

Noted Ohioan, Foremost Woman Jurist

A TRIBUTE TO JUDGE FLORENCE ALLEN

By ALMA BEVIS
(Mrs. Howard L. Bevis)

FOREMOST AMONG AMERICAN women jurists, Judge Florence Ellinwood Allen is retiring after twenty-five years of service on the bench of the Sixth District U. S. Court of Appeals.

Foremost in her thoughts as she rummaged through her many files of invaluable records of the struggle of American women for political recognition was the Martha Kinney Cooper Ohioana Library.

Judge Allen has been a loyal supporter of the Library since its inception. Now she plans to give to the Library the papers and manuscripts that tell Ohio's story in the campaign for woman suffrage in which Judge Allen played a leading role.

In these files there is also a collection of the cartoons by Hal Donahey which appeared in the Cleveland *Plain Dealer* through the years when a handful of earnest women were little by little winning over to their cause the majority of American men who held in their hands control of voting privileges in the United States. These cartoons were of inestimable value in the suffrage campaign, for humor is a powerful weapon

MRS. BEVIS, a native of Cincinnati now living in Columbus, was for a number of years president of this Library Association, and is now its Secretary.

in fighting prejudice and long-established tradition.

Laughed Opposition to Scorn

Nearly four hundred years ago the Spanish novelist, Miguel Cervantes, made the world laugh at the mock-heroics of Don Quixote who, clad in mediaeval armor, roamed La Mancha tilting with windmills as he sought to rescue damsels in distress. Cervantes' readers laughed and immediately lost interest in the fantastic romances of chivalry that were the sole literary fare of the age. Their laughter began a new era in European literature. So Mr. Donahey's humor laughed to scorn the opposition to woman suffrage and helped win Ohio's ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.

Through the kindness of Judge Allen the Donahey cartoons will become part of the Ohioana Library's treasured collections.

From girlhood Judge Allen has been devoted to the interests the Ohioana Library seeks to foster in Ohio. Her early ambition was to become a concert pianist. To prepare, she went to Germany and studied the masters.

Literature, too, intrigued her. When quite young she published a little volume of verse. It contains one poem which in

a way foreshadowed her career as a jurist. That poem is in honor of the law.

Respect for the law and meticulous interpretation of its precepts have characterized Judge Allen's long service to her state and to the nation.

Her wide experience in campaigning for woman suffrage brought her in touch with men and women all over Ohio. It contributed in no small measure to her election when she sought and won a seat on the bench of the Ohio Supreme Court. In that capacity she merited the respect and admiration of her fellow-jurists as one who based her decisions not upon privilege of sex but on strict adherence to the law of the land. Judge Allen became the leading woman in the field of interpretation of American law.

In 1934 President Roosevelt recog-

nized her preeminence by appointing her to the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth District.

Now, after a quarter of a century on that bench, during the latter part of which she has served as Presiding Judge of the four-member Court, Judge Allen is voluntarily relinquishing her duties. Having been appointed for life she will continue to be at the service of the nation if called from retirement to active duty as occasion may demand.

In grateful appreciation of Judge Allen's devotion to the United States and to the State of Ohio, the Martha Kinney Cooper Ohioana Library salutes her: "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

EDITOR'S NOTE: An article by Judge Allen appears elsewhere in this issue.