

JUDGE ALBERT C. HUNT

*By Judge N. B. Johnson**

Albert Clarence Hunt, on Sunday, August 26, 1956, at the age of sixty-eight relinquished his high position on the Supreme Court of Oklahoma and passed peacefully to his final reward.

He was born at Clarksville, Arkansas, July 30, 1888, the son of William T. and Mattie Rose Hunt. He moved with his parents to Wagoner, Indian Territory, in 1895. He was graduated from Missouri Military Academy, Mexico, Missouri, in 1906, and then entered Vanderbilt University where he received his LLB degree in 1909. He married Essie Joel Hayden of Chouteau, Oklahoma, November 24, 1914, and of this union three children were born: Elizabeth Hayden, Albert C. and John W.

He was admitted to the Oklahoma Bar in 1909, and began the practice of law at Wagoner, Oklahoma. He served as city attorney of Wagoner from 1909-1915, and then moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1917. At the early age of thirty-two, Governor J. B. A. Robertson appointed him District Judge of the 21st Judicial District of Oklahoma where he served from 1921 to 1925. He was elected Justice of the Supreme Court from Tulsa District and served on that court from 1925 to 1931. Justice Hunt then established his residence in Oklahoma City and entered the private practice of law. In 1941 Governor Leon C. Phillips appointed him District Judge of the 7th Judicial District, and he was serving in his fifteenth year on that court when Governor Raymond Gary appointed him to fill the vacancy on the Supreme Court from Oklahoma City District, created by the death of Justice Ben Arnold. Justice Hunt had the unusual distinction of having served as District Judge from two separate district court jurisdictions as well as from two separate Supreme Court districts of Oklahoma.

He was chairman of the State Election Board of Oklahoma from 1936 to 1941; President of the Oklahoma Conference of District Judges 1948-49; and a member of the Judicial Council of Oklahoma from 1944 until his death. He gave unstintingly of his time and efforts to improve the administration of justice, and was making an outstanding record on the Supreme Court.

Justice Hunt was an able and sincere man of superb and unflinching courage. He possessed deep religious convictions and was an active member of St. Luke's Methodist Church in Oklahoma

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—Ed.

City, where he served as a member of its Board of Stewards for several years and as its Chairman. He also displayed a great interest in civic matters and the betterment of his community.

A quotation from John Ruskin which Justice Hunt kept under the glass top of his desk read: "Let every dawn of morning be to you as the beginning of life and every sunset as its close. Then let every one of these short lives leave its sure record of some kindly thing done for others, some goodly strength or knowledge gained for yourself." This passage aptly describes his philosophy of life. His many outside interests broadened his outlook on life, enabled him to understand and appreciate people, and made him a better judge.

He was a member of the executive board of Good Will Industries; a member of the executive board of the Boy Scouts of America for twenty years, and headed the Last Frontier Council of the Boy Scouts of America in 1947 and 1948. He was a member of the American Bar Association, and was vice president of the Board of Governors of the Oklahoma State Bar Association. He was member of Phi Delta Phi, honorary legal fraternity, and a life member of the Oklahoma Historical Society. He was a charter member of the Tulsa Kiwanis Club and served as its president in 1921. He was an active member of the Oklahoma City Kiwanis Club since 1926 and also of the Men's Dinner Club. He was a 32nd Degree Mason; a KCCH; a Shriner; and a member of the Royal Order of Jesters. He lived at 439 N. W. 18th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, where his widow still resides. Interment was in Rose Hill Cemetery, Oklahoma City.

In the death of Justice Albert C. Hunt, Oklahoma City and the State lost one of its most highly respected citizens and public servants who for more than thirty-five years gave fully and unselfishly of his time and talents to promote the best interests of the citizens of Oklahoma. His tenure on the bench and as a member of the Supreme Court of Oklahoma was notably marked by his ability, courage, honesty and impartiality. He was an industrious, conscientious jurist who gave to his public trust the best he had to give to it. His fixed purpose to mete out fair and impartial justice endeared him to the legal profession, and the people of Oklahoma and retained him in public office. As he passed from the loving association and companionship of his family and friends to answer the final summons, the State of Oklahoma lost one of its greatest citizens.