



Judge Frank Good Class of 2014

Frank Good graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1924 and won a trip to the California State Capital for outstanding scholarship. While at OHS Frank was a class officer for 2 years, a member of the school yearbook staff, and played the violin in the school orchestra all 4 years. On the weekends he played the violin in a combo jazz group that performed at Robinson's Corner. He also demonstrated his violin skills at the Gardella Theatre on upper Myers Street, just to the west of the front of the Municipal Auditorium at the end of Myers Street.

In 1924, Frank entered Santa Clara University (SCU) at age 17. He studied there for 2 years and then enrolled at the San Francisco Art Institute in San Francisco, CA. In 1926, he returned to SCU and earned his BA degree in 1930 and his Law degree from SCU Law School in 1931. He was immediately admitted to the California State Bar.

Frank entered private practice in Oroville in 1932 and remained in practice for 20 years. From 1936-1952 he also served as City Attorney of Oroville. Another of Frank's responsibilities at this time was serving as Government Appeal Agent for the Selective Service. In 1952, at age 45, Frank was appointed by then Governor Earl Warren to serve as Butte County Superior Court Judge. At the time, he was the youngest judge to have ever served in the Superior Court in the state of California. Most of the juvenile court cases in the county were presided over by Judge Good. Of his many decisions, one has become the basis from the U.S. Supreme Court on the legality of the death sentence. Judge Good served on the bench with distinction until his retirement on December 31, 1970. His legal career spanned 38 years!

Judge Good was sitting on the bench in Salinas, CA for part of the Soledad Trials. Upon seeing a black prisoner being escorted into his courtroom in shackles, Judge Good asked the bailiff to release the man from the shackles. The prisoner's mother wrote a personal note to Judge Good commending him for his actions that helped her feel safe on the streets of Salinas.

During his law career, Judge Good found time to serve his hometown in a wide variety of community affairs. He was chosen to moderate the panel selected to publicly discuss the bond issue that if passed, would authorize the building of a 2nd high school in Oroville. According to the OHS Tiger Tales newspaper, "Judge Good moderated firmly but benevolently."

The Oroville community was very dear to Judge Good and he devoted his free time to the Oroville Community Chest, Community Concert Association, Elks Club, Optimist Club, Saint Thomas Church, and the Knights of Columbus. He was considered a local expert on Ishi.

Judge Good was honored by serving as President of the California State Bar Association and appointed as a member of the Oakland Symphony Board of Directors. He also served as president of the Butte County Historical Society several times and was one of the founders of the Oroville Community Concert Association.

People who remember Judge Good often refer to his elegance and his stylishness. OHS alumnus Linda Mastache Fuller used the word 'spiffy' and granddaughter Katherine Post Calvert compared him to Cary Grant.

Throughout most of his law career, Judge Good walked to work from his home at the corner of Bird and Oak Streets. His private practice office was above the State Theatre in downtown Oroville and the Butte County Court House was then located on Bird Street between Huntoon and Lincoln Streets.

Following his retirement, Judge Good served as Associate Justice Pro Tem of the Court of Appeals in San Francisco for several years. In addition to this service, he worked six to eight months a year taking on appellate superior court assignments throughout the state on an "as needed" basis.

Among Judge Good's favorites were cars, travel, music, theatre, reading, and playing bridge. He loved spending time at the Good summer home at Lake Madrone. The Judge and his wife Helen had 5 children all of whom graduated from OHS. After retirement he and Helen moved to Oakland where he lived until his death in 1998 at age 91.