

JUDGE GEORGE W. HARGRAVES

By Stephan G. Larsen

It was my good fortune, and that of most every other attorney in the Sixth Judicial District, to have practiced before Judge George W. Hargraves. I believe that I was more fortunate than most, though, in that I had the experience of serving the Judge as his law clerk for a little more than two years. It was an experience in legal exploration, and equally as valuable, one of coming to know a fine jurist and man of many attributes, talents, and sentiments.

Several of Judge Hargraves' most prominent characteristics come immediately to mind. The first was the man's incredible vigor and personal resolve. He conducted his court in a punctual and dignified manner; the tall silver-haired judge with the deliberate and authoratative voice commanded the respect of all attorneys, litigants, and spectators. His was a courtroom that, more than anything else, reflected the dignity of Judge Hargraves himself and his devotion to the rules and substantive principles of law.

The second was professionalism coupled with that form of independence so critical to the performance of the duties of a District Judge — practicality. Seldom did he rely upon others to do those things which he could do himself. I recall numerous occasions when the Judge would borrow a belt sander, a file, or some other less frequently used tool to make a repair on his house; the practical abilities which he possessed are another example of exactly how well rounded and self-reliant a man he was.

Most importantly, perhaps, was a compassion for his fellow man which he expressed through deeds as well as words. In his latter years, Judge Hargraves suffered a great deal of personal tragedy. He developed health problems. He lost former colleagues, and most tragically, his wife. Yet, he persevered through these devastating events and his enthusiasm, vigor and personal dignity never waned, nor did his famed dry wit once flag.

However, for all of his strength and judicial temperament, Judge Hargraves had a soft spot for small children. School children would frequently tour his courtroom, and their drawings, quite welcomed and appreciated by His Honor, provided a well balanced air of levity and innocence in the Judge's chambers. Not surprisingly, the last time I saw Judge Hargraves was in the Bannock County Clerk's office, and, also not surprisingly, with him was his grandson, the boy with whom he



Judge Hargraves and his wife, Dorothy.

would spend most of his brief retirement days. It is that image, the man and the child, which I believe the Judge would have us remember. Perhaps that mental picture communicates more of George W. Hargraves than any of us could ever express in mere words.

So it should be. □

BERGEN SETTLEMENT COMPANY, INC.

SPECIALIZING IN STRUCTURE SETTLEMENTS

Jack A. Merrigan, CLU

Harlow W. Kibbey

1221 Shoreline Dr., Boise, Idaho 83702

(208) 336-3997

LAWYERS CONCERNED FOR LAWYERS is a group of lawyers who, as recovering alcoholics, offer their confidential assistance to lawyers having alcohol problems.

Phone (208) 454-2531