

F. A. GEIGER, 71, EX-JUDGE, DIES IN MILWAUKEE

On Federal Bench from 1912 to 1939.

Milwaukee, Wis., July 31.—[Special.]—Former Federal District Judge



Ferdinand A. Geiger died at his home here today. The jurist, who resigned last May because of ill health, was 71 years old. He was succeeded by F. Ryan Duffy, who was defeated for a second term in the United States senate.

One of Judge Geiger's last important decisions was his dismissal of a federal

grand jury in December, 1937, while it was investigating activities of three major automobile companies and their affiliated finance firms. At that time he criticized the impropriety of the department of justice in discussing a consent decree with the defendant companies when the case was pending in court.

Attorney General Homer S. Cummings accused him of arbitrary and unjust conduct in the case. The matter was dropped, however, after hearings before the house judiciary committee in which the Wisconsin and Milwaukee Bar associations defended Geiger's ruling as in furtherance of justice.

Conservative in All Things.

A conservative politically, Judge Geiger was also conservative in the handling of cases brought into his court. As a lawyer, dramatics and oratory were entirely foreign to his taste. As a judge, he frequently demonstrated his distaste for emotional speech and cautioned attorneys to speak in a conversational tone and rely upon the logic of their arguments to win their cases.

One of the chief labor cases which came into his court was that involving the Allen-A Hosiery company of Kenosha in 1929. Judge Geiger prohibited picketing of the plant by strikers and sixteen men and ten women were convicted of violating his order. They were committed to jail upon refusal to pay \$100 fines.

It was Judge Geiger who first decided roadhouses, cabarets, cafés, and even hotels could be padlocked for violation of the prohibition law and his decisions were later followed throughout the nation. Of the prohibition law, he held that the serving of ginger ale and cracked ice on the part of the management constituted, for purposes of the law, the keeping of liquor on the premises,

and thus subject to padlocking as a nuisance.

Native of Wisconsin.

Judge Geiger was born in Cassville, Wis., the son of German parents. His father had come to the United States in 1833 and settled in Cassville as a merchant.

After being graduated from the University of Wisconsin law school in 1890, Judge Geiger worked as a clerk in the Milwaukee law offices of Miller, Noyes & Miller, now known as Miller, Mack & Fairchild. In 1894 he and two associates formed a law firm.

He continued his practice of law until 1912 when he was appointed to fill the vacancy created by the death of Federal Judge Joseph V. Quarles. The appointment was made by President Taft.

Surviving are two sons, George of Milwaukee and Dr. Ferdinand Geiger, Syracuse, N. Y., and two daughters, Josephine of Milwaukee and Mrs. Morrison Mills, Philadelphia.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday at 3 p. m. at the Weiss funeral rooms, 1901 North Farwell avenue, with burial in Cassville.