had contracts entire satisfaction has resulted. Whatever the nature of the work only the best material is used and skilled workmen employed wherever necessary to insure that degree of perfection essential in establishing a high reputation in the contracting world. These gentlemen, as has already been stated, have done much public contracting in the west, and are prepared at all times to undertake contracting anywhere in the west, no work being too large for them to handle.

On December 1 the records at the State Capitol showed 6417 automobiles owned in Oregon. Portland had 4208 and Salem came next with 377.



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