

January 1926

## John F. Reynes

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### Recommended Citation

William L. Boatright, John F. Reynes, 3 Denv. B.A. Rec. 54 (1926).

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they were a part of him. They came to him not only by training but by inheritance. He was not only lawyer and patriot but jurist, and legal and political philosopher. While on his death bed, without consulting authorities and with only his richly stored mind to draw from, he penciled on loose sheets a brilliant commentary entitled "The Constitution, Past and Present—an Essay for the People." In this, which was printed after his death, are embodied much of Judge Dixon's constitutional and political philosophy and his solemn warning of the dangers to our country from the menace of Materialism which, he said, may be read "on the walls of History" "without the aid of a Daniel, by those who feast with Belshazzar."

The commercial side of our profession did not interest him. Although representing important clients, although winning great cases and receiving handsome fees, the law to him was never a business but ever a profession—and a patriotic profession. He had no desire to organize or to manage what he would have described as a legal department store, where busy clerks prepare for swarming customers neatly wrapped packages of legal work, and where "efficiency" "business system" and "pay-as-you-enter" are the "slogans". Like the elder Choate, like Lincoln, he was willing for others to look after the filing system, or to keep the books, or to have none at all, so long as he was left free

to champion causes which he regarded as worthy or to defend legal or constitutional rights.

Beside his professional and political learning and attainments, Judge Dixon was a man of wide general reading and broad general culture. As an example of his little known accomplishments, he wrote some excellent philosophical poems, none of which, however, he permitted to be published. He was much sought after as an orator and many of his speeches were published by his admirers and widely circulated.

A stranger would instinctively single Judge Dixon out of a crowd or a group and ask: "Who is that man?" So in politics, on the bench, at the bar, in private life, as an American, he was always an outstanding figure—a leader. His was a vigorous, positive, dominating personality which found expression in something of vehemence of speech and manner. He was, however, one of the kindest of men, one of the most affable, courteous, human and companionable—one of the finest of gentlemen. Possibly he paid the price that many another man of unusual intellectual attainments has paid, of not being known well by many. There are few who dwell in the heights where Judge Dixon spent his intellectual life. So he could not have many intimates. But all admired him. Those who really knew him, loved him.

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## *John F. Reynes*

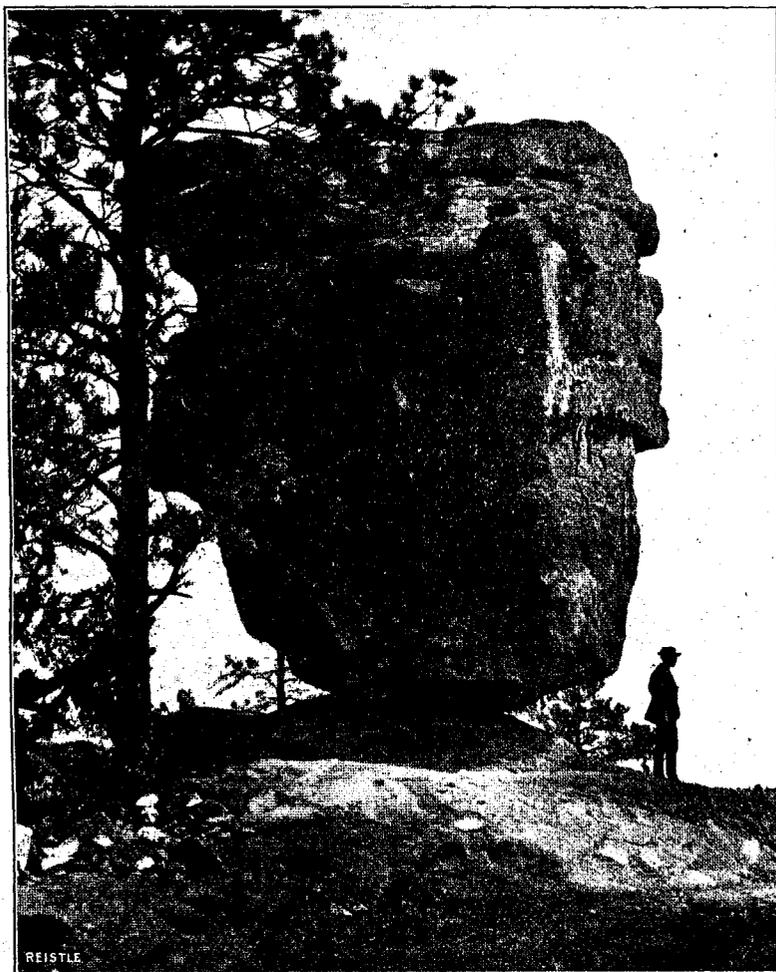
By WILLIAM L. BOATEIGHT

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John Francis Reynes was born June 1, 1891, in New York City; the son of Roman Catholic parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jaimie Reynes. His father, Jaimie Reynes, came to the United States from Barcelona, Spain, in the early fifties, and represented the Spanish Government in varying capacities until the end of the Civil War. Later he engaged in the tobacco and banking business in New York City, as head of the well-known firm of Reynes Brothers, continuing as such until he died in 1913. His mother, Mary Carroll, of Irish ancestry, was born in

New York City and resided there during her entire life-time.

John F. Reynes attended the parochial and public schools in New York City until he was nineteen years of age. He then spent one year in Saint Francis Xavier College, which later became part of the Fordham University. His year at Saint Francis Xavier was interrupted by pneumonia, which resulted in tuberculosis, and he started—a mere boy of nineteen—upon his long and disheartening quest for God's greatest boon—health! After spending two years in Asheville,



*Balanced Rock, Garden of the Gods.*

N. C., he came to Denver in 1913, rested for a year, and in the fall of 1914 entered the University of Colorado with the purpose of completing his education and eventually studying law. With many interruptions, because of ill-health and the war, he completed all courses in which he was engaged in the University, received the degree of LL.B. in June, 1919, and located in the autumn of that year in Longmont with J. S. Shey, a prominent attorney of Northern Colorado. He remained in Longmont until September, 1922, when he left the practice of the profession temporarily to travel abroad, particularly in Spain, France and other European countries. He returned to Denver late in the year of 1922 and became the law partner of Erskine R. Meyer in January, 1923. In December, 1924, he was by me appointed Assistant Attorney General of the State of Colorado, and served in that capacity until his death at Glockner Sanatorium, Colorado Springs, Colo., August 31, 1925. At his own request, he was buried in Green Mountain Cemetery, Boulder, Colorado, beside his beloved sister. He was a member of the University Club, the Denver Athletic Club, the Elks Club, the Knights of Columbus, Phi Gamma Delta, College Fraternity, and Phi Delta Phi, legal fraternity; the American Bar Association, the Colorado Bar Association, the Denver Bar Association and the Law Club. He was a former District Deputy of the Knights of Columbus, and President of the University of Colorado Alumni Association.

Such are the bare biographical facts, differing not widely, perhaps, from what might be printed or written about most of us after the great call comes. They do not tell the real life of the man. That is recorded only in the hearts of his numberless friends, of those many to whom he had extended quietly, almost timidly, a helping, charitable hand. He was generous by nature almost to the point of being at fault, and his generosity consisted not only in giving of his worldly goods, but, even more laudably of himself in service, advice and comfort to the erring, the weak and the unfortunate. His sympathy was so large, his heart was so tender that he could not bear to see even an enemy suffer for long.

In the profession he was known as a young and promising member. Endowed with a brilliant mind, a wit that was sharp but never cruel, a resourcefulness in presenting and protecting the rights of his clients to the fullest degree, he had quickly attained a prominent place among the younger members of the bar. His record in the Attorney General's office, even for the few short months he was there, was notable; his opinions were respected by his associates and his counsel was frequently sought on many important matters.

A keen student of politics all his life; he was an active and ardent member of the Republican Party. Here, as well as at the bar, came into play his gift of eloquence. His imagination, coming, no doubt, from his Irish ancestry, his wit and persuasiveness, the sincerity of his appeal and his gift of dramatic expression, powerful to an astonishing degree for one so frail, made him a marked man in many a local political assembly in Northern Colorado, and attracted the attention and esteem of many of the party leaders of the State. He was no straddler; his loyalty once given was complete; and his integrity in public and private life unquestionable.

A man who can walk the even tenor of his ways with a perfect faith in his God and his religion, untainted by bigotry, undisturbed by the prejudice of little minds, with a heart brimming over with faith in his fellow-men, feeling no resentment for their errors only a disappointment in their shortcomings and weaknesses—that man may well be an example for us all and the memory of him set a standard which we would do well to strive to attain. Such a man was John Reynes. I have known but few men who were so deeply religious, who believed so completely, who lived a Christian life so nearly in fact, who was so militant in the cause of Christ and yet who was so tender, so tolerant, charitable and kind. I never heard a harsh word pass from his lips against a man who was of a different religion, faith or nationality, but I have seen him disappointed almost to tears because a fellow had done another a grievous wrong.

Those of us who knew John Reynes well will recall that he had the gift

of making and keeping friends—those in low position in life as well as those occupying positions in the highest gift of the people. He loved people and was social in instinct and in nature. The congeniality of his manner, the sparkle of his conversation, the vividness of his imagination, the dramatic quality of his expression, and his never-failing sense of humor, all serve now to keep alive the memory of his congenial and loving personality.

It was not my privilege to know John Reynes until a few short weeks before he became a valued member of the official family of the Attorney General. During that association which was necessarily very close, I and the other members of the Attorney General's Office learned to admire his close application to duty, his poise of mind, his analytical ability in the solution of legal problems submitted to him for determination, his never

failing courtesy to his fellow workers and his loyalty to the office and to the duties imposed upon him in that capacity. I have had occasion to state frequently that in my opinion his close application to the duties of his position materially hastened his departure from us. It was with sincere sorrow that the Attorney General's office and the State of Colorado lost the services of so able and promising a man as Mr. Reynes.

Mr. Reynes was a gentleman born and he never forgot that fact. He faced death with the same high courage with which he had faced the fundamental facts of life. Who can say that such a life was incomplete; that his death was untimely or that in the silence which follows the grave he has not found that peace which is the reward of a generous life and a perfect faith?

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## *The Cosmopolitan Meeting*

Reported by JOSEPH C. SAMPSON of the Denver Bar

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Despite the fact that the luncheon meeting, held at the new Hotel Cosmopolitan, on Monday June fourteenth, was the most expensive gastronomic noon event of the year, there was an unusually large attendance, and a holiday mood, occasioned by the presence of the Rotary Club Convention visitors, made this last meeting of the year one of the best and most interesting in recent months.

### Ham Jones' Jazz Band

Ham Jones, lawyer delegate to the Rotary Convention from Charlotte, North Carolina, provided a jazz band of two grinning Senegambians whose versatile performance on a variety of instruments of their own invention made the lawyers laugh off their solemnity and evoked repeated and prolonged rounds of applause.

### McAllister Reports

Mr. Henry McAllister, Vice Chairman of the American Bar Association Convention Committee, made a brief report of the committee's activities. Mr. McAllister modestly disclaimed

credit for the accomplishments of the committee and explained that he was spokesman only in a titular capacity; that others were entitled to the credit for the splendid plan evolved and for its successful working out. James G. Rogers and Judge Platt Rogers were mentioned especially and Judge Rogers, Mr. McAllister stated, had rendered services of inestimable value in securing the convention for Denver. He told of the visit to Denver last fall of Treasurer Wadhams and Secretary McCracken, of the American Bar Association, to study the situation and particularly the matter of hotel accommodations, and said that the Denver Bar Association owed a great debt of gratitude to the Rotary Club for what it had done in making the convention possible. The Executive Committee of the American Bar Association met later in Los Angeles, he explained, where the Denver Convention was decided upon and it then became necessary to organize other committees to handle the problem under the leadership of the Colorado Bar Association. The matter of finance was one of the first matters requiring at-