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HIBERNIA TURBEVILLE—A MEMORIAL

CHARLES O. GALVIN*

When I was asked to contribute a piece as a memorial to Hibernia Turbeville, I replied that I not only would do it with pleasure, but I was honored to be afforded the privilege of doing it.

I have read and reread the beautiful eulogy delivered at Hibernia's funeral by her great-nephew, Paul Gleiser. Everything Paul said about Hibernia is absolutely true. This was truly a great and magnificent gentlewoman. In her role as Head Librarian for the Law School I could not have had a finer partner in the law school administration while I was dean.

The Underwood Library was completed in the summer of 1970. Hibernia recruited a number of students, and, with litters carried on their shoulders, the students worked from early morning to late evening and moved the entire collection from Storey Hall to the new building, all under her careful supervision. At that time our collection was one of the largest of private law schools west of the Mississippi, with Stanford and Southern California being somewhat ahead of us.

The dedication of the new library in April 1971 was as much a tribute to Hibernia as anyone else. She worked tirelessly with architects, interior designers, and construction personnel to assure that every detail was properly considered. The George M. Underwoods and other generous donors made the library possible, but Hibernia gave it life as a practical functioning component of the University's many facilities. On the occasion of the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Underwood Library she spoke with pride of the planning of this most important building.

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Hibernia was a model of efficiency and service. The demands upon the library staff from students as well as practitioners throughout the larger metropolitan area were enormous, and I received continuing praise for the cooperation and support she and her loyal staff gave to all who sought their help.

Paul Gleiser speaks eloquently of her humble beginnings in the town of Cooper, Texas, in Delta County. She was from the outset faithful to family, friends, and community, and her many acts of kindness and generosity to so many people reflect her deep commitment, as Paul so well put it, to Christianity in practice.

Just a few months before her death, Peggy and I hosted a birthday party for Doris Riedel (formerly Doris Beale). At the table were Colonel Riedel, Doris's husband, Jean Jury, and Hibernia. This was an especially nostalgic occasion; the combined services of Doris, Jean, and Hibernia to the SMU Law School would be well over seventy-five years. Hibernia thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to reminisce and recollect about many events of the past. It was a delightful and memorable evening for all of us.

She was a lovely lady on whom I depended greatly for her professional skill, which she always shared graciously and cheerfully. Her Christian faith sustained her, and I know that now she enjoys her well earned eternal reward.